

**FERDINAND II BY THE GRACE OF GOD KING OF THE TWO SICILIES,  
JERUSALEM ETC. DUKE OF PARMA, PIACENZA, CASTRO ETC. ETC.  
HEREDITARY GRAND DUKE OF TUSCANY ETC. ETC. ETC.**

To all those present and future, Greetings!

Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Today, the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1853, before ourselves Gioacchino Accardi Notary (practicing in Palermo from his office in his own home situated in the vicinity of the Palazzo Aieli in the neighbourhood of the Piazzetta dei Tedeschi at number 26 in vicolo Sant'Antonio) in the Great Drawing Room of the Palace of the Most Excellent Sig. Don Achille Paternò Marquis of Spedalotto situated in this the via Nereto there being present the Most Excellent Lords Don Francesco Vincenzo Paternò Castello, Prince of Biscari; Don Vincenzo Benedetto Paternò Castello, Baron della Bicocca; Don Benedetto Orazio Paternò Castello, Marquis of San Giuliano; the brothers Don Pietro and Don Paolo Moncada Paternò Castello; Don Antonio Alvaro, Prince of Manganelli who represents also his son who is a minor, Giuseppe Alvaro, Duke of Palazzo, and in exercise of the power of attorney vested in him he represents also the Most Excellent Sig. Don Antonio Paternò, Marquis of Toscano, absent on account of illness; and there being also present the Most Illustrious and Most Excellent Giovanni Battista and Agata, Duke and Duchess of Furnari, and their son, Don Giuseppe Paternò, Marquis of Sessa and Villasmundo, Prince of Montevago, who declares himself to have the power of attorney for his brother D. Gaetano; Don Mario Paternò di Raddusa e Marianopoli who declares himself to be the representative and who will sign with the power of attorney of his brother the Most Excellent and Most Illustrious Sig. Marquis of Raddusa and Marianopoli, absent on account of illness, the first-born and the Head of the House and also, together with his brother Don Ettore, Marquis of Regiovanni; the Most Excellent and Most Illustrious Sig. Don Achille Paternò, Marquis of Spedalotto in whose Palace the great Family was all there assembled on the one part, before ourselves the Notary. On the other part, there are present the Most Illustrious and Most Excellent Sig. Don Francesco Paternò Castello e Sammartino, Duke of Carcaci; Don Gaetano Paternò Castello of the Dukes of Carcaci; and Don Giovanni Paternò Castello of the Dukes of Carcaci, Prince of Emmanuel by his wife the Most Illustrious and Most Excellent Donna Leonora Guttadauro, Princess of Emmanuel, recognised by our Lord (thanks be to God) as Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of the Collar of Saint Agatha Virgin and Martyr of Catania until such time as his son Don Mario reaches the age of maturity. The above mentioned Excellent Lords are through each other brothers and all of the House of Paternò Castello e Sammartino of the Dukes of Carcaci and of Sanpolo, Barons of Placa Bajana.

We the Notary take notice of the fact that the above mentioned great Lords who gave me permission to draw up this present Act and Document listen to the wise words of the Most Excellent and Most Illustrious Duke of Carcaci Don Francesco Paternò Castello e Sammartino who proceeds to the proposals which we write down as follows. Sig. Duke Don Francesco Paternò Castello of Carcaci requests of all those present whether they are agreeable to sit in Family Council and, having received their assent, he asks if they are disposed to hear him out and to give each one his own vote on his proposals, stipulating that in order to be approved his proposals will have to receive at least two

thirds of the votes in their favour, that is to say eleven out of sixteen votes, and he says that moreover he and his brothers will not vote but will sign the Act to accept such as the Council might freely wish to do.

The Most Excellent Prince Don Francesco Vincenzo of Biscari rises to speak and says in a loud voice to the Duke of Carcaci that all the Paternò and the Paternò Castello look to him as to a father, so much is he worthy of great respect for his virtues of the heart and the intellect, so that they are all ready and willing to listen to him and to do that which seems best to him for the glory of the great Family as a whole which has always done so much good for our country, all the more in that the above mentioned Duke Don Francesco of Carcaci has been recently nominated a Gentleman of Honour to our Lord the King graciously reigning (thanks be to God). All those present applaud the words of the Prince of Biscari and raise their right hands to demonstrate their agreement. And I the notary draw up the present record in accordance with the dictates of the law after having made a complete examination of each power of attorney granted by the Most Excellent Lords who are absent being either sick or too far away and I assure myself that those persons with a power of attorney have exercised their right to vote as also through their representatives, after which the Duke of Carcaci declares the Council to be open.

