

Quatuor Coronati 2023 Conference

Inventing the Future: the 1723 Constitutions

Marking 300 years since the publication of the first Constitutions of the Freemasons

AT QUEENS' COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE ENGLAND

22 - 24 September 2023

THE LONG CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND FREEMASONRY:

A CLASH FROM POLITICAL AND CULTURAL ROOTS

RICERCA DI DOCUMENTI E TESTI A CURA
DI ARTINI LUCIO E MARTINO CARTELLA
TRADUZIONE A CURA DI MARTINO CARTELLA



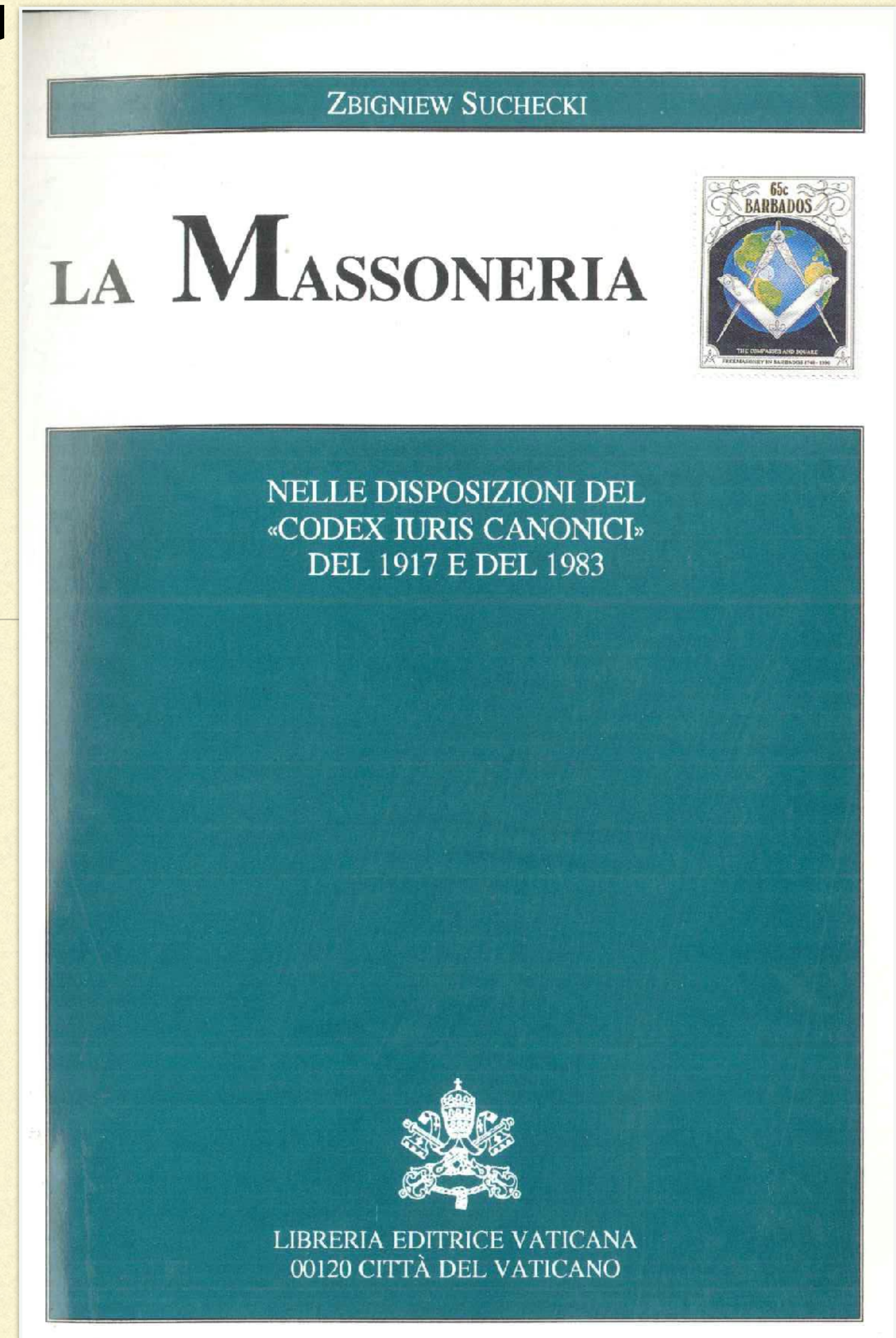
**The State of the
Church divided
the Peninsula in
two**

3000 DOCUMENTS CONDEMNING FREEMASONRY

Father Paolino Esposito Rosario Franco found about 3000 documents condemning the Catholic Church towards Freemasonry.

