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**ONCE SOVEREIGN HOUSES OF THE STATES OF ITALY  
and national families descended from these or from foreign dynasties**

**An historical and nobiliary essay**

One of the merits of which families can be particularly proud is their illustrious origin, which stamps a very important distinction between them and others of their class, especially when it is a matter of being descended from Sovereign Houses.

This is due to the fact that all noble families have enjoyed, albeit in varying degrees for differing reasons, the superiorities and prerogatives of their social status, while a distinguished origin for those who can demonstrate it gives a particular pre-eminence over others of their class, since that is what cannot be claimed by the other houses and on the other hand it is even held in esteem by those who show no respect for the nobility and the privileges enjoyed by it.

From this arises the desire to discover that the *earlier generation* of which Job wrote (Ch.8, v.8), which may be not only the most ancient but also the most illustrious.

Yet it is to be admitted that the great Houses, beyond their direct and principal descendants whose continuous genealogy is certified by facts and historical documents, have had offshoots from secondary branches which themselves constitute the origin of new houses<sup>1</sup>, when these latter in no way contradict the illustrious derivation ascribed to them by reason of the importance of it.

This capital element should be taken into account when assessing the authenticity of assertions by heraldists in respect of the derivation of sovereign Houses of Italian states and others for those families which are not themselves the historic houses<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> It can be demonstrated that in France there are today more than 300 noble names which issue from the blood of the Royal House in female lines and more than 300 families which include the fleur-de-lys in their ancestral arms.

<sup>2</sup> With regard to these elements it is useless to quote the sources from which are drawn the descendance of the families concerned, being sufficient to consult the most notable heraldists. In this respect will be found of the greatest use the Bibliography of Italian Genealogy produced by the Most Illustrious A. Gheno (Heraldic Review of the year 1915 and subsequently).

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The political feudalism that Charlemagne had discovered in force under the Frankish monarchy carried on in full vigour under his weak successors. It is thanks to that great King that it became widespread in the countries conquered by him, because he found it to be an opportune means of government, by means of concessions among which was foremost that of involving vassals in the authority of the Count; which thereafter had to be deemed to constitute a danger for the said royal sovereignty<sup>3</sup>.

When Charles the Fat was deposed in 887 the Kingdom of Italy found itself divided into numerous hereditary fiefs, kinds of Marches, of which the main ones were three : Friuli, to hold off the barbarians from the East, Spoleto and Camerino to resist domination by the Lombard element (the Dukes of Benevento) and Tuscany as a bulwark against a Saracen invasion. King Guy<sup>4</sup>, the opponent of Berengar I, founded two more Marches, one to hold the northern Alps to which he designated his uncle Marquis Conrad and the other to hold the western Alps which he entrusted to his brother Anscar<sup>5</sup>. The western March comprised Novara, Vercelli, la Lomellina, Asti, Turin, Mondovì, Saluzzo, Alba, Monferrato and perhaps Milan.

In the first years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century we find that the Grimaldi had uncontested dominion over the Principality of Monaco. Grimaldo Lord of Antibes, after he had seized Lyons and freed King Louis IV of France from prison, was created Prince and absolute Lord of the State of Monaco by Emperor Otto I in the year 908.

The series of the said Lords ended with Anthony who died in the year 1731.

His daughter Louis took the Principality as her dowry to James Francis Goyon de Matignon, Count of Thavigny, with the obligation to assume the name and arms of Grimaldi. This family has branches in Italy, France and Spain.

Around the middle of the 10th Century is to be found Aleramo Marquis of Acqui and Monferrato<sup>6</sup>, son of William who came from France to assist Guy of Spoleto. Among his sons was Anselm from whom descend the various marcher houses of Piedmont as also that of the Marquises of Savona, among which Del Carretto<sup>7</sup>, the Marquises of Saluzzo, originally from Bonosola on the Ligurian coast, the Marquises of Ceva, from whom descend the families of Ceva Grimaldi (in Naples and Genoa) and Ceva di Nucetto (Turin).

From a cadet branch issued the Caramelli di Clavesana, Marquises of Incisa. Another son was Otto in whom the Marquises of Monferrato had their origin<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Rinaudo, « History of the Middle Ages », p.83.

<sup>4</sup> The son of Adelaide, the daughter of Pepin King of Italy

<sup>5</sup> Born of Anscar Adalbert, who married Gisèle the daughter of Berengar I and by whom she had Berengar II who took as his wife Ermengard the daughter of Adalbert II, Marquis of Tuscany; his son was Anscar, Marquis of Spoleto and Camerino.

For the House of Anscar see the Heraldry Review of July 1915; August Riccio di S. Paolo e Solbitro, "The House of Anscar and its various branches in Piedmont"

<sup>6</sup> Who received dominion over the lands between the rivers Tanaro, Orba and the sea from Kings Hugh and Lothar in 934 and then from Otto I in 968. He descended from Guy, Senior Duke of Spoleto.

<sup>7</sup> Henry called the Cross-eyed, second son of Boniface Marquis of Savona, was the ancestor of the family of Del Carretto.

<sup>8</sup> For a long time this House contested the dominion of Piedmont with the House of Savoy; the latter gave to the Crusades more heroes than any other house.

In the first years of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Olderic Manfred (who died in 1035) was invested with the March of Ivrea, who was the son of Ardoin Glabrione (who died in 975), in his turn the son of one Roger, who had married the widow of the Count of Auriate (Saluzzo)<sup>9</sup>.

At the time of Otto I (961-973) Ardonio held the Counties of Reggio, Modena, Parma and Mantua. He had Tibald as son, from who came Boniface, who towards 1028 united his trans-Appennine domains to the Marquisate of Tuscany, which had come into being in 828. He married Beatrice the daughter of Frederick Duke of Lorraine, by whom he had Matilda, who was Lady of Tuscany, of part of Romagna, of Piacenza, Parma<sup>10</sup>, Modena, Reggio and Mantua. From the Marquises of Tuscany descend the families of Albertini, Alberti<sup>11</sup>, Bourbon del Monte, Ubertini and Guidi.

