

by Altograd. Consilia Con. 71, No. 9, 10, 11, and by many other legal writers). Now, as a general rule, patents of nobility in Malta were granted by the Grand Masters at the request of the grantee, and it was moreover upon an application by Barone Azzopardi that the rescript of 1778 was issued. It is likewise a settled opinion that, when the patent of creation does not contain the expression *motu proprio*, the grant is taken to have been made at the request of the party concerned.

55. The foregoing observations being premised, we feel bound to state that, after careful consideration, we are of opinion that the title of "Barone di Buleben" was, by the deed of grant, limited to Gaetano Azzopardi, and was afterward, by rescript, extended to his son Calcedonio, senior, and that it could not be borne by Dr. Vincenzo Azzopardi, grandson of the grantee, nor can it be enjoyed by his great grandson Calcedonio Azzopardi, junior. The claimant having, therefore, failed to establish his right, his name will not be included in our list.

Opinion of Commissioners on the present claim.

56. We must, however, state for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the claimant has produced various documents, and has referred to others in a memorandum, bearing date the 11th August 1877, which has been laid before the Commission and will be appended to the present Report, together with the other two memorandums which were referred to in the foregoing paragraphs. The object of the production of these documents is that of showing that Dr. Vincenzo Azzopardi, the claimant's father, was, in several official letters and Government notices issued under the British Government, appointing him to some public office, styled Barone. These different acts are dated respectively the 4th June 1814, the 20th November 1821, the 21st October 1828, the 31st December 1832, the 21st June 1837, the 18th March 1850, the 1st January 1852, and the 4th November 1852. In the diploma of the University attesting that the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon the said Dr. Vincenzo, on the 11th May 1819, he was named "Barone," and this title was also prefixed to his Christian name, when his appointment as Cavaliere of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George was announced in 1842.

Recognition pleaded by claimant in his support.

57. We refrain from expressing any opinion on the importance and effect of these acts of presumed recognition, under the British Government, and from determining the question whether those acts could have revived and perpetuated a title which was already extinct when the British Government took possession of these islands.\* His Lordship the Secretary of State may certainly form a more correct opinion on this subject, but we cannot omit remarking that no careful inquiry into the origin, nature, and extent of the titles of Maltese nobility having been instituted before the present occasion, those persons who were entrusted with some public office, or on whom some order of knighthood was conferred, were designated by the prefix by which they were commonly called. Now, a recognition made *causa non cognita* is destitute of any legal efficacy.

Decision on such recognition reserved to the Secretary of State.

#### XI.—Title of "Marchese di San Giorgio."

58. This title, which is the eleventh in order of date, is the first marquisate conferred by the Grand Masters out of those referred to in the committee list. The title of "Marchese di San Giorgio" was granted by patent on the 6th September 1778, by Grand Master Rohan, to the nobleman Carlo Antonio Barbaro, in the same terms as those of the preceding charter of Barone Azzopardi, that is, without any mention of sons, heirs, and successors of the grantee. The operative part of the patent of creation runs thus:—

"Tibi Nobile D. Carolo Antonio Barbaro tribuimus, concedimus, et donamus, hujusmodi titulo insignimus ac Marchionem dicti Pheudi Sancti Georgii constituimus et ita nominari posse et debere."

Terms of the original grant.

59. The aforesaid Marchese Carlo Antonio Barbaro, after the dignity had been conferred upon him, considering that the grant was limited to himself alone, applied to the Grand Master praying that it might be at least extended to his first-born son. Grand Master Rohan, by a rescript dated the 2nd January 1779, acceded to the petitioner's request in the following terms: "Fiat prout petitur."

Extension of grant.

60. At a later period, the Marchese Gioacchino Ermolao Barbaro, in whose favour only the grant had been extended, applied to the Grand Master for the extension of the title to all his descendants *in perpetuum*. His application was complied with by a rescript of the 5th June 1792.

Its further extension.

