

FRANCESCO PATERNO CASTELLO E SAMMARTINO
DUKE OF CARCACI

THE ORDER OF THE COLLAR

PATRIMONY OF THE MOST SERENE ROYAL HOUSE OF
PATERNO

CATANIA
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TO MY GRANDCHILDREN
THAT THEY MAY EMULATE THE ACTIONS OF OUR ANCESTORS

Since every day I feel that my strength is decreasing, I wish to ensure that I will not take with me to the eternal silence of the grave a discovery that I had the good fortune to make amongst the poorly preserved and sadly decayed manuscripts in the Archives of the House of Biscari.

Many years ago I was occupied with the compilation of some *Pensieri per l'istituzione del Gabinetto Letterario della Accademia Gioenia (Thoughts on the setting up of the Literary Cabinet of the Gioenian Academy)* and thinking to find information and guidance I directed my research to the observations left to the *Etnean Academy* by our Great Ancestor, Don Ignatius Paterno Castello Scammacca fifth Prince of Biscari, the able reformer who so distinguished himself in governing as to receive the admiration of the highest luminaries of Science.

Amongst those documents ravaged by damp and worm I came across copious notes written by that distinguished hand regarding a journey of his to the Balearic Islands. That this Prince was a great scholar, a man of letters, an archaeologist, an historian, a tireless researcher of truth and beauty was not a new discovery for me, but that he had sailed across the seas to explore that enchanting Spanish archipelago where our ancestors reigned, fascinated me to the extent that I abandoned all my other work and plunged into deciphering that document, which would have been unintelligible if I had not been already very familiar with the handwriting of that Great Man.

To transcribe that document word for word is no longer humanly possible, but I will try to give continuity and a logical meaning to its sentences and phrases, some of which are incomplete because of the damage, whilst others are obscured by extensive stains, yet I am guided by my knowledge of the origins of our illustrious lineage.

But this fact is of no importance when one considers that the material in question was in the form of rough notes which would have been worked on subsequently and thus there were evident shortcomings in the literary style. The important thing is that our Great Man reveals a new brilliant light which comes more and more to adorn the virtues of *Gens nostra*; it comes to give us the certainty that when we were forced to leave our beautiful Sicily because of the

exceptionally violent uprisings caused by the Norman -Swedish takeover and by the imperial persecution against which the Heavenly admonishment hurled itself

Noli offendere Patriam Agathae, quia ultrix iniuriam est (Do not harm the land of Saint Agatha, for this would be the utmost offence) and, exiled in Aragon as guests of our Royal blood relations, we were invested with the Sovereignty of Majorca and Minorca, quickened by the sacred fire of the same Christian faith which had already given us victory in Sicily against the Saracens, we instituted the ORDER OF THE COLLAR to form an elect body of Knights to defend our States against the incursions of the Moors and in order that in nearby Iberia they could fight for the extirpation of the Mohammedan heresy.

Prince Don Ignatius II Paternò Castello of Biscari undoubtedly maintained the hope of obtaining more knowledge, to acquire more complete documentation and to recover, perhaps, that which had been entrusted to a translator and subsequently lost, in order to produce an exhaustive study, but death overtook him whilst he was still engaged in his untiring work. He left incalculable treasures of learning as yet unpublished and many of which, alas, now lost and destroyed.

Of his works, among the most important we remember *Poem in praise of His Sacred Royal Majesty Charles Sebastian Bourbon, King of the Two Sicilies* (Catania, S. Trento, 1740); *An academic discussion regarding an ancient inscription found in the Greek Theatre in the Noble City of Catania, given in the assembly of the Etnean Pastors by the Prince himself* (Episcopal Seminary Press, 1771); *Letter to Signor Canon Schiaco on a Seal of the Council of Basle* (page 5) (Catania, 1772); *A Journey to all the ancient sites of Sicily* (Naples, Simonian Press, 1781); *Considerations presented to a Lady regarding ancient ornaments and toy bells for children* (Florence, Crusca, 1781); *Concerning the Murrini Vases* (Florence, Crusca, 1781); *An account given to the Royal Academy of Bordeaux of the earthquake of the 5th of February 1783* (Napoli, Mazzola, 1784); etc., etc., apart from which, as I have said, many unpublished works and various manuscripts, some of great importance.