From the Guidi, Lords of Casentino and a large part of Romagna in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century descend the Guidi Guidelli (Modena), the Guidi of Bagno (Mantua, Florence and Ferrara) and the family of Poppi of Cividale in Friuli<sup>12</sup>.

In the second half of the 11th Century Humbert Count of Savoy took possession of the County of Aosta<sup>13</sup> and Moriana, part of Tarantasia, il Ciabilese, part of Vallese: later he held the County of Belley<sup>14</sup>.

Obert I Marquis of Este<sup>15</sup> (died 975) was Marquis of Liguria and Count of Lunigiana in the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century, son of Azzo Adalbert. Obert II, son of the said Obert I,

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Subsequently the Palaeologi held sway over Monferrato (1306-1533) who were succeeded by the Gonzaga (1574-1713). William II Gonzaga Duke of Mantua took possession of Monferrato which was raised to a duchy in the year 1574.

After Charles III the last Duke, Monferrato was given to the Duke of Savoy in 1665.

The States of the Marquis of Mantua were raised to a duchy in the year 1530 by Charles V. A Prince of this House by marriage was called to be Duke of Nevers in 1561. The branch of the Gonzaga of Mantua came to an end in 1627 and was succeeded by the branch of Nevers, contested by the Gonzaga of Guastalla and the Dukes of Savoy (the Treaty of Cherasco, 1631).

<sup>9</sup> The daughter of Olderic Manfred was Adelaide who in 1035 married Herman Duke of Swabia, who was invested with the March of Turin and died in 1038; Adelaide contracted a second marriage, with Guy of Monferrato who died in 1045; and as her third husband Odo son of Humbert Count of Savoy.

<sup>10</sup> Piacenza and Parma which passed then to depend on the Milanese were reclaimed by the Pope in 1512 as part of the States of the Countess Matilda that were ceded to the Holy See by Maximilian I. In 1546 Paul III raised them into a duchy and conferred them with the title of an hereditary ecclesiastical fief on the Farnese family.

<sup>11</sup> The Alberti of Poja and the Alberti of Enno (Trent) have different origins.

From one Mark Albert Giudice of Catenaia (Arezzo) around 1150 derives the French family of the Dukes of Ligne which appeared in France with Thomas Albert as Vicar of Pont-Esprit (Gard) in 1450.

<sup>12</sup> Originator of the Guidi was Guy, grandson of the Emperor Otto.

<sup>13</sup> After the Marquises of Italy Aosta was held by the Marquises of Monferrato until Humbert of the White Hands broke away Moriana from it and went on to conquer the Vale of Aosta with which he was invested by Conrad the Salic. In 1191 Thomas of Savoy granted its inhabitants the immunities arising from the Valdostana letters of liberty.

<sup>14</sup> Count Pasini Frassoni attributes a Burgundian, not Saxon, origin to the House of Savoy in the Heraldry Review of November 1915, "Savoy and Saxony".

<sup>15</sup> Azzo III around 1150 was the first to establish his own dominion in the city of Este by building a castle there in the shelter of the Hill. The marquisal domination that lasted for over two centuries was very benign since it had come about that its citizens governed themselves almost as a Commune.

In 1420 Este was taken by the Paduans and in 1258 by Ezzelino; reconquered a year later by Azzo VII of Este it was seized by Ezzelino who held it until his death. In 1296 Este submitted to Ferrara; in 1397 it was taken by Can della Scala; in 1318 it was conquered by the Carraresi, then by the Scaligeri and by the Visconti and finally by the Carraresi once more who held it until 1405 in which Este with all the cities of terra firma surrendered to the republic of Venice.

carried on in this last Lordship and was the progenitor of the Pelavicino<sup>16</sup>. From Obert I descend the Malaspina Lords of Lunigiana<sup>17</sup> and the Marquises of Massa<sup>18</sup>.

In 1221 Azzo Novello son of Azzolino Marquis of Este and Ancona was invested at Brindisi not only with the County of Rovigo but also of Adria and Ariano. In 1310 the people of Este lost their dominion over Polesine<sup>19</sup> which they recovered in 1452 and which passed to the Venetian Republic in 1482<sup>20</sup>.

The House of Este lost the Duchy of Ferrara in 1598 which returned to the Holy See as an ecclesiastical fief.

The Lords of Gubbio in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century were the Gabrielli who then extended their dominion over the Marches.

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Earlier than in northern and central Italy, great lordships arose in the south of Italy and among these notably the Lombard Duchy of Benevento, whose origins date back to the first years of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century and which gave rise to the County then Principality of Capua and the Principality of Salerno, to the County of Nocera, all three of which passed into the hands of the Normans in the course of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century.

From the Lombard Counts of Capua descend the families of D'Aquino (with their branches of Alvito, Delle Grotte, Acerra and Santomango); Galluccio, Marzano and their offshoots the Mavezzani of Rimini and Piacenza and the Marzani of Trento, Manzella, also De Salerno, of Roccaromana, De Cajanello, of Presenzano<sup>21</sup>.

From the Princes of Benevento are considered to descend the Lucchesi-Palli.

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<sup>16</sup> Obert Pelavicino held the Lordship of Borgo S. Donnino. Embittered by the enmity of his son Godolphin, who had killed his brother Manfred, he donated it to the Vicentini in 1145.

<sup>17</sup> Azzo II Marquis of Este (died in 1212) was the first Lord of Ferrara; Obizzo II Marquis of Este (died 1293) was the first Lord of Modena and Reggio.

