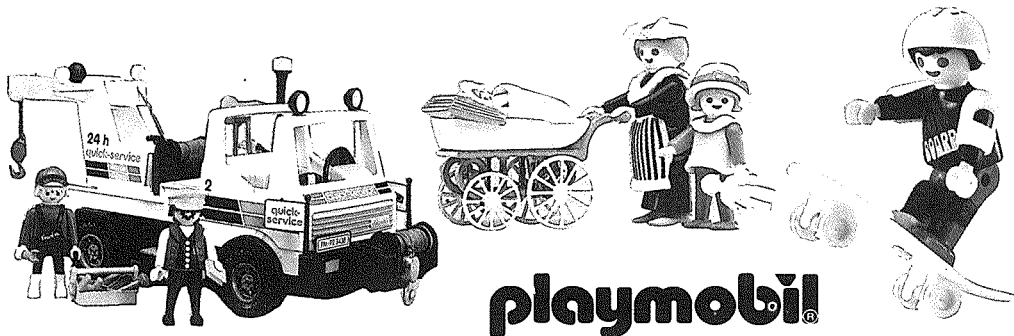


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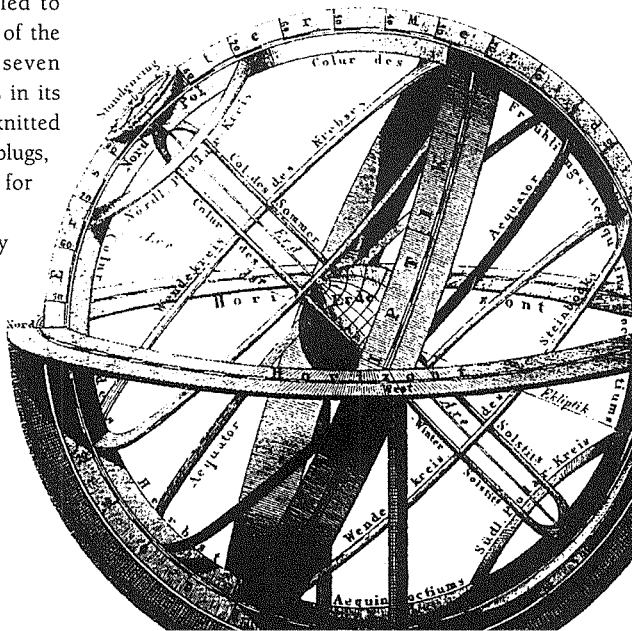
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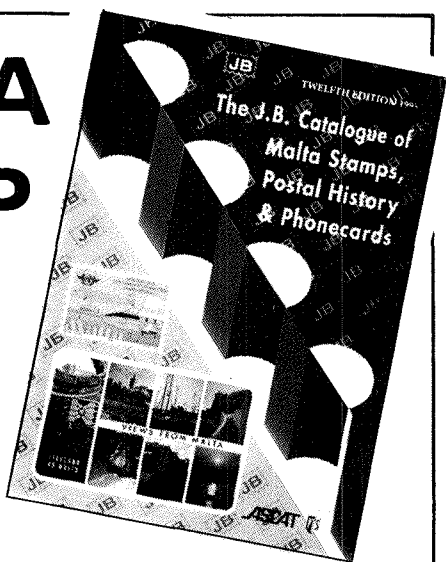
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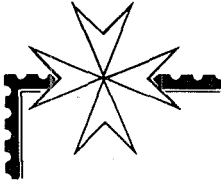
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Casa Bonnici, Sir Augustus Bartolo Street,
Ta' Xbiex, Malta.
Tel: 338437

Vól. 26/2

Hompesch Issue (Part Two)

August, 1997

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This issue is being dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Andrew P. Vella, OP, Professor of History, Royal University of Malta whose contribution by way of research material of this interesting period has been greatly appreciated by his students.

Colour separations for the Hompesch handstamp cover have been kindly donated by the Sunday Times of Malta and the colour separations for the portrait of Grandmaster Fra. Ferdinand von Hompesch has been kindly donated by Advantage Advertising Ltd.



Election
Grand Master
Ferdinand von Hompesch



200th Anniversary
1797 — 17th July — 1997

Issued by the Hompesch Commemorative Committee



Ferdinad von Hompesch (1797-1798)

by Dr. A. Bonnici, MD, KM

(Part 2)

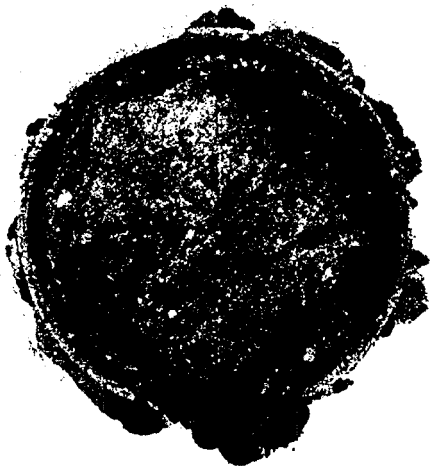
On the 17th July, 1797, Bailiff Ferdinand von Hompesch (1797-1798) aged 53 years was unanimously elected, as the 28th Grandmaster for Malta and the 72nd Grandmaster of the Order.¹⁻⁷ On the same day that Ferdinand von Hompesch became Grand Master he began informing the European Heads of State that were friends of the Order about his election to the Grand Mastership – and continued doing so up to the 3rd August 1797.

From the congratulatory letters he received we can deduce that he had informed the European Heads of States on the following dates:

17th July	Frederick Charles, Elector of Mainz
17th July	Emmanuel, King of Sardinia
18th July	Frances II, Head of the Holy Roman Empire
18th July	Donna Maria of Portugal
18th July	Ferdinand and Maria Carolina, King and Queen of the Two Sicilies
18th July	Ferdinand and Amalia, Duke and Duchess of Parma
18th July	Frediano Parenisi, Gonfaloniere and the Elders of the Republic of Lucca
18th July	John Francis, S.R.E., Cardinal Albans, Bishop of Ostia and Velletia to inform the Pope, Pius VI
18th July	Don Carlos and Donna Luisa, King and Queen of Spain
3rd August	The Burgomaster, Chief Provincial, Prefect and Councillors of the Thirteen Federated States of Switzerland.

As a rule, at the first meeting of the Venerable Council (in the case of Hompesch it met on the 19th July)⁸ after the election of a Grandmaster an ambassador was appointed whose duty would be to proceed to Rome and present the Pope with the compliments of the new head of the Order and pay homage on his behalf.⁹

Examining the congratulatory letters received from the Kings and Queens of Europe reproduced in their original text and reported verbatim with an English translation we learn that Hompesch started informing the Kings and Queens of Europe from the very first day of his appointment as can be seen from the dates quoted earlier. Moreover the Pope Pius VI, referring to the letter written on the 18th July and delivered to him by the Venerable Brother John Francis, S.R.E., Cardinal Albano, Bishop of Ostia and Velletia, pointed out that because Albano had executed his duties so well there was no need to send a second ambassador as was the custom.



8



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All' Eminentissima e Reverendissima Sig. No. Osservat.

A Gran di

Malta

Most of the letters, as was the custom in this period, were wrapped up in an entire having a Hompesch address panel and have beautiful embossed white paper wafer seals, but we do not find any postal or rate markings, except on one coming from Frediano Parenisi, Gonfaloniere and the Elders of the Republic of Lucca, leaving Lucca on the 12th August, 1797.

On the back of this entire, is the usual entry in manuscript of the date that the letter was received in Malta. During this period, Lucca formed part of Tuscany, together with Firenze - Livorno - Sienna, and had a very well organised postal system.

During this period a special black hand-stamp was used in the form of a heart with the words – **FIRENZE** or **LIVORNO** or **SIENNA** or **LUCCA** in script. There was a number underneath which denoted the week of the year the letter was handstamped. Our entire displays the heart-shaped hand-stamp with the words **PTINR**.

This **PTINR** hand-stamp was applied in Rome, as Tuscany had a Rome office operating as a staging/forwarding office for letters destined to Rome or further on. The words mean **Posta Toscana IN Roma**. The letter was written in Lucca on the 12th August 1797 and the number 33 under **PTINR** denotes that it was posted between the 12th and 19th August, 1797.

The entire bears a manuscript 12 which was the official payment from Lucca to Rome. We do not have any indication of the postage paid for the journey Rome-Malta. The hand-stamp **PTINR** applied in Rome was used for the first time on the 1st December 1793 which had the number 1, and ended on the 1st December 1807 bearing the number 49, this being the date the Tuscany-Rome office was closed because of the French involvement in that part of Italy.¹⁰

This entire is unique from the Malta postal history point of view. No other letter bearing the heart Tuscan hand-stamp with the words **PTINR** have been recorded coming to Malta.

-
- 1 ACM, MS 85, f.192
 - 2 For more detailed narration of the procedure of the election and the following festivities and ceremonies, I refer readers to Michael Galea's excellent study on the German Knights of Malta, p.121
 - 3 Panzavecchia. F. L'Ultimo Periodo della Storia di Malta, p.363, 368
 - 4 DeBosgelin Louis, Ancient and Modern Malta, Vol. 1, p. 42
 - 5 Scicluna H., p.60, The Church of St John in Valletta
 - 6 MNL, MS 261, f.293
 - 7 MNL, MS 453, f.252, 254, 264
 - 8 Galea, Knights of Malta, p.130
 - 9 Vella, Malta and the Czars (1697-1802)
 - 10 Paolo Vollmeier, I Bolli Postali Toscani dell Periodo Pre Filatelico Fino al 1851

*Reverendissimo et Illustrissimo Fer-
dinando de Compesck, Sancti Joannis
Hierosolymitani Ordinis Magno Magistro,
Principi devoto sinceri Nobis dilecto.*

*FRANCISCUS SECUNDUS, Dei
Gratia electus Romanorum Imperator, sem-
per Augustus, Germania, Hungariae et Bohemiae
etc. Rex; Archidux Austriae, Dux Burgundiae
et Lotharingiae, Magnus Dux Etruriae &c.*

*Reverendissimo et Illustrissimo Principi devoto sinceri
dilecto! Ex datis ad Nos Deoⁿⁱ p^{ra} literis de decimâ
octavâ elapsi nuper mensis Julii propense percipimus,
in locum defuncti Magni Hierosolymitani Ordinis
Magistri, Emmanuelis de Bohan, Ipsam omnibus
ad unum Suffragiis ab universo Ordine declaratam
fuisse. Cum verò peculiari semper propensione
insignem hunc Ordinem prosequamur, hinc in con-
spiciuâ gratissimâque Nobis Deoⁿⁱ p^{ra} Persona
dignum eidem Caput praefectum spe adeo acceptam
Nobis est, ut, quemadmodum de constanti suo compro-
batoque erga Nos, sacrumque Romanum Imperium,
Augustamque Domum Nostram studio persuasi omni-
no sumus, ita quoque Deo^{nem} p^{am}, Universumque
Ordinem Hierosolymitanum firmo Caesarea bene-
volentiae Nostrae affectu complectamur.*

*Datum Viennae die trigesima mensis Augusti
anno 1797 Regnorum Nostrorum Romani nec non
Hungarici et Bohemici sexti.*

Francisci

V. P. (Antonius Mauritus)

Antonius Mauritus à Kalchberg

Al Reverendissimo, Serenissimo Principe e Signore
Signore De Compesck,
gran Maestro del Sagro ordine di San Giovanni
Malta

Reverendissimi

Serenissimo Principe e Signore.