The Most Excellent Sig. Duke Francesco Paternò Castello e Sammartino of Carcaci begins the discussion and the Most Excellent Prince of Biscari who has been nominated President of the Council, listening with attention, speaks thus to my clerk: "The Most Illustrious Sig. Duke of Carcaci begins the discussion in a full, clear and learned address, referring to the history of the distinguished line of the House of Paternò, bearing in mind the consanguinity of the same with the Royal House of Aragon, of which various branches ruled in Spain and separately various branches those States of Majorca, together with the Counties of Roussillon, Montpellier and Ribagorza and the Kingdoms of Sicily and Sardinia and also the Kingdom of Naples. It is documented how these same became extinct in the principal branches and, both as a result of the brute force of arms and through the treachery of Treaties, the Succession to the Royal Dominion and its powers were transmitted through women to other Houses and, therefore, these despised the male descendants of the branches of the House of Aragon born of the third marriage of the great King James I, who was called the Conqueror, with the Most Excellent Sgra. Duchess Teresa Gil de Vidaure, who were called by their father to succeed to the rights of the Throne, being his consecrated sons, as was his wish set out in his testamentary deposition and blessed and confirmed by the Holy Roman Pontiff.

And, continued the Most Illustrious Sig. Duke of Carcaci, We were and are but an Aragonese branch of that Royal House, the distinguished branch of the Lords of Paternò, whose founder, valiant in arms and renowned for his beauty and riches, it is who History tells us was that great, good and noble knight who defeated all who came before him and was the grandson of the aforementioned Don James and of his third wife the aforementioned Most Excellent Sgra. Duchess Donna Teresa. From which sacred union, which was not one of concubinage but a legitimate and blessed marriage, there was born first the branch of Ayerbe, but those also at the beginning of our century became extinct with Prince Cassano of Bari leaving only women, so that there remains only our branch of Paternò which comes down from male to male from the Great King."

And again the Prince of Biscari goes on to say, while listening to the discourse of the Duke, and he explains that all the rights and powers of the Great Royal House descended to the Paternò and thus it is necessary to know, but which is indeed a difficult thing, by which of the many branches it might be that it is most close to the founding King, which seems all the more difficult because often in the course of the centuries the Paternò have married one with another, passing from one to another the rights of the House, while by Divine Grace the other branches of the House of Aragon were as poor in male descendants as the branch of Paternò has always been rich, which has through the above mentioned greatly mixed the simple line of descent that is *inter alia* even more neglected because, always recognised as being of Royal blood, throughout the years for centuries and centuries, whether as Princes, Dukes or Marquises, they were always the first Lords of the Kingdom of Sicily in which the Aragonese were called Liberators since the Vespers had freed our lands from the deceitful rule of the French.

The Prince of Biscari, while he listens to the words of the Duke of Carcaci, says to me again: "The Most Excellent Sig. Duke of Carcaci, our dear cousin, because we are all cousins, after so many other learned words reaches his conclusion saying: 'You know what was my research into the papers which were discovered in the study of our great ancestor Sig. Prince Don Ignazio Paternò Castello, the fifth Prince of Biscari and what were the conclusions which I reached, because from all of you I requested advice about the discoveries I had made and you were all in agreement with me, giving me permission to say to our Lord the King that my little nephew Mario should be recognised, who is the beloved son of my brother Don Giovanni and of his dear wife Donna Leonora Guttadauro of Emmanuel Riburdone the last child of so many Princes of that name and the last descendant of such a family, because only thus given the confusion of the descendance can there be security that the rights and claims of Our Great House, be they in respect of the Grand Mastership of the Order of the Knights of the Collar dedicated to our Saint Agatha, or be they in respect of the claims of the Royal Sovereigns of Aragon, will come down to my little nephew who is the only one in whom runs twice over the Royal Blood of Aragon, as all the historians confirm and all those who like the Notary Mugnoz have studied through documents the descent of the Sovereign Family and who have always confirmed that the Paternò as also the Guttadauro, called Gotador in the land of Spain, are descended from the same King James who was called the Conqueror and who in his time by his beauty and his valour made so many young women fall in love with him, but, while the others remain forgotten, the Guttadauro are not so forgotten who through the wish of that same King became first Great Lords and then also Princes and Barons.