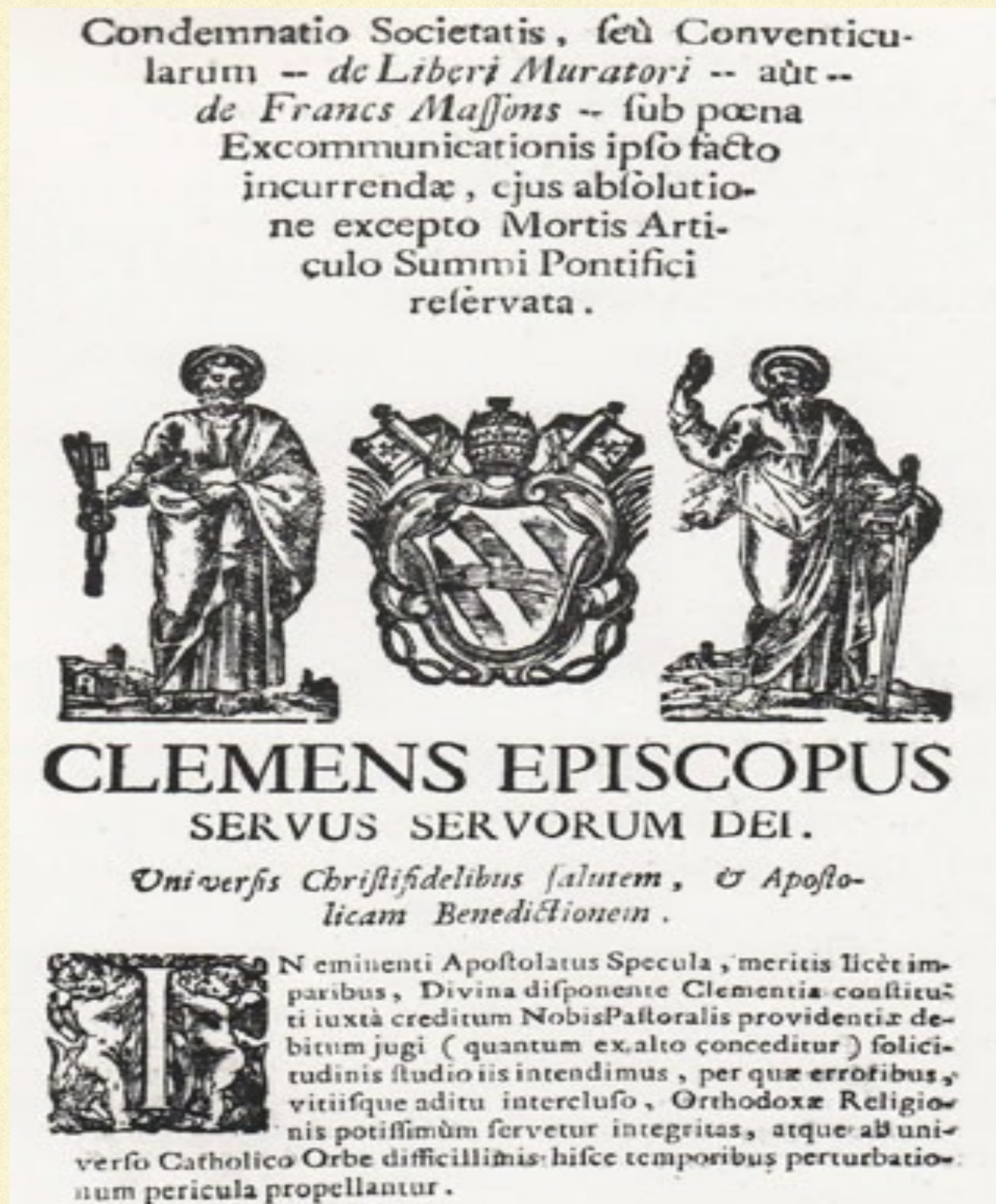
In another text "Church and Freemasonry" the Conventual Franciscan Father Zbigniew Sucheki, identifies 600 documents drawn up by various Popes against Freemasonry.

The text publishes the minutes of the Plenary Congregation that the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law held from 20 to 29 October 1981.



THE FIRST EXCOMMUNICATION

“In Eminenti Apostolatus Specula” was published on the 28th of April 1738



- The first result of the conflict was the excommunication by Pope Clement XII (Lorenzo Corsini, 1652-1740) in 1738
- The Pope condemned the so-called associations of “Free Masons or des Francs Maçons” by ordering bishops to act against the Masons, they were suspected of heresy

THE FIRST EXCOMMUNICATION:
CLEMENTE XII - LORENZO CORSINI
(1652 - 1740)

The Bull 'In Eminent Apostolatus Specula'
was published on 28 April 1738, Pope
Clement XII

Excommunicates Freemasonry as if it were a
Christian heresy, a Catholic organization that
deviated from the correct doctrine of the Church
of Rome.

An. C. 1738 366

BULLARIUM

CCXXIX.

*Condemnatio Societatis seu conventicu-
larum, vulgo De' liberi muratori, aut
Des francs massons, sub poenâ ex-
communicationis ipso facto incurren-
dâ, eius absolutione, excepto mortis
articulo, Summo Pontifici reservatâ.*

