

ARCHIVE BALLADORO

(Legacy of the baroness Clementina Guaineri widow Malfatti, and of the baron Francesco Malfatti Balladoro)

The Archive Balladoro, today, it is composed in the following way:

1) A lot of the archive before located in the archives state, including 74 binders and 149 working registers subdivided in two large sections: properties and commercial business, of which 30 volumes of the Balladoro firm. This portion have donate by baron Malfatti – in the year 1986 – at the Commune of Povegliano with the engagement to re-establish all the activity Balladoro.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHIVE RESEARCH :



The historical archive Arrigo Balladoro residence, is located in Povegliano Veronese exactly in villa's Balladoro.

The structure is only a part of the landed possessions.

At the beginning, the administrative documents, for a decision of the heirs in order to preserve it at the state of neglect of the villa after the vandalism of the German troops during the second war world, was transferred at the archives of state in Verona, but following by a proposal of the Commune of Povegliano Veronese and shared also of the Balladoro family heirs, all the documents was replaced in the “ original position”, together with others volumes of the contents more differents due to Arrigo Balladoro research, the eccentric count lived between 1872 and 1927, that gave his contribute at the creation of the archive.

The archive research consent to know and understand differents points of view with regard at the content, beginning at the physical approach with tomes of such proportions, importance and antiquity, as far as the study of writing methodology, not

always intelligible, but much useful to understand how, in that age, the vulgar written language was still a derivation of that oral with the consequence of a no defined grammar and, in therefore, in some way, “to interpret”.

Finally, one note about intrinsic value of archive research, that let us to get in touch with original historical documents and unpublished works, very difficult to look up in other occurrence. Thanks at the “charm of the discovery”, or to turn the pages and to have sensation to be in an historical age almost unreal at present days, whereas it is more than ever true and topical.



HISTORY BALLADORO FAMILY :

They are defined mainland dealers. That is an important definition to understand and to know the type of Balladoro family started from Giovanbattista Balladoro that, for commercial initiative and skill, he was the more important of the whole race.

The silk trade was for more than two century main activity of the family producing an European network in the XVII century achieved considerable importance.

The native land of this ancient family is “Santa Maria alla Fratta” near Verona, while the presence to Povegliano is dating at 1604 thanks to heritage Orio.

The family lineage’s landed possession, in addition to well-known Balladoro palace in main street Cavour (one time this main street was called “Santa Maria alla Fratta”) inherited from Grandi family and the spinners in Beverara quarter, today named St. Zeno, are located especially in the territory of Povegliano Veronese.

In particular there was a first country estate including 150 fields cultivated to vineyards and trees, 25 fodder and pasturage fields with home-stead and four huts for farm hand divided into 16 sections. Beside there was a property inclusive 45 fields with trees and vineyards, another property including 105 fields, with trees and vineyards and, attached, the house for the owner and the administrator. Still, a country estate including 75 fields to tilled at mulberry-trees, vineyard and 7 fodder fields.



Further Balladoro's estate was located to Montorio and Novaglie, with a rural land for a total of 85 fields.

As we pointed out, mostly, this is proof that in full modern age the landed investment is the way by which "homines novi" are inclined to relate them at the old riches, forming a fact for family of psychologic confidence.

Finally, talking about of the business Balladoro, we cannot refer to spinners in Beverara quarter in Verona, so as palace located in Avenue Cavour antecedents at Bissello of Povegliano: water, was basic for working silk. For this reason spinners were located in the country today corresponding with St. Zeno zone, directly on Adige river.

As we told, the Balladoro was already well-off by means of the wool-clothes business; another sector of major importance for Venetian economy in epoch prior to industrialization achieved major fame thanks to ingeniousness of Giovanni Battista beginning XVII century.

Also origin of the family name is peculiar. It take cue from a popular nickname ascribe to Gabriele Dalle Balle progenitor in the 1400:

"Imbaladore" was the man who packed silks in bales and after to do whole sale. With Francesco, born in the 1557, the appellative "Baladori" was adopted for all the family.

Bernardo Orio, was the administrator of family estate when the only properties were located to the Fratta. He behaved in opportunist manner, during the foreign experience of Francesco thanks his trader capacity in Fiandra and member founder of the family merchant.

When he came in land, Francesco brought an action against the Orio, it ended only after 20 years and very much trials documents at confirmation of the difficult to remove the hereditary question.

When Bernardo death, on last wishes of Francesco dated 1659, Giobatta was appointed heir with cousin Alvise Morosini, of a remarkable estate he was able to administrate as well one can.

This estate included also property of the Bissello where – actually – the Balladoro archives is preserved. Unfortunately, also Alvise died sooner than expected (they were some civil law suit also between the Balladoro and Morosini), after Giobatta married Elena Grassi, bringing together his workshop with the workshop of the brother-in-law already his business partner giving life at the great company now matter of this study.

This personality, as previously underlined, he devoted his experience also to lands purchases. With eldest child, began her climb to prominent positions in Italian Republic.

In the year 1780 – on december 9th, a legislative decree of Veneto Senate appointed for family males, the title of Count and relative noble feud, meantime at the females that of Lady. In the 1846 Balladoro received confirmation of the title by Austria Emperor.

The last relevant personality under historical profile was Arrigo Balladoro lived between 1872 and 1927. He was folkloristic writer and famous works of art collector.

Much literary thesis today are elaborated examining anthologies and literary works produced by Arrigo Balladoro and classified in the archive of Povegliano Veronese.



AN UNIQUE DOCUMENTATION IN ITS GENDER:

The originality and the uniqueness of documentation available in Balladoro Archive is evidenced by lack of a book-keeping so whole, in all Veneto territory and almost in all North Italy. The traditional transactions studies involve as standard notaries deeds, while with Balladoro system, considering all documents as: registers, book-masters, daybooks and letters of change, the most part it is well conserved, allowing a reconstruction in the various points of view.

One of motivations of this unbelievable preservation is ascribable at great importance that Balladoro family has always attributed at books care and more in general at collection of manuscript or printed works due to family was master-mind or acquired property.

Later, city council by explicit wish of family to reunite all family documents, it worked to flow all books located in various archives of Verona and not, setting it in appropriate cupboards also it gave, recreating in early position all archive composed with difficulty by the count Arrigo.





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