

# Libro d'Oro della Melita

## The Maltese Nobility in review 2023; Based on the nobility research on Maltagenealogy.com

If you have any questions, corrections, updates, please do go to the website and send an email. Updated: 26-12-2023.

We do not base our opinions on the very select organisations, published materials in Malta. We are an independent group that sources our information based on each individual nobility or distinctions and their original *letters patent*. Further-more with recognised authorities till 1974. Thereafter, we have found some renewed cases were not based on the Nobility title initial intentions. No private elite groupings can make decisions which profit their personal causes, even if the next of kin are not based in Malta.

### 2022 –

*The Prince of Selimbria changes:Titleholder correction.*

### 2023 –

The death of Lord Judge – Title extinct.

The death of Comte d'Angely.

### Sections of Nobility creations are numbered and highlighted.

1. **Maltese fiefdoms.**
2. **Foreign Titles acknowledged by Grand Masters of Malta.**
3. **Maltese fiefdoms that never presented to the British Royal Commission in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, though continue to style as *De Jure*.**
4. **Maltese Titles in Dormant.**
5. **Foreign Maltese nobility not presented to the British Royal Commission.**
6. **Foreign nobility and Distinctions not presented to the British Royal Commission though title is extended to all descendants either male to male or all descendants of male and female.**
7. **Foreign Nobility held by Maltese descendant.**
8. **Russian Maltese Order of St John remainders.**
9. **Cyprian titles creation by Pretenders.**

## 1 - Maltese fiefdoms:



**The Barony of Djar il-Bniet e Buqana** was created several times. Initially 1350 in Messina, Sicily by King Ludovico of Sicily and Malta to Milite Cicco (Francesco) Gatto, Capitano della Verga of Malta and Castellano of Malta to his descendants by Feudal tenure in perpetuity. Acknowledged by the British Royal Commission in 1878 and presently held by two claimants: Further note, the title was regranted again in 1432 in Messina by King Alfonso I of Sicily and Malta. The Barony of Buqana was created in 1377 by King Frederick III of Sicily and Malta to Milite Guglielmo Murina, Capitano della Verga, his grand daughter and 3<sup>rd</sup> Baroness, married Francesco Gatto and Francesco was regranted the Barony in 1397.

1. *Marchese* Francesco Apap Bologna d'Amico Inguanez, succeeded his father in 2021 as the 24<sup>th</sup> Barone di Djar il-Bniet e Buqana, the senior title holder of Malta. His father was acknowledged by the **Committee of Privileges of the Maltese Nobility**. The heir is his brother, *Marchese* James Apap Bologna as the Baroncino di Djar il-Bniet e Buqana.

2. *The Claimant* is the most senior descendant of Marc'Antonio Inguanez, 14<sup>th</sup> Barone di Djar il-Bniet e Buqana, as the illegitimate branch through his father the 13<sup>th</sup> Barone. The Present holder is *Principe* Giuseppe Said, as the 23<sup>rd</sup> *De jure* Barone di Djar il-Bniet e Buqana. His heir is *Conte* Charles Said-Vassallo.



**The Barony of Ghariexem e Tabia** was created several times in 1416 to Milite Stefano de Blundo and confiscated; 1416 again to the Inguanez family whom held the Barony till 1555 and sold it to the Knights of St John of Malta, who regranted it in 1638 at Mdina to Milite Gio Maria Cassia with *remainder to his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. It obtained British Royal Commission acknowledgement in 1878.

The Present holder is *Conte* John Sant Cassia, 13<sup>th</sup> Barone di Ghariexem e Tabia. His heir is his sister, *Contessa* Chiara Sant Cassia Damant and her son, Myles Damant is her heir.



**The Barony of Gomerino** was created six times. In 1317 to Guglielmo Surdo, and sold in 1318 to his father-in-law. 1318, Guglielmo di Ragusa and it was sold to his grand daughter's husband for life in 1320, then reverted back to the di Ragusa family. Sold to the Santa Sofia family in 1398 and four Barone used the title till it was sold in 1481 to Johannes de Perrollo. It remain in the family till 1560, when it was sold to the Knights of St John of Malta. In 1710, the Grand Master of Malta created the fief jointly to Nobile Paolo Testaferrata and his wife, Nobile Beatrice Cassia Testaferrata, 9<sup>th</sup> Baronessa di Castel Cicciano. The title was succeeded by the eldest son, then by an act of nomination granted it to his brother, over his daughter, whom succeeded the Italian Barony of Castel Cicciano (*see title*). The Testaferrata held the title to the present time, with one act of nomination granted it to a junior descendant rather the most senior descendant.

1. The Present holder of the title is Nobile Myrian Callus Testaferrata Abela, 11<sup>th</sup> Baroness of Gomerino, acknowledged by the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility. The Heir is her only child, Elizabeth Chemel Manche Testaferrata Abela, Baronessina di Gomerino.



2. *The Claimant*, is the most senior descendant in the male line of the 1<sup>st</sup> joint holders of the title in 1710. *Nobile* Christopher Testaferrata Moroni Viani, 11th *De jure* Barone di Gomerino and his heir is *Nobile* Stephen Testaferrata Moroni Viani, *De jure* Baroncino di Gomerino.



**The Barony of Budaq** was created four times. The first creation was in 1398 to Johannes d'Aulesa and the title was revoked and Johannes was executed. The Second created was in 1644 at Valletta to Dr Niccolo Cilia MD and *with remainder to his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The title became extinct in 1646.

The title was recreated in 1646 in Valletta to Cesare Passalacqua, Genovefa Passalacqua and Silvestro Fiteni, equally, and both the Passalacqua died without issue. Silvestro has illegitimate issue, and the claimants survived till 1716. In the meantime, the Grand Master regranted the title in 1716 to Dr Gio Pio de Piro JUD with remainder of *"to his descendants in perpetuity, each holder of the title having the right to nominate a successor. In default of nomination to the first-born male descendant and in absence of male issue, to the first-born female issue. Members of the clergy are excluded by succeeded to the Primogeniture.*

The present holder is *Don* Nicholas de Piro d'Amico Inguanez, 9<sup>th</sup> Barone di Budaq and one of his three sons or daughter are heirs.

**The Barony of San Marciano** was originally created in 1398 to Milite Salvo Cadumi and was succeeded for a number of generations till it was sold in 1620 to the Knights of St John of Malta. In 1726, the Grand Master of Malta recreated the fiefdom of San Marciano to Dr Diego Antonio Galea Feriol JUD with the following remainder, *"Tibi Nobili Didaco Antonio Galea Feriol et post tui obitum, uni ex filiis vel filiabus legitimis et naturalibus ex te legitime proceatis vel proceandis, quem vel quam omni future tempore et in perpetuum. Tu et quilibet ex tuis legitimis successoribus in dicta baronia constitutes seu respective constituta, malueritis eligendum vel eligendam. Et in Casu tui vel tuorum in infinitum decessus, absque ulla nomination vel electione successoris in dicto titulo, ex nunc censeatur nominates et electus primogenitus nisi erit ad sacros oridines promotes, aut in religione professus, et in defectu marium, foemina primogenita.* Presently there is one titleholder and the most senior male descendant to this barony.

1. Nobile Gino Trapani Galea Feriol, 11<sup>th</sup> Barone di San Marciano, and his eldest son, heir Nobile Michael Trapani Galea Feriol or one of his children.
2. The Claimant as senior Male descendant presently is Nobile James Galea Testaferrata and his son, Nobile Paul Galea Testaferrata.



**The Barony of Tabria** was created five times in the history of this fiefdom. First it was created in 1315 to Artaldo de la Barba, the reverted in 1407 and returned back in 1410. The descendants styled the fiefdom till 1647 when it was sold to the Knights of St John of Malta. The second time it was created in 1407 to Milite Francesco Gatto, then reverted back to the crown in 1408. 1408 it was granted to Nobile Matteo del Carretto dei Marchesi di Savona, Baron di Rahalbuto, then reverted back to the Crown in 1410. In 1453 it was granted to Don Giovanni Landolina and held in the family till 1594, when the fiefdom was sold to the Knights of St John of Malta. The final time, in 1728, the Grand Master granted the fiefdom to Isidore Viani with the remainder of "*Nobili Isidoro Viani et post tui obitum uni ex filiis vel filiabus legitimis et naturalibus ex te legitime procreatis vel procreandis, quem vel quam omni futuro constitutus seu respective constituta, malueritis eligendum vel eligendam. Et in casu tui vel tuorum in infinito decessus absque ulla nominatione vel elctione successoris in dicto titulo, ex nunc censeatur nominatus et electus primogenitus, nisi erit ad sacros ordines promotus et in religione professus, et in defectu marium, foemina primogenita...*". The title has a history of four claimants. As the title can be nominated to a successor, it was granted several times.

1. Present Titleholder is Nobile Justine Corinne Melita Pergola, 14<sup>th</sup> Baroness of Tabria. Her first cousin, once removed, the *de Jure Marchese Scicluna* is heir.
2. Claimant 1 is through a nomination granted and accepted by the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility from Marchese Joseph Scicluna, 4<sup>th</sup> Marchese Scicluna and 10<sup>th</sup> Baron of Tabria to Nobile Lilianina Falzon Sant Manduca Bugeja, a descendant of the 4<sup>th</sup> Barone of Tabria. This claimant is the son, *Marchese Philip Bugeja Viani dei Marchesi di Taflia, De jure* 12<sup>th</sup> Baron of

Tabria. His heir is his brother, *Marchese Julian Bugeja Viani dei Marchesi di Taflia*.

3. Claimant 2 is the most senior male descendant of the 6<sup>th</sup> Baron of Tabria. The claimant is Nobile Christopher Testaferrata Moroni Viani, *De jure* 10<sup>th</sup> Baron of Tabria and his heir, the Nobile Stephen Testaferrata Moroni Viani, as the *De jure* Baroncino.



**The Barony of Qlejja** was first created in 1569 to Dr Francesco Mego JUD, Barone di Castel Cicciano of Naples and then to his son, Gio Antonio Mego, who died in 1580. The the remainder was *to his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity* and the first titleholder had other children, so the first titleholder's daughter succeeded by *Dejure* and her descendants styled till 1721 with Gio Giacomo Desclaus. The second creation was granted in 1737 by the Grand Master of Malta to Dr Ignazio Bonnici JUD with the remainder exactly the same as the Barony of Tabria. The Present titleholder is *Marchesa* Agnese Testaferrata Bonici Ghaxaq Gera de Petri, 8<sup>th</sup> Baroness of Qlejja or Qlejjgha. One of her three children is heir.