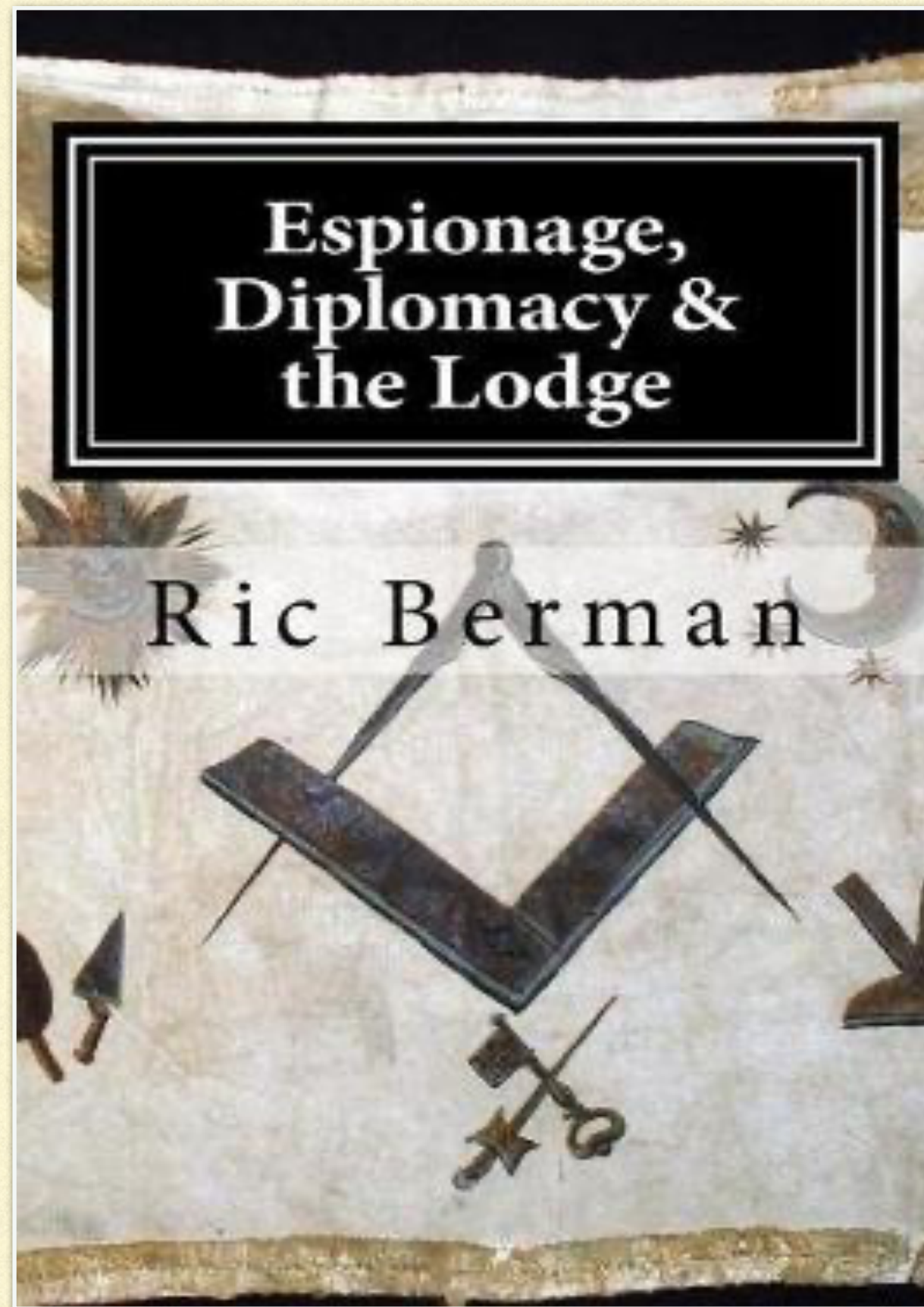
**Clemens episcopus,
servus servorum Dei,**

**Universis christifidelibus, salutem
et apostolicam benedictionem.**

Prooemium.

In eminenti apostolatus speculâ, me-
ritis licet imparibus, divinâ dispen-
te clementiâ constituti, iuxta creditum
nobis pastoralis providentiae debitum
iugi, quantum ex alto conceditur, sol-
licitudinis studio iis intendimus, per
quae, erroribus vitiisque aditu intercluso,
orthodoxae religionis potissimum serve-
tur integritas, atque ab universo catho-
lico orbe difficillimis hisce temporibus
perturbationum pericula propellantur.

***FRANCESCO STEFANO DI LORENA
GRAND DUKE OF TUSCANY
1708-1765***



Francesco Stefano (1708-1765) became the heir of Gian Gastone De' Medici and took over his possessions and titles.

Francesco Stefano is a Freemason, the Pope and other Florentine majors were in favor of the inheritance being passed on to one of the sons of Elisabetta Farnese, wife of the King of Spain.

A LETTER FROM CARDINAL NERI CORSINI DELIVERED TO FRANCESCO STEFANO DI LORENA

The Grand Duke should have expelled Stock and Milord Raymond in allowing the Inquisition to arrest two of the main culprits: *"pour arracher les recinse naissantes de sette et réduire yes actress à penitence.*

In addition, the Cardinal recommended a purge at the University of Pisa, removing suspicious professors and replacing them according to the suggestions of the Bishop of Pisa and Monsignor Cerati.



BARON VON PASTOR'S WORDS:



Una prova che la S. Sede stava sempre in vedetta dall'alto, quando si trattava di proteggere il Cristianesimo, fu data da Clemente XII colla sua condanna dell'associazione segreta dei Franchi Muratori pronunciata nella famosa Costituzione del 28 aprile 1738.⁸

The anti-Christian spirit of this society, founded in London in 1717, is clearly expressed in the constitutions published in 1723 by the Grand Lodge of London.....