All my beloved relatives, you have approved my intention, you agreed with me and bade me have printed my modest article which I would not have wished to print and which contains as much as I could extract from the papers of our great forbear concerning the powers and rights of the House which he himself Prince Don Ignazio had been able to see with his own eyes on his journey to Majorca, and you gave me permission to request of our Lord the King that in his wisdom he might recognise that such great powers be vested in my and your nephew Don Mario Paternò e Guttadauro of Carcaci, Prince of Emmanuel. Now for so many years the benevolence of our Lord the King (thanks be to God) has been willing to grant your and my request and has been willing to concede all the rights and powers ought by me with your agreement and has been willing to grant to our great Family the imposition of them onto the shoulders of our little Mario but, that notwithstanding, the King in his wisdom rightly said that my brother Don Giovanni should be the Regent, who according to the advice of the Royal

Commission for Titles of the Nobility of the Kingdom had already been recognised as Prince of Emmanuel *maritali jure* by virtue of his marriage with the aforesaid Princess Donna Eleonora and he wished it to be thus not only because our nephew was and still is too young, but also because the same King our Lord in his great wisdom thought that in order to sustain such great burdens and honours to be able to exercise his authority without contest, he should be in a position to receive the agreement of the entire Family whatsoever, which should demonstrate this not only in words but it also should be written down in a document which would then remain valid throughout the centuries and so our Lord the King (thanks be to God) wished to recognise as Regent my brother Don Giovanni the father of Don Mario until such time as you, my distinguished relatives, shall have consented with your honourable signatures to what I shall have proposed, and not only you but your sons and the sons of their sons, and the sons of their grandsons throughout all ages and until such time as our son and nephew Mario shall have grown to such new and greater experience and capability and so as you all know that my brother Don Giovanni has been recognised by the King not only as Prince of Emmanuel by virtue of his marriage but also as Regent of the claims of our House just as also of the Order of the Knights of the Collar which we have wished to dedicate to our Saint Agatha who has always protected our great House, just as also its possessions which we had in the Kingdoms of our ancestors of Aragon. Well, you my illustrious relations who have shown such trust in me both in word and in writing, you must also say in this Council, because the law will take account of it now and for ever, not only because it is the wish of our Lord the King (thanks be to God) but because after we have all returned to Him who made us with the grace of the Most Holy Madonna and of Saint Agatha, there should not arise the distressing circumstance that some false witness might give rise to some great disagreement in our blessed Family, and so, my Most Excellent Relations, whether by virtue of the great House which we represent or by reason of our sense of honour we are not as ordinary men who can climb the stairs of the Criminal and Civil Courts. It is for this reason that I request your votes in writing; because, says the Prince of Biscari, as the Duke of Carcaci has explained, it is right that this document should remain drawn up in a legal manner which the King wishes for his ease of mind and so that rightly and with all your conscious desire you should say that you wish by the glory of our Saint Agatha and by the great fame of our Family, a glory which is above all that of our country.

And I the Notary with the assistance of my clerk, as the law desires, write in this Act the content of the discussion as related to me by the Most Excellent President of the Council, abbreviating it in all those parts which are not critical to the sense of it, right up to the present moment and on my honour I can confirm that all the Most Excellent gentlemen present approve and applaud loudly what has been said by Duke Don Francesco of Carcaci and at my call each one declares: "I approve the wise and learned words of the Duke of Carcaci Paternò Castello e Sammartino, my Most Excellent Relative, and I swear on my honour and by my faith that I renounce all possible claims of the Family in favour of Don Mario Paternò Castello Guttadauro of Carcaci, the young Prince of Emmanuel, the most beloved son of Don Giovanni and of the Princess Donna Leonora Guttadauro, as also to the Grand Mastership of the Knights of the Collar of Paternò dedicated to Saint Agatha Virgin and Martyr and in Paradise the most gentle patron of Catania and our patron also and, in addition, to all the Royal claims made by our Family in respect of the House of Aragon, recognising that while he is still a minor his father Don Giovanni will uphold the rights of his son, that is until he has reached his eighteenth year, or while our Lord the King does not see fit to pass to him the powers which during his minority have been given to his father and so I believe because the King does not wish to issue eternal decrees until a Family Council has first agreed to

recognise Don Mario and all his descendants as the Head of the House, of the Knights of the Collar of Paternò and of all the Royal claims which belong to them by descent and by Divine grace." After having pronounced these words each person present puts his hand on the Most Holy Crucifix and swears by his own honour and on his Catholic Faith always to respect what has been said whether by him himself or by his representatives who has been ordered to represent him with full powers including to sign their names.