**The Barony of Benwarrad** was first created in 1475 to Don Pietro de Nava and his son sold the fiefdom in 1535. The fief was recreated in 1737 by the Grand Master of Malta to Nobile Saverio Gatto and presently held by Dr Michael Kitson Attard Montalto, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron of Benwarrad. His heir is his eldest son, Paul Kitson as the Baroncino.



**The Conte della Bahria** fiefdom was only ever recorded granted in 1743 to Nobile Ignazio Moscati Falzoni Navarra with the remainder of “*The terms of the diploma differ from those of the other titles granted by the Grand Masters. In fact, the title of Conte della Bahria was annexed to the lands of the same name, situated in Malta, and which were erected by the said patent into a noble feud. Moreover, the title is inheritable not only by one of the grantee’s descendents, but by his sons and successors, whether relations or strangers, and it is annexed to the possession of those lands. The following is an extract from the diploma: Te Dnum Igantium Muscati Falsone Navarra tuosque filios, haeredes, et successores etiam extraneos, comitem et comites Territorii seu Tenutae della Bahria positae in hac Nostra Insula a Te et antecessoribus tuis jure pleni dominii et proprietatis possessae constitumus et in perpetuum creamus, dictamque tenutam seu territorum, illisque membra et districtum in feudum nobilem sub titulo comitis erigimus atque extollimus. Tuosque filios, haeredes, et successores etiam extraneos, comitem et comites Territorii seu Tenutae della Bahria positae in hac Nostra Insula a Te et antecessoribus tuis jure pleni dominii et proprietatis possessae constitumus et in perpetuum creamus, dictamque tenutam seu territorum, illisque membra et districtum in feudum nobilem sub titulo comitis erigimus atque extollimus.*” The first title holder eldest daughter married to a Sicilian Conte di Casandola and continued together, both titles till the

Earthquake of Messina in 1913, killing the entire family. The successor were from the female descendant, Palermo Navarra whom succeeded both titles till 1962. Confusion set in where the daughters of the 7<sup>th</sup> Count didn’t succeed in the Maltese titles, instead give to the 7<sup>th</sup> Count’s nephew through his sister, Gio Francesco Consoli, whom succeeded by his son. The *letters patent states very clearly that if the estate is to be sold, the title goes along with it too. In 2005 or sometime before, the estate of Bahria was sold off to a Company.*

Presently the title of Bahria is Dormant with the last recognised titleholder, Salvatore Consoli recognised as the 9<sup>th</sup> Count of Bahria. No modern information is given if he is married or if his sister is married. Also the four daughters of the late 7<sup>th</sup> Count of Bahria are senior heirs of the title by right and clearly should in name claim the title. Though when the Company whom purchased the estate comes forward to claim the title, it is a total mayheim.



**The Marchese Testaferrata (Olivier)** is one of three acknowledgements created and recognised by the Grand Master of Malta. The title of Marchese was created in 1745 to *Marchese* Pandolfo Testaferrata de Noto with the remainder to Controversies arose between Mario’s descendants from his first and second marriages. It appears that the main dispute was his will opened 9 years after his death and published at Palermo by notary Dixidomino on the 16th April 1758, from which it appears that the said Mario willed as follows:- “*in toto integro et indeminuito patrimonio ac in dicto titulo Marchiones Sancti Vincentii nec non etiam in ejus Palatio, etc’ ejus haeredem universalem instituit, ac proprio ore nominavit et nominat D. Gilbertum Testaferrata ejus filium*”. In the same testament, we find also the following clause: “*Et quia dictus illustris testator ultra dictos Dominum Gilbertum et D. Pulchram, ejus filios desuper contemplatos, alium ejus filium primi matrimonii vocatum D. Enricum Testaferrata*”. *Et pro nonnullis ingratitudebus disobedientiae, ac pro dubio*



*insidiationis mortis ejusdem testatoris, ut ipse illustris asserit, etiam pro causa dissipationis nonnullorum bonorum mobilium vigore praesentis, attentis juribus et rationibus desuper descriptis, dictus illus testator eundem D. Henricum Testaferrata “dishaereditavit, a substantia et patrimonio paterno privando et totaliter eundem D. Henricum Testaferrata ejus filium tam a successione titolorum Marchionis Sancti Vincentii Ferreri et Testaferrata, quam a succession”..et sic voluit et non aliter nec alio modo, et hoc non obstante quod fuisset per eundem illum testatorem facta wquaedam scriptura private, subscripta propria manu dicti illmi testatoris, in qua declarabat dictum D. Henricum ejus filium, successorem in Marchionem Sancti Vincentii Ferreri.”. The present titleholder is Marchese Mark Thomas Olivier, 9<sup>th</sup> Marquis Testaferrata Olivier. His cousin, Marchese Jean Paul is heir as Marchesino.*



**The Counts della Catena** was created in 1745 by the Grand Master of Malta to Nobile Pietro Gaetano Perdicomati Bologna with the remainder to “*Unlike the great majority of titles conferred by the Grand Masters, the title of Conte delle Catene, or delli Mori conferred by Grand Master Pinto, by a patent of the 20th January 1745, upon Pietro Gaetano Perdicomati Bologna was specifically conferred so as to further enhance a property already held in entail by the grantee. This title was granted on the 20th January 1745, upon Pietro Gaetano Perdicomati Bologna and his sons, born and to be born, as well as on his heirs and successors, whether relations or strangers. The entail referred to in the relative grant was the agnatial entail founded by Don Alessandro Perdicomati Bologna with a faculty to nominate amongst the male descendants. The following is an extract from the deed of grant:- "Te supradictum Dominum Petrum Cajetanum Perdicomati Bologna tuosque filios jam natos vel nascituros, haeredes et successores primogenitos et etiam extraneos, Comitem et Comites Territorii seu Tenutae delle Catene hodie vero delli Mori appellati, positi in hac Nostra Insula a te et antecessoribus possessi jure pleni dominii et proprietatis, nec non Primogenitura masculinae ordinatae per bon mem canonicum Don Alessandro Perdicomati Bologna.....in feudum nobilem*

*sub titulo comitis erigimus atque extollimus." The entail is described in the footnote below was subject of court litigation. It is to be especially remarked that the terms of ennoblement extend to Perdicomati's sons, as well as on his heirs and successors, whether relations or strangers and that this title follows the tenure of the territory known as Catene. That is to say, unlike other titles which provide for a remainder in favour of descendants of the relative grantee, succession to this title is to be reckoned according to the possessor of the land who must be a male. This effectively means that the title may be succeeded to by strangers in blood of Pietro Gaetano Perdicomati Bologna. Moreover, the Report observes that the remainder of the above extract favours not only the one of the grantee's descendants, but the grantee's sons (born and to be born) heirs, AND successors (tuosque filios jam natos vel nascituros, haeredes et successores primogenitos et etiam extraneos), meaning that grant may allow to a plurality of claims being founded on the grant dated 1745. This view appears to be reinforced by the grant's use of the term comitem et comites. See:- Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.) (Paras. 35-36). On the other hand, the entail referred to above was an indivisible primogenitura and that ulterior succession was to be limited according to a primogenitura favouring males. Therefore although the grant envisages the possibility of a plurality of sons of the grantee, the remainder is effectively restricted only by reason of the indivisible nature of the entail restricted in favour of males. The present title holder is Henry Charles Hornyold Strickland dei Marchesi Gandolfi, 8<sup>th</sup> Count and one of his two sons as heirs. There was a claimant in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, particularly with the estate of Bologna, the Marquis of Gnien is-Sultan claim the estates and title being more senior to Sir Gerald Strickland GCMG. Though the High Court ruled in favour of Sir Gerald Strickland.*



**The Marquis Testaferrata (Cassar Desain)** was initially created in 1749 to *Marchese* Gilberto Testaferrata Castelletti with the remainder to “Che, dall’altro canto, pero’ e’ giusto rimarcare che nella transazione seguita per atti del Notaro Vittorio Giammalvadel 10 settembre 1773 (recte 1772) tra i figli di Don Mario Testaferrata, il primo concessionario del titolo, di cui e’ questione, dopo di avere menzionato solo due titoli di Nobilta’ quello cioe di San Vincenzo Ferreri, e l’ altro di Testaferrata (allegando a quello concesso da Vittorio Amadeo) era stato convenuto che tutti i figli con loro discendenti dovessero essere in liberta’ di portare l’ una e l’ atra concessione. (Judgment No. 71/1887 of H.M. Court of Appeal dated 8 January 1887) “. The name of the title changed to succeeded to the Primogeniture of Cassar Desain in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The present titleholder is *Marchese* Mark Cassar de Sain and his son, Heir is *Marchese* Max Cassar de Sain.



**The Barons of Buleben** was created in 1777 by the Grand Master of Malta to Dr Gaetano Azzopardi MD with the remainder of “*The 1777 grant like the title of Marchese di San Giorgio only to be enjoyed by the original grantee. The first Barone Gaetano who was clearly aware of the limited terms of the 1777 grant later presented a petition (in Italian) to the Grand Master, representing that "Whereas in the deed of grant of the title of 'Barone di Buleben' most benignly made to him, your Most Serene Highness had been pleased to order that on that occurrence the diploma should be issued from the cancelleria in favour of himself alone....And whereas in his family there existed a primogenitura erected in favour such among his children as he would name, and in default of nomination, in favour of his eldest son, and descendible to the first born males by the law of primogeniture (di primogenito in altro) until the*

*total extinction of his male line, with power to each holder of it to name his successor; and wheareas the income of that Primogenitura was more than sufficient for the decent suport of its possessor, he (petitioner) begged that the grant of the title of 'Barone di Buleben' should be extended to such of his sons and male descendents as might for the time being be the holder of the Primogenitura". On this application the Grand Master endorsed the following rescript: "Magister Hospitalis Hyerusalem Gratiam petitam Oratori concedimus pro ejus filio successore in Primogenitura de qua in precibus, tantum. Datum in Palatio, die 25 Aprilis 1778". See: Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.)*

*The first born son of Gaetano, Calcedonio Azopardi, senior, after his father's death presented a petition to the Grand Master, requesting the investiture of the baronial title, submitting that the title had been granted to such of the grantee's sons as might be in possession of the Primogenitura, and producing an extract from an instrument from which it appeared that he had been named by his father to succeed to that Primogenitura. On this petition a decree was made on the 5th July 1788, and the formula of the oath for the investiture had already been partly drawn up, but it was afterwards, together with the petition, the decree, and the document, therein inserted, cancelled, as appears from the original records in the Cancelleria. The investiture was subsequently given to Barone Calcedonio, as may be seen from another authentic document in the Government Archives, bearing date the 10th August 1788; it begins thus: - 'Notum sit quod cum alias titulum Baronis feudi de Buleben, sub die 28 mensis Julii 1777, nobilis Cajetano Azzopardi pro ejus persona tantum concesserimus, quodque pariter, vigore nostri Magistralis Rescripti sub die 25 Aprilis 1778, editi, titulum hujusmodi etiam ad ejus filium Primogenituram habentem ampliaverimus, prout in hujusmodi concessionis diplomate et Rescripto, ad quae habeatur ratio plenius continetur....." The present titleholder is the youngerson of the 9<sup>th</sup> Baron, Don Joseph Bernard Manduca Piscopo Macedonio Azopardi, who is also Heir to the Count of Montalto title and his only son is heir to the Barony of Buleben.*