Vostre Eminenza con sua venerata Lettera dell' 5. Agosto
ci congratua darvi parte della sua Esaltazione alla prima dignità del
S. ordine di San Giovanni di Malta. Siccome Noi in questa obbligante
Notificazione abbiamo varcato con sommo piacere una singolare
e rigenera della amichevole benevolenza di Vostra Eminenza verso il
nostro Stato libero tutto, così ora ci diamo l'onore di avvertirvi
che prendiamo la maggior sicura parte all'elezione così degna ed
unanime di Vostra Eminenza in gran Maestro, e che bramiamo
cordialmente, che la divina provvidenza faccia prosperare il diletto
governo sino a tempi più remoti, e che sia per qualunque circostanza
folle.

Preghiamo l'Eminenza Vostra di continuare sempre l'amore
di cui ci assicura, e specialmente di prendere nella occasione
se presenteranno la più benigna considerazione dell'istituto dell'
individui della nostra Nazione esistenti nel S. ordine di Malta della
Lingua Tedesca Svizzera. Grato perciò ci sarà qualsiasi congiun-
tura di dimostrarvi le benevolenti premere di alta Steina colla quale
sempre siamo

Dato e chiusa a nome
comunemente col solito sigillo
di Stato del Cantone confederato
di Zurigo li 7. Ottobre 1797.

Di Vostra Eminenza
provocati a servizio
Borgomastro, Capo, prefetto Provinciale
e consiglieri degli Ill. Stati e a Noi uniti
Luoghi della Confederazione

All'Em^{te} Ser.^{ma} Signor mio Oss.^{mo}
il Sig.^{lo} Ferdinando de' Medici
Gran Maestro dell'Ordine
Equestre di Malta

Eminentissimo, e Reverendissimo Signor mio
Spervandissimo. e non voglio trala scian di
rilocijare a Vostra Eminenza Reverendissima la
Vasista di mi' alte' e' acrid... a' ho sua. M...
Reale. la Principessa Delle Due Sicilie Gran
Duchessa mia delottissima. Conforlo ha dato alla
Lucia in questo giorno, ben sicuro dell'interofe,
che Ella prende a tutte le contantez...
ella mia famiglia, e che lo farà grata la
potizia, che lo ne porgo in riprova della mia
considerazione verso la sua Persona, ed il
uo Ordine. E sinceramente mi confermo

Tuonze li. 4. 1707.

Affettuosissimo dell'Emza Vostra Reverend.^{mo}
Ferdinando

Monsieur,

J'ai reçu la lettre, par laquelle Votre Eminence vient de me
notifier son élévation à la dignité de Grand Maître de
l'illustre Ordre de Malte. Soyez persuadé Monsieur, de
la part bien sincère, que je prends à cet heureux événement,
ainsi que des vœux, que je fais pour votre prospérité par-
faite et pour celle de votre Ordre. Ce sera du reste avec
beaucoup de plaisir, que je verrai naître souvent les occa-
sions de prouver à Votre Eminence les sentiments très
distingués de considération et d'estime, avec lesquels je
ne cesserai d'être

X Dresde,
50. Septembre
1797.

Monsieur
de Votre Eminence

le très affectionné Ami
Frederic Auguste.

Comte de Loss.

Monsieur!

C'est avec un plaisir tout-particulier que j'ai appris par l'honneur de Votre Éminence du 17 juillet, que l'Éminent Grand-Maître Emmanuel de Rohan avait décidé, Elle a été élue à la dignité suprême de son Ordre pour l'unanimité des suffrages. Cette élection ne peut qu'ajouter à la haute idée qu'on se fait de ses formidables mérites et de ses grandes qualités de Votre Éminence, lesquelles se distingueront de jour en jour davantage, que la situation actuelle de l'Empire est critique. La divine Providence ne manquera de récompenser ses efforts pour le bien de l'Ordre, à la tête duquel Votre Éminence est placée, pour la protection particulière de sa Personne; et je Lui conserverai toujours les sentiments d'un vif intérêt et d'une haute considération avec laquelle je suis

Monsieur,
de Votre Éminence

Offenbourg
le 18^{me} Septembre
1791

Le très humble et affectionné
serviteur et ami
Frederic Charles, Electeur

à Monsieur le Grand-Maître de Malthe.

Monsieur,

J'apprends avec la plus grande satisfaction l'élection de Votre Altesse Eminentissime à la dignité de Grand-Maitre de l'illustre ordre de Malte, et je la prie de vouloir bien recevoir mes sincères complimens sur cet événement, et de me continuer les mêmes marques d'amitié et les sentimens de bienveillance, dont feu son Eminentissime Antécesseur a bien voulu m'honorer.

Je m'empresserai en revanche dans toutes les occasions de convaincre Votre Altesse Eminentissime et son illustre ordre de mon intérêt et de mon attachement, de même que des sentimens invariables et les plus distingués, avec lesquels je suis

Monsieur,
de Votre Altesse Eminentissime

Augsbourg
ce 9. septembre
1797.

Le très-humble et
très-affectionné Serviteur
Clement Archeveque
et Electeur

à S. A. E^{me} Monsieur le Grand-Maitre de l'ordre de S^t Jean.

Monsieur le Grand Maître. Les regrets que j'ai
sentis en apprenant la mort du Grand Maître votre
Prédéceseur, n'ont pu être diminués que par la
nouvelle que tous les suffrages de l'Ordre ont été
en faveur de votre Eminence, dont la sagesse & les
principes me sont très parfaitement connus. En
la félicitant très sincèrement sur son élévation
à cette Dignité, je la remercie de tout ce qu'elle
me a dit de flatteur tant en son nom qu'en
celui de l'Ordre réunis & la prie d'être très
persuadé que je ne cesserai de prendre part
à ses intérêts. Je suis au reste.

de votre Eminence

le bien affectonné Ami.

Paul I.

Gatchina
Le 30. Aoust
1797.

Monsieur le Grand-Maître

Je ne diffère point de donner part à Votre
Eminence de la naissance d'un Grand Duc,
que le ciel vient d'accorder à Mes vœux et
à ceux de Mon Empire. C'est le 28. de ce mois
que Sa Majesté Impériale l'Impératrice
Marie Feodorowna Ma très chère Epouse,
en est heureusement accouchée, et il a reçu
le nom de Michel. Les sentimens que Votre
Eminence m'a toujours témoignés ne Me
laissent pas douter de la part sincère
qu'Elle prendra à Ma joie. En revanche
c'est avec satisfaction que je s'assure de
l'intérêt que je ne cesserai de prendre
à Sa prospérité et à celle de Son Ordre

Je suis avec
De Votre Eminence
le bien affectionné ami
Paul.

St. Pétersbourg
le 31. Janvier
1798.

Prince Alexandre de Besborodko.

Au Grand-Maître de Malthe.

D. Ferdinando per la grazia di Dio Re delle due Sicilie, di
Gerusalemme &c. Infante di Spagna, Duca di Parma, Cra-
cenza, Castro &c. &c. Gran Principe Ereditario di Toscana
&c. &c. Molto Reverendo Gran Maestro dell'Inclita
Religion, Convento, & Ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme.
Mio molto caro, & molto amato Amico. Ho ricevuto con gran-
dissimo compiacimento la vostra lettera del 18 del passato
Luglio, che mi ha presentato il Abate Francese Ministro Cle-
nicopontario dell'Ordine, col quale mi partecipate, che per
la morte del Gran Maestro F. D. Emmanuel de Rohan, siete
stato eletto al Governo di questo sacro Ordine. Al gradimen-
to, con cui ho avuto questa vostra attenzione, vi unisco il
piacere speciale col quale ho ascoltato questa vostra elezio-
ne, per la giustizia, che con essa si è resa al vostro merito.
Potete esser certo della mia parzialità, e della propensione col-
la quale mi troverete sempre per compiacervi, e nel vostro par-
ticolare, ed in ciò che riguarda questo sacro Religione. Il
Signor, Molto Reverendo Gran Maestro dell'Inclita Religio-
ne, Convento, & Ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme, Mio mol-
to caro, e molto amato Amico, sia nelle vostre continuate guardia
Napoli 26 Agosto 1727.

Ferdinando. Ho
Fabrizio Beffo.

Q. Maria Carolina per la grazia di Dio Regina delle
Sicilie, di Gerusalemme &c. Duchessa di Parma, Piacenza,
Castro &c. Gran Principessa Ereditaria di Sicilia &c. &c.
Arciduchessa di Austria, Principessa Reale di Ungheria,
e di Boemia &c. &c. &c. Molto Reverendo Gran Maestro
della Inclita Religione, Convento, e Ordine di S. Giovanni di
Gerusalemme Mio molto caro, e molto amato Amico. Il Vostro
Grancon Ministro Plenipotenziario del Vostro Ordine mi ha
presentato la vostra Lettera del 14 del passato Luglio, colla
qual mi partecipate la vostra Elezione a Gran Maestro di
questa Santa Religione per la morte di F. D. Emmanuele de
Cohan, che vi ho preceduto. Ho accolto con particolar gradi-
mento questa vostra attenzione, ed ho avuto altrettanto so-
disfazione in questa vostra esaltazione. Vi assicuro della
parzialità, colla quale mi interesserò sempre all' vostro so-
disfazione, e al bene, e vantaggio della vostra Santa Religio-
ne. Il Signore Iddio vi abbia, Molto Reverendo Gran Maestro
della Inclita Religione, Convento, e Ordine di S. Giovanni di
Gerusalemme, Mio molto caro, e molto amato Amico, nella
sua Santa guardia. Napoli 26 Agosto 1797.

Maria Carolina

Gabriele Bussi

M. Mon cousin
Le Grand Maître de l'ordre de Malte

Mon cousin. Le Commandeur de Birague nous a présenté la lettre que vous nous avez écrite le 17. du mois passé, pour nous faire part du décès du grand Maître Emanuel Desjohan et de votre Election pour lui succéder. Un tel choix n'a pu à moins que de diminuer le regret que nous avons éprouvé en apprenant la perte que l'ordre a faite d'un si digne Chef, le voyant remplacé par un autre, dont les vertus, le mérite et les talens ne sont pas moins éclatants. Nous nous emprenons de vous en faire nos compliments de congratulation, et de vous assurer de la sincérité de l'intérêt que nous prendrons constamment à tout ce qui peut contribuer à vos satisfactions, ainsi qu'aux avantages de votre Ordre, saisissant avec un bien grand plaisir une aussi agréable occasion de vous témoigner la haute estime que nous avons pour vous et le cas distingué que nous faisons de votre personne. Sur ce nous prions Dieu, qu'il vous ait, Mon cousin, en sa sainte et digne garde. à Turin le 25. Août 1797.