61. The first-born male descendant in the primogenial line of the first titled person is not the claimant Giorgio Crispo Barbaro, but his father Gustavo, who is still alive, and

Gustavo Barbaro the claimant's

\* The Barone Calcedonio Azzopardi departed this life on the 20th February 1799.

father, is the actual holder of the title.

alter whose death the title will descend to the claimant his only son. The latter, however, in laying his claim to the marquisate, stated that the title belongs to him, it having been renounced in his favour and conveyed to him by his father. In support of his statement he has produced two letters addressed to him by his father, who resides abroad. By one of these letters, dated the 13th December 1868, the Marchese Gustavo empowers the claimant to assume the title, and by the other, bearing date 1st September 1877, he confirmed that power, declaring himself at the same time ready to sign any public instrument to that effect. It is hardly necessary to remark that such cession would be legally void, it being a settled point of feudal law that titles of nobility cannot be alienated and conveyed to other persons by deeds of transaction between private parties, and without the sovereign's sanction.

## XII.—Title of "Conte di Beberua."

62. On the 23rd October 1783, the same Grand Master Rohan issued a patent of "Conte di Beberua," in favour of Luigi or Ludovico Gatt, in the following terms:—  
"Tibi tribuimus, concedimus, et fidelitate nostra donamus, ac te Comitis hujusmodi titulo decoramus et insignimus nec non ita nominari posse et debere."

Terms of grant.

Patents similar to the present looked upon as personal by the grantor himself.

Reasons alleged by claimant in his support.

63. The terms of the grant are similar to those of the preceding patents granted to Barone Azzopardi and to Marchese Barbaro, containing no provision for the descent of the title to the sons, heirs, descendants, and successors of the grantee. The two preceding grants, as we have already remarked, were by the same Grand Master taken to be personal, and, as such, they were extended on an application of the grantees themselves, either to their first-born son exclusively, or, as in the instance of Marchese Barbaro, to all their descendants for ever.

64. Dr. Nicolò Gatt, one of the co-heirs and only surviving son of the said Conte Luigi, claims the right of enjoying also the title, notwithstanding that in the diploma of 1783 only Conte Luigi, his father, is designated. In a statement of his claim illustrated by several doctrines and authorities which he has produced before the Commission, and which will be appended to our Report, the claimant brings forward in his support several arguments which are substantially the following:—

That the title granted by the patent of 1783 contains all the elements of a real and proper feud, investire, oath of fidelity, homage; that it must be consequently regulated by the feudal laws; that these laws hold feuds to be, of their own nature, perpetual and descendible to the sons, descendants, heirs, and successors of the feudatory, according to the different cases, without the necessity of any designation of such heirs and successors in the patent of grant; that the designation of such heirs and successors is intended not to extend the grant, but to specify the nature of the feud; that the same Grand Master Rohan previously and subsequently to 1783 issued other patents of titles of nobility with the clause "*tibi tantum*," or "*tua naturali vita perdurante*," which restrictive clauses specify the personal nature of the title, and are not expressed in the patent granted to his father; and that in several Acts of the Local Government, under the British rule, and during the period of 52 years, his title has been constantly recognised.

Such arguments overruled by construction given by the grantor in similar cases.

65. Cogent and forcible as these arguments drawn from the general principles of the feudal laws may appear, their value depends wholly on the construction given by the same sovereign who conferred the present title, to other grants worded in an identical form. As we have already remarked, Grand Master Rohan himself had always considered such grants as exclusively personal to the grantee and not inheritable by their heirs and successors, and these titles were also acknowledged as such by the same grantees. This circumstance added to the fact that such construction was, by Grand Master Rohan, given prior to the present grant, as appears from the rescript issued on the 25th April 1778, in favour of Barone Azzopardi, and that issued on the 2nd January 1779, in favour of Marchese Barbaro, renders it unnecessary for us to inquire further into the present claim, as there can be no sounder interpretation than that given by the sovereign grantor in other similar cases. We can only refer, for further information, to the arguments which were advanced in regard to the title of "Barone di Buleben," and which for the most part are applicable to the present case.

Claimant's right not made out.

66. With regard to the recognition of the title which the claimant presumes to have been effected in his person by the local administration under the British rule, we think that such inquiry would exceed the scope of our Commission, and we only advert to our remarks on the subject of the claim to the title of "Barone di Buleben." After an impartial examination of the present claim to the title of "Conte di Beberua," we think that the claimant has failed to establish his right to that title.

XIII.—Title of "*Marchese del Fiddien*."