English Freemasonry soon spread across the continent and favored by the establishment of England in the Mediterranean at that time, it also took hold in Italy

**THE LETTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY:
ABBOT GIOVANNI ANTONIO TORNAQUINCI (MARQUIS AND ABBOT, 1680-1764),
SECRETARY OF STATE, WROTE TO THE GRAND DUKE IN MAY 1739**

- **Tornaquinci informs the Grand Duke about Crudeli's arrest.**
- **British resident Ambassador Horace Mann (1706-1786) had suspended the arrest of Cerretesi**
- **Mann's authorization was required to be able to expel Baron Von Stock: "... it was to be desired more than anything else for the Good of Religion"**

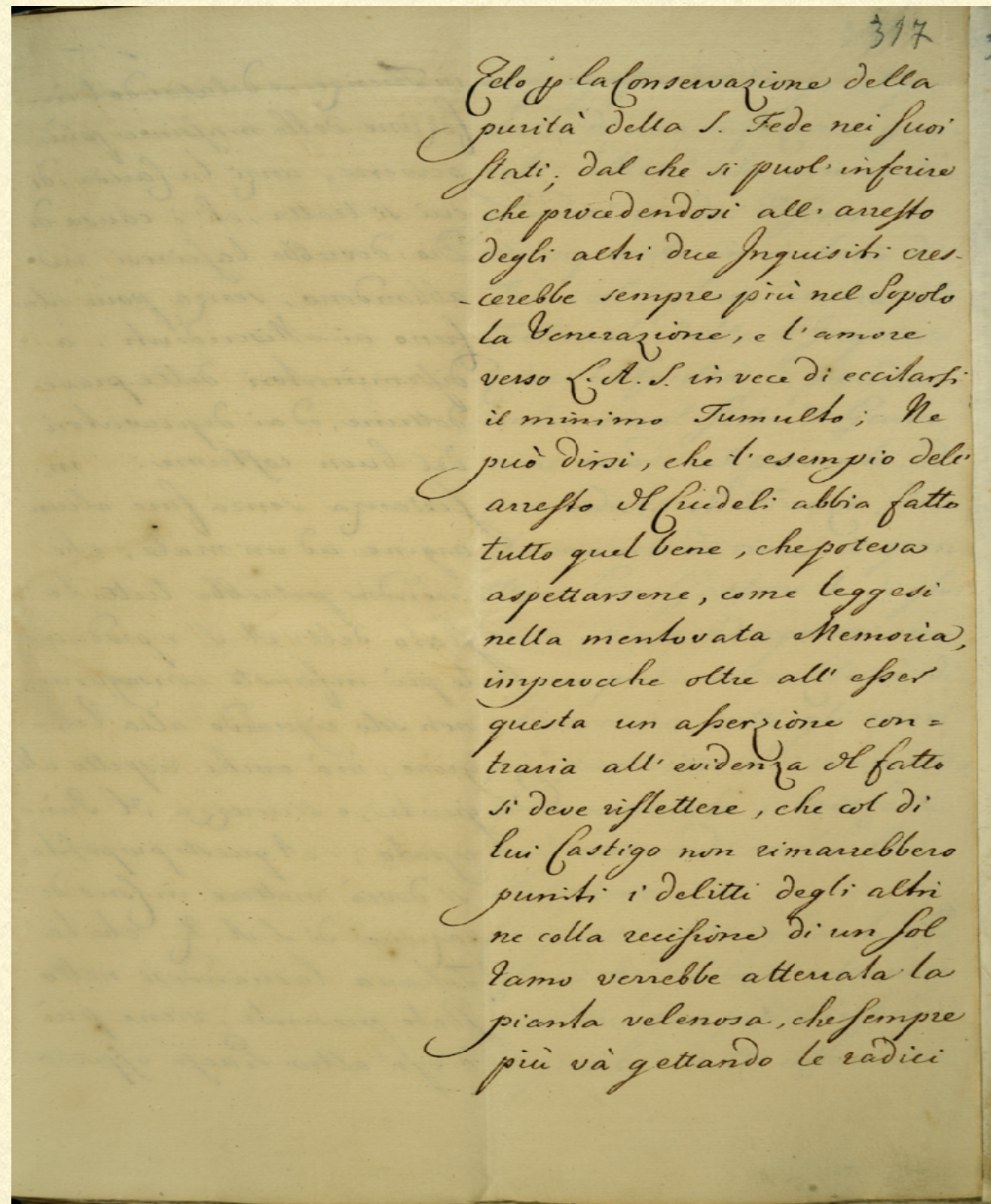
Maggio 1739

*Relaz.^o dell' Abate Tornaquinci sull'
istanza fattali dall' Inquisitor di Firenze
per l' arresto dell' Abate Buonacorsi, del Sr.
Crudeli, ed Gius.^o Cerretesi, che fu eseguito
nella persona della persona del primo,
e negato per gli altri due per essere il
Buonacorsi ammaliato, e sospeso per il
Cerretesi ad istanza del Ministro —
d' Inghilterra, fintanto che non venisse
dalla Corte d' Inghilterra la risoluzione
sulla remoz.^o dalla Toscana del Barone
Stock.*

State Archives of Florence - Council of Regency running 339
Letter from Abate Giovanni Antonio Tornaquinci (1680-1764), Segretario di
Stato to Grand Duke Francesco Stefano di Lorena - May 1739

FREEMASONRY IS A POISONOUS PLANT

The men of the Grand Duke then supervised the correspondence between Rome and Vienna



A letter dated 8 August 1739 attributable to the Pontiff himself or to a person who was very close to him