Emmanuel

Dominicif

Au grand maître de l'ordre de Malte.

D.^{no} Fernando, por la Gracia de Dios Infante de España, Duque de Parma, —
Plasencia, y Guastala &c.^{no} Mui Reverendo, y de Gran Religion e Maestro del
Convento, y Orden de San Juan de Jerusalem mi mui Caro, y mui Amado —
e Amigo. e Me ha sido sumamente grato la noticia, que me dais en vuestra
Carta de 18. de Julio ultimo, de haverse servido el Omnipotente, promoveros
al Supremo Gobierno de esa Sagrada Religion; por cuyo suceso os doi la
mas expresiva enhorabuena, deseando en todas circunstancias manifestaros
en particular, no menos que en comun à Nuestra Religion la mas fina
propension, y buena voluntad: Idea mui Reverendo, y de Gran Religion
e Maestro del Convento, y Orden de San Juan de Jerusalem mi mui Caro,
y mui Amado e Amigo Nuestro Señor en vuestra continua guarda
Parma 18. de Agosto de 1797.

Fernando.

Bejar Centungla

Monsieur,

Jesuis, on ne peut plus sensible, aux Sentimens, que
V^{otre} Altesse veut bien me témoigner, en me faisant
Sart, que par l'Unanimité des Suffrages de l'Ordre
de Malthe, Elle a été élue son grand Maître.

Je Lui fais avec mes felicitations à ce Sujet, les Souhâits
sinceres, pour qu'Elle réceuille des Soins importants
attachés à cette suprême Dignité dans les Circoiustances
actuelles critiques del'Europe; le Succès, et le Contentent.
les plus complets. J'ij prendrai ainsi, qu'à la
Prosperité de l'Ordre, un bien vif Intérêt, et serai
toujours impressé, de conuaince V^{re} Altesse de la
Consideration distinguée, avec la quelle je suis,

Monsieur,
de V^{otre} Altesse,

Heugentheim ce 19. Aoust 1797.

V^{otre} affectionné Secrétaire,
Maximilien Francois
Electeur de Cologne

S. A. M. le grand Maître de Malthe.

Al mui Reverendo y de Gran Religión e Maestro del Convento, y Orden de S.^{to} Juan de Jerusalen mi mui Caro, y mui Amado Amigo.

D.^a Maria Amalia por la gracia de Dios Real Princesa de Hungría y de Bohemia, Archiduquesa de Austria, Infanta de España, y Duquesa de Parma, Plasencia, y Guastala S.^a Mui Reverendo, y de Gran Religión e Maestro del Convento, y Orden de San Juan de Jerusalen mi mui Caro, y mui Amado Amigo. He recibido con el maior goçio la Carta que me havéis escrito con fecha de 18. del mes proximo pasado, dandome en ella aviso de vuestra promocion al gobierno de esta sagrada Religión por fallecimiento del Gran Maestro Rohan. Me ha sido sumamente grata esta noticia; con cuyo motivo ó di el mas sincero parabien, asegurandoo de la parte que me ha cabido en este acontecimiento, como de que en quales quiera circunstancias anhelo acreditaros la fina aficion, que me merecui. Sea mui Reverendo, y de Gran Religión e Maestro del Convento, y Orden de San Juan de Jerusalen mi mui Caro, y mui Amado e Amigo Nuestro Señor en vuestra continua guarda. Parma 18. de Agosto de 1797.

Amim

Cyot Ventura

All'Em^{mo} e Rev^{mo} Signor mio Oss^{mo}
il Sig. Ferdinando de' Medici
Gran Maestro dell'Ordine equestre
di Malta -)

Cum gratissimo, et Reverendissimo et Signor mio
Osservandissimo. Ho fortita con sommo piacere
la giustizia, che si è resa al raro merito di Vostra
Cuiusmodi Reverendissima colla sua (sua) Ballazione
al Gran Magistro del suo Ordine, per il qual
professo i massimi riguardi, e Vell'avarzarle le
mie veraci Congratulazioni per la detta sua
Ballazione, e insieme i miei ringraziamenti della
paziosa partecipazione, che si è compiuta far
le espressioni del particolare ossequio, con
sinceramente sono

Firenze li 14. Agosto 1792

Affettuosissima dell'Emza. Vostra Reverendissima.

Luisa

Eminentissimo, e Reverendissimo Signore Nostro Osservandissimo

Dal pregiatissimo Foglio di Vostra Eminenza in data del 18. Luglio prossimo passato abbiamo col maggior piacere rilevato di essere stata inalzata al Supremo Grado del suo nobilissimo Ordine. Opera invero della Divina Provvidenza dee ravvisarsi la Elezione dell' E. S.^a, che colle sue sublimi prerogative saprà provvedere al bene, e vantaggio di sì inclita Religione tanto benemerita di tutto il Mondo cattolico. Nel presentarsi all' E. S. le nostre più vive congratulazioni, la preghiamo ad essere persuasa della nostra devota osservanza, pronti a contestargliela coll' opere nelle occasioni, e si presentino di poterla servire, mentre con particolare stima, e rispetto immutabilmente ci rassegniamo

Di Vostra Eminenza
Lucca 12. Agosto 1791.

Affezionatissimi Servitori

Frediano Paresi, Contaboniero } della Repubblica di Lucca
Pietro Caporioni

From Charles Theodore, Elector of Bavaria

Em^{mo} e R^{mo} Sig^{li}

Non potrei giungermi notizia più grata ed accetta di quella che
è piaciuto a Vostra Eminenza di favorirmi, della di Lei asunzione
al Gran Magistero dell'Ordine Gerusalemitano; L'unanime accla-
mazione che l'ha portata, con esempio nuovo, al Governo, anche
prima che l'ottimo suo Giudicio fosse annesso terminata la penosa sua
carriera, somministra la prova evidente non meno del merito dell'
Eminenza Vostra che del discernimento de' suoi Cavalieri; Io che
ho sommarmente a cuore il bene e la prosperità di codesto suo
Ordine, mi congratulo per una tale scelta e seco Lei, e più ancora
con l'Ordine medesimo; Simili Davanti nel contribuire ad una così
lodevole opera ed applaudita, hanno interpretata la mia volontà
e ne faccio loro testificare la piena mia soddisfazione. Sia
intanto Vostra Eminenza persuasa di ritrovarmi pronto in tutte
le congiunture a contribuire a tutto ciò che Ella stimarà di utilità
dell'Ordine suo, e di personale sua soddisfazione, onde renderla
con questo accertata di tutta l'estensione di quella verace stima
ed amicizia con cui sono - Monaco li 11 Agosto 1797.

Di V^{ra} Em^{za} R^{ma}

Alto S^{mo} Serv^o
Carlo Teodoro Elettor

al Gran Maestro di Malta.

Al Muy Reverendo y Sr. Don Manuel
Marcelino del Convento y Or-
den de S. Juan de Jerusalen.

Don Carlos, por la gracia de Dios, Rey de las Españas, de las dos Sicilias, de Jerusalen etc.: Muy Reve-
rendo y de San Religion Maestro del Convento y Orden de S. Juan de Jerusalen, mi muy caro y
muy amado amigo. Por vuestra carta fecha el diez y ocho de Julio proximo pasado recibí con mu-
cha gusto la noticia que me diereis de que por fallaciones del Gran Maestro Fr. D. Manuel se
Roban haveris ijs electos para suceder en el Magisterio de vuestra Religion. He tenido en ello muy
particular complacencia y de que tan alta dignidad haya caido en persona tan distinguida como
la, vuestra, asi por merecimientos, como por otras meritos y circunstancias personales. Errores como es
justo las expresiones q. con este motivo me hacéis, y os acuso de mi granitud, y de mi Dios se conuen-
ta a quanto pueda causar satisfaccion y calma en beneficio vuestro: no dudando q. d. de los vuestros
gustos se se animar en su mayor parte una Religion de quien se tan devoto. Y sea muy reveren-
te, y de. San Religion Maestro del Convento y Orden de S. Juan de Jerusalen, nuestro amor en vues-
tra carissima guarda. De S. Mateo a veinte y quatro de Septiembre de mil setecientos noventa y siete.

Yo El Rey.

Manuel del Convento

Al Mui Reverendo y de Gran Religio-
on Maestro del Convento y Orden
de S.^{ta} Juana de Jerusalen.

D. Luisa por la gracia de Dios Reyna de las Españas, de las Dos Sicilias, de Jerusalem &c. Mui
Reverendo y de Gran Religion Maestro del Convento y Orden de S.^{ta} Juana de Jerusalem mi muy caro
y muy amado amigo: da avisio q. me dai en carta de diez y ocho de Julio proximo pasado de
haver recido en vuestra digna y distinguida persona el Gran Abencerrage a vnestra incli-
na Religion, me ha causado muy particular gusto y complacencia. Si Dios a Vos y a la
Orden vuestra la ennobescena por este felice nuevo; y es ansuro a mi inclinacion a con-
currir con mi impulso a quanto pueda mas agradable. Vea Dios Reverendo y de Gran
Religion Maestro del Convento y Orden de S.^{ta} Juana de Jerusalem quanto tengo en vos
entra continua guarda. De S.^{ta} Barbara a diez y quatro de Septiembre a mil seiscientos
noventa y siete.

La Reyna
C & M

Manuel de los Rios

Dilecto Filio
Ferdinando de Hompesch
Hospitalis S. Iuanni Hierosolymitani
Magno Magistro.

PIUS PP. VI.