**The Counts of Beberrua** was created in 1783 by the Grand Master of Malta to Dr Luigi Maria Gatto JUD. With the remainder of *"Tibi tantum, concedimus, et fidelitate nostra donamus, ac te Comitibus hujusmodi titulo decoramus et insignimus nec non ita nominari posse et debere"*. The title of Conte di Beberrua was granted on the 23rd October 1783 by Grand Master Rohan to Luigi (Ludovico) Gatto, in the following terms: - *Tibi tribuimus, concedimus, et fidelitate nostra donamus, ac te Comitibus hujusmodi titulo decoramus et insignimus nec non ita nominari posse et debere. The terms of the grant are similar to those of the patents of the Barone di Buleben and the Marchese di San Giorgio in the sense that none of these original grants contain any provision for succession after the grantee. Such grants were by the Grand Master himself taken to be personal, and as such, they could only be extended on an application of the grantees themselves. According the 1878 Commissioner. Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.)* (

*Nicolo was born much later after the 1783 grant. In fact, Nicola was born of the grantee's second marriage, the grantee having remarried in 1795. Apart from the reasons explained in the Commissioner's report, it is therefore unlikely that in 1783 the Grand Master ever contemplated the possibility that Ludovico was going to have any issue at all.*

*The claimant Dr. Nicolo Gatto pursued his claim to the title which was granted to his father, and in 1883, a Committee of five Titolati (namely Ciantar, Apap Bologna, De Piro, Manduca and Delicata) recommended to the British Secretary of State for the Colonies that Our opinion is that the title at the death of the grantee vested in Conte Nicolo Gatto LL.D., the only surviving son of the person first ennobled, and that it should continue to descend, de primogenito in primogenitum in infinitum, to the male descendants of the grantee. Under these circumstances we consider this title fully deserving the grace and favour of recognition from the Crown, that the bearer may have his name duly entered in the official list*

*of Titolati. This recommendation was accepted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

*Thus the adjusted succession as per the 1883 decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, allows Nicolo (or Nicola) Gatto to succeed Ludovico Gatto as the 2nd Count of Beberrua.*

*The title has a history of breaking the letter patent remainder with the acknowledgement of the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility ruling after the sixth Count passing succeeding of his sister in 1941. Then after the 7<sup>th</sup> Countess's passing, succession to her niece, the Marchesa Maria Teresa Apap Bologna Caruana Gatto Deguara and presently held by her son, Paul Deguara Caruana Gatto, as the 9<sup>th</sup> Count and his brother as heir.*

*The most senior male heir claimant is through the Caruana Gatto and presently held by Godfrey Caruana Gatto as the De jure 9<sup>th</sup> Count and his grandson as heir.*



**The Marquises of St George (di San Giorgio)** was created three times. Initially in 1778 to Dr Carl Antonio Barbaro JUD for life, then in 1779 to his son and in 1792, his son received an extension to his heirs male. It is important to show the remainder of the 1792 letter patent to ensure creditability and no confusion.

*"According to the 1878 Report, Gioacchino Ermolao Barbaro applied to the Grand Master for the extension of the title granted in 1778 and extended in 1779, to all of his descendents in perpetuum. His application was complied with by a rescript of the 5th June 1792. There is clearly no remainder regulating ulterior transmission by the rules of primogeniture. Instead, the remainder (made on a rescript) is very wide and extends to all of Gioacchino Barbaro's descendants. In the other parts of the afore-said Commissioner's Report, this conclusion is very clear. In fact the Report at paragraphs 41 to 57 says Thus the Marchese Barbaro had requested and obtained that the title should be extended to at least his first born*



son, who subsequently applied for and obtained a further extension for all his descendents in perpetuum (#59, 60). The Marchese Mallia Tabone had likewise prayed that his title should be made to extend after his death to his male descendents successively, and in default of male issue to his female descendents, and had obtained from the Grand Master an extension in favour of his first born male descendents only (#68). Similarly, the same Report at paragraphs 62-66 says The terms of the grant are similar to those of the preceding patents granted to Barone Azzopardi and to Marchese Barbaro, containing no provision for the descent of the title to sons, heirs, descendents, and successors of the grantee. The two preceding grants, as we have already remarked, were by the same Grand Master taken to be personal, and as such, they were extended on an application of the grantees themselves, either to their first-born son exclusively, or as in the instance of Marchese Barbaro, to all their descendants for ever. See: *Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.)* In view of this, it follows that there is a plurality of Marchesi di San Giorgio, that is to say more than one person enjoying the title at the same time! The question that remains is whether 'all descendants' here means exactly what it says or whether there are some principles of interpretation which moderate a wide interpretation, that is to say whether the title of Marchese di San Giorgio as extended in 1792 can in fact be transmitted to females descended from Carlo Antonio Barbaro, or to males claiming from Carlo Antonio Barbaro through a female line. The aforesaid 1878 report answers this question of interpretation where the Commissioners pointed out. The claimant lastly contends that the diploma and the rescript must be extensively construed; for although it is a legal maxim, *Privilegia sunt stricte interpretanda*, the privileges, however, granted by a sovereign authority, and which do not act to the prejudice of third parties, are susceptible of a wide and liberal interpretation. Although this is admitted by the common opinion of civilians, yet that principle holds good with regard to those privileges which are granted by the sovereign's mere motion (*moto proprio*) and not at the request of the party concerned (Jasonii Comment. Quoted by Altograd. Consilia Con. 71, No. 9, 10, 11, and by many other legal writers). Now as a general rule, patents of nobility in Malta were granted by the Grand Masters at the request of the grantee, and it was moreover upon an application by Barone Azzopardi that the rescript of 1778 was issued. It

is likewise a settled opinion that, when the patent of creation does not contain the expression *motu proprio*, the grant is taken to have been made at the request of the party concerned. (See:- *Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.)* (Paras. 41-57). There are many other arguments which militate against construing the 1792 rescript in favour of 'mere' females and/or 'mere' male descendants claiming through a female line.”.

The male descendant titleholder should be Marchese James St James as the 8<sup>th</sup> Marquis of St George, and his brother as heir.

The Claimant through his mother, whom was the eldest daughter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marchese of San Giorgio is presently the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese President, Dr Anthony Cremona Barbaro LLD as the 8<sup>th</sup> De jure Marquis of St George.



**The Marquises of Fiddien** was initially created in 1785 then extended in 1793 by the Grand Master of Malta to Salvatore Mallia Tabone. The Remainder to “*The title of Marchese del Fiddien was conferred by Grand Master De Rohan upon Salvatore Mallia Tabone, by a patent of the 15th October 1785. The terms of the patent are identical with the original patents of Barone di Buleben, (Azzopardi), Marchese di San Giorgio, (Barbaro) and Conte di Beberua (Gatt), in the sense that it contains no description of children or descendants, but only the name of the person ennobled. The patent granted to Mallia Tabone reads thus: Tibi donamus ac te Marchionis hujusmodi titulo decoramus* See:- *Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.)* (Paras. 67-69). Consequently the grant of 1785, on its own, cannot be construed to benefit any of the grantee”s descendants.

In regard to the title of Marchese del Fiddien, the 1878 Commissioners observed: This grant was also taken by

the Grand Master to be personal to the grantee, for after the grant, the Marchese Salvatore presented a petition praying that, in consideration of the merits of his ancestors, the grant might be made to extend to his legitimate and natural male descendants successively, and in default of male issue to his female descendants: and by a rescript of the 15th June 1793, the request was only partly complied with, in the following terms: *Fiat pro primogenitis maribus tantum*. See:- *Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.) (Paras. 67-69)*. The direct male line dying with the 7<sup>th</sup> Marchese in 1973. The close relatives of the 7<sup>th</sup> Marchese were through his female relatives which sought three claimants and a distant relative of the Mallia family. The Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility had confirmed Salvatore Caruana Dingli to succeed as the 8<sup>th</sup> Marchese, whom dying later in 1983 without issue. With two nephews from both sisters laying claim. The younger sister's only son succeeded with the Committee of Privileges acceptance. Hence where the line exist presently. The titleholder acknowledged by the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility is Dr Michael Laferla LLD as the 10<sup>th</sup> Marchese di Fiddien and his son, Jan Laferla, as the Marchesino di Fiddien. Other claimants are as follows;

Claimant 1 is Nobile Jean Curmi, 9<sup>th</sup> *De jure* Marchese di Fiddien, the most senior descendants of his uncle, Salvatore Caruana Dingli, 8<sup>th</sup> Marchese of Fiddien and his heir, his son Matthew Curmi.

Claimant 2 is Dr Andrew Cremona as the 9<sup>th</sup> *De jure* Marchese di Fiddien as the most senior relative of the 7<sup>th</sup> Marchese di Fiddien. His heir is his son, Patrick Cremona, Marchesino di Fiddien.

Claimant 3 is the most senior male to male descendants of the Mallia Tabone family and presently being Nobile Jason Mallia as the 9<sup>th</sup> Marchese and his brother, Kristan Mallia as the Marchesino.



**The Marchese della Taflia** was created twice in 1783 and again in 1790. Firstly, in 1783 it was created to Dr Gio Battista Mompalao JUD, as the Marchese della Taflia, dying without legitimate issue in 1787. The second creation in 1790 to Dr Saverio Alessi JUD and the remainder to “*The patent conferring the title of Marchese della Taflia was on the 13th November 1790, granted by Grand Master Rohan to the aforesaid Saverio Alessi. In this grant a singular circumstance is noticeable. The patent of creation bears that the title is inheritable by the grantee’s descendants in the following terms: - Tibi Magnifico ac Nobili Xaverio Alessi tuisque legitimis descenditibus tribuimus, concedimus, et donamus, ac de Marchionis hujusmodi titulo decoramus, nec non ita nominari pose ac debere. ; The grant does not state whether the title should be enjoyed by all the said descendants simultaneously, or by only one of them under the rule of primogeniture. See Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033).*” So all descendants can style Marchese/a in the legitimate lineage. The present titleholder is Marchesa Cheryl Sammut Testaferrata Alessi Runnacles. I am unsure if she has any children, and if not, her heir would be a descendant of the Marchese Carmelo Sammut Alessi.