Of the vast bibliography regarding him must be noted the profile by Percolla recently printed in *Biographies of Illustrious Men of Catania of the XVIII century* (Catania, Pastore, 1842); the German Dante, Wolfgang Goethe, sang his praises and always remembered with admiration the Great Sicilian Maecenas, whose museum he visited on the occasion of his visit to our land of the sun and the flowering lemon tree. Frederick Münter in his *Journey to Sicily* (Palermo, Abbate, 1823) calls him Maestro and His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Sir William Hamilton in his *Campi Phlegrei (Napoli, 1776)* commends him to students as a luminary.

It is not my intention to write about this great man, mindful that my own feebleness would dull rather than brighten the light which shines from him, but I shall proceed directly to my task, leaving to those more worthy the production of an exhaustive biography.

Returning to recount what I was so fortunate to discover in that manuscript, I cannot refrain from stating that this Prince, receiving information from the same place as our greatest glories in a Franciscan monastery near Fornells in Minorca, discovered from an ancient parchment that one of the first Great Inquisitors of the ORDER OF THE COLLAR was a Chevalier de Gotador, from whom descend the Guttadauro Family of the Princes of Emmanuel, the heiress of whom D. Eleonora has been for a decade the wife of my much beloved brother D. Giovanni. What curious twists of fate!

Now, the ORDER OF THE COLLAR, undoubted Patrimony of our House, cannot in any circumstances be considered as descended from any particular lines of the Paternò family. It would be an enormous, nay impossible task to trace the genealogy, moreover it is not possible to determine with certainty when the rights arising from the extinction of the Spanish Branch

revert with the Sicilian Stock. Apart from this, those rights will follow the law of pre-emption thanks to him who out of respect of his ancestors wished reconstitute that military body which, if it cannot today as in the past be directed to the armed destruction of the forces of heresy, can by word and pious deed be employed to alleviate the sufferings of others, deploring vice and unseemly practices and continuing to edify the immense and inexhaustible Arch of Christian Example, initiated by the Great Martyr of Golgotha!

To you, my little Grandsons Mario and Enrico, in whom mingle the Royal blood of the House of Paternò with that of the Great Inquisitor of Gotador, I entrust this noble task and, if you accept it, you will render yourselves worthy of this highest of families, which across the events of centuries of our history, run for millennia the rule of Glory and the encampments of the battlefield, which from the magnificence and drama of our Grand Family, around which have polarized entire tragedies and complete apotheoses of Peoples under arms, came into being the Creators of the perfect light of current Christian Civilisation! To You who belong to this Stock which has lived, exalted and suffered in the quivering of the Gonfaloni and in the shadow of the Manieri the true synthesis of an entire history, now dazzlingly bright, now dark and sombre, in which was heated and fused the Power and the Renown of our most Serene House, to You, young men, worthy descendents of that generous Knighthood which handed down to us that most meaningful of mottos *Post tenebras spero Lucem (After the shadows I hope for Light)*, I confer you the Noble task of reconstituting the Order of the Collar and of continuing in the work of our Great Ancestors, ever reminding yourselves that the ornament of our Illustrious Forebears will not last if their descendents do not continue to imitate them!

Let us follow Prince D. Ignatius of Biscari in His journey.

Abbot Domenico Sestino, the Florentine Academic, left us this important appreciation of the journeys of the Prince: *Travelling with the mighty is the greatest luxury in this world, I found myself on this occasion mounted on a wonderful horse and surrounded by a dense crowd of footmen and other servants bearing abundant food and refreshments, so that I almost wished that I could forget how unimportant I was. Mounted on horseback, apart from the Prince who travelled in a litter, we departed from Catania on the road towards Misterbianco and Paterno, for the ancestral castle of Aragon...*

We can thus imagine the Prince's journey to Minorca. A note of the expenses found amongst the papers in the Biscari Archive gives us an exact understanding of the splendour with which Ignatius surrounded himself on the occasion of that journey, not because he was on an official visit but because His Royal habits constrained him to consider necessary this magnificent extravagance.

It seems that three galleys left the port of Trapani with approximately three hundred crewmen, in addition to the many relatives of the Prince and his secretarial staff: altogether not less than five hundred people! To be certain of a good supply of fresh meat for the Princely Table, 1500 chickens, 250 lambs and a large number of sucking pigs were loaded on board. 150 trunks full of rare and precious objects and garments were taken as gifts which the Prince might wish to present to those peoples whom we believed in need due to the bad government of Spain.

The expenditure which the Prince's secretariat recorded, making a simple sum of the entries, amounts to 31,895 Ducats, an enormous figure if one considers that the famous and huge Biscari Palace, a monument and treasury of art, was valued at 32,100 Ducats.