Dilecto Filii Salutem, et Apostolicam Benedictionem. Luctuosus Gijssolae Iuae die XVIII. Mensis proxime praeteriti datae Nuncii, citum Referens dilecti Filii Emanuelis de Robari Magni istius Hierosolymitani Ordinis Magistri, vehementer paternum Animum nostrum commovit, cum plurima eundem caritate, ac admiratione prosecuti simus, nihilque morae interposuimus, ut postremo in eum officio profunderemur, ipsius Animum divinae clementiae commendantes, quae plane confidimus, ut post Eligissae ab ipso praecae vitae confectum cursum, in sterna sit tabernacula Deo miserante Exceptus. Adorem hunc nostrum ex prima tuarum litterarum parte perceptum, darundem pari altera non medicriter lenivit, ac plane recreavit, ex quo nimirum intelleximus Te ipsum, Dilecte Filii, non fuisse secundae vacantis Magistratus diuturni omnium suffragantium consensu Electum. Quod insuper praecae Nobis indicio est, non nisi virtutem tuam Tibi ad eam Dignitatem fecisse gradum, ut praecae tante magis Eligissae Ordini tuo de hoc istissimo evenitu gratulemur, cum plane iudicemus dispositum divino consilio fuisse, ut illa haec perdifficili tempore ad moderandum Insuper Ordinis Clavum ascenderet, qui maxime opus et Eligissae studio, et singulari vigilantia, nec non et Christiana Animi fortitudine, prudentiaque instructus. Hanc divinam de Deo Providentiam minime dubitamus, quam spem dis constanti operati tua, omnique semper conatu, quantum in Te erit, perspicue probaturus, novumque in posterum in arduis sequenti. Eius praecae idem necesse ab omnium honorum ductore consecuturus. Quod vero ad Nos pertinet, Dilecte Filii, omnino velimus persuasum habere, nunquam Tibi, Universaque Ordini tuo Apostolicae huius Sedis gratiam, et omnia pro Vestra in Nos fide, ac observantia deputarum. Ita enim Animo comparati in Nos sumus, ut quamcumque opportuni totum nacti subimus ornandi Sacram Militiam vestram, mirandaeque Virtutes, quae praecipue ad Catholicam Ecclesiam bonum, divinaeque gloriae incrementa conferant, eandem semper vobis libentissime accepturi. Quem praecae habere Hierosolymitani Ordinis Protectorem Venerabilem Fratrem nostrum Joannem Franciscum S. R. E. Cardinalem Albanum Episcopum Suffraganeum, et Illiteratum, egit ille egregie pariter, apud Nos officij Vestri, siquidem ad eum pro sua in Nos studio, ut ad omnino eadem lites, rare cura statuerimus, alium ad Nos mittendi, pro Tibi, ac sui Ordinis obedientiae officij Nobis, et Apostolicae Sedis de more renovandis Extraordinarium Oratorem, cum tanta tamque grave verum temporum publicarumque rerum omnium difficultates, nec non et dispendia, id plane non sinant, qui propter insignem quam exponi voluntate tua satisfactum in ea parte Nobis jam esse declaramus. Interim Magistratum tuum, in quo Deo fauente ingressus es, singulari prosequimur felicitatis auspicio, ac Apostolicam Benedictionem Tibi, Dilecte Filii, ac In Christo universo Ordini ex intimo paterno corde deponendam persimul impertimur: Datum Romae apud S. Mariam Majorem sub Annulo Piscatorij die XI. Augusti M D C C X C V I

Corificatus

Costri

Anno

Vigesima Tertio

Benedictus Ray

ROMANORUM IMPERATOR

Reverendissimo et Illustrissimo
Ferdinando de Hompesch,
Sancti Ioannis Hierosolymitani
Ordinis Magno Magistro
Principi devoto sincere Nobis Dilecto.

Franciscus Secundus, Dei Gratia electus Romanorum Imperator, Semper Augustus, Germaniae, Hungariae et Bohemiae etc: Rex; Archidux Austriae, Dux Burghundiae et Lotharingiae, Magnus Dux Hetru-
riae.

Reverendissime et Illustrissime Princeps devote sincere dilecte!
Ex datis ad Nos Dev.nis V.rae literis de decima octava elapsi nuper mensis Iuli propense percepimus, in locum defuncti Magni Hierosolymitani Ordinis Magistri, Emanuelis de Rohan, Ipsam omnibus ad unum suffragiis ab universo Ordine declaratam fuisse. Cum vero peculiari semper propensione insignem hunc Ordinem prosequamur; hinc in conspicua gratissimamque Nobis Dev.nis V.rae Persona dignum eidem Caput praefectum esse adeo acceptum nobis est; ut quemadmodum de constanti suo comprobatoque erga Nos, Sacrumque Romanum Imperium, Augustamque Domum Nostram studio persuasi omnino sumus, ita quoque Dev.nem V.ram Universumque Ordinem Hierosolymitanum firmo caesarea benevolentiae Nostrae affectu complectamur.

Datum Viennae, die trigesima mensis Augusti, Anno 1797. Regnorum Nostrorum Romani nec non Hungarici et Bohemici, Sexto.

FRANCISCUS II.

W.P. Colloredo Mansfeld.

Antonius Mauritius a' Kalkhoffen.

PORTOGALLO

Al Reverendissimo e de Grande Religiao,
Poderoso Grao Mestre da Santa Caza
do Hospital de S. Ioao de Ierusalem,
Meu Como Irmao muito prezado.

Eu Dona Maria por la graçia de Deos Rainha de Portugal e dos Algarves d'aguem e d'alem marem Africa, Senhora de Guinë e da Conquista Navegacão e Commercio da Ethiopia, Arabia, Persia e da India. Vos envio muito saudar como-aquelle que muito prezo. Com muito prazer e grande contentamento Meu recebi a Vossa estimada carta de 18 de Julho do corrente anno, em que annunciando mã fallecimento de D. Fr. Manoel de Rohan, Grao' Mestre da Orden Hierosolymitana Me participaes haver des sido eleito para succeder lhe en tao' alta e suprema Dignidade. Cassim como o conhecimento que tenho das vossas mui distinctas qualidades Me faz louvar taõ acertada escolha assim a particular estimacão' e apreço em que tenho essa mui esclarecida Milicia de que ora sois benemerito e digno Chefe Me excitao' a dezerar

HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE

To the Most Reverend and Illustrious,
Ferdinand de Hompesch,
Grand Master of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem,
the faithful Prince and sincerely loved by us.

FRANCIS II, by the grace of God Emperor-Elect of the Romans, ever Augustus, of Germany, Hungary, Bohemia, etc., King; Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy and Lorraine, Grand Duke of Tuscany:

Most Reverend and Illustrious Prince, devoutly and sincerely beloved.

From the letters which You sent Us on the eighteenth of the late month of July We readily appreciated that, in place of the deceased Grand Master of the Order of Jerusalem, Emmanuel de Rohan, You have been declared [Grand Master] by unanimous vote of the whole Order. Since We have always honoured this distinguished Order with a particular interest, it is greatly acceptable to Us that in Your conspicuous person a worthy head, and one most welcome to Our Majesty, has been appointed to the same. Being wholly sure of its constant and attested devotion towards Us, the Holy Roman Empire and Our August Family, We clasp both Your Majesty and the entire Order of Jerusalem in the steady affection of Our Imperial benevolence.

Given at Vienna on the 30th day of the month of August in the year 1797, the sixth of Our reign over the Romans, as over the Hungarians and Bohemians.

FRANCIS II.

W.P. Colloredo Mansfeld.

Antonius Mauritius von Kalkhoffen.

PORTUGAL

To the Most Reverend of the Great Order,
Worthy Grand Master of the Sacred Hospital
of St. John of Jerusalem,
bound to me in brotherly love.

I, Dona MARIA, by the grace of God Queen of Portugal and of the Algarves, on this side and across the sea in Africa, Mistress of the Guineas and of the Conquest, Navigation and Commerce of Ethiopia, Arabia, Persia and India:

I send you many greetings, as one whom I greatly honour. I have received with much pleasure and great satisfaction your esteemed letter of the eighteenth of July of this year, in which, after announcing to me the death of D. Fr. Emmanuel de Rohan, Grand Master of the Order of Jerusalem, you inform me that you have been elected to succeed him in so high and paramount a dignity. And thus, holding your most notable qualities in such opinion, I cannot but praise this most excellent choice, in view of the particular esteem and respect in which I hold this illustrious Order of which you have become the

que se me apresentem multiplicadas ocaſiões de poder contribuir para tudo quanto haja deser a bem vosso e em ſervicio de huma Ordem que Eu tant prezo e que a Min tanto me merece.

Reverendiſſimo e de Grande Religiao Poderoso Grao' Mestre da Santa Casa do Hospital de Sao' Ioaõ de Ierusalem. Meu Como Irmaõ' muito prezado; haja Nosso Senhor a Vossa Persona em sua santa guarda.

Escrita no Palacio de Quelez a 14 de Outubro de 1797.

PRINCIPE †

Al Reverendiſſimo de Grande Religiao
e Poderoso Gran Mestre da Santa Caza
do Hospital de S. Ioaõ de Jerusalem
Meu Como Jrmaõ' muito amado.

Reverendiſſimo e' de Grande Religiao, Poderoso Grao Mestre da Santa Casa do Hospital de Sao Ioaõ de Ierusalem.

Meu como Irmaõ muito amado Emo. principe vos envio mutto saudar comõ aquelle que muito amo e prezo. A sensuel perda que acaba de experimentar essa esclarecida Milicia pela morte de seu Grao Mestre D. Fr. Manoel de Rohan, so podia ser interamente resarcida por vòs, que pelas excellentes qualidades a relevantes ſervicos, que vos distinguem tanto vos fizestes mercedor de ser por unanime consentimento da Ordem elevado av alto Emprego de seu benemerito digno Chese Etendo lu asmais bem fundada esperanças de que serà o vosso gaverno acompanhado das maiores ditas que the promettem a actividade de vosso zelo e a louvavel reputaçãõ que tao justamente haveis grangeado sinto em min redrobrados incentivos assim para felicifar vos pela vossa eminente e suprema Dignidade como para dezejær contribuir quanto em mimfor para o lustre e augmento de huma haõ veneravel Religiao, como quem reconhue o grande bem e proveito que della resulsa a toda a Christianidade. Reverendiſſimo e de Grande Religiao Poderoso Graõ Mestre da Santa Casa do Hospital de Saõ Ioaõ de Ierusalem, Meu Como Irmaõ muito amado; Nosso Senhor haja a Vossa Persona em sua santa guarda.

Escrita no Palacio de Quelez a 14 de Outubro de 1797.

PRINCIPE †

worthy and deserving head. These sentiments lead me to wish that many opportunities will present themselves for me to be of assistance in all that relates to you, and of service to such an Order, which I greatly honour and which deserves so much of me.

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Mighty Grand Master of the Holy House of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, whom I honour as a brother, may our Lord have your person in His holy vigilance.

Written at the Palace of Quelez, on the Fourteenth of October 1797.

THE PRINCE †

To the Most Reverend of the Great Order,
and Worthy Grand Master of the Sacred House
of St. John of Jerusalem,
bound to me in brotherly love.

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Mighty Grand Master of the Holy House of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem:

Much beloved Brother and Most Eminent Prince, I send you many greetings, as one whom I greatly love and honour. The much felt loss which this illustrious Order has just suffered through the death of its Grand Master, D. Fr. Emmanuel de Rohan, could be compensated for only by yourself, who, for your excellent qualities and the distinguished services which honour you, have rightly and by unanimous consent of the Order been elected to the high rank of your merited and deserved office. And realising the well-grounded hopes of your rule, which will be accompanied by the greatest and richest qualities promised by your active zeal and the praiseworthy reputation which you have so justly won, I feel redoubled my motives for congratulating you on this eminent and paramount dignity, as well as for desiring to contribute everything in my power towards the glory and increase of such a venerable Order, through which all Christendom benefits and greatly profits. Most Reverend of the Great Order, Mighty Grand Master of the Holy House of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, bound to me in brotherly love, may our Lord keep your person in His holy vigilance.

Written at the Palace of Quelez, on the Fourteenth of October 1797.

THE PRINCE †

CANTONI SVIZZERI

Al Reverendissimo, Serenissimo principe e
Signore de Hompesch,
Gran Maestro del Sagro Ordine di San Giovanni,
Malta.

Reverendissimo, Serenissimo Principe e Signore!