**The Counts of Ghajn Tuffieha / Conte di Ghajn Tuffieha** was created in 1792 to Dr Ferdinando Teuma Castelletti JUD with the remainder to “*One of the leaders of the Maltese uprising against the French in 1798, The grant conferring the title of Conte of the feud magistrale (i.e. belonging to the Grand Master) of Ghajn Toffieha was made by Grand Master Rohan to Ferdinando Teuma Castelletti to be held by the grantee and his issue.*

However, it is to be remarked that this grant was not made by a patent but by a rescript of the 7th January 1792, on the petition of the same Ferdinando, that is to say upon an application by Ferdinando Teuma Castelletti for that title and remainder. The wide terms of the rescript (with remainder to Ferdinando's issue) would at first sight imply that all of Ferdinando's descendants are entitled to the title. On the other hand, however, it must be remembered that the 1878 Commissioners noted that it is a settled rule that any interpretation of Magistral assent to a rescript must be restrictive whilst wide interpretations are only allowed in grants made *motu proprio*. This maxim is explained by the Commissioners elsewhere in their Report thus: The claimant lastly contends that the diploma and the rescript must be extensively construed; for although it is a legal maxim, *Privilegia sunt stricte interpretanda*, the privileges, however, granted by a sovereign authority, and which do not act to the prejudice of third parties, are susceptible of a wide and liberal interpretation. Although this is admitted by the common opinion of civilians, yet that principle holds good with regard to those privileges which are granted by the sovereign's mere motion (*moto proprio*) and not at the request of the party concerned (Jasonii Comment. Quoted by Altograd. Consilia Con. 71, No. 9, 10, 11, and by many other legal writers). Now as a general rule, patents of nobility in Malta were granted by the Grand Masters at the request of the grantee, and it was moreover upon an application by Barone Azzopardi that the rescript of 1778 was issued. It is likewise a settled opinion that, when the patent of creation does not contain the expression *motu proprio*, the grant is taken to have been made at the request of the party concerned. (See:- Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.) (See Report Paras. 41-57)". So all male to male descendants can enjoy the style of Count and females for life only. Though the present titleholder is Contessa Mary Frances Teuma Castelletti McCutcheon, 6<sup>th</sup> Contessa di Ghajn Tuffieha and heir is the eldest granddaughter, as heiress and styles Continessina di Ghajn Tuffieha.



**The Marchese's di Gnien is-Sultan** was created in 1792 to Dr Filippo Apap JUD and with the remainder of "*Praedictum Marchionis Pheudi Gnien Is-Sultan titulum... Tibi Magnifico Philippo Apap, tisque descenditibus masculis legitimis et naturalibus ipsisque deficientibus, foemina majori natu,tribuimus, concedimus et donamus, ac te Marchionis hujusmodi titulo decoramus*" So all male to male descendants can style *Marchese/a*. The present titleholder is *Marchese* Captain Philip Apap Bologna, 7<sup>th</sup> *Marchese di Gnien is-Sultan* and his son, *Marchese* Dr Richard Apap Bologna MD, as the *Marchesino di Gnien is-Sultan*.



**The Barony of Grua** was created in 1794 to *Magnifico* Saverio Carbott Testaferrata Ghaxaq JUD with the remainder to "Grand Master Rohan on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1794, issued a diploma conferring the title of Barone della Grua upon the *Magnifico* Saverio Carbott Testaferrata, and his first-born sons and descendants, under the rule of primogeniture (*de primogenitor in primogenito*). The following is an extract from the patent of creation: *Tibi tisque filiis et descenditibus masculis de primogenito in primogenitum tribuimus et concedimus et te hujusmodi Baronis titulo decoramus.. That is to say the grant confers the title on the grantee and his male descendants, from firstborn to firstborn* By 1878, the male-to-male descending line of the said Saverio was extinct, for Saverio Carbott left Giuseppe Carbott, second Barone, of whom Saverio Carbott Montalto, junior, was born. Saverio Carbott, junior, had no male issue, but only a daughter Giovanna Carbott Montalto, wife of Dr. Giuseppe Delicata, of whom Nicola Maria Delicata was born (see below). See: Correspondence and Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the claims and grievances of the Maltese Nobility, May 1878, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty (C.-2033.)". The present titleholder is Conte

Daniel Borg Carbott, 10<sup>th</sup> Barone di Grua and his son, Conte Luke Borg Carbott as the *Baroncino di Grua*.

present titleholder is Michael Formosa Gauci as the 6<sup>th</sup> Marchese and his brother Josef Formosa Gauci, KM as heir with style of *Marchesino di Ghajn Qajjed*.



**The Counts of Senia** was created in 1795 by the Grand Master de Rohan Polduc to his natural son, Vincenzo Fontani Crespi with the remainder to “*Nobili Puero Vincentio Fontani Crespo, te tuosque descendentes comitem et comites territorii seu possessionis dictae ta Senia posita in hac nostra insula, in loco della Marsa, tuosque utriusque sexus filios et descendentes, comitem et comites praefati territorii sive possessionis ta Senia dicimus et nominamus. "te tuosque descendentes comitem et comites territorii seu possessionis dictae ta Senia posita in hac nostra insula, in loco della Marsa, tuosque utriusque sexus filios et descendentes, comitem et comites praefati territorii sive possessionis ta Senia dicimus et nominamus"*.

The title became dormant after the death of *Marchese* Roger Messina Fontani, 5<sup>th</sup> Conte di Senia in 1956. The title laid dormant till the late 20<sup>th</sup> century when a descendant in Malta claimed the title as the 6<sup>th</sup> Count. *Marchese* Joseph A. Bugeja Fontani, KM, dying in 2018. The most senior heir were in France and only in recent years have made it known their interest in the title and fiefdom. The present titleholder in the most senior descendant is *Marchesa* Marthe Monique Donnat Fontani Roulet, as the 8<sup>th</sup> *De jure* Contessa di Senia and her son, Patrice Roulet Fontani as the *Contino di Senia*.



**The Marchese di Ghajn Qajjed** was created in 1796 by the Grand Master of Malta to Dr Gerolamo Delicata JUD with the remainder to “*ac Nobili Hyeronimo Delicata, tuisque descendentibus primogenitis legitimis et naturalibus tribuimus concedimus, et donamus*”. The



## 2 - Foreign Maltese nobility acknowledged by the Grand Master of Malta.



**The Italian Feudal Barone di Castel Cicciano** first came to Malta by the purchase of the fief by the Rhodian Francesco Mego in 1560 in Naples, Italy and acknowledged by the Grand Master of Malta. In 1580 ("*Donatio seu venditio*") by Gio Antonio Mego of the Barony of Cicciano "*ac mero ac mixto Imperio*" unto Xerri in the acts of Notary Joseph Mamo of the 22 August 1580) a sale of the Fiefdom to Francesco Scerri as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Barone di Castel Cicciano. The title continued to be succeeded by the eldest child even excluding the Kingdom of Italy law of 1926 which had stopped female descendants inheriting nobility titles. Though in Malta it continued to succeed with the acceptance of the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility. The Present titleholder is Nobile Carole Anne Sceberras Trigona, as the 19<sup>th</sup> Baroness and her cousin is heir; Nobile Anne Marie Sceberras Trigona, as the Baroncincina di Castel Cicciano. Both are unable to represent the Italian fiefdom since the 1926 law of Nobility restricting to male heirs of all nobility titles. So the most senior male heir titleholder is also noted. Claimant as per Law of Nobility 1926 in the Kingdom of Italy is Dr Alexander Sceberras Trigona, LLD, MP.



**The Marquis di Castiglia (de Piro)** was created in 1742 in Madrid by King Philip V of Spain to Dr Gio Pio de Piro JUD, 1<sup>st</sup> Barone di Budaq with expressed remainder to "*Lo Stesso Barone Giovanni Pio Depiro ottenne poi da Filippo Re di Spagna un Titolo in Castiglia di Marchese per se e tutti li suoi eredi, e successori, avendo pagato il Dritto di cinquecento e sessanta due mili, e cinquecento*

*maravedi di Vellon; il quale dritto deve essere pagato da ciascun successore in questo titolo il quale per rescritto del G. Mro si trova registrato nel lib. Boll. Sottogli 8.8bre 1745, fo 167*". Reference A.O.M. 627.

*The creation documents are in the Archivo Historico Nacional in Madrid, Consejos Suprimidos book 2753, year 1742, no. 17, File 8978, year 1742 no. 820 and were despatched as per file Book 624, year 1742 and File State Section, file 6390(1), no. 86. The creation was published in the Gazeta de Madrid on 8 May 1742, pages 151-152.*

*As a title created within the kingdom of Castile, it was regulated by the Book of Laws compiled in the 13th century by king Alfonso X (Alfonso the Wise) as well as the Cortes de Toro (a law of 1505), the Novisima Recopilacion of 1805, the Royal Decree of 27th September 1820, the Law of 11th October 1820, the Law of 4th May 1948, as well as many other Royal Decrees in particular those of the 27th May 1912, 8th July 1922, 21st March 1980, 11th March 1988, 16th September 1994 and the Law of 30th October 2006. By means of the latest law, the conventional rules of orden regular were amended by abolishing discrimination on grounds of gender. The rule preferring age and descent by primogeniture was retained" The title was last registered in Malta by Don Anthony Buttigieg de Piro, who claimed it in 1984 as the 5<sup>th</sup> Marques de Piro, dying in 2020. No further claims in the Kingdom of Spain been noted.*

*In Malta, the title continued with the expressed desire of acknowledgement from the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility and presently held by Don Nicholas de Piro d'Amico Inguanez, as the 9<sup>th</sup> Marques. His eldest son, Don Cosimo is heir.*

*The Claimant heir as per Kingdom of Spain is Capt Joseph Buttigieg de Piro, and his heir, Dona Victoria Jane Buttigieg de Piro Krejci. Note, all Spanish titles are now to all first born, not eldest male then to female issue.*



**The Barony of San Giovanni** was first created in 1657 in Messina, Sicily by King Philip IV of Sicily and Spain to Dr Vincenzo Abela JUD. The remainder was to “*o his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously "jure longobardum" in perpetuity, 1926, Kingdom of Italy rule of succession changed to only male descendants of the family only*”. The title legitimately acknowledged by the Grand Master till 1746 where it became extinct. Though other descendants laid claim to the title till 1830 and since been dormant. Another descendants of the first titleholder received a new creation in 1777 by the King Ferdinand I of Two Sicilies to Conte Giorgio Serafino Ciantar Paleologo with remainder to “*to his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously "jure longobardum" in perpetuity, 1926, Kingdom of Italy rule of succession changed to only male descendants of the family only*”. Though the Kingdom of Italy new law of 1926 announcing only male descendants to succeed all nobility titles or the title goes to next male descendant or if extinguished then extinct. The last titleholder was Francis Chapelle, 7<sup>th</sup> Barone di San Giovanni, dying in 2011. *His kinsman, Kenneth Chapelle styles as the 8<sup>th</sup> de jure Barone di San Giovanni.*



**The Counts di San Giovanni Laterano (Conte Ciantar Paleologo)** was created in 1711 by Pope Clement XI in 1711 at Rome to Nobile Ignazio Francesco Wizzini Paleologo, Patrizio Roma with the remainder to *his descendants both male and female in perpetuity*. The Present titleholder is Conte Jean Pierre Chapelle Paleologo, 10<sup>th</sup> Conte di San Giovanni Laterano, also is also the *titular Despot (Prince) of Mystra in the Empire of the Byzantine*, his heir is his eldest daughter, *Contessa Annah Chapelle Paleologo, as the Contininessa di San Giovanni Laterano.*



**The Marchese di San Vincenzo Ferreri** was created in 1716 in the Kingdom of Naples to Nobile Mario Testaferrata de Robertis, Patrizio Messina e Roma with the remainder to *his legitimate and natural male descendants in perpetuity. 1926 Italian law by Royal Decree dictates succession by strict agnatic male descent*. The direct line ended in 1988 with Marchese Alfio Testaferrata Bonici Ghaxaq, the 8<sup>th</sup> Marchese, then succeeded by his cousin, Marchese Joseph Philip Testaferrata Bonici, as the 9<sup>th</sup> Marchese. An heir would also be of the same male to male descendant, if any descendants of Marchese Publio Testaferrata and his wife Regina Galizia.