67. The thirteenth title in order of date is the Marquisate of the Feud Fiddien, conferred by Grand Master De Rohan upon Salvatore Mallia Tabone, by a patent of the 15th October 1785. The terms of the patent are identical with those of the three preceding grants of Barone Azzopardi, Marchese Barbaro, and Conte Gatt, and it contains no designation of children or descendants, but only the name of the person ennobled: "Tibi donamus ac te Marchionis hujusmodi titulo decoramus . . ."

Terms of the patent of creation.

68. This title was also taken by the Grand Master to be personal to the grantee, for, after the grant, the Marchese Salvatore presented a petition praying that, in consideration of the merits of his ancestors, the grant might be made to extend to his legitimate and natural male descendants successively, and in default of male issue to his female descendants; and by a rescript of the 15th June 1793, the request was partly complied with, in the following terms: "Fiat pro primogenitis maribus tantum."

Request for the extension of the title partially complied with.

69. The gentleman who claims the present title is Salvatore Mallia Tabone, grandson of the first titled person, as appears from the documents he has produced, and he is the first-born descendant in the primogenial line of the grantee. We think therefore that the claimant has made out his right, and will, consequently, be referred to in our list as "*Salvatore Mallia Tabone Marchese del Fiddien*."

Claimant's right fully established.

XIV.—Title of "*Marchese della Tafija*."

70. Another patent conferring the title of "*Marchese della Tafija*" was on the 13th November 1790, granted by the same Grand Master Rohan to Saverio Alessi. In this grant a singular circumstance is noticeable. The patent of creation bears that the title is inheritable by the grantee's descendants; but it is not therein provided whether it should be enjoyed by all the said descendants simultaneously, or by only one of them under the rule of primogeniture, "*Tibi Magnifico ac Nobili Xaverio Alessi tuisque legitimis descendibus tribuimus, concedimus, et donamus, ac de Marchionis hujusmodi titulo decoramus, nec non ita nominari posse ac debere . . .*"

Succession to the title how regulated.

71. This grant was in the family, always taken to be limited to the first-born descendant only. The claimant of the title of "*Marchese della Tafija*," Bernardo Alessi, is the grandson of the person first ennobled, and the first-born male child in the family. No person having disputed his claim, he will be included in our list, and styled "*Bernardo Alessi Marchese della Tafija*."

Claimant's right fully established.

XV.—Title of "*Conte di Ghain Toffieha*."

72. This grant conferring the title of Conte of the feud *magistrale*\* of Ghain Toffieha was made by Grand Master Rohan to Ferdinando Teuma Castelletti, to be held by the grantee and his issue. It was granted not by patent, but by a rescript of the 7th January 1792, on the petition of the same Ferdinando.

This title granted by rescript.

73. This title was always held to be inheritable by the first-born descendant only, and the claimant Pietro Paolo Teuma Castelletti, as he proves by the documents produced before the Commission, is the grandson of the original grantee. We think therefore that his right to the title has been fully established, and he will be included in our list as "*Pietro Paolo Teuma Castelletti Conte di Ghain Toffieha*."

Claimant's right to the title proved.

XVI.—Title of "*Marchese di Gnien Is-sultan*."

74. The title of Marchese of the feud "*ta Gnien Is-sultan*" was by a patent, dated the 1st December 1792, conferred by Grand Master de Rohan upon the nobleman Filippo Apap with succession to his male issue, and in the failure of male issue to the first-born female descendant.

The operative clause of the grant runs thus:—"Prædictum Marchionis Pheudi Gnien Is-sultan titulum . . . Tibi Magnifico Philippo Apap, tuisque descendibus masculis legitimis et naturalibus ipsisque deficientibus, fœmina majori natu, tribuimus, concedimus et donamus, ac te Marchionis hujusmodi titulo decoramus."

Terms of the patent of creation.

75. This title was always looked upon as descendible only to the first-born male in the primogenial line of the original grantee, and the gentleman who claims the title, Felicissimo Apap, is the great grandson of the person first ennobled, as appears from the documents he has produced before the Commission. Consequently he will be referred to in our list as "*Felicissimo Apap Marchese di Gnien Is-sultan*."

Claim to the title made out.

XVII.—Title of “Barone della Grua.”

76. The same Grand Master Rohan on the 30th December 1794, issued a diploma conferring the title of “Barone della Grua” upon the “Magnifico Saverio Carbott Testaferrata,” and his first-born sons and descendants, under the rule of primogeniture (de primogenito in primogenitum). The following is an extract from the patent of creation:—

Terms of the grant.