“The poisonous plant would be landed which more and more is throwing its roots in Florence and expanding the infection of the most perverse maxims”

THE 45 QUESTIONS

AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF HARSH DETENTION, TOMMASO CRUDELI IS INTERROGATED AND THE INQUISITOR ASKS HIM 45 QUESTIONS FROM WHICH IT CLEARLY APPEARS THAT CRUDELI IS DETAINED FOR THE SOLE REASON THAT HE IS A FREEMASON AND THAT THE INQUISITOR SEEKS A CONFESSION WITH WHICH HE COULD ACT AGAINST OTHER FREEMASONS IF NOT THE GRAND DUKE HIMSELF:

110 10

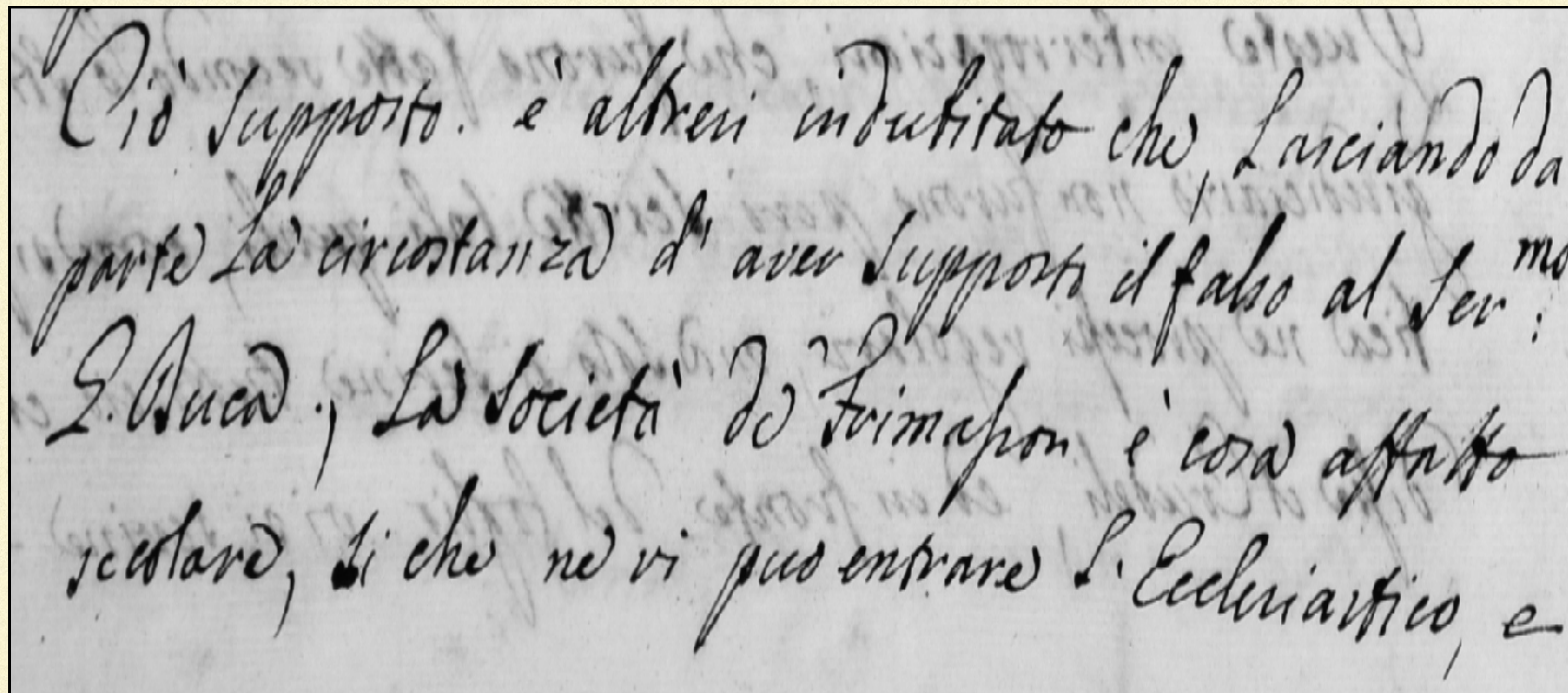
1. Qual' fosse il Ministro
2. nome dell' ufficiale
3. In che consista il firmamento
4. come si ammetta il nuovo firmamento
5. come si faccia il partito
6. quanto si spenda
7. quale sia il colore de' quanti
8. la benda sia formata
9. Quali siano i metalli che fanno lavorare
10. come sia il consiglio
11. se questo, che parla di dentro sia il maestro
12. che figura sia quella di gesso segnata in terra
13. quanti siano i nomi
14. come siano disposti
15. sopra di che teno posti
16. da qual parte sia il maestro
17. sopra di che dia il giuramento
18. Qual sia il libro sul quale si giura
19. Il testo delle parole del giuramento
20. qual divisa, o segno si dia al nuovo firmamento
21. se vi sia formula del giuramento
22. dica il testo del giuramento
23. se vi siano parole orrende
24. se vi sia altro
25. Cosa si parli a tavola
26. dica i nomi de' fiorentini
27. dica i nomi de' Inglesi
28. quanti in tutti siano i firmamenti