Vostra Eminenza con Sua venerata Lettera dell' 3 Agosto si compiacque darci parte della Sua Esaltazione alla prima Dignità del S. Ordine di S. Giovanni di Malta. Siccome Noi in questa obbligate notificazione abbiamo ravvisato con Sommo piacere una singolare riprova della amichevole benevolenza di Vostra Eminenza verso il nostro Stato libero unito; così ora ci diamo l'onore di avvertirle che prendiamo la maggiore sincera parte all'elezione così degna ed unanime di Vostra Eminenza in Gran Maestro e che bramiamo cordialmente che la Divina Provvidenza faccia prosperare il di Lei governo sino a tempi più remoti, e che sia per qualunque riguardo felice.

Preghiamo l'Eminenza Vostra di continuare Sempre l'amicizia di cui ci assicura, e specialmente di provvedere nelle occasioni, che si presenteranno, la più benigna considerazione dell'interesse dell'Individui della Nostra Nazione esistente nel S. Ordine di Malta della Lingua Tedesca Svizzera. Grato perciò ci sarà qualsiasi congiuntura di dimostrarle li sentimenti pieni di alta stima colli quali sempre siamo.

Di Vostra Eminenza pronti a Servirla
Borgomastro, Capo Prefetto Provinciale e Consigliere
delli XIII Stati a Noi uniti.
Luoghi della Confederazione.

Data e chiusa a Nome
commune col solito sigillo
di Stato del Cantone confederato
di Zurigo li 7 Ottobre 1797.

DUCA DI TOSCANA

All'Em:mo e Rev:mo Signor Mio Oss:mo
il Sig.re Ferdinando de Hompesch,
Gran Maestro dell'Ordine
Equestre di Malta.

Eminentissimo e Reverendissimo Signor Mio Osservantissimo.

Non voglio tralasciare di partecipare a Vostra Eminenza Reverendissima la Nascita di un'altr'Archiduca che Sua Altezza Reale, la Principessa delle Due Sicilie Gran Duchessa mia diletta Consorte ha' dato alla Luce in questo giorno, ben sicura dell'interesse che Ella

SWITZERLAND

To the Most Reverend, Serene, Prince and
Lord de Hompesch,
Grand Master of the Sacred Order of St. John
of Malta.

Most Reverend, Most Serene Prince and Lord.

Your Eminence favoured us with your esteemed letter of August 3rd, whereby you made known to us your elevation to the first dignity of the Holy Order of St. John of Malta. As, with great pleasure, we saw in this courteous notification a further outstanding proof of Your Eminence's friendly benevolence towards our free and united State, so we now have the honour of assuring you that we share with the utmost sincerity in Your Eminence's deserved and unanimous election as Grand Master, and we cordially hope that Divine Providence will cause your rule to prosper for many years, and that it will be fortunate in every respect.

We pray that Your Eminence's assured friendship will always continue, and especially that you will provide, as occasions present themselves, the most kindly consideration for the interest of those of our nation who are serving in the German-Swiss Langue of the Holy Order of Malta. We shall be grateful for any opportunity to demonstrate the sentiments of high esteem which we always entertain towards you.

Ready at Your Eminence's service,
The Burgomaster, Chief Provincial Prefect and
Councillors of the Thirteen Federated States.
At the seat of the Confederation.

Given and sealed in the common name with
the customary Seal of State of the Confederate
Canton of Zurich, 7th October 1797.

TUSCANY

To the Most Eminent and Reverend,
My Lord most observed, Sir Ferdinand de Hompesch,
Grand Master of the Order of Knights of Malta.

Most Eminent, Most Reverend, Most Respected My Lord.

I would not let go an opportunity of communicating to Your Most Reverend Eminence the birth of another Archduke, to whom Her Royal Highness the Princess of the Two Sicilies, the Grand Duchess my most beloved Consort, has this day given birth; being well sure of the interest which you take in all the happiness of myself and of my family,

prende a tutte le contentezze mie, e della mia famiglia, e che le farà grata la Notizia, che le ne porgo in riprova della mia Considerazione verso la sua Persona, ed il suo Ordine. E sinceramente mi confermo.

Affettuosissimo dell'Emza Vostra Reverend:mo
FERDINANDO.

Firenze li 3 8bre 1797.

L'ELECTEUR DE SAXE

Monsieur,

J'ai reçu la lettre, par laquelle Votre Eminence vient de me notifier Son élévation à la dignité de Gran Maître de l'Illustre Ordre de Malte. Soyez persuadé Monsieur, de la part bien sincère, que je prends à cet heureux événement, ainsi de voeux, que je fais pour votre prospérité parfaite et pour celle de Votre Ordre. Ce sera du reste avec beaucoup de plaisir, que je verrai naître souvent les occasions de prouver à Votre Eminence le sentiment très distingué de considération et d'estime, avec lesquels je ne cesserai d'être,

Monsieur,
de Votre Eminence
le très affectionné Ami,
FREDRIC AUGUSTE.
Comte de Loss.

A Dresde,
le 30 septembre,
1797.

L'ELECTEUR DE MAYENCE

Monsieur!

C'est avec un plaisir tout particulier que j'ai appris par l'honorée de Votre Eminence du 17 juillet, que l'Eme. Grand Maître Emanuel de Rohan étant décédé, Elle a été élevée à la dignité Suprême de Son Ordre par l'unanimité des suffrages. Cette élection ne peut qu'ajouter à la haute idée qu'on avait déjà formée auparavant des mérites et de grandes qualités de Votre Eminence, lesquelles se distingueront de nouveau, d'autant plus, que la situation actuelle de l'Europe est si critique.

La Divine Providence ne manquera de récompenser ses efforts pour le bien de l'Ordre, à la tête duquel Votre Eminence est placée, par la

and [sure also] that this announcement will incur your gratitude, since I tender it to you in further proof of my consideration towards your person and your Order. And sincerely I confirm myself,

Your Most Reverend Eminence's most affectionate
FERDINAND.

Florence,
3rd October 1797.

SAXONY

Sir,

I have received the letter in which Your Eminence notifies me of your elevation to the office of Grand Master of the celebrated Order of Malta. You may be assured, Sir, of my most sincere concurrence in this happy event, as also of my best wishes for your perfect prosperity and that of your Order. It will be, moreover, with great pleasure that I welcome frequent occasions of proving to Your Eminence the most distinguished sentiments of consideration and esteem with which I will not cease to be, Sir,

Your Eminence's most affectionate Friend,
FREDERICK AUGUSTUS.
Count de Loss.

Dresden.
30th September 1797.

MAINZ

Sir,

It is with a quite particular pleasure that I learned, from Your Eminence's honoured communication of 17th July, that on the death of H.E. Grand Master Emmanuel de Rohan, you have been raised to the highest office of your Order by a unanimous vote. This election could not but add to the high opinion one had already formed of Your Eminence's merits and great qualities, which will distinguish themselves anew, more especially now when the present state of Europe is so critical.

Divine Providence will not fail to recompense, by a particular protection of your person, Your Eminence's efforts for the good of the Order at whose head you have been placed; and I will ever preserve

protection particulière de Sa Personne; et je lui conserverai toujours les sentiments d'un vif intérêt et d'une haute considération avec lesquels je suis,

Monsieur,
de Votre Eminence
le très humble et affectionné
Serviteur et ami
FREDRIC CHARLES: Electeur.

A Schaffembourg,
le 17 septembre,
1797.

(A Monsieur le Grand Maître de Malte.)

L'ELECTEUR DE TREVES

Monsieur,

J'apprends avec la plus grande satisfaction l'élection de Votre Altesse Eminentissime à la dignité de Grand-Maître de l'illustre Ordre de Malte, et je la prie de vouloir bien recevoir mes sincères compliments sur cet événement, et de me continuer les mêmes marques d'amitié et les sentiments de bienveillance, dont feu Son Eminentissime Antécédesseur a bien voulu m'honorer. Je m'empresserai en revanche dans toutes les occasions de convaincre Votre Altesse Eminentissime et son illustre Ordre de mon intérêt et de mon attachement, de même que des sentiments invariables et les plus distingués, avec lesquels je suis.

Monsieur,
de Votre Altesse Eminentissime,
le très humble et
très affectionné Serviteur,
CLEMENT, Electeur.

Augsbourg,
ce 9 septembre,
1797.

(A S.A.E.me Monsieur le Grand Maître de l'Ordre de St. Jean.)

IMPERATORE DI MOSCOVIA

Monsieur le Grand Maître,

Les regrets que J'ai sentien apprenant la mort du Grand Maître Votre Prédécesseur, n'ont pû être diminués que par la nouvelle que tous les suffrages de l'Ordre ont été en faveur de Votre Eminence, dont la sagesse et les principes me sont très parfaitement connus En la félicitant très sincèrement de son Elévation à cette Dignité, je La remercie de tout ce qu'elle me dit de flatteur tant en son nom qu' en celui de

the sentiments of lively interest and high consideration with which
I am, Sir,

Your Eminence's most humble and affectionate
Servant and Friend,
FREDRICK CHARLES, Elector.

Schaffenburg,
17th September 1797.
(To the Lord Grand Master of Malta).

TREVES

Sir,

I learn with very great satisfaction of the election of Your Most Eminent Highness to the office of Grand Master of the Order of Malta, and I pray you receive my sincere compliments on this event and continue the same marks of friendship and sentiments of goodwill with which your late Most Eminent Predecessor was pleased to honour me. I will in return seize every occasion of convincing Your Most Eminent Highness and your illustrious Order of my interest and attachment, as also of the invariable and most distinguished sentiments with which I am, Sir,

Your Most Eminent Highness's most humble and affectionate
Servant,
CLEMENT, Elector.

Augsburg
9 September 1797.

(To H.M.E.H., the Lord Grand Master of the Order of St. John).

RUSSIA

My Lord Grand Master,

The regrets I felt on learning of the death of the Grand Master, Your predecessor, could not but be diminished by the news that all the suffrages of the Order had been in favour of Your Eminence, whose wisdom and principles are very perfectly known to me. In congratulating you most sincerely on your elevation to this high office, I thank you for all the flattering things you have said to me, as much in your

l'Ordre réunie et La prie d'être très persuadé que Je ne cesserai de prendre part à ses intérêts. Je suis au reste,

de Votre Eminence,
le bien affectionné Ami,
PAUL.

Gaticina,
le 30 août,
1797.

Traduction:

Monsieur le Grand Maître,

Je ne diffère point de donner part à Votre Eminence de la naissance d'un Grand Duc, que le ciel vient d'accorder à Mes vœux et à ceux de Mon Empire. C'est le 28 de ce mois que Sa Majesté Impériale l'Impératrice Marie Fedeorovna Ma très chère Epouse, en est heureusement accouchée, et il a reçu le nom de Michel. Les sentiments que Votre Eminence M'a toujours témoigner ne Me laissent pas douter de la part sincère qu'Elle prendra à Ma joie. En revanche c'est avec satisfaction que Je l'assure de l'intérêt que Je ne cesserai de prendre à Sa prospérité et à celle de Son Ordre.

Je suis aureste
De Votre Eminence
le bien affectionné ami
PAUL.

St. Petersbourg,
le 31 janvier,
1798.

Prince Alexandre de Besborodko.

(Au Grand Maître de Malte.)