<sup>18</sup> We first hear of the lands of Massa in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century : in the following century it belonged to the people of Este, inherited from Countess Matilda. It then passed to the Lordship of the Malaspina who held it as a fief directly from the Emperor; la Lunigiana passed then to the Fieschi who originated in Lavagna. The latter ceded it to Castruccio Castracane, who had already deprived the Malaspina of their fiefs in Lunigiana. At the death of Castracane in 1328 it came into the possession of Pisa and after other events into the possession of Galeazzo Visconti.

On the death of the latter in 1402 the Malaspina regained possession of their domain and in 1434 Massa and Territory to avoid the depredations of the Pisans, Florentines and people of Fieschi surrendered to Marquis Anthony Alberic Malaspina, who promised to respect the Statutes and Privileges of Massa and Carrara and to protect them against enemy invasion.

Until 1520 the region of Apuana remained under this Lord, then it passed to the Cybo by the marriage of Richard, son of Alberic Malaspina. The male line of the Cybo ended in 1731 with Alderano and the succession passed to Maria Theresa who was married to Hercules Ronald III d'Este Duke of Modena who added the region of Apuana to his crown.

<sup>19</sup> The Abbey of Polesine passed into the possession of the Este in the year 970 by a cession of Otto I. In 1293 it was occupied by the Paduans who obliged the Abbot to remove a chain that crossed the Adige to prevent the passage of boats which had not paid a tax to the Monastery. In 1355 it fell once more into the hands of the Este who erected three high towers there, called the Marquis's fortresses, but notwithstanding the Paduans re-took it.

<sup>20</sup> For the current status of the House of Este, see The Heraldry Review of August 1915, A. Marinelli.

<sup>21</sup> See *Raphael Alphonse Ricciardi Roccaromana*, historical monograph. Naples, Mormile 1887, p.36.

From Landone or Landenolfo, a descendant of Dauferio Muto, Count of Nocera, originate the families of De Acto, De Actio, or Dactilo Ademari Alfano, Di Nocera (Salerno and Nocera), Stincarello and Viscidi (Nocera), Marchese and De Parente (Roccapiemonte).

From the Lombard Princes of Salerno descends the family of Giffone and more specifically that of Guaimario called Giffone, Duke of Sorrento and Count of Conza, grandson of the Princes of Salerno (1091)<sup>22</sup>, whose line ended in 1127.

From the Norman family of Quarrel which held the Lordship of Capua with the title of Prince for about a century (1056-1139), descend the families of Carrelli or Carelli, of which one branch assumed by substitution the house of Mascambruno, De Raho<sup>23</sup>, Gargano (of the Lords of Monte Gargano), Avella and Franchi (of the Counts of Avella).

From the same remote origin in the Dukedom of Benevento<sup>24</sup> the Duchy of Sorrento (512) whose head was styled Duke and Prince, although that State was converted into a Republic subject to the Byzantine Emperor.

The succession the said Duchy must be considered to have been hereditary because in the same family we find a series of seven Dukes (including one in a related family) and thus Sergio (who was also Duke of Amalfi), Gregory his son (842), Sergio and Athanasius sons of Gregory, another Gregory son of Sergio (920) and last a final Sergio son of Gregory (1071). These were followed by Robert II Quarrel Prince of Capua, son of Jordan II, sixth Norman Prince of Capua, who had married a daughter of the aforesaid Sergio. These had two sons, one called Saro (from whom come the Seri Sari, then Sersale) who gave rise to the family of Sersale, and the other Barnaby, from whom descends the family of Mastrogiudice.

Concerning the Duchy of Naples it is to be noted that the position of Duke was elective, as was also the Dukedom of Gaeta, which later became hereditary, when the Norman Princes of Capua (1056-1130) joined Gaeta to their State.

From the House of Hauteville, Counts of Puglia and then Kings of the Two Sicilies, the families of Avarna, Arena, Baldino, Rosso, Gravina, Gesualdo, Loffredo<sup>25</sup>, Grassi (of Salentino), De Nicastro, Molise, Scaglione.

From the Counts of Marsi, descendants of Berengar the first Count of Marsi in 950 who was of the Royal Carolingian House, descend the families of Borrello, Valva, Anversa, Sangro, Malanotte de Caldes, Celano, Pietrabbondante, Avezzano, De Ponte or De Pontibus, Palladoro, Collimento, (from which originated the families of Rivera and Basile), Camponeschi.

The family of Giudici (Arezzo, Aquila) came from the political faction of the Counts of Marsi.

From the House of Anjou which held the Crown of the Two Sicilies derived the families of Gioeni<sup>26</sup> and Sabrano.

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<sup>22</sup> From the same Princes but in the female line descends the family of Cavaselicce originating from Landone (1086), From them descend the Counts of Corueto whose last descendant was Gaitelgrima, the wife of Marino Capece, Constable of Naples at the time of the Emperor Alexis Comneno (1081-1118).

<sup>23</sup> De Raho descends from Ralph IV Count of Aversa and Count of S, Arcangelo, a descendant from the doughty warrior Ralph Quarrel, Prince of Vagavan, captain of the Normans and founder of Aversa. From him who was Lord of Gargano descends the family of Gargano.

<sup>24</sup> Originated in the year 571 and ceased in the year 1027 when it was given by Henry III to the Pope. In the year 774 the Dukes of Benevento had assumed the title of Prince.

<sup>25</sup> The Loffredo of Messina, Marquises of Cassibile, have a different origin.

In the Royal Blood of Aragon have their origin the families of Ayerbo d' Aragona, Borgia, Diascarlona, Orioles, Peralta<sup>27</sup>.

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Towards the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century the common people began to tire of their Communal liberties which no longer guaranteed them internal order and peace with other cities and so it was with popular support that certain families secure their ascent and then absolute dominion of their native cities.