29. chi era maestro, quando entrò
30. quanto tempo sia spento
31. quanti maestri si sono nutriti
32. quanto tempo sia che si è introdotto qui
33. chi fu il fondatore
34. quanti ce ne sono quando entrò
35. di nuovo di nomi de' fiorentini di quel tempo
36. di nuovo di nomi de' Inglesi di quel tempo
37. quanto tempo era che fu instituito quando entrò
38. Dove la casa de' firmamenti
39. del nome proprio de' Galopi e de' congo (Infizial Tanga)
40. I nomi de' tre gran maestri
41. Del giorno dell' assemblea
42. Se dopo il pasto, quando si accendono i lumi si parli con la Deum del Divinum Luminem
43. Se io baccia, e abbia tutto ciò che mi bisogna, o altro e viddiano altre tali considerazioni
44. perché non si si mettano le donne
45. se tutti Inglesi erano da tavola tutti Bizzocchi e se quando si pose non tutti, allora l'Inquisitor replicò io se tanto dire che in Germania s'imbriacano alla foggia - e.g. non fa tutto.

Archivio di Stato di Firenze - Consiglio di Reggenza filza 339,
Letter from Minister Emmanuel de Nay Count de Richecourt (1697-1768) to Grand Duke Francesco
Stefano, sent from Florence to Vienna Firenze a Vienna - 18 august 1739

- **Writes the Secretary of Royal Law Giulio Rucellai (1702-1778), Ministry of Justice, Professor at the University of Pisa) on August 1739**

"The Frimasson Society is something quite secular, so that the Ecclesiastical can enter it, and much less the Inquisition, which can only belong to the causes of Faith ..."



Cio' supposto. e' altrrei indubitato che, Lasciando da parte la circostanza d'aver supposto il falso al ser^{mo} S. Aued. La Societa' de' Frimasson e' cosa affatto secolare, di che ne vi puo entrare l'Ecclesiastico, e

“there are many Catholic figures of importance even the Cardinals”

Su concessione del Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo - Archivio di Stato di Firenze - Consiglio di Reggenza filza n.339 - Lettera del Ministro Giulio Rucellai (1702-1778) al Ministro Emmanuel de Nay Count de Richcourt datata 12 agosto 1739

***POLITICAL REFORMS AND SCIENTIFIC
DISCOVERIES: A NEW AREA OF
CONFRONTATION***

After the arrests in Florence and the trial, there were no more active lodges in Tuscany and in the Papal State.

Hapsburg, with Francis I of Lorene his son Joseph II, showed a great toleration towards Freemasonry and the National Grand Lodge of Austria

In Italy in Southern regions, the presence of Queen Maria Carolina (1752 - 1814), was a most relevant one. She was married to Ferdinando I (1751 - 1825).



Maria Carolina da bambina (1752-1814)
Disegno di Jean-Étienne Liotard, 1762,
Musée d'art et d'histoire di Ginevra.
From Wikipedia

It was precisely this development in Campania and the rumors that Pope Lambertini was tolerant of Freemasonry that led to the second excommunication.

THE SECOND EXCOMMUNICATION

“PROVIDAS ROMANORUM”

IS AN ANTI-MASONIC BULL
BY POPE BENEDICT XIV
(PROSPERO LORENZO LAMBERTINI,
1675-1758),

PUBLISHED ON THE 18TH OF MAY 1751.

SANCTISSIMI IN CHRISTO PATRIS
ET DOMINI NOSTRI DOMINI
BENEDICTI
DIVINA PROVIDENTIA
PAPÆ XIV.
CONSTITUTIO

Qua nonullæ Societates seu Conventicula:
de Liberi Muratori, seu des Francs Ma-
çons, vel aliter nuncupata, iterum
damnantur & prohibentur:

C V M

Invocatione brachii & auxilii secularium
Principum & Potestatum.



ROMÆ, MDCCLI.

Ex Typographia Rev. Camerae Apostolicæ.

PROSPERO LAMBERTINI – POPE BENEDICT XIV

The Pope Corsini's bull was valid, Benedict confirmed and adopted it, by listing one by one all the reasons mentioned by Clement himself,

commenting and reiterating them:

- the existence of members devoted to different religions,*
- the secrets and oaths,*
- the threat to the governmental laws,*
- the fact that other Kings banished such organizations already.*



[Pierre-Hubert Subleyras, Papa Benedetto XIV, olio su tela, 1746, Metropolitan Museum, New York](#)
IMMAGINE TRATTA DA WIKIPEDIA