RE DI NAPOLI

D. Ferdinando per la grazia di Dio Re delle Due Sicilie, di Gerusalemme etc: Infante di Spagna, Duca di Parma, Piacenza, Castro etc: Gran Principe Ereditario di Toscana etc. etc. etc.

Molto Reverendo Gran Maestro dell'Inclita Religione, Convento e Ordine di San Giovanni di Gerusalemme:

Mio molto caro, e molto amato Amico. Ho ricevuto con particolare compiacimento la Vostra Lettera del 18 del passato Luglio, che mi ha presentata il Bali Francone, Ministro Plenipotenziario dell'Ordine, colla quale mi partecipate, che per la morte del Gran Maestro F.D. Emanuele de Rohan, siete stato eletto al Governo di cotesto Sacro Ordine. Al gradimento, con cui ho accolta questa Vostra attenzione, va unito il piacere speciale col quale ho ascoltata questa Vostra Elezione, per La giustizia, che con essa si è resa al vostro merito. Potete esser certo della mia parzialità, e della propensione colla quale mi troverete sempre per compiacervi, e nel vostro particolare, ed in ciò che riguarda

own name as in that of the entire Order, and I pray you be assured that I will not cease to interest myself in your affairs.

Thus I remain,
Your Eminence's most affectionate Friend,
PAUL.

Gaticina,
30th August 1797.

Translation:

My Lord Grand Master,

I make no delay in informing Your Eminence of the birth of a Grand Duke, which heaven has just accorded to the wishes of Myself and My Empire. It was on the 28th of this month that Her Majesty the Empress Maria Feodorovna, My Most dear Wife, happily gave him birth, and he has received the name of Michael. The sentiments which Your Eminence has always shown Me leave Me in no doubt that you will sincerely share My joy. In return I have (great) satisfaction in assuring you of the interest I will not cease to take in the prosperity of yourself and of your Order.

Thus I remain,
Your Eminence's most affectionate Friend,
PAUL.

St. Petersburg,
31st January 1798.

Prince Alexander de Besborodko

(To the Grand Master of Malta).

KINGDOM OF THE TWO SICILIES

D. Ferdinand, by the grace of God King of the Two Sicilies, of Jerusalem, etc.; Infante of Spain, Duke of Parma, Piacenza, Castro, etc.; Hereditary Grand Prince of Tuscany, etc., etc., etc.:

Most Reverend Grand Master of the illustrious Religion, Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, My most dear and much loved Friend,

I have received with particular pleasure Your letter of the eighteenth of July past, which was presented to Me by the Bailiff Franccone, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Order, whereby You inform Me that, with the death of Grand Master F.D. Emmanuel de Rohan, You have been elected to the government of this Sacred Order. To the approval with which I received this attention of Yours goes united the special pleasure with which I heard of Your election, on account of the justice which it does to Your merit. You may be sure of the partiality and inclination with which You will always find Me ready to

cotesta Sacra Religione. Il Signore — Molta Reverendo Gran Maestro dell'Inclita Religione, Convento, e Ordine di San Giovanni di Gerusalemme, Mio molto caro, e molto amato amico — sia nella vostra continua guardia.

FERDINANDO.

Napoli, 26 Agosto 1797.

Fabrizio Buffo.

D.a Maria Carolina per la grazia di Dio Regina delle Sicilie, di Gerusalemme etc: Duchessa di Parma, Piacenza, Castro etc: Gran Principessa Ereditaria di Toscana etc., etc., etc: Archiduchessa di Austria, Principessa Reale di Ungheria e di Boemia, etc., etc., etc.

Molto Reverendo Gran Maestro dell'inclita Religione, Convento e Ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme, Mio molto caro e molto amato amico. Il Bali Francone Ministro Plenipotenziario del Vostro Ordine mi ha presentato la Vostra Lettera del 18 del passato Luglio, colla quale mi partecipate la Vostra Elezione a Gran Maestro di cotesta Sacra Religione per la morte di F.D. Emmanuel de Rohan, che vi ha preceduto. Ho accolto con particolare gradimento questa vostra attenzione, ed ho avuto altrettanta soddisfazione in questa Vostra Esaltazione. Vi assicuro della parzialità, colla quale mi interesserò sempre alle vostre soddisfazioni, e al bene, e al vantaggio, della Vostra Sacra Religione. Il Signore Iddio vi abbia: molto Reverendo Gran Maestro dell'Inclita Religione, Convento, e Ordine di S. Giovanni di Gerusalemme, Mio molto caro e molto amato Amico, nella Sua Santa guardia.

MARIA CAROLINA.

Fabrizio Buffo.

Napoli, 26 Agosto 1797.

RE DI SARDEGNA

A Mon Cousin,

Le Grand Maître de l'Ordre de Malte.

Mon Cousin,

Le Commandeur de Biraghe nous a présenté la lettre que vous nous avez écrite le 17 du mois passé, pour nous faire part du Décès du Grand Maître Emanuel de Rohan et de Votre Election pour lui succéder. Un tel choix n'a pu à moins que de diminuer le regret que nous avons éprouvé en apprenant la perte que l'Ordre a faite d'un si digne Chef, le voyant remplacé par un autre, dont les vertus, le mérite et les talents ne sont pas moins éclatants. Nous nous empressons de vous en faire nos compliments de congratulation, et de vous assurer de la sincérité de l'intérêt que nous prendrons constamment à tout ce qui peut contribuer à vos satisfactions, ainsi qu'aux avantages de votre

accommodate You, both as regards Yourself and in the affairs of this Sacred Order.

Most Reverend Grand Master of the illustrious Religion, Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Lord be Your constant guard.

FERDINAND.

Fabrizio Buffo.

Naples,
26th August 1797.

Lady Maria Carolina, by the grace of God, Queen of the Two Sicilies, of Jerusalem, etc.; Duchess of Parma, Piacenza, Castro, etc; Hereditary Grand Princess of Tuscany, etc. etc., etc.; Archduchess of Austria, Princess Royal of Hungary and of Bohemia, etc., etc., etc.:

Most Reverend Grand Master of the famous Religion, Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, My most dear and much loved Friend,

The Bali Francone, Minister-Plenipotentiary of your Order, has presented to Me your letter of 18th July last in which you inform Me of your Election as Grand Master of that Order on the death of F.D. Emmanuel de Rohan, your predecessor. I received your communication with particular pleasure, and felt the same satisfaction over your advancement. I assure you of the partiality with which I will always interest myself in what may satisfy you, and in the welfare and advantage of your Sacred Order.

May the Lord God, Most Reverend Grand Master of the famous Religion, Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, have you in His Holy keeping.

MARIA CAROLINA.

Fabrizio Buffo.

Naples,
26th August 1797.

SARDINIA

To My Cousin,
the Grand Master of the Order of Malta.

My Cousin,

The Commander de Biragne has presented to Us the letter which You wrote to Us on the seventeenth of last month to inform Us of the death of Grand Master Emmanuel de Rohan and of Your election to succeed him. Such a choice must needs at least diminish the regret which We felt on learning of the Order's loss of so worthy a leader, for We see him replaced by another whose virtues, merit and talents are not less outstanding. We hasten to send You Our congratulatory compliments, and to assure You of the sincerity of the interest which We constantly take in all that can contribute to Your satisfaction, as

Ordre, saïssissant avec un bien grand plaisir une aussi agréable occasion de vous témoigner la haute estime que nous avons pour vous et le cas distingué que nous faisons de votre personne. Dieu, aussi prions nous qu'il vous ait, Mon Cousin, en sa sainte et digne garde.

EMANUEL.

Damian.

A Turin le 23 Août, 1797.

DUCA DI PARMA

Al Mui Reverendo y de
Gran Religion Maestre del Convento y Orden
de S. Juan de Jerusalem,
mi mui Caro, y mui Amado Amigo.

Dn. Fernando por la Gracia di Dio Infante de España, Duque de Parma, Plascencia, y Guastala etc.

Mui Reverendo Y de Gran Religion Maestre del Convento y Orden de Suan Juan de Jerusalem, mi mui Caro, y mui Amado Amigo. Me ha sido sumamente grata la noticia, que me dais en vuestra Carta de 18 de Iulio ultimo, de averse servido el Omnipotente promoveros al Supremo Gobierno de esa Sagrada Religion, por cuio suceso os doi la mas exprésiva enhorabuena, descando en todas circunstancias manifestaros en particular, no menos que en comun á Vuestra Religion la mas fina propension, y buena voluntad: Y sea mui Reverendo, Y de Gran Religion Maestre del Convento, Y Orden de San Juan de Jerusalem, mi mui Caro, y mui amado Amigo Nuestro Señor en vuestra continua guarda.

FERNANDO.

Cesar Centurale.

Parma, 18 de Agosto del 1797.

L'ELECTEUR DE COLOGNE

Monsieur,

Je suis, on ne peut plus sensible, aux Sentiments que Votre Altesse veut bien me temoigner, en me faisant Part, que par l'Unanimité des Suffrages de l'Ordre de Malte, Elle a été élue son Grand Maître.

Je Lui fais avec mes felicitations à ce sujet, les souhaits sincères, pour qu'Elle recueille des Soins importants attachés à cette Suprême Dignité dans les Circonstances actuelles critiques de l'Europe, le Succès et le contentement les plus complets. I'y prendrai ainsi, qu' à la greatest pleasure of so agreeable an occasion of showing You the high esteem in which We hold You, and Our distinguished opinion of Your

well as to the advanage of Your Order, availing Ourselves with the person. We pray God, therefore, that He may have You, My Cousin, in His Holy and worthy keeping.

EMMANUEL.

Damian.

Turin, 23rd August 1797.

PARMA

To the Most Reverend
Grand Master of the Religion and Convent
and Order of St. John of Jerusalem.
My dear and beloved friend.

D. Fernando, by the grace of God Infante of Spain, Duke of Parma, Placentia and Guastala, etc:

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Master of the Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, my most dear and much loved Friend,

I was highly pleased to receive the news, which you gave me in your letter of the eighteenth of July last, that it has pleased the Almighty to advance you to the supreme rule of this Sacred Order, for whose success I offer my heartiest congratulations. I wish in all circumstances to show to you personally not less than to your Order in general my most exquisite sympathy and good will.

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Master of the Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, my most dear and much loved Friend, our Lord be your constant guard.

FERNANDO.

Cesare Centurale.

Parma, 18th August 1797.

COLOGNE

Sir,

I am entirely sensible of the sentiments Your Highness has desired to show me in informing me that, by a unanimous vote of the Order of Malta, you have been elected as its Grand Master.

To my congratulations on this subject I join my sincere wishes that you should gather, from the important cares of this high office in the present critical state of Europe, the most complete success and contentment. I will thus take a lively interest in the prosperity of the

Prosperité de l'Ordre, un bien vif intérêt, et serai toujours empressé, de convaincre Ve. Altesse de la consideration distinguée, avec laquelle je suis.

Monsieur de Votre Altesse,
le tres affectionné Serviteur,
MAXIMILIEN FRANCOIS,
Electeur de Cologne.

Mergentheim ce 19 août, 1797.

(à S.A.M. le Grand Maître de Malte.)