It is not to be wondered that from the Communes arose the factions and then the pre-eminence of finalise which finally led to absolute lordship. As F. Di Broilio wrote, the formation of the Communes in Italy, previously held to be the most glorious affirmation of popular will and the most conspicuous victory of the spirit of democracy against domination by the nobility, results in fact, from the documents which have been unearthed, from the works of the same members of the ancient feudal lines, that impatient with the political anguish in which they were confined in their diminished fiefs through the growth and multiplication of their families, had for a time requested and obtained citizenship of the larger neighbouring cities, which constituted a Communal lordship, where various intestine factions ruled and where it even lead to war against their relatives who remained in the castles of the County.

From the beginnings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and then in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century various minor lordships disappeared for a variety of reasons and others became true Principalities which, as we have seen, had their origins in much more remote times.

The families which had dominion in Italy, from the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, were the following :-

In the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries the Da Camino as Lords of Treviso (1180-1259)<sup>28</sup>.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> Century (1266) appeared the Varano as Lords of Macerato who came from Camerino and whose founder was Gentile. The held sway until 1502, when the territory was raised to a Duchy and passed to John Borgia.

Soon after 1212 Count Guy of Montefeltro, a descendant of the Counts of Carpegna, put himself in charge of Urbino and received regular investiture for same from Boniface VIII. He later died as a Franciscan friar in Ancona.

Frederick was the first Duke of Urbino and assumed ducal dignity with the solemn consent of Sixtus V.

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<sup>26</sup> Descending from Henry, of the blood of Charles I of Anjou. His wife was Beatrice the daughter of King Manfred.

Concerning the title of Duke of Anjou relating to the Gioeni see the Heraldry Review, July 1905, S. Barchi : *The Title of Duke of Anjou*.

<sup>27</sup> Wrongly an origin in the House of Aragon is attributed to the family of Sanchez or Sances, since in the year 995 is found mention of one Count Garzia Sanchez.

<sup>28</sup> They profited from differences between the Pope and the Emperor. In 1329 Grincello was driven out of the March of Treviso and in him the family was extinguished.

After a pacific reign of four centuries over the region of Urbino the family of Feltreschi divided into the branches of Pietra Rubaia and Monte Coppolo and after having occupied S. Leo called itself Montefeltro.

To the Montefeltro succeeded the Della Rovere to which family belonged Pope Sixtus IV. John son of Raphael and nephew of the said Pope married Joanna daughter of Frederick of Montefeltro Duke of Urbino and held sovereignty over that duchy (1444-1574).

During the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries the Scaligeri held the lordship of Verona (1259-1387); from them originated the families of della Scala (Verona and Lodi); a branch lives in Germany. The French family of Mastini claim descent from the Scaligeri<sup>29</sup>.

In the same 13<sup>th</sup> Century the Torriani dominated Milan. Pagano (died 1241) was the first Lord of the people of Milan and Guy (died 1312) was the fifth and last Lord of Milan from his House. After him followed the House of Visconti (1277)<sup>30</sup> and then by the Sforza (1447-1515)<sup>31</sup>.

The Bonacolsi ruled over the city of Mantua from 1279 to 1328 (the year in which they were extinguished)<sup>32</sup> which then passed to the Gonzaga<sup>33</sup> who held it until 1708. Pinamonte Bonacolsi was the first Lord and the last was Ronald called the Little Sparrow.

The Ventimiglia were Sovereign Counts of Ventimiglia from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century until the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

In 1300 we find the Gaetani with the rank of Marquises of the March of Ancona.

In 1377 the Malatesta held the Vicariate of Cesena from Urban VI and thereafter ruled over it until 1466. As the Montefeltro of Urbino the Malatesta descended from the Counts of Carpegna, from whom originated also the families of Tidi or Titi.

The family of Framarino derives from the Malatesta.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> Century the Polentari, originally from the castle of Polento, not far from Bertinoro and near Ravenna and which they held as a fief from the Abbot of St. John, took possession of the said city by the hand of Ostasio II (1310) and held it until 1441.

The Pepoli held Bologna throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, after having being at the head of a numerous faction called the Chequers from their arms. John of this family sold Bologna to Archbishop Visconti Lord of Milan for 200,000 Florins. He then returned to Bologna with the collusion of the Bentivoglio, of whom I shall speak soon and who were already creatures of the Pepoli.

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<sup>29</sup> The name of Scaligeri was greatly honoured in Verona because it was connected with the great benefices poured on to that city.

One historian wrote : If only Can Grande had lived longer and Martin more sensibly, not only would the fate of Verona have been different, but also the fate of the whole of upper Italy.

<sup>30</sup> In the 13<sup>th</sup> Century the Visconti ruled over Vigevano, although by an imperial privilege of Henry VII (1311) and Louis of Bavaria (1329) it was declared to be a free and independent Commune.

<sup>31</sup> Francis I of France was Duke of Milan from 1515 to 1525.

<sup>32</sup> Some authors have them descend rather from the family of Bonacossa of Ferrara (see the Heraldry Review, June 1915 : F. Di Broilo : *About the Bonnacolsi*).

<sup>33</sup> Concerning the origin of the Gonzaga of the Conrads of Austria, see the Heraldry Review, 1918, p. 236, Fr. Peter Fabbri : *The Gonzaga and the Conrads of Austria. A branch of the Gonzaga which established itself in France (Gonzaga of Nevers)*.

In the same century the Trinci are Lords of Foligno from 1305 to 1356 with the title of Gonfalonier and Captain of the People and then until 1439 with the title of Pontifical Vicar. The family was extinguished in 1452 with Ronald but in Milan passed into the House of Sforza.

The Ordelaffi<sup>34</sup> had their residence on the banks of the Montone near Forlì and were Lords of that city, which was threatened by internal factions and by the Bolognesi who were often called to govern it or lead its armies (1310-1422). Towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century they were extinguished in the Veneto with Sinibald.

The Carreresi were Lords of Padua from 1314 to 1406. From them originate the family of Papafava. The last of these was Francis, beheaded in Venice with his two sons.