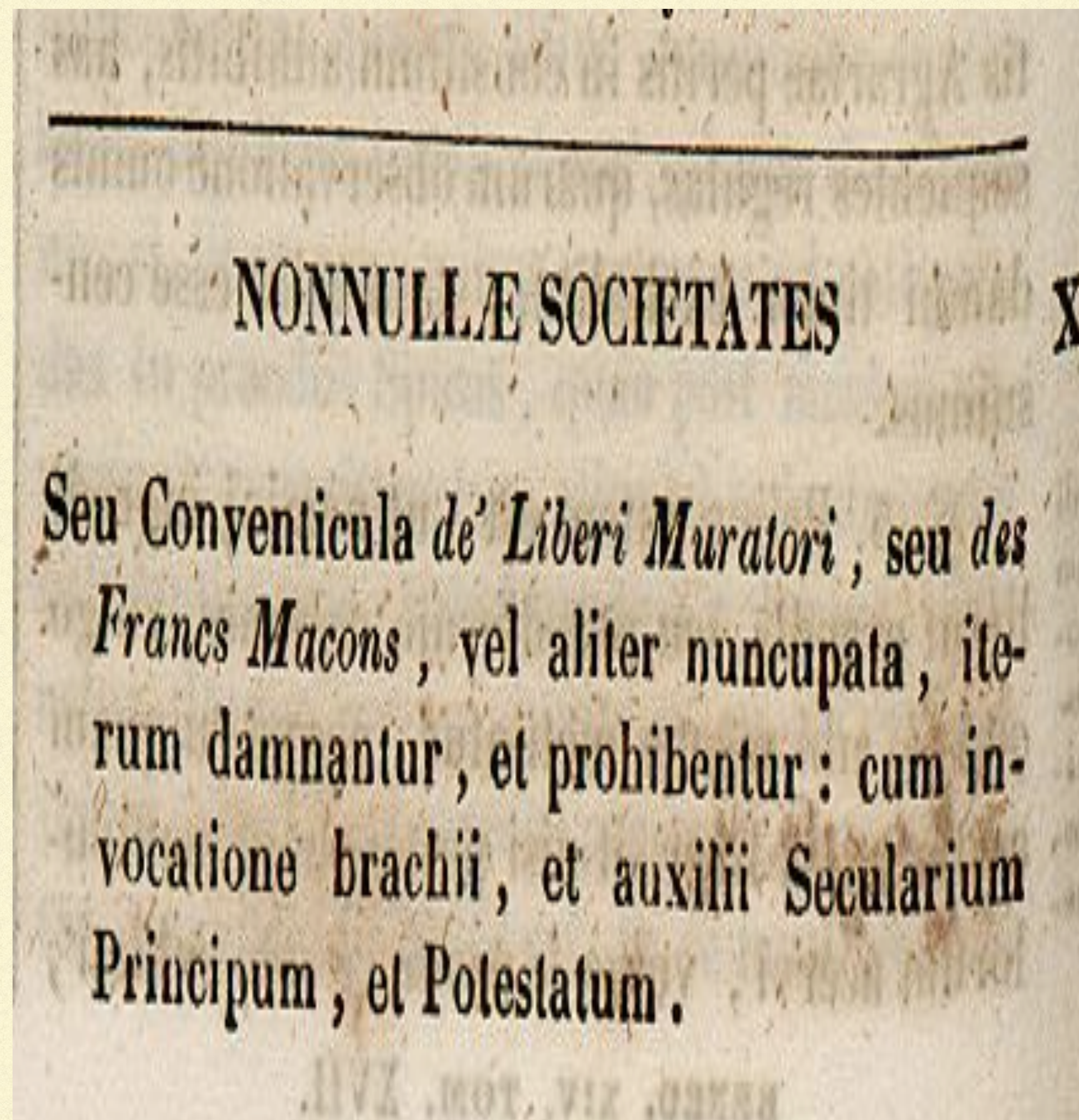
POPE BENEDICT CONFIRMS THE EXCOMMUNICATION OF CLEMENT XII

excommunication ipso facto

'men of any religion and sect can unite with each other; it is clear what damage can be caused to the purity of the Catholic Religion'

'we confirm, validate, renew and will and decree that it will have perpetual strength and efficacy for Our sure science

in the fullness of Our Apostolic authority, according to the tenor of the same Constitution'



THE NEAPOLITAN SITUATION ENGLISH FREEMASONRY IN ITALY IN THE 18TH CENTURY

TWO GRAND PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS IN NAPLES:

1740 Marchese des Marches per Savoia e Piemonte

1766 Niccolò de Manuzzi per l'Italia

1770 Cesare Pignatelli, Duca della Rocca [e di San Demetrio] per Napoli e la Sicilia

1773 Conte de Berney per il Piemonte

**FOUR ITALIAN
ENGLISH GRAND
MASTERS
INSCRIBED
IN THE
ENGLISH REGISTERS
IN 1700**

English Freemasonry in Italy

1. English Provincial Grand Masters in Italy

1740	Marquis des Marches for Savoy and Piedmont
1766	Niccolo de Manuzzi for Italy
1770	Caesar Pignatelli, Duke of Rocca for Naples and Sicily
1773	Count de Berney for Piedmont

THE ENGLISH LODGES IN NAPLES

"Perfect Union Lodge". Authorised on 2 December 1768 with no. 433 at the Infantry Regiment of Her Majesty of the Two Sicilies.

"Well Chosen Lodge". Authorized on 26 April 1769 with no. 444 in Naples.

"Loggia di Napoli". Authorized on 6 March 1780 under no. 525

"La Loggia della Verita". Authorized in 1781 with no. 440 in Naples



THE LODGE "PERFETTA UNIONE" WAS FIRST CONSTITUTED IN THE YEAR 1728 ... IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST LODGE REGULARLY CONSTITUTED IN ITALY

Copyright, and reproduced by permission, of the Museum of Freemasonry, London

NB The Capitular lodge Perfetta Unione, was first
constituted in the year 1728 under warrant from
the Gr.: L.: of England as results from the records
of the Trial of its members guilty of "Freemasonry",
before the Neapolitan Tribunals. - existing in the
State archives in Naples - it is believed to be the first
lodge regularly constituted in Italy.