Now I shall attempt to transcribe with the greatest possible accuracy those things which I learned from those notes made regarding the places of our Kingdom, and, subsequently, to bring some order to the same.

Our Ignatius by way of preamble traces a summary of the reasons for his journey and of the origins of the Paternò family in Sicily which, even though well known, I do not neglect to include also because thus may be known by posterity how we were regarded by Biscari.

The vicissitudes which brought mourning and slaughter - writes Ignatius- in the ancient Kingdom of Arles, where flourished the stock of the Paternoys, Sovereigns Lords of Embrun, a junior branch of the Royal House of Barcelona and Provence descendants of Charlemagne, culminated in the loss of their Dominions as a result of the intervention of Conrad III, King of the Romans, induced the Chief of those our brave ancestors to dare to take up arms and thus he accompanied his relative the Norman seeking glory in the south of Italy, slave at that time to the Saracen.

The important battles of Sicily brought to spread the fame of the courage of the indomitable Count Robert Paternoy d'Embrun and when Catania was under siege he ordered the construction on the conquered Batarnu that Castle for this purpose with the effect that he gave his name to that entire tract of country.

In my Palace, writes further Ignatius of Biscari, there is a sixteenth century picture which depicts him with the inscription "Ex excelso Normannorum sanguinis Embrunique dominantium Rubertus Paterno' miles originem traxit, vere e natura militiae indictus suorum gloriosa gesta et in pace, et in bello non disinit, sentimenta consilia, et andamenta valde accepta fuerunt a belligeris haeroibus Roberto Guiscardo, et Rogerio Comite fratribus; quapropter dictus de Paterno' non solum sub eorum vexillis tantum ductor exercitus proclamatus fuit, sed commensalis, consiliarus, et consanguineus eorum distincto honore reputatus, non sine munerum largitione nonnullorum pheudorum, terrarumque cum vassallis, sicut et documentis ad posteritatem apparet. Et ut tanti viri mei consanguinei memoria in oblivione non remuneret; ego Alphonsus Paterno' de mandato Caroli V Caesar is Imperatoris Maximi domini mei semper Augustissimi ex alia tabula e vetustate in parte consumpta super hanc tabulam translata, et pictari feci a Polidoro an. Dni 1535" ("Robert Paternò, Soldier, derives his ancestry from the Most Excellent blood of the Normans and of the Lords of Embrun. Indeed he is unsurpassed as to his glorious acts, whether in the field of warfare or in peace. In battle he is tireless, his advice in council just as his deeds were accepted worthily by the heroic warrior brothers Robert Guiscard and Count Roger; wherefore it was said of Paternò that not only was he proclaimed to be such a great general of the army under their banners, but he was held in great honour as a companion, councillor and relation of theirs, not without the bestowal of the gift of several domains and lands with vassals, just as it appears to posterity from documents. And so that the memory of such a man my relative may not be consigned to oblivion, I Alfonso Paternò at the command of the Most Great Holy Roman Emperor Charles V my Most August Lord, I have had this painting executed by Polidoro and this text transcribed upon it, taken from another ancient panel now in part destroyed, in this the year of Our Lord 1535").

In ever greater glory the Paterno's became the highest Lords of Sicily to the point that Costantino, great-grandson of Robert around the year 1140 renewed the ties of blood with the reigning family by marrying Matilda Avenel granddaughter of King Roger and was invested with the greatest County of the Kingdom, reserved only for Princes of the Blood. There remains a magnificent memorial tombstone erected over his remains by the pious hands of his widow in 1168, now preserved in the collection of my palace.

The Paternò' coat of arms namely that of the junior branch of Sovereign House of Barcelona was carved together with that of the Norman Lord and the insignia of the Noble City of Catania on the facade of the Cathedral of that city, which was the Capital of the Kingdom.

But the Divine design, continues Ignatius, which our insignificance compels us to accept as proof for human redemption, was not content that this situation should persist and the Imperial Armies suddenly descended and the persecutions of Henry and Frederick induced our ancestors to abandon the land of Sicily (vide Mugnos "Theatro Genealogico") and to return to Iberia and their Royal Kinsmen of Aragon. It happened though that some valiant men of our own Noble family remained on the Island to keep ablaze the torch of the legitimate Royal House. But when they were cunningly defeated by Manfred and Conradin, the bitterest years began for our land, and the Angevin usurper ruled in tyranny until the Sicilian Vespers, when the Paternò came back in supreme glory with the return of magnanimous Monarchs, particularly the Kings Martini father and son.