The Bentivoglio originated from the castle of the same name near Bologna and were Sovereigns of that city in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. This family sprang from a natural son of Enzo King of Sardinia, the bastard son of Frederick II. In 1400 John, head of the fraction of the Chequers, supplanted Mark Gozzadini<sup>35</sup> of that illustrious Bolognese family and had himself proclaimed Lord of Bologna. The Lordship of that family ended in 1511.

1503 was the year in which Julius II took Bologna from the Bentivoglio.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> Century the Bentivoglio were inscribed in the Corporation of the Butchers. From this family descend the Bentivoglio Visconti.

The Pico were from the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century (1414) and for another two centuries Lords and then Dukes of Mirandola which was sold to the Duke of Modena in 1710.

At the beginning of the same century John Roger Suardo was Lord of Bergamo and almost all of its province. In 1421 Duke Philip Maria Visconti took possession of it by means of Philip Carmagnola.

Towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century the Riario family, from around Savona (and whom some authors will have to be of Goth origin and others Norman) obtained from Pope Sixtus IV the cities of Imola, Forlì and Cesena.

Not many years later however they were dispossessed by the Duke of Valentinois, Caesar Borgia.

At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Pope Alexander VI destroyed the greater part of the Lordships of Romagna, occupying Imola and Forlì in 1499, Rimini and Pesaro in 1500, Faenza in 1501 and from these cities created a dominion for Caesar Borgia who had taken possession of Camerino which he took from the Varano, the City of Castello from which he expelled the Vitelli and Perugia, which had been of the Baglioni (1502).

The following year however the Duchy of Romagna was reunited by Julius to the Patrimony of Peter with Bologna which he had taken from the Bentivoglio. The same Pope took Imola, Cesena, Rimini and Faenza from the Venetians in 1509.

Towards the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century (1545) Paul III Farnese raised Parma into a Duchy which was held by his own House until 1731 when it passed into the dynasty of the Bourbons.

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<sup>34</sup> They came with Berengar Duke of Friuli. Lor of Laffio or Alloro of Alfio was Governor of Forlì in 952.

<sup>35</sup> Brandoligi Gozzadini rival of the Pepoli was exiled from Bologna in 1337

In the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century (1531) began the dynasty of the Medici of the Dukes of Florence, then Grand Dukes of Tuscany (1537), from Alexander to Gaston (1723) to who succeeded the dynasty of Hapsburg-Lorraine (1737)<sup>36</sup>.

In the same 16<sup>th</sup> Century (1545-1727) the Farnese were Dukes of Parma, Piacenza and Guastalla which in 1731 passed to the dynasty of the Bourbons.

In the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries at various times and for varying periods held lordships the Appiani in Piombino, the Avvocati in Vercelli, the Benzoni in Crema, the Brusati in Novara, the Correggeschi in Parma, the Del Pozzo in Alesandria, the Fisiraga in Lodi, the Fogliani in Camerino, the Langoschi in Pavia, the Maggi in Brescia, the Pagano and the Alidosi in Imola given to them by Robert of Anjou and which they held until 1424 whenit was taken from them by Philip Maria Visconti by treachery, the Porcari in Orvieto, the Rusca in Lodi, the Scotti in Piacenza, the Terzi in Parma and Piacenza, the Tornielli in Novara, the Vitelli in Città di Castello.

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#### **Families descended from Houses once Sovereign in the Italian States (not named in the preceding text)**

**Alberici** – apparently originating from the House of the Counts of Tuscolani. Around 974 a certain Albert of the Alberici tried to gain dominion over the city of Piceno and the Romagna.

**Aliprandi** – To them is attributed descent from Alprand or Liutprand who ascended the Lombard throne in 712.

**Archinto** – To them is attributed descent from the Lombard Kings.

**Arezzo** – The family is notably distinguished by the style of Dukes of the Romans.

**Balbo** – Descends from one Roman Balbo who towards the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century founded the Republic of Chieri. From the Consorteria of the Balbo came the very ancient family of Bertone of Chieri. According to E. Gabotto, the Balbo belong to the manfredian family, descending that is from Manfred who died in 756, ancestor of another Manfred, Chamberlain to Charlemagne, from whom claim their origin various illustrious families in France, Piedmont, Lombardy and the Veneto such as the Counts of Verdun, of Toul and of Metz and of San Bonifacio, Avogadro, Biandrà of Reaglie, Guasco, Radicati, Baudi, Gianni, Capris, Provane, Visconti of Milan.

**Barbiano of Belgioioso** – Held imperial fiefs during the 11th Century.

**Bianchi di Genova** – A branch of the Counts of Lavagna, originating in Obert Biancho (11<sup>th</sup> Century).

**Biandrate** – Of Anscar stock, descended therefore from Anscar I brother of Emperor Guy, son of Guy the Elder, Duke of Spoleto (died 870).

**Chacherano** – Of Anscar stock.

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<sup>36</sup> Already between 1464 and 1519 the family had provided 7 Chiefs to the Florentine Republic.

**Carafa** – Held to be descended from Stephen Sigismond of Pisa, who took possession of Sardinia and ruled it as absolute lord. Expelled from there he was made Admiral by Sergio V Duke of Naples (1040-1080)<sup>37</sup>.

**Casanova** – A branch of the Counts of Lavagna.

**Castelli** – A family of this name held sway over the city of Terni. To it is attributed descent from Remy Prince of Terni and son of Etanno the last Duke of Franconia.

**Chigi** - Originally from Siena. It is on record with the title of Counts of Ardenghesca until 1100. It descends from the Chigi of Ardenghesca, Counts of Macerata which possessed a State in the province of Siena with many fortresses and castles.

**Coda** – It is declared to be a branch of the House of Savoy.

**Cogorno** – A branch descended from the Counts of Lavagna, originating from the family of Bianchi said previously from Obert Bianco.