DUCHESSA DI PARMA

Al Mui Reverendo y de Gran Religion
Maestre del Convento,
y Orden de S.n Juan de Jerusalem,
mi mui Caro, y mui Amado Amigo.

D.a Maria Amalia por la Gracia de Dios Real Pricipesa de Hun-garia y de Bohemia, Archiduquesa de Austria, Infanta de España, y Duquesa de Parma, Plasencia y Guastala etc.

Mui Reverendo, y de Gran Religion Maestre del Convento, y Orden de San Juan de Jerusalem mi mui Caro, y mui amado Amigo. He' recebido con el maior aprecio la Carta que me haveis escrito con fecha de 18 del mes proximo pasado, dandome en ella aviso de vuestra promocion de esa Sagrada Religion y gobierno por fallecimiento del Gran Maestre Rohan. Me ha sido sumamente grata esta noticia; con cuio motivo ôs doi el mas sincero para bien, asegurandoos de la parte que me ha cabido en este acontecimiento, como de que en qualesquiera circunstancias anhelo acreditaros la fina aficion que me mereceis: Y sea mui Reverendo, y de Gran Religion Maestre del Convento, y Orden de San Juan de Jerusalem mi mui Caro, y mui Amado Amigo Nuestro Señor en vuestra continua guarda.

AMALIA.

Cesar Centurale.

Parma, 18th August 1797.

DUCA DI FIRENZE

All'Emo: e Rev.mo Signor Mio Oss.mo
il Sig.re Ferdinando de Hompesch,
Gran Maestro dell'Ordine Equestre di Malta.

Ementissimo, e Reverendissimo Signor mio osservantissimo.

Al voto pubblico che impremio delle rare qualità di Vostra Eminenza Reverendissima era di vederla elevata al Gran Magistero del Suo Ordine, si univa il mio particolare, che nulla in questa Circostanza po-

Order, and be always solicitous to convince your Highness of the distinguished consideration with which I am, Sir,

Your Highness's most affectionate Servant,
MAXIMILIAN FRANCIS,
Elector of Cologne.

Mergentheim,
19th August 1797.
(To H.H. the Grand Master of Malta).

PARMA

To the Most Reverend Grandmaster
of the Religion and of the Convent
of St. John of Jerusalem,
my very dear and very loved friend.

Dona MARIA AMALIA, by the grace of God Princess Royal of Hungary and of Bohemia, Archduchess of Austria, Infanta of Spain, Duchess of Parma, Placentia and Guastala, etc.:

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Master of the Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, my most dear and much loved Friend,

I received with the greatest appreciation the letter which you wrote me, dated the eighteenth of last month, giving me the news of your advancement to the government of this Sacred Order on the death of Grand Master Rohan. This news has given me the greatest satisfaction, and for this reason I give you the most sincere good wishes, assuring you of my due approval of this occurrence, as well as of my desire, in whatever circumstances, to accord you the pure affection which you deserve of me.

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Master of the Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, my most dear and much loved Friend, our Lord be your constant guard.

AMALIA.

Cesare Centurale.

arma,
18th August 1797.

FLORENCE

To the Most Eminent and Reverend:
My lord Most Observed Ferdinand Hompesch,
Grandmaster of the Order of Knights of Malta.

Most Eminent, Most Reverend, Most Respected My Lord,

To the public voice praising Your Most Reverend Eminence's exceptional qualities on seeing you elevated to the Grand Magistracy of your Order I unite my own particular acclaim, that nothing in the pre-

teva più vivamente desiderare, che di sentir prescelto un Soggetto, che ai più eminenti meriti accoppia il Carattere il più distinto, e che ha costantemente dato le prove le più convincenti del suo attaccamento alla mia Casa. Se in ogni tempo mi sono fatto un piacere di usare tutti i Riguardi all'insigne Ordine Gerosolimitano, non diminuirà certamente in me nella circostanza di vederla governato da un Personaggio, che stimo personalmente. Mentre dunque ho la soddisfazione di congratularmi della distinta Considerazione con la quale mi dico sinceramente.

Affettuosissimo dell'Emza.
Vostra Reverendissima,
FERDINANDO.

Firenze li 14 Agosto 1797.

All'Em.mo e Rev.mo Signor mio Oss.mo
il Sig.re Ferdinando de Hompesch,
Gran Maestro dell'Ordine Equestre di Malta.

Eminentissimo e Reverendissimo Signor Mio Osservantissimo.

Ho sentito con sommo piacere la giustizia che si é resa al raro esercizio di Vostra Eminenza Reverendissima con la Sua Esaltazione al Gran Magistero del Suo Ordine, per il quale professo i massimi riguardi. Nell'avanzarle le mie veraci Congratulazioni per la detta sua Esaltazione, vi unisco i miei ringraziamenti della graziosa partecipazione, che si é compiaciuta farmene e le assicurazioni del particolare ossequio, con cui sinceramente sono,

Affettuosissimo dell'Emza. Vostra Rev.ma
LUISA.

Firenze li 14 Agosto 1797.

GLI ANZIANI DI LUCCA

All'Eminentissimo e Revd.mo Sig:r Nro. Osservt.mo,
il Gran Maestro di Malta.

Eminentissimo, e Reverendissimo Signore Nostro Osservantissimo.

Dal pregiatissimo Foglio di Vostra Eminenza in data de 18 Luglio prossimo passato, abbiamo col maggior piacere rilevato di essere stata innalzata al Supremo Grado del suo Nobilissimo Ordine. Opera invero della Divina Provvidenza dee revvisarsi la Elezione dell'E: V:ra, che colle sue sublime prerogative saprà provvedere al bene, e vantaggio di sì inclita Religione tanto benemerita di tutto il mondo Cattolico. Nel presentare all'E: V: le nostre più vive congratulazioni, la preghiamo di essere persuasa della nostra devota osservanza, pronti a contestar-

sent circumstances could be the object of more lively desire than to see chosen, one, who joins the most eminent merits with the most outstanding character, and has constantly given the most convincing proofs of his attachment to my House. If at all times I have taken pleasure in expressing every regard for the distinguished Order of Jerusalem, this will certainly not be diminished by seeing it governed by a person whom I personally esteem; and I may congratulate myself on the outstanding regard which gives me the satisfaction of calling myself,

Your Most Reverend
Eminence's most affectionate,
FERDINAND.

Florence,
14th August 1797.

To the Most Eminent and Reverend my Lord
most observed, Ferdinand de Hompesch,
Grandmaster of the Order of the Knights of Malta.

Most Eminent, Most Reverend, Most Respected My Lord,

I have heard with the utmost pleasure of the justice which has been done to the exceptional achievement of Your Most Reverend Eminence by your elevation to the Grand Magistracy of your Order, for which I profess the highest regard. In extending to you my most genuine congratulations on your said elevation I include my thanks for the gracious communication which you were pleased to send me, to assure you of the particular respect with which I am sincerely,

Your Most Reverend Eminence's most affectionate,
LUISA.

Florence, 14th August 1797.

LUCCA

To Our Most Eminent and Reverend
and most observed Sir,
the Grand Master of Malta.

Our Most Eminent, Most Reverend, Most Respected Lord,

From Your Eminence's valued letter of the eighteenth of July immediately past, we took the greatest pleasure in gathering that you have been elevated to the highest rank in your most noble Order. The work of Divine Providence must in truth have made itself soon in the election of Your Eminence, who with your sublime prerogatives will be able to provide for the good and the well-being of such an Order, so highly regarded by the whole Catholic world. In presenting to Your Eminence our most lively congratulations, we pray that you may be assured of our devoted respect, which we are ready to prove by deed

gliela coll'opere nelle occasioni ci si presentino di poterla servire, mentre con particolare stima, e rispetto immutabilmente ci rassegnamo,

Di Vostra Eminenza affezionatissimi servitori gli Anziani, e
FREDIANO PARENSE,
Gonfaloniero della Repubblica di Lucca.
Pietro Catononni.

Lucca, 12 Agosto 1797.

L'ELETTORE DI BAVARIA

All'E.mo e R.mo Sig.re.
Il Sig.re. Principe Ferdin: de Hompesch,
Gran Maestro dell'Ordine di S. Giovanni, Malta.

E.mo R.mo Sig.re,

Non poteva giugnermi notizia più grata ed accetta di quella che è piaciuto a Vostra Eminenza di favorirmi della di Lei assunzione al Gran Magistero dell'Ordine Gerosolimitano; L'unanime acclamazione che l'ha portata, con esempio nuovo, al Governo, anche prima che l'ottimo suo Predecessore avesse terminata la penosa sua carriera, somministra la prova evidente non meno del merito dell'Eminenza Vostra che del discernimento de' Suoi Cavalieri; so che ho sommamente a cuore il bene e la prosperità di codesto suo ordine, mi congratulo per una tale scelta e seco Lei, e più ancora con l'Ordine medesimo; li miei Bavari nel contribuire ad una così lodevole opera ed applaudita, hanno interpretata la mia volontà, e ne faccio Loro testificare la piena mia soddisfazione. Sia tanto Vostr'Eminenza persuasa di ritrovarmi pronto in tutte le congiunture a contribuire a tutto ciò ch'Ella stimerà di utilità dell'Ordine suo, e di personale Sua soddisfazione, onde renderla con questo accertata di tutta l'estensione di quella verace stima ed amicizia con cui sono.

Di V.ra Em.za R.ma
e Aff.mo Serv.
CARLO TEODORE, Elettore.

Monaco, li 11 Agosto, 1797.
(Al Gran Maestro di Malta.)

ROME

Dilecto Filio,
Ferdinando de Hompesch,
Hospitalis S. Joannis Hierosolymitani,
Magno Magistro.

Pius P.P. VI.

Dilecte Fili Salutem, et Apostolicam Benedictionem. Luctuosus Epistolae Tuae die xviii Mensis proxime praeteriti datae Nuncius, obitum referens Dilecti Filii Emanuelis de Rohan Magni istius Hierosoly-

should an opportunity arise for serving you. Meanwhile, with particular esteem and unchangeable respect, we remain,

Your Eminence's most affectionate servants,
The Elders and
Gonfalonier of the Republic of Lucca,
FREDIANO PARENISI.

Pietro Catononni.

Lucca, 12th August 1797.

BAVARIA

To the Most Eminent and Reverend
Prince Ferdinand de Hompesch,
Grand Master of the Order of St. John, Malta.

Most Eminent and Most Reverend Lord,

I could not have received news more welcome and acceptable than that with which Your Eminence has been pleased to favour me, concerning your elevation to the Grand Mastership of the Order of Jerusalem. The unanimous acclamation which brought you, by a new precedent, to the ruling office, even before your most excellent predecessor had ended his difficult reign, is clear proof not less of Your Eminence's merit than of the discernment of your Knights; and having the welfare and prosperity of your Order very much at heart I congratulate not only myself but you also, and more especially the Order, on such a choice. My Bavarians, in contributing to so praiseworthy and popular an achievement, have carried out my own wishes, and I assure them of my complete satisfaction. Your Eminence may be certain that in all eventualities you will find me ready to share in everything you deem advantageous to your Order and satisfying to you personally, while you may be assured of the real esteem and friendship with which I am,

Your Most Reverend Eminence's
affectionate Servant,
CHARLES THEODORE, Elector.