But in those years, which, it may seem, were the darkest for the Great Family, there were also times of lustre when the Paternò who had taken refuge in Iberia were invested with Regal Sovereignty over the Balearic Islands and Ibiza.

Our kinship with the Royal House of Aragon can be traced in Sicilian records as far back as 1297 with Ximonis de Paternione Aragonensis (a deed of Messire Bonafede, Notary of the City of Palermo) for the marriage of his granddaughter Olivella to Lord Errico Grimaldo and the Paternò soon returned to Catania to recount glorious happenings in their Iberian realm, but the earthquakes of 1693 destroyed the archives, both the private ones and those of the Court and the Senate, so that much work would be needed to record accurately those extraordinary events.

Ancient maps showed those lands as ours, with our coat of arms as proof of our Sovereignty (I have one amongst the charts in my palace) but I would like to have more precise information, more recent than that given to us by our Father Ferdinand Paternò of the Company of Saint Ignatius who at the Court of Phillip II was introduced to D. Juan and D. Alonso Paternoy who assured him that the branch of the Paternò of Aragon had a common origin with that of Sicily; and due to their Royal origins in Spain they enjoyed the exclusive privilege of exemption from prison or execution for any reason whatever.

Ignatius reveals that in 1602, our historian Scipione Paternò Colonna wrote in his studies of 1640, a monk came to Sicily from Spain to invite someone of our House to travel to Aragon to marry a daughter of the Paternò, heir to great riches, to preserve the continuity of that Royal Balearic House, so reduced in numbers to a very few women and a few elderly or sick men.

When Baron Paternò di Raddusa, Ambassador of His Catholic Majesty in Spain, found that the family was close to extinction with a Count of Fruentes (as can be seen in Spanish manuscripts in the Raddusa Archive in Catania) who became his great friend, he recounts to him that after the Balearic kingdom had become part of Spain the Paternò family had to undergo a division, a part of it following their Royal Aragon blood relatives to Sicily, and the other part retiring to mainland Spain where because of their common origin with the Royal House they gained great honour and one Cypres, conqueror of the fortress of Decia became the godfather of the Infant Ferdinand who was the Catholic King (as can be read in the annals of the Ciurita) whilst Gonzales restored the ties with the Aragons at the time of Charles V by marrying Isabel, daughter of D. Alonso of Aragon Count of Rigaborza (Ciurita records this also).

The Count of Fruentes, continues the Baron of Radusa, possessed a great number of documents of the period in which the Family had reigned, their ancestors having taken great pains to preserve their Country's and their family's memoirs, taking with them many parchments from the Archives of the Balearic Kingdom. Unfortunately, as though an inexorable destiny hung over the records of our family's history, observes Ignatius, the destructive work begun by the earthquake in Sicily was continued by fire in Spain because, as

tells Baron Raddusa, many parchments were destroyed by fire which during the life of his father ruined a large part of the archives of the Paternoy Castle in Huesca, Aragon. But Count Fuentes informed Baron Raddusa of an armed militia of which his grandfather had spoken to him which was said to have been founded by the Balearic Royal Family, in the same manner as the Crusaders, to defend those lands and to eliminate the Saracen Dominion of the Iberian region.

Compelled by love for my family and the study of history, the Prince tells us, I decided to visit various important places in our Kingdom to effect those researches which could not be carried out in Sicily. So it was that I sailed from the west coast of my Country in the company of geographers, learned men and translators some of whom I recruited from France and some from Florence, and on a cloudy day at noon arrived on the north coast of Minorca in a bay known locally as the Bay of Fornells.

The people of that place, few in number, primitive and skilled only in the art of fishing, advised us to move along the coast to Santa Catalina, and thus by steep and rugged roads, using the horses brought from Sicily, together with an escort of 25 persons armed not only with swords but also with some good firearms, I commenced the next stage of my journey. The inclement weather soon compelled us to shelter in a large cave at the foot of the mountains, but at last we reached the gates of the Castle, though without discovering anything of note. We continued, after a rest of 15 days, for Ciudadela, where a venerable monk whom we met there informed us that there existed, not far from Fornells from where those ignorant fishermen had encouraged us to move on, an ancient monastery known as the Knight's Convent, in the hermitage of Our Lady.

