

The Marquises of Fighine, Camporsevoli, Rigomagno, Montefollonico, and Castiglioncello

New Grand Ducal Fiefs for Allies and Loyal Families

In February 1606, Fighine was elevated to a marquise in favor of Angelo del Bufalo Cancellieri. A choice that goes back a long way and will not be the only one: almost a century earlier, Cosimo I had used enfeoffment to crown the careers of faithful servants (as in the case of Chiappino Vitelli in Cetona) or political allies, not neglecting to pursue the affirmation of the prince's power in a new arrangement. Simultaneously, the investitures, almost always granted as lordships (a lower title in the feudal coat of arms), represented an indicator of the growing authority of the duke compared to the territorial grids inherited from the republican state. Ferdinando I grasped the additional significance of investiture as an economic policy tool: the free allocation of challenging lands to wealthy patricians eager to become titled feudatories was supposed to represent, thanks to their hypothetical land investments and the financial recovery of the communities, a positive impact on the agricultural economy of the Grand Duchy.

Cosimo II introduced a further change in investitures, now granted on an onerous basis and accompanied by the more noble and coveted title of marquise, which carried the crown in the family coat of arms and had immediate financial benefits for the grand dukes. The first to be sold was precisely the land of Fighine, "dismembered" from the captaincy of Chiusi, transformed into a marquise, and acquired by the Roman Angelo del Bufalo Cancellieri.

From then on, investitures mainly concerned the new State of Siena, where at the end of the seventeenth century, twenty-two new fiefs were counted, among ancient and new ones. An acceleration that perhaps also contributed to a market price, for various reasons related to the wealth of the fiefs, demography, family strategies, recorded very modest costs when compared to the buying and selling of neighboring Lazio fiefs.

The recourse to feudal investitures intensified after the first two decades of the seventeenth century: if the fiefs created by Cosimo I were only seven — Sassetta, Monte San Savino, Magliano, Castiglione d'Orcia, Caldana, Roccalbegna, and Cetona — there were about sixty created at the end of the seventeenth century, in a context of governance marked by a bureaucratization of feudal power. Feudal investiture reconciled individual aspirations for social ascent with a model of governance alternative to the state administrative structure. Ferdinando I initiated a mechanism of deep interpenetration between imperial and grand ducal feudatories, made evident by the investitures: the Bourbons of Monte Santa Maria became grand ducal marquises of Piancastagnaio in 1601; Sinolfo II Ottieri, the last sovereign count of Castellottieri (a county annexed to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany), received the marquise of Rigomagno in 1618; in the same year, "the Castle of Monte Follonica with the entire district and jurisdiction was erected into a grand ducal fief at the request of Lady Claudia d'Albon, widow of Captain Camillo Coppoli being conferred by Cosimo II with the title of marquise to the knight Francesco Coppoli, her son or to his male descendants in order of primogeniture (...)." Ferdinando I and Cosimo II sought to integrate feudal lords and lords of ancient origin into the grand ducal system, sealing paths of loyalty and accreditation built on military, courtly, and above all diplomatic careers: the case of Count Federigo Barbolani di

Montauto, who became the governor of Siena with Cosimo I in 1567, is a paradigm of the graft between nobility and government roles. The rationalizing instance of territorial governance was expressed in the internal administrative simplification that the fief brought with it, with evident benefit to the vassals who were exempted from different and distant jurisdictions, often difficult to reach. Only for the fiefs of the new Siennese State remained the control of the Magistratura dei Quattro, nonexistent in the Florentine one. In 1630, Camporsevoli was granted as a fief to the Florentine Giugni family, still with the marquisate title. Castiglioncello del Trinoro was declared a fief in 1646 by Grand Duke Ferdinando II and granted to Roberto Cennini from Sarteano, brother of Cardinal Francesco, almost a century after the conquest of Chiappino Vitelli. By the way, after the surrender, Chiappino allowed the sixty soldiers and Captain Francesco d'Urbino to be accompanied by a trumpeter to Chiusi (which was still in Senese hands). This was a marquisate entrusted to a local family, flourishing since the XIII century with the surname Salamandri, which included scholars of law and public administrators, distinguished religious figures, and even a blessed one. Roberto was a man of vast intellect and great legal culture, thanks also to his studies at the University of Siena. Until 1621, he remained in the Siennese State. Then, thanks also to his brother (who established his summer residence in the nearby Paciano, where he boasted the generosity of the church of San Carlo Borromeo), he became the governor of Sutri, Todi, Rieti, Faenza, Imola, and Perugia, which granted him honorary citizenship and the lordship of the Montalera castle. As in other cases, the marquisate was renewed to the heirs, starting from Roberto's son (who took the same name as his uncle), in turn, a protagonist of an important career: he was a referendary of the segnatura, prelate of the consulta, governor of Fano, and legate of Romagna. In Sarteano, there is the fifteenth-century palace built by Cennino, which gave the name to the family. As for the imposing fortress, it was entrusted by Ferdinando I de' Medici, in 1590, to Eusachio Fanelli, a member of another ancient family (already appearing in the first municipal statute), related to the Gabrielli, counts of Gubbio.

Bibliografia

S. Calonaci. GIURISDIZIONE E FEDELTA': POTERI FEUDALI DENTRO LO STATO MEDICEO