**Colonna** – Descends from the Counts of Tuscany, who around 1000 acquired immense power and civil authority in Rome and the Lazio area. They have their origin in Theodore, Consul and Duke.

**Crespini** – A branch descending from the Grimaldi.

**Della Chiesa** – Of the stock of Anscar.

**Della Gherardesca** – Of Lombard origin and deriving from a certain Gerard who lived in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. He was Sovereign of Gherardesca, Donoratico, Montescudaro, Settimo, Castagneto and other places in the Maremma.

**Della Torre di Lavagna** – Is held to be a branch descended from the Fieschi, Counts of Lavagna, who were fief holders directly from the Emperor<sup>38</sup>.

**Della Torre di Valsassina** – Descended from the Torriani, Lords of Milan.

**Doria** – In the 15<sup>th</sup> Century they possessed Oneglia on the coast to the west of Genoa as an imperial fief.

**Gaetani** – From John Duke of Gaeta, son on Aunericho Goto.

**Garretti** – Of Anscar stock.

**Giffone** – Held to be descended from Guaimario, called Giffone or de Jefuno, son of Guy Duke of Sorrento and Count of Conza and nephew of the Lombard Princes of Salerno.

**Govone** – Descends from the Lords of Govone, a castle of Astigiano, who in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century were allied to Rudolph Viscount of Asti and Hubert his son.

**Grisaghi** – A branch of the Gonzaga.

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<sup>37</sup> Such an origin indicated by Aldimari in his vast work on the Carafa. Origins and events from the beginning until the year 1690 are dealt with by Prof. Francis Scandone : The Carafa Family in the second series of the works of Litta, "*Famous Italian Families*".

<sup>38</sup> See the Heraldry Review, March 1921 : Nob. A. Scorza, "*The Counts of Lavagna*".

**Lancellotti** – This family traces its origin to Ronald of Durazzo, Prince of Capua and natural son of King Ladislas of Naples and who was commonly called Little Lance (Lancellotto).

**Lante Montefeltro della Rovere** – Heirs to the family of Della Rovere and thus succeeded to the name and the titles of the Houses of Montefeltro, previously Dukes of Urbino (vide supra).

**Lavagnino** – A branch of the family of the Counts of Lavagna.

**Malabarba** – Of Anscar stock.

**Marsciano** – The family of Marsciano of Lombard origin possessed the ancient Duchy of Chiusi and extremely vast domains in Tuscany, Romagna and Umbria until the 7<sup>th</sup> Century. It still retained great power in the year 980 at the time of Count Kadolo from whom are descended all the Lords of Marsciano (the branches of Pazzano, Migliano and Marsciano).

**Medici** and **Medici Tornaquinci** – Who share an origin with the Grand Dukes of Tuscany : deriving from the fourth son of the Gonfalonier Averard with the name of Jovene or Giovenco, who married Nannuccia the daughter of Naldo Rucellai by whom he had two sons, Anthony (1545) the founder of the line of the Princes of Ottajano (Naples) and Julian the founder of the line of the Medici Tornaquinci. A branch of the Medici of Florence passed to Zara in 1596<sup>39</sup>.

**Montevecchio** – A branch of the Gabrielli, the powerful Counts Eugubini who have been mentioned previously. The said family at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century divided into three branches representing the three sons of Gabriel<sup>40</sup>.

**Orsini Rivalta** – Of Anscar stock.

**Pallavicino** – In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Obert II created what was called the State of Pallavicino with the acquisition of various cities and lands. A branch of same is the Pallavicino-Mossi.

**Penelli** – A branch of the Counts of Lavagna.

**Pio di Savoia** – Joined to the family of Savoy in 1450.

**Prossasco** – Of Anscar stock.

**Radicati** – From this family came the very ancient Counts of Cocconato, immediate vassals of the Empire with the right to strike coinage.

**Ravaschieri** – Reputedly descended from the Fieschi, like the Della Torre, Lavagna, Bianchi, Cogorno and the Lavagnino, Penelli, Casanova, mentioned above.

**Riario-Sforza** – (see above). This family added Sforza to its own name after the marriage between Jerome Riario, Lord of Imola and Forlì with Catherine the natural daughter of Francis Sforza, Duke of Milan.

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<sup>39</sup> Historical Heraldic Genealogical Bulletin, July 1821.

<sup>40</sup> The name Montevecchio began to be used together with the surname from Peter son of Herman II, son of Gabriel. Their descendents finally abandoned the original name of Gabrielli : they established themselves in Fano, where they thrive to this day. The Montevecchio played their part in important historical events, holding high office in their native land and elsewhere. (See : “*Marchioness Laura di Montevecchio Almerici, Montevecchio Family*”, Rome, Danesi, 1909

**Riccio** – Of Anscar stock.

**Sammartino** – Of Anscar stock.

**Scorza** – A branch of the Counts of Lavagna, originating in Guirardo, son of Pagano (1130).

**Sforza-Cesarini** – This family is the only remaining descendant of the Ducal House of Milan and originates from Bosco brother of Francis II Duke of Milan.

**Tranzo** – Some authors hold that this family originated from Hugh the Black, son of Hugh the Handsome Lord of Burgundy and others rather give Tranzo who was Doge and Consul of Gaeta in 1040.

**Trotti-Bentivoglio** – John II Bentivoglio, Prince of Bologna united the Trotti of Alessandria-Milan to his own family in 1478 as an adoption of honour.

**Ugoni** – A branch of the Gonzaga.

**Valperga** – Of Anscar stock.

**Ventimiglia** – Originated in Conrad brother of Adalbert King of Italy and Otto marquis of Ivrea and son of the Lombard Emperor Berengar II.

**Visconti** – The noble Italian families who have proven their descent from the Visconti, Lords and then Dukes of Milan, are the following : Visconti of Modrone, Visconti Lords of Ornavaso, Visconti Lords of Saliceto<sup>41</sup>.