Retracing our steps, after a fatiguing journey we reached a refreshing and luxuriant wood, and I marvelled greatly to discover sculpted on the archway of that House of Christ, the Paternò coat of arms!

The Prior, Don Gaspar, welcomed us to his frugal table and, after I had consigned to him a substantial gift and explained to him who I was, he immediately put himself and all the brothers at our service and opening the library was able to demonstrate from the parchments that that hermitage was donated with by Royal magnanimity by one King Cypres whose coat of arms clearly revealed him to be a Paternò, whilst in an idiom part Spanish, part Latin it was explained that that holy place was dedicated to religious practice and schooling in the art of war, for neophytes of a corps of knights set up by the Prince who donated it, whilst a rule written in a mixture of Sicilian and Saracen, as in our original Sicilian, revealed that that branch of the Paternò in fact originated in Sicily.

*On those sheepskin parchments I found the signature of a Grand Inquisitor Milos Pedro de Gotador, and those monks to whom had been handed down the ancient verbal traditions told us that the Gotadar family was descended in some way from the first Sovereign who was so charmed by a certain damsel, the noble daughter of a certain Baron of Palma in Majorca, that he had by her, *mori uxor* (as if his wife), a child so fair and charming that the Prince made him a Lord with the important name of Gotador, giving him the Castle of Eumenle in the region of Fornells mountains in Minorca.*

From that Castle, observes Ignatius, derives the title Prince of Emmanuel which the Gotador family, later Guttadauro, in time transformed when accompanying the Paternò they moved to the Kingdom of Sicily.

If it were actually this Cypres who was the first monarch or if that name, as could easily have come to pass, occurred again amongst his grandchildren, it is impossible to ascertain, also

because I was unable to study those documents very closely, since whilst they were in the hands of the learned Jacopo da Arezzo known as the Monk to whom I had unfortunately given them in order for him to make a rough translation, they were lost on the occasion of his sudden and perhaps violent death. In vain I wrote to friends in Tuscany, but those few effects left by the said Jacopo were stolen by his relatives and sold to vile merchants, together with his papers and his writings.

I hoped to find greater evidence of the Paternò domination in Majorca, the most important island of the group and perhaps the place where the Court convened, and I decided to further my researches there, but before leaving Minorca I discovered with great surprise, in that same town of the Bay of Mahon, in a chapel of the Castle, a shrine to our Saint Agatha of Catania.

I also found there a kind of small monkey, elegant and wild, which I was very surprised to find in that place. The people told us that they had been brought from Iberia, but I did not believe them since it was an animal of African origin. My servants managed to capture a young one which I took away with me and it became my playful and pleasant companion.

We next arrived at Calalonga where, when the people heard about us, since there was nowhere suitable for us to stay, they spoke of a Lord of Alcudia, of an ancient and noble line, whilst the other rich people were nothing but merchants of humble origin, ignorant of their ancestry. I therefore decided to go to Alcudia but an unfavourable wind compelled us to come ashore at the Castle of Menacor. Here there was an ancient monastery but I was unable to visit it because it was closed and almost abandoned, infested with brambles.

By the grace of God we came to Alcudia, but we were shortly informed that the Lord whom I sought was the first Lord of the kingdom and his Castle was outside the city near a marsh rich in game. After distributing gifts we found many lads willing to act as our guides and when our cavalcade reached the land of the Lord many gamekeepers, servants and peasants came to meet us and I sent forward the first of my horsemen with sent word to the Lord of our arrival. Very soon the elderly Baron Gancia de Xerima appeared, being carried on an elegant litter. He was the last in line of a House of valiant knights and he offered me sumptuous hospitality with much ceremony.

He was Lord of half of the island and he explained to me that his ancestors belonged to the Sociedad de Santha Agatha instituida da quelli Sovrani Balearidi (Society of Saint Agatha instituted by the Sovereigns of the Balearic Islands) which brought great glory to the country and that the bad Spanish government brought about the loss of many important things. He said that the Governors took away objects of gold from the ancient Church of Majorca, where there was a golden statue of the Sicilian Saint wearing the great collar of King Cypres of Paternoy which bore the inscription Post Tenebras Spero Lucem and the invocation Divae Agathae, and a pendant medallion with the Paternò coat of arms which in the transverse band contained in black a pointed tree, probably a cypress, recalling the name and in memory of the founder and Grand Master. This was depicted in a painting of an ancient knight of the Xerima family which hung on a wall of the armoury in the castle where I remained for thirty-five days.