**The Conte Preziosi** title was created in 1718 in the Kingdom of Sicily to Captiano Giuseppe Preziosi, a Knight of St Mark of Venice, a Privateer. The remainder to “*his legitimate and natural male descendants in perpetuity. Some published sources list Gio Francesco Preziosi as the 2nd Conte (in terms of the ius feudale francorum). These sources appear to overlook the fact that Gio. Francesco had an elder brother. Thus the said Gio Francesco is only the 3rd Conte (in terms of the ius feudale francorum) or, more likely, one of the 2nd generation of Conti Preziosi in terms of the ius feudale longobardum.*” The present titleholder is Conte Dr Josef Preziosi MRCS, 10<sup>th</sup> Conte Preziosi and his eldest daughter as heir, Contessa Marie Christine Preziosi Bandini.



**The Conte di Mont'Alto** was created in 1720 and reconfirmed again in 1776. Initially it was created by Francis I Farnese, Reigning Duke of Parma in 1720 to Dr Bernardo Piscopo Macedonia JUD with the remainder to “*The title of Conte di Mont Alto in the Duchy of Parma, was, together with the fief of Monte Alto, conferred at the grantee’s request, by Francis I (Farnese), Duke of Parma, upon Bernardo Piscopo, by a Rescript given at Piacenza on the 8th July 1720.*”)The grantee did not have any (legitimate) issue, so he made another request to the Duke of Parma, in order that he be granted “*the power of disposing of the fief in favour of Felice Manduca Piscopo, his grand-nephew, or of one of the brothers of the said Felice, and so in favour of such of them as Bernardo might designate his heir, and of his legitimate and natural male children and descendants from a real and lawful wedlock issuing in infinitum, according to the order of primogeniture, or in such any other manner as petitioner might prefer to dispose thereof, so that in case he should die without issue as aforesaid, the above-mentioned fief, with the title of Count, with its jurisdictions, power of the sword, and its merum and mixtum imperium ..should be vested in the aforesaid Manduca, or in such of his brothers as the petitioner might nominate to be his heir, in the same manner and form as if the latter were expressly included and designated in the said grant and investiture, and this (he requested) in order that in the family of his said grand-nephews, that is of such of them as might be his heir, the glorious token of a perpetual vassalage to the Most Serene dynasty of your Highness might always be preserved in its lustre*”.

1724 and 1725, Bernardo nominated his eldest grandnephew, Felice Manduca Piscopo to succeed him, Felice, the 2nd Conte died in 1775, leaving no male issue. However, his brother, Salvatore Manduca Piscopo, petitioned Ferdinand I, Duke of Parma for permission to succeed the title. A rescript was issued granting this request on 1776. Since then, the title has descended through the male line according to primogeniture.” A kinsman of the 1<sup>st</sup> titleholder received a regrant (confirmation) to continue use of the title in 1776 by Ferdinand I, Reigning Duke of Parma to Nobile Salvatore Manduca Piscopo, Capitano della Verga of Malta and Hereditary Knight of the Holy Roman Empire.

The remainder to *his male descendants by primogeniture*. The Present titleholder is *Don Alfred Manduca Piscopo Macedonia*, 7<sup>th</sup> (9<sup>th</sup>) Conte di Mont’Alto and his brother as heir, *Don Alfred Manduca Piscopo Macedonia Azopardi*, *Contino di Mont’Alto* and *Barone di Buleben*.



**The Graf (Conte) Fournier** was created in 1770 by Maria Theresa, Empress of Austria, Archduchess of Tuscany to Giorgio Fournier, Freiherr von Pausier with the remainder to *his male descendants in order of primogeniture*. The direct line died out after the second Graf and succeeded by the eldest daughter with confirmation of the Grand Master and her descendants were reconfirmed by the royal commission in 1878. [The above stated circumstances lead us to conclude that no great importance was formerly attached by the Local Government to a proper use of the titles of nobility. In confirmation of this statement, we may mention that in several Government notices, the late Baldassare Sant was styled Count, to which title he had no right. His son and heir, Lazzaro Sant, does not claim but the titles of Conte and Barone Fournier de Pausier, which he inherited from his mother Luigia, wife of the said Baldassare, to whom they were not certainly communicable.

Title of Count in the kingdoms and provinces of the Austrian Empress (granted to Giorgio Fournier de Pausier on the 29 January 1770 by Maria Theresa, Empress of Austria); No decision was reached by the Commissioners in either their report or their supplemental report on the claim of Lazzaro Sant-Fournier-de-Pausier, who descends from the grantee’s granddaughter. The British Secretary of State then permitted the claim of Lazzaro Sant Fournier and his successors, for the purpose of precedence, to take the place to which they would be entitled under the principles of legal interpretation applicable to the grant if it had emanated in 1770 from the Sicilian or Maltese Sovereign authority] In not so many words, the British Royal Commission in 1878 may have recreated a new nobility title of **Earl de Fournier**. The Present titleholder is *Conte Stephen Sant Fournier*, 9<sup>th</sup> Graf von Fournier, 9<sup>th</sup> Freiherr von Pausier, Hereditary Count Sant and

possibility as the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl de Fournier in the UK. His heir is one of his two sons.



**The Graf (Conte) Sant** was initially created in 1769 and in 1770. The first creation was as *Conte Palatine Sant* by the Pope Clement XIV in 1769 to Salvatore Baldassare Sant with the remainder to *le, Nayosq et Descendants tuof masculos, legitimate, e natural in infinite qui in surceritate catholics fidei*. The second creation was by Marie Theresa, Empress of Austria, Archduchess of Tuscany in 1770 to *Conte Salvatore Baldassare Sant* with the remainder to *Addentes hanc gratiam specialem ut si aliquando stirpem masculinam familiae tuae extingui contingant, comitis titulis ed dignitas ad primogenitum ex ultima foemina generis tui superstite natum vel nasciturum, qui gentis tuae cognomen assumit, ejusque posteros modo antedicto, servatoque semper ordine primogeniali, transeat (All male descendants are styled Conte and females are to style Contessa, though the title can only be enjoyed in the male to male line*. This title by both creations can be used by all descendants in the male-to-male lineage and females till marriage or life. The present titleholder is *Conte John Sant Cassia*, 8<sup>th</sup> Conte Palatine e Graf, also 13<sup>th</sup> Barone di Gharixem e Tabia. His heir is his nephew, *Nobile Miles Damant Sant Cassia* and the Conte Palatine title heir is his cousin, *Conte Francis Sant Cassia*.

**3.- Maltese fiefdoms that never presented to the British Royal Commission in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, though continue to style as *De Jure*.**



**The Barons of Ghajn Rihani** was created in 1360 to a member of the Royal House of Aragona of Sicily, Don Orlando d'Aragona by King Federico III of Sicily. The remainder to *his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The present titleholder is *Principe Giuseppe Said*, 37<sup>th</sup> Barone di Ghajn Rihani and one of his four children are heir.



**The Barons of Delimara** was created in 1370 to a member of the Royal House of Aragona of Sicily. Don Orlando d'Aragona by King Federico III of Sicily. The remainder to *his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The Present titleholder is *Donna Carla Costanzo Malaspina*, 31<sup>st</sup> Baroness di Delimara and her eldest son is heir, *Don Scipione Costanzo di Paganica*.



**The Signores di Mugarro (Mgarr)** was created in 1442 by King Alfonso I of Sicily and Malta to *Don Alntonio Inguanez* to his remainders; *His descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The present titleholder is *Principe Giuseppe Said*, 19<sup>th</sup> Signore di Mugarro and one of his four children are heirs.





**The Barons di Tal Baccar (Baccari)** was created in 1508 by King Ferdinand II of Sicily and Malta to Prince Eugene Matteo Pietro d'Armenia of Cyprus with the remainder to *his descendants by feudal tenure perpetuity*. The present titleholder is Conte Francis Xaver Said, 17<sup>th</sup> Barone di Baccari and his eldest son, Conte Paul Said, as the Baroncino di Baccari.

*Note: this title was never presented to the Royal Commission of the Maltese nobility in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.*



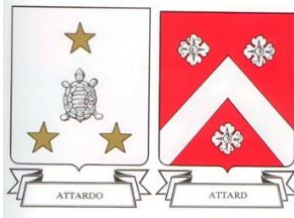
**The Barons of Frigenuini** was created three times. Initially in 1375 by King Federico III of Sicily and Malta to Milite Gaddo Cuzkeri and was sold to the Knights of St John of Malta in 1531 by the sixth titleholder. The Second creation in 1737 created by the Grand Master of Malta to Nobile Alessandro Mompalao Cuzkeri with the remainder to *his legitimate and natural descendants in perpetuity*. After the 1<sup>st</sup> Barone died in 1760, his illegitimate daughter, Rosalea Mompalao never claimed the title, though always styled as Baronessa. His descendants continued to claim the title without ever obtaining authority recognition. The present titleholder is Nobile Mary Doris Vassallo Said, 11<sup>th</sup> Baronessa di Frigenuini and her heir is Conte Charles Said-Vassallo. The Third creation was in 1773 by the Grand Master of Malta to Dr Gaetano Pisani JUD and became extinct with his grand daughter, the Suor Maria Adeodata Pisani in 1855. Though there are illegitimate children and descendants of the 1<sup>st</sup> Barone Pisani, but unclaimed.

