

Section: Parchments [1-2]

1500-1749 2

1 parchment roll, 1 file

In 1769, Niccolo' Guadagni (1730-1805), son of Ottavio and last of the Annunziata Branch, commissioned Francesco Casini to reorganize the diplomatic documents of the Guadagni family, as well as the patrimonial papers and the registers. Casini also carried out a "Scrutiny of the Guadagni parchments".

The 173 rolls of parchments, numbered from 1 to 235, dated from July 12, 1233 to May 22, 1771, were eventually inherited by the Santo Spirito Branch of the Guadagni, together with the rest of the Archives. However they were not bought back by Guitto Guadagni, of the second branch of the Santo Spirito Branch in 1938, so they remained in the Dufour Berte Archive Collection, heirs of the extinct first branch of the Guadagni of Santo Spirito Family.

Only one roll of parchments is still owned by the Guadagni Archives, concerning two purchase agreements, tied together, one dated October 21, 1500, the other December 15, 1503. During the 2007 reorganization of the Archives, a few fragmentary parchments, discovered during the transfer of the Guadagni papers from Masseto to the Florentine State Archives, were added to them.

1 [962]

October 21, 1500

3

[Purchase agreement]

Parchment roll

A purchase agreement is signed between Giovanni di Riccardo de' Vecchietti, Goro di Antonio di Goro dei Dati, Ubertino di Piero dei Risaliti and Francesco Antonio di Tommaso degli Amidei, in Florence, in the Community of San Felice in Piazza.

Another purchase agreement of December 15, 1503, in seventh diction, is tied to the first.

2 [962]

16th Century - 18th Century

4

[Acts and diplomas]

6 parchments in a roll

-Power of attorney for Florentine merchants Ludovico Carnesecchi and Bartolomeo Lanchisi (Paris, France July 14, 1582)

-Power of attorney from Vitale Tinghi, from Pistoia, to Simone Formiconi son of Lorenzo (Lyon, France, May 11, 1587).

-Diploma of Granduke of Tuscany Cosimo III de' Medici, granting a benefit to Guglielmo Guadagni, son of Alessandro (Florence, June 20, 1673).

-Papal Bull of Pope Clement XI (Rome, Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, December 16, 1713) granting permission to celebrate Mass in the private chapel of the Villa of the Luna built by Donato Maria Guadagni (1641-1718), son of Tommaso. Villa della Luna is one of the most beautiful and famous Guadagni villas, built by our direct ancestor Donato Maria, who separated himself financially from his 3 brothers and bought the Santo Spirito Palace for himself and his descendants, starting the Santo Spirito Branch of the Family. As far as I know, part of the palace is still owned by the marchesi Dufour Berte, direct descendants of the Guadagni of Santo Spirito. I visited them there, in the apartment they have in the palace, a few years ago. They were very nice to me and greeted me as a cousin. Pope Pius XII was related to the Dufour Berte. One day, when I was 3 ½, my mother took me to a private "Family visit" to Pope Pius XII in the Vatican Palace (as cousins of the Dufour Berte, we were cousins of cousins of the Pope). We were maybe 15 people, all Dufour Berte, Guadagni and Family, waiting for the Pontiff in a small drawing room of the Vatican. The door leading to the apartments of the Pope was closed. We were waiting impatiently. I was just a little kid and was curious of what was going to happen. All of a sudden, the door opened and two Swiss guards with their long spears, steel feathered helmets, and shining metal breastplate and red and yellow fluffy pants stood on either side of the doors and announced solemnly with a loud voice: "His Holiness Pope Pius XII!" To my great surprise (as I said, I was just a little kid) everybody went down on their knees and Mother with a gentle tap on my shoulder made me do the same. The Pope was tall, very skinny, pale, and all dressed in white. He smiled at us and went towards me and hugged me, lifting me up towards his face. He asked my mother in Italian: "E' buono questo bambino?" (Is this little child good?) "Usually yes," said my mother. "I am sure he is" said the Pope with a smile.

Pope John Paul II started the process of beatification of Pope Pius XII. Pope XII declared the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a Catholic Dogma. In 1944 the Allied Troops were getting ready to attack and free Rome, still held by the German occupying forces. It could have been a huge massacre, including the destruction of the Vatican, of Roman ruins etc. Pope Pius XII proclaimed "Roma, citta' aperta" "Rome, open city", which meant anybody could get in and out of Rome without fighting. The German troops retreated North of Rome, and the Allies went around Rome and attacked the new German Positions outside the "Eternal City".

From Grandfather Bernardo Guadagni, we inherited a beautiful 350 years old print of Villa della Luna, which hangs on our dining room wall.

-Diploma of Granduke of Tuscany Francesco II of Lorena, dated July 7, 1738, confirming the Fief of San Lorino (i.e. San Leolino) to Neri Andrea Guadagni (the one who took the Body of Saint Faustina from Rome to his palace in Florence) (1673-1748), son of the abovementioned Donato Maria.

We are still (and will be forever, unless the family is extinct) Marchesi of San Leolino (also called San Lorino); right now Charles Loren Guadagni is the Marchese of San Leolino, the oldest male of the oldest male will inherit the title after him.

-Diploma of Granduke of Tuscany Francesco II of Lorena, confirming the benefits of the Corsini Family property of Barberino di Mugello to Donato Guadagni (1719-1797), son of Neri Andrea, on February 10, 1748, with lead seal.