Munich, 11th August, 1797.
(To the Grand Master of Malta).

ROME

To Our beloved Son,
Ferdinand de Hompesch,
Grand Master of the Hospital of
St. John of Jerusalem.

POPE PIUS VI

Beloved Son, health and Apostolic Benediction.

The sorrowful news, broken to Our Nuncio by your letter of the eighteenth of last month, regarding the death of Our beloved son, Em-

mitani Ordinis Magistri, vehementer paternum animum nostrum commovet, cum plurima eundem Caritate ac existimatione persecuti simus; nihilque morae interposuimus, ut postremo in eum officio perfungemur, ipsius Animam divinae Clementiae commendantes, qua plane confidimus ut post Religiosae ab ipso piaque vitae confectum cursum, in eterna sit tabernacula Deo miserante receptus. Dolorem hunc nostrum ex prima tuarum Litterarum parte perceptum, earundem pars altera non mediocriter lenivit, ac plane recreavit, ex quo nimirum intelleximus te ipsum, Dilecte Fili, rite fuisse secunda vacantis Magisterii die Unanimi omnium Suffragantium consensu Electum. Quod ipsum praeclaro Nobis indicio est, non nisi virtutem Tuam Tibi ad eam Dignitatem fecisse gradum, ut proinde tanto magis Religioso Ordini Tuo de hoc letissimo eventu gratulemur, cum plane judicemus dispositum divino consilio fuisse, ut ille hoc perdifficili tempore ad maderandum Incliti Ordinis clavum ascenderet, qui maxime esset et Religionis studio, et singulari vigilantia necnon et Christiana Animi fortitudine, prudentiaque instructus. Hanc divinam de Te Providentiam minime dubitamus, quin Ipse sis constante opera tua, omnique semper conatu, quantum in te erit, perspicue probaturus, novumque in posterum in arduis exegendis rebus presidium per Tuas preces ab omnium Bonorum Auctore consecuturus. Quod vero ad Nos pertinet, Dilecte Fili, omnino velimus persuasum habeas, numquam tibi, Universoque Ordini tuo Apostolicae hujus Sedis gratiam, opemque pro Vestra in Nos Fide ac observantia defuturam. Ita enim Animo comparati in Vos sumus, ut quacumque opportunitatem nacti fuerimus ornandi Sacram Militiam Vestram munerandique Virtutes, quae praecipue ad Catholicae Ecclesiae bonum, divinaeque gloriae incrementa conferant, eandem semper simus libentissime excepturi. Quem praeclarum habetis Hierosolymitani Ordinis Protectorem Venerabilem Fratrem Nostrum Joannem Franciscum S.R.E. Cardinalem Albanum episcopum Ostentium, et Veliterneisem, egit ille egregie partes apud Nos officii Vestri, atque ita egit pro suo in Vos studio, ut de omnino ea liberare cura statuerimus, alium ad Nos mittendi pro Tuis, ac Tui Ordinis obedientiae Officiis Nobis, et Apostolicae Sedi de more renovandis extraordinarium Oratorem, cum tante, tamque graves horum temporum, publicarumque Rerum omnium difficultates, necnon et dispendia id plane non sinant. Qua propter ea ipsa quam exponis voluntate Tua satisfactum in ea parte Nobis iam esse declaramus. Interim Magisterium Tuum, id quod Deo favente ingressus es, singulari prosequimur felicitatis auspicio, Apostolicam Benedictionem Tibi. Dilecte Fili, ac Inclito Universo Ordini ex intimo paterno Corde promptam peramanter impertimur.

Datum Romae apud S. Mariam Majorem Sub Annulo Piscatoris die XI Augusti MDCCXCVII, Pontificatus Nostri Anno Vigesimo Tertio.

BENEDICTUS STAIS.

manuel de Rohan, Grand Master of the Order of Jerusalem, deeply moved Our Fatherly heart, since We had honoured him with the greatest love and esteem; and We lost no time in performing him the last office, commending his soul to the Divine Mercy, in which We surely trust that the merciful God will receive him, at the close of a life religiously and piously spent, into the eternal dwellings.

This grief which We received from the first part of your letter was not a little lightened, and indeed made up for, by the second part, from which we understood that you, beloved son, had been duly elected, on the second day of the vacancy in the Magistracy, by the unanimous consent of all the electors. This We take as clear evidence that it was your merit alone which caused your advancement to this dignity, and therefore rejoice the more with your Religious Order at this happy event, judging it certainly to have been designed by Divine Providence, that he who should rise to the helm of the illustrious Order in these so difficult times might be the greatest both in religious zeal and in outstanding vigilance, and furnished with Christian fortitude and prudence of spirit. We doubt not that you will make it very clear, by your constant work, and your endeavour and the best of your ability, that it was this Divine Providence that chose you, and that you will for the future obtain from the Author of all good new help in the execution of your difficult task. It is for Us, indeed, beloved son, to see that you are completely assured that, in return for your loyalty and respect towards Us, the favour and help of this Apostolic See will never fail you and your Sovereign Order. We are so much one with you in spirit that We shall willingly take any opportunity We may find of honouring your Sacred Order and rewarding its prowess, which especially contributes to the good of the Catholic Church and the increase of the divine glory.

You have a distinguished Protector of the Order of Jerusalem in Our venerable brother, John Francis, S.R.E. Cardinal Albano, Bishop of Ostia and Velletria, who managed surpassingly well the duties of your office before Us, acting on your behalf with such devotion to you that We have resolved to free him altogether of the trouble of sending to Us another Ambassador Extraordinary to renew according to custom, your own and your Order's homage to Us and to the Apostolic See, since the great and so serious difficulties of these times and of all public affairs, as well as the expense, clearly do not permit it. We therefore declare Ourselves for Our part completely satisfied as regards what you set forth of your own initiative. Meanwhile We will honour as a particular augury of happiness the Magistracy upon which you have entered, under God's favour, and with ready pleasure We impart on you, beloved son, and on the illustrious Sovereign Order, from the bottom of Our fatherly heart Our Apostolic Benediction.

Given at Rome, at Sta. Maria Maggiore, under the Fisherman's Ring, 11th August 1797, the twenty-third year of Our Pontificate.

BENEDICTUS STAIS.

RE DI SPAGNA

Al Mui Reverendo y de Gran Religion
Maestre del Convento y Orden r S.n
Juan r Jerusalem.

D. Carlos, por la gracia de Dios, Rey de las Espana, r las dos Sicilias, r Jerusalem etc.: Mui Reverendo y de Gran Religion Maestre del Convento y Orden de Sn. Juan de Jerusalem. mi mui caro y mui amado amigo. Por vuestra Cassa fecha el diez y ocho de Julio proximo pasado recivi con singular gusto la noticia que me disteis r que por fallecimiento del Gran Maestre Fr D. Manuel de Rohan haviais sido electo para sucederele en el Magisterio r vuestra Religion. He tenido en ello mui particular complacencia y r que tan alta dignidad haya recaido en persona tan distinguida como la vuestra, asi por nacimiento, como por otros meritos y circunstancias personales. Estimo como es gusto las espresiones q.e con este motibo me haceis, y os aseguro r mi gratitud y r mi deseo r concursia quanto pueda causaros satisfaccion y ceder en beneficio vuestro: no dudando yo q.e baso vuestro gobierno ha r continuar en su mayor lustre una Religion de quien soi tan devoto. Y sea mui Reverendo y de Gran Religion Maestra rl Convento y Orden r S.n Juan de Jerusalem, Nuestro Senor en vuestra continua guarda. De S.n Ildefonso aviente y quatro de Septiembre e mil setecientos noventa y siete.

Yo el Rey etc.
MANUEL DE GODOY.

Al Mui Reverendo y de Gran Religion
Maestre rl Convento y Orden
r S.n Juan r Jerusalem.

D. Luisa por la gracia de Dios Reyna de las Espanas, de las dos Sicilias, de Jerusalem etc.

Mui Reverendo y de Gran Religion Maestre del Convento y Orden de Sn. Juan de Jerusalem mi mui caro y mui amado amigo. La noticia q'e mi dais en cassa r diez y ocho r Julio proximo pasado de havez recaido en vuestra digna y distinguida persona al Gran Maestrazzo r vuestra inclita Religion, me ha causado mui particular gusto y complacencia: Os dos a Vos y ala Orden mi.sma la enorabuena por esse felix suceso: y os aseguro r mi incliniacion á concurrir con mi influxo á quanto puedo seros agreable. Y sea Mui Reverendo y de Gran Religion Maestre del Convento y Orden r Sn. Juan r Jerusalem. Nuestro Senor en Vuestra continua guarda. De Sn. Ildefonso a veinte y quatro de Septiembre r mil setecientos noventa y siete.

LA REYNA.

Manuel de Godoy.

SPAIN

To the Most Reverend Grandmaster of
the Religion and Convent and Order
of St. John of Jerusalem.

Don CARLOS, by the grace of God King of the Spains, of the
Two Sicilies, of Jerusalem, etc.:

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Master of the Convent and
Order of St. John of Jerusalem, My most dear and much loved Friend,

From Your dispatch of the eighteenth of July last I received with singular pleasure the news which You communicate to Me, that, on the death of the Grand Master Fr L. Emmanuel de Rohan, You have been elected to succeed him in the Magistracy of Your Order. I have taken the most particular pleasure that so high a dignity has passed to a person as distinguished as Yourself, both by birth and by other merits and personal circumstances. I thank You for Your kind expressions in My regard, and I assure You of My gratitude and My desire to assist as much as possible in what may cause You satisfaction and bring You benefit. I do not doubt that under Your rule an Order to which I am so devoted will continue in its greatest lustre.

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Master of the Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, our Lord be Your constant guard.

From San Ildefonso, the Twenty-Fourth of September, Seventeen
Ninety-Seven.

I. The King, etc.

Manuel de Godoy.

To the Most Reverend Grandmaster of
the Religion and Convent and Order of
St. John of Jerusalem.

Dona LUISA, by the grace of God Queen of the Spains, of the
Two Sicilies, of Jerusalem, etc.:

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Master of the Convent and
Order of St. John of Jerusalem, My most dear and much loved Friend,

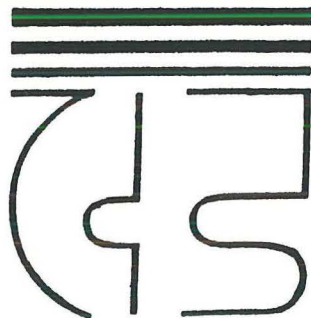
The news which You give Me in the post of the eighteenth of July last, that You have received in Your worthy and distinguished person the Grand Mastership of Your illustrious Order, has afforded Me particular joy and pleasure. I extend to You and to the Order My congratulations on the happy event, and I assure You of My inclination to assist with My influence in what may be agreeable to You.

Most Reverend of the Great Order, Master of the Convent and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, our Lord be Your constant guard.

From San Ildefonso, the Twenty-Fourth of September, Seventeen
Ninety-Seven.

THE QUEEN.

Manuel de Godoy.



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