*Note: this title was never presented to the Royal Commission of the Maltese nobility in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.*



**The Marchese's di Xrobb il-Ghajin** was created in 1776 by the Grand Master of Malta to Nobile Claudio Muscati Sceberras with the remainder to "*Muscati Xiberras D. Claudio Maltese, ottenne il medo dal Gr. Mro l'erezione d'un Marchesato sopra il Territorio, o sia Tenuta ta' Sciop il Hagin posta in Malta, dallo stesso Muscat posseduta, e la concessione del titolo di dto Marchesato per se, e suoi discendenti Maschi in infinitum*". The title was succeeded by his son, Diego, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Marchese, dying in 1818. His legitimate daughter dying without issue and his illegitimate daughter's eldest son succeeded as *De jure* 3<sup>rd</sup> Marchese di Xrobb il-Ghajin. His descendant presently styles as the Marchese being Ronaldo Muscati de Pembroke, (1938, 14<sup>th</sup> Marchese. His son, Enrico Rosario as heir, his heir general is Enrico Beniamino and fourth generation of direct heir is Ronaldo.

#### 4.- Maltese Titles in Dormant.



**The Barons of Ginelfar, Misulup and Saqqajja** was created in 1361 by King Federico III of Sicily and Malta with the remainder to *his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The fiefdom continued till Nobile Giulio Attard as the 16<sup>th</sup> Barone around 1815. Cannot locate any descendants if any.



**The Barons di Bontempu sives Bellara or Bellacera** was created in 1398 by Queen Mary I and King Martin I of Sicily to Milite Johannes di Bontempu and continued in the family to the 8<sup>th</sup> Barone, Eduardo de Bellera, who died in 1563. The title became dormant since.



**The Barons de Calafato** was created in 1398 by Queen Mary I and King Martin I of Sicily to Milite Tomaso Mundu de Calafato and it continued within the family till Pietro Calafato as the 12<sup>th</sup> Baron around 1752. Cannot locate any descendants of the 12<sup>th</sup> Barone.



**The Signore di la Guardia** was created in 1432 by King Alfonso I of Sicily to Milite Giovanni di Cardona and its remainder to *his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. Conte Gio Maria Zammit succeeded as the 13<sup>th</sup> Signore around 1735. Cannot locate any descendants. The title became dormant.



**Signores di San Giorgio e Mizieb il-Rih** was created in 1447 by King Alfonso I of Sicily to Don Antonio Inguañez with remainder to *his male descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. Inherited through Don Giuseppe Inguañez, 6<sup>th</sup> Signore illegitimate son, Isidore de Cortis and continued to his descendant, Giuseppe Xerri, (c.1846) and dormant since.



**The Signores di San Martino** was created in 1466 by King John I of Sicily to Don Antonio Inguañez with the remainder to *his male descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The title was successful till Don Giuseppe Inguañez, then succeeded by illegitimate son, Gio Battista de Cortis, then succeeded till Giorgio Cortis c.1751. Dormant since.



**The Barons Rapa** was created in 1453 by King Alfonso I of Sicily to Notary Salvo Rapa with the remainder to *his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. His descendant, Vincenzo Giuseppe Mariano Paolo Salvatore Buhagiar, 16<sup>th</sup> Barone Rapa, 10<sup>th</sup> Barone di San Giovanni c.1880, then dormant since.



**The Barons di Pietro Longa** was created a number of times, though in 1553 the Grand Master of Malta created the Barony to Nobile Francesco de Vergy Maldonato of Rhodes Island with the remainder to *his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The lineage lasted Lorenzo d'Armenia, 10<sup>th</sup> Barone di Pietra Longa c. 1796. Dormant since.



**The Barons d'Avola** was created to *Don* Carlo John Antonio d'Avola, Barone di Djar il-Chandur in 1566 by the Grand Master de la Vallette with the remainder to *his male descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The lineage lasted till *Don* Giorgio d'Avola as the 7<sup>th</sup> Barone around 1694. Cannot locate any other descendants, so the title is dormant.



**The Barons di Qlejja** was created in 1569 by the Grand Master of Malta to Dr Francesco Mego JUD, Barone di Castel Cicciano of Naples with the remainder to *his descendants by feudal tenure in perpetuity*. The title was succeeded by his son, dying in 1580, when it was assumed it became extinct, though a descendant of the 1<sup>st</sup> Barone, Dionisa Mego Santa Maura succeeded as *de Jure* 3<sup>rd</sup> Baroness and it continued in her family till 1721, when Nobile Gio Giacomo Desclaus, the 8<sup>th</sup> Barone di Qlejja died in 1721 without any known descendants. The title became dormant or possible extinct.



**The Barony di San Giovanni** was created in 1657 by King Philip IV of Sicily and Spain and has been discussed in the Foreign Titles section. Though it was created to Dr Vincenzo Abela JUD with the remainder to *to his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously "jure longobardum" in perpetuity*, 1926, Kingdom of Italy rule of succession changed to only male descendants of the family only. The legitimate *de Jure* title holders united by marriage with the Barons Rapa and the last titleholder was Vincenzo Giuseppe Mariano Paolo Salvatore Buhagiar, 10<sup>th</sup> Barone di San Giovanni and 16<sup>th</sup> Barone Rapa, c.1880. Title dormant since.



**The Counts (Conte) Magri** was created in 1730 by Pope Clement XII to Captain Giorgio Magro with the remainder to *his lifetime and style of dei Conti to his descendants*. The style was inherited by his son, Antonio dei Conti Magro di Susa, (1727-1774), who tried to extend the title to his fathers descendants. Though each generation continued till George Magro Capece as the 6<sup>th</sup>

Conte Magri, dying in 1878. The title is either extinct or dormant.



**The Murat Barone Barbara of Naples** was created in 1813 by King Joseph Murat of Naples to Vincenzo Barbara with the remainder to *his male to male descendants*. The last known titleholder is Paolo Barbara, as the 5<sup>th</sup> Barone Barbara around 1889. Cannot locate any descendants.

#### 4. – Foreign Maltese nobility not presented to the British Royal Commission;

**The Emirates of Sicily and Malta** pretender was last with Michele Giordan, dying in 1859. The Pretendership remains in abeyance.



**Heirs to the Kingdom of Cyprus** to King James II of Cyprus's acknowledged illegitimate sons and in his will is documented the succession of the Kingdom to his illegitimate son, if his legitimate son, King James III dies without descendants. So Eugene Matteo Pietro de Lusignan d'Armenia, styled heir and titular King of Cyprus, Jerusalem, Armenia, Titular Prince of Antioch, Tripoli and Galilee from 1474-1536. For generations the descendants continued to style as *Lineal Heirs to the de Lusignan family* and it more of nomination then direct eldest son then daughter. The Present holder is *Principe* Giuseppe Said, as the *Lineal Heir to the de Lusignan of Cyprus* and his heir is the eldest son, *Conte* Charles Said-Vassallo.



**The Lordship of de la Pole** was created in 1366 in London, England to Michael de la Pole by King Edward III of England *to his male and female heirs in feudal tenure*. The 1<sup>st</sup> Lord was created in 1385 as the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Suffolk, then titles forfeited before his death. His son had the Peerages restored in 1397 and his son William de la Pole was created Marquess of Suffolk in 1444 and Duke of Suffolk in 1448 and succeeded till 1513 when the titles were surrendered. The last titleholder brother, Richard de la Pole was recognised in Europe as the Duke of Suffolk and all of his lesser titles. Richard was recognised as the Pretender of the Throne of England, dying in battle in 1525 in Pavia, Italy. His unrecognised marriage produced a daughter, Eleanore, who styled as the 8<sup>th</sup> Lady de la Pole. She married a Maltese Knight, who settled back in Malta. The style of the Lordship continued till 1927 with Crocifissa d'Armenia Carbonaro, as the 24<sup>th</sup> Lady. Since then, no claims has been made of any potential heirs.



**The Barone de Ortigos del Panades** was created in 1378 to *Don* Rodriguez de Biedma by King Peter IV of Aragona with the remainder to *a Fedual tenure to descendants of the 1<sup>st</sup> grantee body*. The present titleholder is *Contessa* Caroline Dingli Attard Brown, 19<sup>th</sup> Baroness de Ortigos del Panades and her daughter as heir, *Contessa* Genevieve Imperia Dingli Attard Inguanez Brown.





**The Signores di Maralfi** was created in 1384 by King Charles III of Naples to Luigi Ianvilla, who died the same year and succeeded by his niece. *The remainder by feudal tenure in perpetuity.* The feudal lordship was never presented by any descendants to the Grand Masters of Malta nor the Royal Commission during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Malta. The present titleholder in pretence is Sharon Joy Cini de Graaf as the 21<sup>st</sup> Signorina di Maralfi in the Kingdom of Naples. Her heir is Jay Geoffrey de Graaf di Maralfi.



**The Principality of Selimbria** was created in 1443 by Emperor John VIII Paleologo of the Byzantine Empire to Prince Theodore Paleologo of the Byzantine Empire with the remainder to *his descendants*. As similar to the Despot of Mystra, the title was used as *de Jure* since the fall of the Byzantine Empire and eventually succeeded by Conte Sir Giorgio Serafino Ciantar Paleologo as the 19<sup>th</sup> Prince of Selimbria. The title separated after his brother's death in 1888 and went to a male nephew whose descendants hold the title today. The present titleholder is Rosemarie Borg Olivier de Puget Paleologo since 2017. Her heir is her cousin, Dr Paul Borg Olivier LLD..



**The Despot (Princely) of Mystra** was created in 1407 at Constantinople by Emperor Manuel II Paleologo of the Byzantine Empire to his brother, Prince Theodore Paleologo with the remainder to *his descendants*. The title continued to be used for many centuries as *de Jure* in the direct lineage of Paleologo with Principe Gio Antonio III Paleologo last of his line and passing the title to a kinsman before his death, to a Conte Sir Giorgio Serafino Ciantar Paleologo KCMG, as the 19<sup>th</sup> Despot (Prince), dying in 1856 and succeeded by his son. Today, the present titleholder is Conte Jean V Pierre Chapelle Paleologo, 25<sup>th</sup> Despot of Mystra, 12<sup>th</sup> Conte Wzzini Paleologo and his heir is his next male kinsman.