That sumptuous castle which had been the home of Kings, even now that it was no longer inhabited by Sovereigns retained inside its walls signs of the glories of the past and of happenings of the times of the Kings. The old gentleman Xerima yet remembered that in his youth there were still tournaments and jousting as in the times of royalty and Lords of Spain were present just as when the Xerima family were the greatest in the armed corps of Saint Agatha. His rooms contained much precious furniture and the house possessed great quantities of gold and silver vessels. These splendours were reflected in the personality of the Lord who, remaining in a solitude which I would almost describe as wild, lived on his memories and reminiscences.

On a magnificent canvas which was a Spanish masterpiece, continues the eye-witness Don Ignatius, was depicted a sumptuous hall with a Knight to be invested kneeling before the King, the Grand Master, reciting the oath, being knighted by the Prince who was touching his head with his sword. The Master of Ceremonies bestowed the Collar on the new knight whilst the Inquisitor, having read the citation of the Master Instructors signed the spiritual examination which had been completed by the neophyte. Senior knights covered the elect with a cloak of red cloth embellished with gold which called to mind the colours of the Paternò, lined with squirrel fur, whilst the young maidens of the Court took from the altar the sword and fastened it to the side of the new knight. On the cloak embroidered in gold were two angels with their wings spread who carried in triumph the virgin Agatha.

Now there can be no doubt that the Paterno's, observes Ignatius, having fled from the land of Sicily, took with them that fervid devotion to the child martyr on whose sarcophagus preserved in the city of Catania was later, with the triumphant return of the Paternò, sculpted in gold and silver our coat of arms, repeated on each of the four sides.

The Prince then continues to tell us about his journey, but there is nothing else of particular interest regarding the family: he makes some drawings of monuments which he believes are from the time of the Roman Empire, as also of ruins of the ancient gate of Majorca and of Palma showing our coat of arms well-sculpted but without the Cypress.

Ignatius continues to the Ibizan group of islands and particularly at St. Hilario, in another ancient convent, does he find a tomb of one *Jayme de Paternoy* where the rich embellishment of the breastplate and of the visor indicates to him that the person was of high lineage, but the cord of penitence which girds the loins suggests that one of those valiant men, tired of human greatness and covered in glory and victories, sought in that mystic solitude to give himself to God. Ignatius points out, justifiably amazed, that the Paterno coat of arms is absent.

After these discoveries the Prince sails towards home and decides to execute an exhaustive work and commit his memories to paper, but does not carry out his work, undoubtedly because of the loss and the vain attempts to retrieve those copies which he had entrusted to the learned Jacopo of Arezzo to perform a rough translation.

This information is not perhaps of great importance but is sufficient to show us that the Paternò, reigning over the Balearics, did not forget the Sicilian Virgin and indeed they honoured her. And it is sufficient too to demonstrate that worthy heirs of Norman valour, worthy descendants of Charlemagne, Knights without blemish and without fear, founded an armoured militia similar to the Crusaders for the defence of Christ and of His Holy Doctrine!

An impossible task, as I have already said, for me to copy faithfully the notes of D. Ignatius and often I have had to substitute his words with mine, without, however changing his meaning as far as I have understood it, though I have given less attention to his appreciation and observation of the beauties of nature, agricultural methods, the habits and customs of the people and the fauna.

Although it is not of interest to the House I wished to record the matter of the little monkey because, once arrived at Catania it became a characteristic adornment of the Palaces of the Prince and often the crowds, as recorded by the chronicles of the time, gathered under the Prince's balconies to look curiously at the strange little animal playing with various objects and sweets.

I have written these notes whilst the civil unrest which has disturbed our Kingdom has recently ended, unrest which teaches us that today more than ever the people need the word of God to teach them that vain are the dithyrambs of agitated crowds and how the Sacred Throne, treasury of Divine rights, is the natural ambition of our Holy Religion.

That this House of Paternò' of millennial power, of infinite glory and of Christian virtue, militant in example and teaching; may it emulate its ancestral forebears, in a Company which gathers the best of faith, charity, nobility and goodness, taking up the sceptre of that Teaching created by one of our great ancestors to defeat Satan.

The motto of the Paternò Castello *Impavidus Pavidum Firmo* may well substitute that other one of our ancestors, which if Light has come, today it should constrain the strong to help the weak so that he is not misled by dangerous new and false doctrines!

Villa Carcaci di Viagrande

October in the year of our Lord 1849