This present Act is written by my clerk who assists me, who is known to and nominated by the Supreme Court of Palermo which is the capital of this Kingdom, because I the Notary cannot do so because of serious injury to my right arm, but I can fulfil my mandate and it should be considered that my clerk who always accompanies me in the lands of Carini and Belmonte Mezzano, writes in our Sicilian language and does not know how to write in that which has come to be called Tuscan and which in these modern times has come to be used in noble and learned families, and thus speaks the Prince of Biscari and thus speaks the Most Excellent Duke of Carcaci and as today is used in the great part of the Kingdom and of the Italian States. This Act has been considered by me the Notary and read down word by word so that all the gentlemen who have to sign it will find it to be in accordance with their wishes. That which is signed by all parties is that which remains with me the Notary, who has now made this same legal copy for the Chamber of the Register of the Kingdom, in addition to which a further three copies have been requested of me by the Most Excellent Prince of Biscari who has been President of the Council, by the Duke of Carcaci who has been its proponent and by the Most Illustrious Don Giovanni his brother who has also requested a copy of it to serve to the young Prince Don Mario of Emmanuel his son, so that he might be able to present it to the King for the new and pertinent Royal decrees that he should receive in his favour once he achieves his majority. All the other gentlemen present and who have signed do not wish a copy but wish always to be able to request one, for I am always able to release one with my signature and my seal as the law requires, and they put their trust in me.

By this present Act I the Notary receive the necessary sheets of legal paper and since by reason of recent turbulent times through which we have passed we find ourselves short of paper with the Royal Stamp they may be half sheets rather than whole sheets, but when some of these are mixed together they should have the same value of stamp, as the Government and the law dictate, also fifteen grammes for my service and five grammes for my clerk which makes twenty Tari in all. The Most Excellent Duke of Carcaci wished then to give me in addition two pieces of twelve Tari to set aside for the services of the clerk and for my servants and to pay for the expenses of the copies and so it is that I the Notary must draw up the signed copy in my official capacity, paying the stamp to the Commissioner for Acts and Royal Registers in this the Supreme Court of Justice.

And now under my supervision each of these great gentlemen signs while I watch him sign and after them I myself sign and affix my seal of office for the security of all and because this is what the law of the Kingdom demands of me to do. Thus was it said, done and written in the Great Drawing Room of the Most Excellent Marquis Paternò of Spedalotto, in his Palace which is to be found in the Straduzza Merlo in this most happy city of Palermo, the capital of our Kingdom, which began at the hour of four in the afternoon and ended at ten minutes before six on the same day, the 14th of the month of June in the Year of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the twenty-third year of the Reign of our

Lord the King Ferdinand II (thanks be to God), All we have taken note of what has been here written, that it is as we have spoken, and again we say that it is complete and is as we wish, thus we have sworn by the Holy Roman Church and the Council of Trent, before the Notary Sig. Gioacchino Accardi and we sign:

Francesco Vincenzo Paternò Castello, Prince of Biscari, President of the Council of the Family of Paternò and Paternò Castello, and a participant;

Benedetto Orazio Paternò Castello, Marquis of San Giuliano and Capizzi, a participant;

Pietro Moncada Paternò Castello, a participant; Paolo Moncada Paternò Castello, a participant;

Antonio Alvaro Paternò, Prince of Manganelli, a participant and the representative of his own son, a minor, as which I sign with all authority and legality in the name of the same;

Don Giuseppe Alvaro, the son and heir of the Duke of Palazzo, and I also sign with the style, authority and function granted by the power of attorney of and as representative of my Most Excellent relative the Most Excellent Sig. Antonino Paternò Marquis of Toscano who could not be present, being sick, and who conferred on me the trust of his power;

Giovannbattista, Duke of Furnari, a participant with his son Vincenzo Paternò the young Duke of Furnari;

Giuseppe Paternò, Marquis of Sessa e Villasmundo, Prince of Montevago, who signs also for my brother Don Gaetano who by reason of being a long way away could not be present and who moreover is ill;

Mario Paternò of Raddusa and of Marianopoli present also on behalf of my brother the Marquis of Raddusa and Marianopoli who because of his most serious and well known illness could not be present at this Council and who gave me in a signed document his authority to sign on his behalf as the Notary Accardi here present has been able to confirm. The Act declares, as I now write, that until our times the Raddusa were always recognised as the first of the House because it is said that they were the most direct descendants of Giovanni the Elder, who as Mugnoz says they called "il Seniore", who had for relatives the members of the Royal House of Aragon and who in our Sicilian lands fathered such a large Family and propagated so greatly our blood of Paternò.