SOV. CAPIT.
PERFETTA UNIONE
SOTTO L'ORDE.
DEL SUP. CONS. DI RITO SCOZZ.
A. & A. 33.
per la Gr.: d'Italia
Sez.: della Valle del Sebeto

AD UNIVERSI TERRARUM ORBI SUMMI ARCHITECTI GLORIAM
DEUS MEUMQUE JUS ORDO AB CHAO
C.: di Napoli 5 Giugno 1886

Copia.
(Intestazione solita)
alla Gioia del G.: A.: dell'Il.:
a tutti i ff.: L.S.: M.M.: sparsi sopra i due emisferi.
Salute. Forza. Unione.

Dal Grande Oriente di Torino, Valle del Po, sotto la volta
celeste al 45° 4' 5" di latitudine Nord e 5° 20' 52" di longitudine
Est del suo Zenit. - Il Supremo Consiglio dei Sov. Gr.: d'Altopa
Quarati, Gr.: Eletti Cav.: Gr.: Comm.: del Sacro Impero dei 35° ed ultimo
di Alto Sogge. Aut. ed Acc.: della Massoneria in Italia sedente in
Torino, Membro della Federazione dei Supremi Consigli.

Vista la domanda contenuta nella tavola del 19 aprile 1886 e. v. firmata
dall'Il.: ff.: Sov. Gr.: Sep.: Gio.: Alfred Hall 33°, Segr.: del Sov. Capitolo
Perfetta Unione, delegato della R.: Loggia nuovamente costituitasi col
titolo distintivo di "Anglia" all'occidente di Napoli, allo scopo
di lavorare in lingua
eccettuando i rituali della Serenissima Gran Loggia d'Inghilterra.

Visto l'elenco dei 37. fondatori, costituenti le dieci regolamenti eletti della
della Loggia, nelle persone di

Eustace Neville-Rolfe	13°	Vec.
Alfred Hall	33°	Pres.
L. W. a di Farnck	3°	2°
H. J. Johnstone Lavis	22°	Tesor.
William O. Folkes	4°	Segr.
Bernard Kay	4°	Pl. Specto Dincauo
Guillaume Stevens	3°	2°
Charles W. Woodgate	3°	Comp.: int.

Visto il verbale di costituzione dell'Il. e la dichiarazione di obbedienza
a questo Supremo Consiglio firmata dai ff. predetti
in virtù dei supremi poteri che ci sono accordati dagli Statuti
generalmente e dalle Grandi Costituzioni dell'Ordine, da questo giorno
Ritornate apite

CARLO FRANCOVICH: HISTORY OF ITALIAN FREEMASONRY

The government of Charles III (1716-1788) - FIRST PHASES AND PERSECUTION

Under Charles III freemasonry initially developed, as it did in Tuscany

The Pontiff Lambertini sent the bull Jesuit Francesco Maria Pepe (1684-1759) preach against the "sect", starting a real popular movement.

26 December 1750 Di Sangro presented the King

2 July 1751, the King issued an edict against Freemasonry

1 August, Di Sangro wrote to the King, save the Freemasons from further persecution



Ritratto di Raimondo di Sangro, principe di Sansevero
From Wikipedia

**Ferdinand IV of Bourbon (1751-1825)
and Maria Carolina Habsburg Lorraine
(1752-1814): second phases and persecution**

Ferdinand IV succeeded to Charles III and married Maria Carolina .

*Maria Carolina reduce the influence of Spain on the Kingdom of Naples
encouraged the resumption of Masonic activities*

*Two Grand Master: Niccolò de Manuzzi of Naples and Prince Cesare
Pignatelli, duke of Rocca and San Demetrio*

*The Prince of Caramaico detached the Loggia dello Zelo from London
and founded a Gran Loggia Nazionale*

*The Prince of Ottajano obtained a license from the Duke of Luxembourg
Founded a new Lodge, also open to women, where it seems that the Queen
became a member*



Francesco Maria Venanzio D'Acquino
Principe di Caramaico (1738 - 1795)
Immagine da Wikipedia

**CARLO FRANCOVICH:
HISTORY OF ITALIAN FREEMASONRY
Second phases: persecution**

*Prime Minister Tanucci, in agreement with the King of Spain and the Church
a new edict dated 12 September 1775, reaffirming
condemnation of the 1751 edict - Charles III*

*Prince of Caramaico and the Prince of Feroletto, publicly
repudiated, the other silent*

*Investigation by Gennaro Pallante - arrests during a
meeting of a Lodge and trial*

*At the end of 1776, Tanucci was replaced by the Marquess of
Sambuca, whom Francoovich indicates as being close to the Masonic
cause.*



Bernardo Tanucci
(1698-1783)
4° Segretario di Stato del
Regno di Napoli
Immagine da Wikipedia

**FRENCH FREEMASONRY EXPANDS TO ITALY
AND IS MORE TUNE WITH
THE ITALIAN RULING CLASSES**

The subsequent diffusion is linked to the French presence: Napoleon, French Republics and Kingdoms.

“Freemasonry was a tamed instrument. The Lodges became the antechambers of the Prefectures and the Army Commands”.

Mark of origin on Italian Freemasonry and will evidently attract the Italian ruling classes that will find continuity with the previous regimes

The English lodges ceased all activity
A different Freemasonry is born against which Queen Maria Carolina will fight