**The Principe Ottomani** title was created in essence of recognition to the child born to a Ottoman Prince Djem, who fled his brother. The son born was Prince Pierre Mehmed Ottomani, born 1492 at Rome and Pope Alexander VI Borgia recognised the baby as the Prince Ottomani with full rights of a royal birth, ensuring that his descendants also receive their just caused rights in the Christian faith. *Singularly to all the descendants of Principe Mehmed Sayd in the male primogenial line born in the Christian faith. According to the Letters Patent, only those born within the marriage in the Church of Rome and within the vows of marriage to ensure that true christian lineage continues from the legacy given to a friend and convert to the Church of Rome. This applies to the Prince Djem's son Pierre Mehmed and his descendants in the order of Primogeniture. Further, the Church of Rome extends its ruling that if a child is born before one's parents marriage and is baptised will not be entitled to succeed. Pope Alexander VI clearly marked this in the letter's patent dated November 1492. To continue the lineal line of senior descent of Principe Djem Ottomani according to the original conversion acts set by Pope Alexander VI upon acceptance of onto the Church of Rome.*

*It is very clear that no descendants can style Prince or Princess due to the christian faith conversion over the generations, hence the exclusion from the Ottoman line of succession. This was also noted in a letter from the late HH, Osman V, 43rd Head of the house of Osman. The direct male line died out in 1683 when the next kinsman succeeded through the descent of 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Prince Ottomani and acknowledgement of the Grand Master of Malta. The Present titleholder or claimant is *Principe* Giuseppe Said, as the 17<sup>th</sup> Principe Ottomani and his eldest son as Heir, *Conte* Charles Said-Vassallo.*



**The Visconte de Sayd** title was created by King Ferdinand III of Naples in 1509 to *Principe* Pierre Mehmed Ottomani and with the remainder to *Singularly to all the descendants of Principe Mehmed Sayd in the male primogenial line born in the Christian faith.* The direct male descendants dying in 1683, succeeded with the next kinsman and descendant of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Principe Ottomani. The title continued to be used as *de Jure* and presently the titleholder is *Don* Jayden Paul Said, as the 17<sup>th</sup> Viconte de Sayd e 17<sup>th</sup> Barone di Bibino Magno and his uncle as heir, *Don* Mark Andrew Said.



**The Barone di Montagno di Marzo** was purchased and acknowledged by King Charles I of Sicily and Spain, to Nobile Matteo Trigona *dei Signori di Mistretta* in 1522. The remainder normally is to his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously in perpetuity. Since 1926, the Kingdom of Italy rule of succession to only male descendants of the family applies there forward. The present titleholder is Dr Alexander Sceberras Trigona LLD, MP and his heir is a kinsman of male descendants of the Sceberras Trigona lineage.



**The Barone di Bibino Magno** was created initially in 1271 by King Charles I d'Anjou of Sicily to Milite Guglielmo di Bibino. In 1544 the fiefdom was regranted by King Charles I of Sicily and Spain to *Don* Gerolamo d'Alagona, to whom eventually succeeded to *Donna* Eleanora Abela, 4<sup>th</sup> Baroness di Bibino and upon her marriage in 1599, the Viceroyal of Sicily confirmed them as Principe and Principessa di Bibino Magno. The Barony continued to be used in the family and the present title holder is *Don* Jayden Paul Said, 17<sup>th</sup> Barone di Bibino Magno, 17<sup>th</sup> Viconte de Sayd and his Uncle as heir, *Don* Mark Andrew Said.



**The Principe di Bibino Magno** was created by recognition of the Viceroyal of Sicily to the newly married couple of *Donna* Eleanora Abela, 4<sup>th</sup> Baroness di Bibino Magno and *Principe* Giovanni Battista Said as the *Principe e Principessa di Bibino Magno* in 1599 and countersigned by King Philip II of Spain and Sicily. The Present titleholder is *Principe* Giuseppe Said, 17<sup>th</sup> *Principe Ottomani* e 13<sup>th</sup> Principe di Bibino Magno and heir, *Conte* Charles Said-Vassallo.

**The Barone di San Paolino** was created in 1638 by King Philip III of Sicily and Spain to *Don* Matteo de Ribera y Borgia with the remainder to *his descendants in perpetuity.* The present Claimant is Dr John Attard Montalto LLD, MEP and his heir, Martin Attard Montalto.

Also note, since the late 11<sup>th</sup> Baronessa di San Paolino died in 2001, her succession was in 1935. According to the law of 1926 of Nobility changes in the Kingdom of Italy, her choice of heir, her second son, Philip Kitson Attard Montalto is a claimant and 12<sup>th</sup> De Jure Barone di San Paolino and his only son, Samuel as Baroncino..

**The Conte di Casandola** was created in 1685 by King Charles II of Sicily to *Don Giuseppe Stagno*,. Patrizio Messina with the remainder to one of his descendants, with the 1926 Kingdom of Italy law updating all nobility titles to be succeeded by male to male descendants there forward or it becomes extinct. The Present title holder is *Don Robert Stagno Navarra* and his son, *Don Robert Bradley Stagno Navarra* as heir.



**The Jacobite Earldom of Dundee, Viscount Eythorn in the Kingdom of Scotland** was created to *Conte Giovanni Battista Gualtieri* on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1705 in Rome, Italy, by King James III of England, VIII of Scotland with the remainder to *for himself and his successors (the extent of this remainder is uncertain; however it is probable that under Scottish Peerage Law it meant heirs-general, i.e. mixed male and female succession)*. The present titleholder is John V Somerville, 11<sup>th</sup> Jacobite Earl of Dundee, 11<sup>th</sup> Viscount Eythorn. His brother, *Hon Andrew Somerville* is heir.



**The Marchese Testaferrata** was created in 1717 by King Victor Amadeus of Sicily, Duke of Savoy To *Marchese Mario Testaferrata de Robertis di San Vincenzo Ferreri, Patrizio Messina e Roma* with the remainder to *his legitimate and natural male descendant in perpetuity. 1926 Italian law by royal decree dictates succession by strict agnatic male descent there forward.* The present titleholder is *Marchese Joseph Philip Testaferrata Bonici*, as 9<sup>th</sup> Marchese Testaferrata.



**The Conte Ciantar** title was created four times. The first creation in 1739 by Queen Mary I of Portugal to *Giovanni Antonio Ciantar* with remainder to *his male heirs*. The second creation in 1745 by King Louis XV of France again to the same Historian, *Giovanni Antonio Ciantar*. The Third creation in 1747 by King Louis XV of France, *for life only* and the fifth creation in 1761 by King Louis XV of France *for life only*.

The third creation succeeded through the junior branch of the Ciantar Paleologo family and the present titleholder is *Nobile Joseph Nicosia Turnbull*, as 10<sup>th</sup> Comte Ciantar and his son, *Nobile Paul Nicosia Turnbull* as heir.



**The Duca di Paganica** was created in 1758 at Naples by King Charles III of Naples, Sicily and Spain to *Nobile Ignazio Costanzo* with the remainder to *his first born male descendant, in failure of which to the first born female descendant according to the custom of the Neaplitan succession. By virtue of royal decree No 1489, 1926, the right of female succession to all Italian titles was abolished and succession confined to agnatic descent.* The main line died out in 1890 when the title became dormant, though a junior descendant in the male line used it as *de Jure* terms. The Present titleholder is *Don Scipione Costanzo*, 11<sup>th</sup> Duca di Paganica and his heir, *Don Giovanni Costanzo di Paganica*.



**The Freiherr (Barone) von Pausier** was created in 1768 by Marie Theresa, Empress of Austria, Archduchess of Tuscany to Giorgio Fournier with the remainder to *his male descendants in order of primogeniture*. The Present titleholder is *Conte* Stephen Sant Fournier, 9<sup>th</sup> Freiherr von Pausier, 9<sup>th</sup> Graf von Fournier, *Hereditary Conte Sant* and one of his two sons is heir.

**Graaf von Santa Sofia** was created in 1776 by Prince William V of Orange to Agostino Formosa de Fremaux (Negroponte), Consul for Holland in Malta with remainder to *his male descendants*. The present titleholder is *Conte* Michael Formosa Gauci, 7<sup>th</sup> Graaf von Sant Sofia, 6<sup>th</sup> Marchese di Ghajn Qajjed and his brother, *Conte* Josef Formosa Gauci as heir.



**Graf von Zimmermann** was created by Charles Theodore, Elector of Bavaria, Vicar of the Holy Roman Empire to General Christian Emanuele von Zimmermann on the year 1790 with the remainder to *his legitimate and natural descendants of both sexes*. The present titleholder is *Marchese* James St James, *Marchese* di San Giorgio, Patrizio Venetia and 6<sup>th</sup> Graf von Zimmermann. His brother *Marchese* Mark St George is heir.



**Comte Renaud de Sante-John d'Angely** was created on 24 April 1808 to Major Michele Regnaud de Saint-Jean d'Angely by Emperor Napoleon of the French to *his heirs male*.

The title was succeeded by the first holder's illegitimate son and his son, becoming dormant in 1908. 1980, Another illegitimate descendant of the 1<sup>st</sup> titleholder laid claim with acknowledgement by HRH, Comte de Paris. Emmanuele Muscat then added d'Angely to his surname. He died in 2023, succeeded by his eldest son Paul Muscat d'Angely as the 5<sup>th</sup> Comte d'Angely. His heir is his cousin and brother-in-law, Horace V Muscat d'Angely and then his son, Horace VI.



**Conte di San Paolino d'Aquilejo** was created in 1819 at Naples by King Ferdinand I of Two-Sicilies to Dr Carlo Antonio Bonavita JUD with the remainder to *his descendants in order of primogeniture*. By virtue of the Italian royal decree of 1916, where the right of female succession to all Italian titles was abolished and succession confined to agnatic descent. The present titleholder is *Nobile* Charles Vella Bonavita, 7<sup>th</sup> Conte di San Paolino d'Aquilejo and his cousin *Nobile* Dr Roger Vella Bonavita, Ph.D is heir.



**The Marchese Scicluna** was created three times. Firstly in 1875 by Pope Pius IX to Emmanuele Scicluna for life. Then in 1878 by Pope Leo XIII to Emmanuele Scicluna and Giuseppe Scicluna Bugeja with the remainder to *Singular to all his descendants in the male primogenial line born in lawful wedlock and not separated from the Catholic religion*. The Third creation in 1879 by Pope Leo XIII to Emmanuele Scicluna with remainder to *Leone XIII con decreto del 20 gennaio 1879, conferiva il titolo di marchese del S.R.I. ad Emmanuele Scicluna di Valletta, e costui, morto senza figli, ne succedeva, come pel menzionato decreto, il fratello Giambattista, oggi morto; d'onde, il titolo si e' trasferito in persona dell' egregio patriotta Giuseppe Scicluna Buggeja*. The second and third creation continued to succeed within the family, till the male to male line became



extinct in 1995. The Second creation has been extended for the present titleholder to use. Nobile Marcus Scicluna Marshall, 4<sup>th</sup> Marchese Scicluna, Baroncino di Tabria.