According to Crollanza, in the *Yearbook of the Italian Nobility*, 1893, also the Visconti of Marcignago (Cremona and Milan) are descended from this historic Milanese house.

*to be continued*

G. CARRELLI

*continuation*

### **National Families descended from Foreign Dynasties**

**Acquaviva** – Originated in Germany from the Royal blood of the Dukes of Bavaria.

**Afan de Rivera** – Would have themselves descend from Ramiro II King of Leon, called the Infante (967-982).

**Aldano** – Originally from Alcantara of the blood of the Kings of Leon.

**Alvarez** - Some authors hold them to be descended from Don Alfonso VI King of Toledo; others that they originate from Athens and descend from the Palaeologi; yet others that they descend from Garcia Alvarez, a gentleman from Toledo.

**Angelo or De Angelis** – To them is attributed an origin in the Emperor Isaac Angelo (1185-1195). Expelled by Elexis his brother, the descendants of Isaac moved to the Duchy of Amalfi. Irene Angelo married Roger I the Norman in 1191 and Helen married King Manfred the Swabian in 1258.

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<sup>41</sup> For further information see the *Heraldry Review*, 1915, p.760, “*Reply to G. Corti on a matter of heraldry*”.

**Avignone** – To this family is attributed descent from the ancient Counts of Provence.

**Ayerbo di Aragona** – Originate from Don Peter Lord of Ayerbe, son of Don James King of Aragon and Donna Teresa Gil de Padaure (Vidaure), a lady from Valencia. Don James was the father of Don Peter the Great.

**Baglioni** – Originate from the Dukes of Swabia and had as their founder in Italy Louis, the Imperial Vicar of Barbarossa in 1181. Once the Oddi had been expelled from Perugia, the Baglioni ruled there for some time.

**Bagratide** or **Pagratide** – Descendants of Bagrad from the Royal line of Armenia and Georgia. They had the right to place the crown on the heads of the new Armenian monarchs.

**Barozzi** – One of the twelve families which made up the Tribune of Venice. For almost two centuries they ruled over the islands of Santorini and Therasia in the Archipelago

**Beccaria** – To this family is attributed descent from the Emperor Caro, whose son Valerian succeeded him as Emperor, had Beccario who was raised by his mother who was left a widow in Germany. Beccario fought under Constantine the Great and carried off thirteen victories, which are commemorated on its arms by thirteen mountains, coloured sanguine, on a field of gold.

**Bentivoglio di Aragona** – Descendant from the Princes of Bologna, added the surname of Aragon by a Royal concession in 1484.

**Bonarelli** – Descendant from Count William, son of Prince Richard of Normandy, and who established himself in Ancona in 1080.

**Boselli** – Originated from Ambrose Count of Bergamo, descendant from the Bosi Lords of Bosnia.

**Bossi** – Have the same origin as Boselli.

**Candida Gonzaga** – A branch of the Filangieri (see below) which obtained by a Royal Decree of the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1859 the right to add to their surname that of Gonzaga, having succeeded the branch of Marquis Ferdinand Gonzaga, Prince of the Holy Roman Empire and Grandee of Spain.

**Cantelmo** – Originate in Everard, the last son of Duncan King of Scotland, from whom issued the Royal family of the Stuarts.

**Caputo** – Descend from Conrad Caputo, Prince of Antioch of the House of Hohenstaufen. Vicar General for the island of Sicily, nephew of Frederick II.

**Cardona** – Derived in Catalonia from Raymond Folk, cousin of King Louis the Conqueror.

**Castriota Scandbech** – Descended from the famous Castriota Skanderbeg, Despot of Albania.

**Cattaneo** – This family is the same as that of Della Volta to which is attributed an origin in Inigo, King of the vendee in France. It took the surname cattaneo from the time when Inigo Consul in Genoa was sent as Ambassador to Frederick Barbarossa, having signed in Pavia a Peace between the Republic and the said Emperor, and was then raised to the rank of Marshal of the Imperial Court.

In 1307 Andrew was prince and absolute Lord of Focca. Andrew II Prince of Focca married the sister of the Palaeologus Emperor, Prince Dominic III married Luchina, the Emperor's sister (1327). Francis restored the Palaeologus Emperor to his throne, after he had been deposed, as result of which he obtained as his wife his sister Maria, as well as the Principality of Metellino and the rank of Admiral of the Imperial Fleet. Catherine married the Palaeologus Emperor in 1448.

**Cavalcabò** – Derived from Adolio of Franconia who came to Italy in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. Some authors hold them to be a branch of the Boselli of Bergamo.

**Centelles** – Originate in Cataldo of Craon, Lord of Centelles in Spain in the year 792. He was of the House of the Dukes of Burgundy.

**Chiaramonte** – A family of French origin, which transferred to Sicily with Verlando a descendant of the Emperor Charlemagne. James was Governor of Nicosia with the privilege of striking money there with his own mace and the arms of his family, called Jacobite coins.

**Cito** – The most ancient records of this family go back to one Püeter Cito, head of a Croat tribe in 1102.

**D'Arco** – Descended from the Counts of Bogen in Bavaria.

**De Florio** previously **De Florea** – Originated in Galeoto Franco of Scutari, Lord of Albania. His descendants were dispossessed by the barbarians in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and migrated to Italy and with the families of Mazzucca and Cessarione they established themselves in Venice and then towards the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century in Manfredonia.

**Del Balzo** – Descended from the Kings of Arles and Princes of Orange.

**De Silva** – Of Spanish origin or Portuguese and believed to be descended from the Kings of Alba.

**Di Saluzzo** – To them is attributed descent from Ethelbert King of Kent (563-616), progenitor of the Arduini, of the House of Burgundy, of the Counts of Provence, of the Counts of Savoy.