Achille Paternò, Marquis of Spedalotto, who held this Council in his Palace and received its members with such great honour and pleasure, in his capacity as participant;

Emmanuele Ettore Paternò of the Marquises of Spedalotto, Marquis of Regiovanni, a participant;

After these gentlemen, there then signed their names the three Most Excellent and Most Illustrious brothers who had been the proponents of the Council:

Francesco Paternò Castello, Duke of Carcaci who gave the discourse;

Gaetano Paternò Castello of the Dukes of Carcaci who with the authority given him by the law also signs for his son Francesco d'Assisi, born of his marriage with Donna Ferdinanda Grifféo of the Princes of Partanna and who is less than three years old;

Giovanni Paternò Castello Sammartino of the Dukes of Carcaci, Prince of Emmanuel *maritali jure*, who being the husband of the Gracious Donna Eleonora Guttadauro, Princess of Emmanuel, holds with Royal consent all authority over the Family of Paternò and with this Act accepts those same powers in order to pass them on to his beloved son Don Mario who is still too young to be able to govern, not only exactly as our Lord the King (thanks be to God) wishes, but also accepting for the said Mario my

son in as much as has been put down over the signature which is also on his behalf, in exercise of the powers given to me by the law.

All the signatures and the free declarations which have been set down in this Act, I the Notary have seen them set down and thus with my conscience and my knowledge I recognise them to be truthful and legitimate with the witness of my clerk and with the oath of the President of the Council, who as we have said is the Most Excellent Prince of Biscari, who bears witness to this.

#### The Notary's Seal of Office

Registered on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1853 on the 9<sup>th</sup> sheet of the sixth folder in the first book of the ninth volume with the number 4510, having received 50 grammes and Maglia. Here is the official Seal.

This Act has been entered into the Registers as number 176 of the Master Register and on the same day that it was drawn up but it was kept among my documents until it might have received the seals of the Register which was two days after it was drawn up under the number 387 of my records. We order and command whosoever of our Most Illustrious petitioners to give execution to this present Act and to all our Officers and Officials in the public service to give strong support when they are legally called upon to do so and to our Royal Procurators to the Tribunals to cooperate with the desire for which the Act was drawn up. This is the copy which was given immediately afterwards to the Most Excellent and Most Illustrious Sig. Don Giovanni Paternò Castello of the Dukes of Carcaci, Prince of Emmanuel by marriage, so that he might preserve it for his son Don Mario Paternò Castello e Guttadauro of Emmanuel who at his convenience will be able to exhibit it for those purposes allowed by the law.

This copy I the Notary have had made by my clerk and of which the original was signed by all the Most Excellent and Most Illustrious gentlemen who held the Council of the most great Family of Paternò and Paternò Castello and which I the Notary have read down word by word of this Act which was entered as number 176 in my Second Master Register and was sealed in the Chamber of Seals and Royal Registers of the Kingdom in this city and which I the Notary have entered in my records as number 387. This was carried out in my office in Palermo in the building which is my home which is situated near to the Royal Palace, in the neighbourhood of the Piazzetta dei Tedeschi in vicolo Sant'Antonio at number 26, today the 18<sup>th</sup> day of the month of June in the year of Our Lord 1853, being the twenty-third of the Reign of our Lord the King, Ferdinand II (thanks be to God).

And in good faith I, the undersigned Notary, affix the seal of my office to this present copy which conforms in authentic form and in execution having the character of document number eight included herewith and by me countersigned with my family name, one each of these same which collated only with the greatest care I release to Sig. Don Giovanni Paternò Castello, Prince of Emmanuel, on this the 18<sup>th</sup> of June one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three 1853.

N. Doctor Gioacchino Accardi

with my seal and in witness thereto I countersign: N. Doctor Gioacchino Accardi

List no. 252 - Expenses

Paper gr	78
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Rights of Seal 11

Rights of Tariff 1

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Recorded in my register with the serial number 252