**The Marchese Bugeja** was created twice. The first time in 1887 by Pope Leo XIII to Vincenzo Bugeja CMG, for life only. Then the second creation in 1891 by Pope Leo XIII to Carlino Bugeja for life, then regranted to grandson in 1989, Nobile Reno Ellul Bonici Mompalao Bugeja. His son, Walter Ellul Bonici *styles as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marchese Bugeja since 2004 with his son, Salvino as heir.*



**The Conte Tagliaferro** was created in 1892 by Pope Leo XIII to Chevalier Girolamo Tagliaferro with the remainder to *Singularly to all his descendants in the male primogenial line born in lawful wedlock and not seperated from the catholic religion.* The present titleholder is *Conte* Simon Sant Fournier, 6<sup>th</sup> Conte Tagliaferro and his son, *Conte* Gregory Sant Fournier, as heir.



**The Marchese Mattei** was created in 1899 by Pope Leo XIII to *Conte* Senator Dr Alfredo Mattei LLD with the remainder to *Ad personam, 1906, Pope Pius X extended it Singularly to all his descendants in the male primogenial line born in lawful wedlock and not seperated from the catholic religion.* The present titleholder is *Conte* Joseph Mattei, 4<sup>th</sup> Marchese Mattei.



**The Conte Bernard** was created in 1906 by Pope Pius X to Col Pietro Paolo Bernard with the remainder to *Singularly to all his descendants in the male primogenial line born in lawful wedlock and not seperated from the catholic religion.* The present titleholder is *Conte* Marc Bernard and his son, Conte Mylo Bernard as heir.

**6.—Foreign nobility and Distinctions not presented to the British Royal Commission though title is extended to all descendants either male to male or all descendants of male and female.**



**Conte dell'Impero Bizantino alias Vassallo Paleologo or Byzantine Empire** was created and recognised seven times. The first creation was in 1320 by Emperor Andronicus II of the Byzantine Empire to Milite Riccardo di Vassallo of Conte Palatine. With the remainder to all his legitimate maledescendants simultanseously in perpetuity. This creation is dormant in 1693 with the 12<sup>th</sup> Conte Palatine.

The second creation in 1349 by Emperor John VI Cantacuzanus of the Byzantine Empire to *Conte Giovanni de Vassallo Paleologo*, with the remainder to *his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously "jure longobardum" in perpetuity.*

The third creation in 1380 by Francesco I Gattilusio, Lord of Lesbos to Conte Riccardo de Vassallo Paleologo to *his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously "jure longobardum" in perpetuity.*

The fourth creation in 1406 by King Janus of Cyprus to Conte Antonio de Vassallo Paleologo, with the remainder to *his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously "jure longobardum" in perpetuity.*

The Fifth creation in 1455 by King Alfonso I of Sicily to Conte Niccolo de Vassallo Paleologo, with the remainder to *his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously "jure longobardum" in perpetuity.*

The Sixth creation in 1487 by Queen Catherine Cornaro of Cyprus to Conte Pietro de Vassallo Paleologo with the remainder to *his legitimate and natural descendants simultaneously "jure longobardum" in perpetuity.*

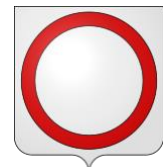
The final creation/recognition in 1623 by the Grand Master Lius Mendez de Vasconcellos of Malta to *Conte Matteo de Vassallo Paleologo.*

Since 1926, the Kingdom of Italy law has changed for male to male succession only.

Since 2022, limited of use to descendants of male descendants of Mario Vassallo Paleologo daughters.



**Freiherr von Brockdorff** was created in 1432 in Barnberg, Upper Franconia, Germany by Emperor Sigismund I, Holy Roman Empire to Nobile Henrich II von Brockdorff, Knight of the Holy Roman Empire and the remainder to *his male descendants in perpetuity.* Of course, a branch settled in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in Malta whom style Baron von Brockdorff and the head of that branch is *Freiherr* Mark von Brockdorff and his son, *Freiherr* Captain Alexander Mark von Brockdorff is heir.



**The Patrizio Veneta** was created in 1275 by the Doge of Venice to brothers, Giovanni, Tommaso and Marco Barbaro and to all their legitimate male to male descendants.



**The Patrizio Messina** was created in 1553 by the Senate of Messina granting Nobile Mario Testaferrata and to his legitimate male to male descendants.



**Patrizio Romano** was granted to *Nobile* Mgro Leonardo Abela, *Nobile* Placido Abela, *Nobile* Alessandro Abela, Pietro di Ferro, *Nobile* Ascano Surdo, and *Nobile* Paolo

Testaferrata by the Senate of Rome to their male to male legitimate descendants on 1590.

the Senate of Messina to their legitimate male to male descendants.

**The Patrizio Messina** granted to Nobile Giuseppe Stagno by the Senate of Messina to his legitimate male to male descendants on 1603.



**The Hereditary Noble of Hungary** was granted by the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire to General Tommaso Barbara on 1596 to all his legitimate descendants.



**The Hereditary Knights of the Holy Roman Empire** (*Noble Tornearius and Armiger of the Holy Roman Empire*) was granted in 1637 by the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire to Nobile Giacomo Testaferrata de Robertis, Patrizio Messina to his legitimate male to male descendants.

**The Hereditary Knights of the Holy Roman Empire** (*Noble Tornearius and Armiger of the Holy Roman Empire*) to Massilimiliano Balsano on 1698 by the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire to his legitimate male to male descendants.

**The Patrizio Romano** was created 1735 to *Conte* Ignazio Wizzini Paleologo and in 1744 to *Conte* Serafino Ciantar. To their legitimate male to male descendants.



**The Patrizio Messina** was created on 1792 to *Marchese* Don Mario Testaferrata Castelletti, *Marchese* Don Daniele Testaferrata Castelletti, *Marchese* Pandolfo Testaferrata de Noto, *Barone* Pietro Paolo Testaferrata by



**Hereditary Knight Borgsky of the Order of St John of Russia** in the Empire of Russia is presently held by Chevalier Anton III Borgsky, 9<sup>th</sup> Hereditary Knight., (1975-.

**Hereditary Knight Grimov of the Order of St John of Russia** in the Empire of Russia is presently held by Chevalier Angelo IV Gimov, (1965-, 10<sup>th</sup> Hereditary Knight.

#### 7- Russian Maltese Order of St John remainders:

**Barony Callejov** of the Empire of Russia, created in 1799 is presently held by Baron Jan Callejasky, 10<sup>th</sup> Barone, (1975-.

**Barony Saidov** of the Empire of Russia, created in 1799 is presently held by Baron Paul Saidov, (1985-, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron.

**Baron Deseriov** of the Empire of Russia, created in 1799 is presently held by Baron Nicholas VI Deseriov, (1995-, 15<sup>th</sup> Baron.

**Baron Meliov** of the Empire of Russia, created in 1799 is presently held by Baron Teodoro VIII Mieliov, (1951-, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron.

**Count Isourdov** of the Empire of Russia, created in 1799 is presently held by Count Josef IV Isouardov, 7<sup>th</sup> Count, (1973-.

**Baron Agiusovsky** of the Empire of Russia, created in 1799 is presently held by Baron Antoine Agiusky, (1965-, 10<sup>th</sup> Baron.

**Baron Damatov** of the Empire of Russia, created in 1799, is presently held by Baron Stefan III Damatov, (1966-, 11<sup>th</sup> Baron.

**Principe Xuerebski** of the Empire of Russia, created in 1799 is presently held by Prince Xan Xuderebsky, (1972-, 8<sup>th</sup> Prince.

#### 8- Cyprian Titles created by Pretenders in Abeyance.

**Conte di Famagusta** created by Prince Eugene Matteo de Armenia on 1531 to Gio Leonardo d'Armenia and was succeeded till his last known male descendant, Giuseppe d'Armenia as 7<sup>th</sup> Conte c. 1785.

**Conte di Lapethia** created by Prince Eugene Matteo de Armenia on 1532 to Chiara d'Armenia and succeeded by her male descendants till Agostino Calabro as 4<sup>th</sup> Conte c.1674.

**Conte di Kolossi** created by Prince Jaimes Antonio de Armenia to Isabella d'Armenia on 1557 and succeeded by her eldest male descendants to Don Giovanni Ingunez, as 8<sup>th</sup> Conte c. 1797.

**Conte di Gastria** created by Prince Jaimes Antonio de Armenia to Giovanna d'Armenia on 1557 and to her male descendants. Title is in abeyance after her death.

**Conte di Kantara** created by Prince Jaimes Antonio de Armenia to Agnese d'Armenia on 1557 and to her male descendants. Last known descendant was Domenico Caber, as 3<sup>rd</sup> Conte c.1614.

**Conte di Buttavento** created by Prince Jaimes Antonio de Armenia to Paola d'Armenia and her male descendants. Her last known male descendant was Giuseppe Calabrese, as 5<sup>th</sup> Conte c. 1715.



**Conte di Bellapais** created by Prince Masi de Armenia to Pierre Provost, a kinsman by marriage on 1585 to his male descendants. Last known male descendant, Simone Prevost as 4<sup>th</sup> Conte in 1654.

**Conte di Kyrenia** created by Princess Isabella de Armenia to Gio Domenico d'Armenia on 1590 and to his male descendants. Last known descendant was Carlo d'Armenia as 7<sup>th</sup> Conte c.1848.

**Conte di Paphos** created by Princess Isabella de Armenia to Gio Maria d'Armenia on 1610 and to his male descendants.

**Conte di St Hilarion** created by Princess Isabella de Armenia to Francesco d'Armenia on 1610. His last known descendant, his son, Tomaso d'Armenia as 2<sup>nd</sup> Conte c. 1594.

**Conte di Morphou** created by Princess Isabella de Armenia to Giacoma d'Armenia 1610 and to her male descendants. Her last known descendant is Pietro Agius as 2<sup>nd</sup> Conte, c.1628.

**Conte di Larnaca** created by Princess Isabella de Armenia to Maria d'Armenia on 1620 and to her male descendant.

**Conte di Limassol** created by Princess Isabella de Armenia to Flaminea d'Armenia on 1620 and to her male descendant. Last known male descendant is Constantino Magro, 11<sup>th</sup> Conte c.1882.

**Duca di Pendia** created in 1692 Valletta by Nobile Domemichella Inguanez, Head of the Cyprian titularship to Nobile Alessandro d'Amato to his male heirs of this body. The title became dormant with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duca c.1773.

## References:

1. Maltagenealogy.com;
2. The Peerage and Knighthood in Malta, by CA.Gauci, 2018, Midsea books Ltd.
3. Armoriale delle famiglie Italiane (it.wikipedia.org).
4. Santfournier.org
5. Board of members of Maltagenealogy.com