**Fansago** – (see Aliprandi).

**Fieschi** – The founding father Romuald, according to certain authors, belonged to the family of the Dukes of Bavaria or, according to others, to that of the Dukes of Burgundy. A brother of Obizzo (see this family) by the name of Friso was the source of the surname. Andrew Fieschi, Admiral of Genoa against the Venetians, was beaten by Ranieri Zeno, who in commemoration of which assumed as his arms those of the family of Fieschi.

**Filangieri** – From Angerio of the blood of the Dukes of Normandy, called also De Principato, because in Norman times they held the province of Principato as a County. Descended families : Candida, Senerchia, Sorrentino, De Petro.

**Geremei** or **Geremia** – Descended from Jeremy Duke of Cologne, during the reign of the Emperor Theodosius III. From this family issued the following : Buvatelli, Ramberti or Rambertini, Primadizzi, Pritoni, Guidoni, Basiliieri, Beccari, Sopramuri, Polentani or de Polenta, Lords of Ravenna.

**Giustiniani** – This family arose through the union of the Houses of Farneti, Recanelli, Arangi, Ughetti and others who in 1359 comprised the so called Maona or Justinian

Commercial Society, which held sway over the islands of Scio, Cos, Samos, Emussa and Icarus. These families were inscribed with the name Giustiniani in the Golden Book of the Republic of Genoa.

**Govone** (Counts of) – Held to be of Anscar stock, a branch of the Visdomini d’Asti (vide infra).

**Grassi** or **Ingrassi** – Held to have originated with Adolph, Prince of the Goths and brother of Totila, King of Italy.

**Grifeo** or **Graddeo** – They will have it that they are descended from the Byzantine Emperors and that in 970 Leo Foca, son of Barbafoca, having expelled the Bulgars and in consideration of their Lord and Duke, Graffeo had taken his name and arms for himself.

**Lancia** – Originate from Ernest, Duke of Bavaria.

**Landolina** – They are given as their founder Landolf Count of Hapsburg and son of Gontrano, Norman Prince. They established themselves in Sicily with Roland Landolina, a companion in arms of Count Roger.

**Licudi** – From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries they were Sovereigns of Bulgaria. They spread in the Cyclades to Cephalonia, Corfu, in Transylvania and in Russia. The title of Prince of Bulgaria was confirmed in the Russian branch in 1682.

**Manzano** – Probably stem from the Ilderningi from whom issued the Counts of Wittelsbach.

**Obizzi** – Reputedly descendants of the Counts of Burgundy.

**Orioles** – They are attributed an origin in Bernard, Prince of Catalonia and Count of Barcelona.

**Paladini** – Originate from the Counts of Toulouse. Their founder was Ponzio Paladini, Friend and Colleague of the Count of Toulouse in the First Crusade.

**Pasi, Pasetti** and **Pasini** – Originated from Pasio (1223) the son of Negusante of Nikolsbourg, son in his turn of Di Amar, descendant of Azzo of Este<sup>42</sup>.

**Paternò** – To them is attributed an origin in Don James the Conqueror (1239), King of Aragon, Valencia and Majorca and Theresa de Vidaura (Vidaure), his third and morganatic wife.

**Pepoli** (Princes of Bolgna, of whom see above) – Hold themselves to originate from a cadet of the House of England called Pepolo, descended from Egbert of Saxony, King of England (827)<sup>43</sup>.

**Pereira** – Originate in Spain with Alperando, brother of Desiderio, the last Lombard King, but then passed into Portugal and branched into Italy (Abruzzi and Sicily).

**Piccco di Tribogna** – To them is attributed as founder Sveloado, Sovereign of the Slavs in 640.

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<sup>42</sup> See the Heraldry Review, 1916, p.494, Bohemond Rotti : “*On the Estense origin of the Princes of Liechtenstein.*”

<sup>43</sup> The Heraldry Review, 1913, p.142 : Count F. Pasini Frassoni : “*The royal origin of the Pepoli, Princes of Bologna*”.

**Porcia** – Of the ancient Counts of Sicambria in Pannonia.

**Requesens** – Reputedly descended from the Princes of Lusazia or the Dukes of Bavaria.

**Revertera** – Originate in Amerio, Lord of Castello Reverterio, son of Brucardo, who is believed to descend from the Marquises of Luxemburg who reigned at the time of Charles Martel.

**Rodocanachi** – Derived from the house of the Ducas Emperors of Constantinople, then Kings of Rhodes (11<sup>th</sup> Century).

**Sanseverino** (Families descending from them : Sambiasi, Lauro, Martirano, Sangineto, Fasanella, De Miro and perhaps also Capasso and Morra) – Descendant from Turgisio, brother of Angerio (who was the founder of the Filangieri), of the blood of the Dukes of Normandy.

**Statella** – Originate from the Royal blood of the Dukes of Burgundy.

**Termini** – Originate in Catalonia and descend from the Counts of Narbonne.

**Tocco** – To them is attributed a descent from Totila, King of the Goths. He was Despot of Epiris, in the region of the Gulf of Artg. Leonard followed Robert Curtanai, Emperoro of Constantinople, into Greece. Charles his son was Lord of Etolia d'Acarnama and Leucate. He married the daughter of the Duke of Athens, who was the sister of the Empress.

**Tranfo** or **Tranfo** – Originate from Tranfo, Doge or Consul of Gaeta (1040) or from Hugh the Handsome, son of Hugh the Black, Duke of Burgundy.

**Tuttavilla** – Originally from France and who would have themselves to descend from their Kings, but then passed into England, then to Rome and Naples during the reign of Alphonse I of Aragon.

**Valguarnera** – Is reputedly descended from the ancient Kings of the Goths. Founder Garnerio, Count of Ampurias.

**Visdomini** – Held to be of Anscar stock.

**Zunica** – Originate from the house of the Kings of Navarre.