“Tibi tuisque filiis et descendentes masculis de primogenito in primogenitum tribuimus et concedimus et te hujusmodi Baronis titulo decoramus . . . .”

Claim to this title reserved to the Secretary of State.

77. The claimant of the present title, Nicola Maria Delicata, who is styled in the committee list as Nicola Maria Delicata Carbott Ascicack, descends lineally from the original grantee, Saverio Carbott, as appears from the document he has forwarded to us through the committee. We must, however, state that the male descending line of the said Saverio is extinct, for Saverio Carbott left Giuseppe Carbott, second Barone, of whom Saverio Carbott Montalto, junior, third Barone, was born. Saverio Carbott, junior, had no male issue, but only a daughter, Giovanna Carbott Montalto, the claimant's mother. The instructions conveyed to us by the letter of the 8th March 1877, do not require us to determine the question whether a grant made to the male issue of a person is to be taken to extend to the sons of female descendants. This question having been reserved to the Secretary of State, we shall not include the claimant's name in the list. We beg leave to add that Dr. Giuseppe dei Marchesi Delicata, the claimant's father and legitimate representative, having in the course of the inquiry been requested to present himself before the Commission, declined to attend.

XVIII.—Title of “Conte della Senia.”

78. A patent was granted by Grand Master Rohan on the 6th June 1795, to Vincenzo Fontani, who was thereby ennobled with the title of Conte of the lands denominated “della Senia” and situated in the Marsa district. The title is to descend to the issue male and female of the grantee, without any limitation. The following is an extract from the patent of creation:—

Terms of the grant.

“Nobili Puero Vincentio Fontani Crespi, te tuosque descendentes comitem et comites territorii seu possessionis dictæ ta Senia positæ in hac nostra insula, in loco della Marsa, tuosque utriusque sexus filios et descendentes, comitem et comites præfati territorii sive possessionis ‘ta Senia’ dicimus et nominamus.”

Title unquestionably belongs to claimant.

79. The claimant Luigi Fontani is the first-born and only surviving son of the said Conte Vincenzo Fontani, original grantee, and the title unquestionably belongs to him. There seems therefore to be no reason for inquiring, at present, who will have the right to bear the title after the present holder's death, whether his first-born son alone, or simultaneously his daughters also. The claimant will be styled in our list as “Vincenzo Fontani Conte della Senia.”

IX.—Title of “Marchese di Ghain Kajet.”

80. The last among titles included in the committee list and granted by the Grand Masters, is the title of “Marchese di Ghain Kajet,” conferred by Grand Master Rohan on Dr. Gerolamo Delicata, by a patent of the 4th June 1796. “Prædictum Marchionis ‘de Ghain Kajet titulum, tibi Magnifico ac Nobili Hyeronimo Delicata, tuisque descendentes primogenitis legitimis et naturalibus tribuimus concedimus, et donamus.”

Terms of the grant.

Claimant's right to the title legally proved.

81. The claimant Dr. Gaetano Delicata is the first-born grandson in the primogenial line of the grantee, and will be referred to in our list as “Dr. Gaetano Delicata Marchese di Ghain Kajet.”

Most of the titles though apparently annexed to feuds, really nominal.

82. Having so far considered the 19 patents of nobility granted by the Grand Masters, and upon which the claims of the gentlemen included in the committee list, or who appeared in the course of our inquiry, are grounded, we must conclude by a general observation, namely, that although it appears that those titles have derived their different denominations from several feudal lands existing in these islands, this annexation, however, is in most cases purely nominal, for those lands were never in reality conveyed to the grantees, but they remained as they are still Government property, with the exception only of some estates which prior to the grant were held *in allodium* by the grantees, and which were subsequently erected into noble feuds. Such are the lands “della Bahria,” held by Conte Stagno Navarra (§ 35), the feud “della Catene” entailed and erected into a primogenitura in favour of Conte Perdicomati Bologna (§ 37), and the land “della Senia,” which was held by Conte Fontani in his own right (§ 78). It is

is further to be observed that although some of these nominal titles were granted generally to the issue of the person first ennobled, and without any limitation as to sex, they have never been possessed but by the first-born child in the family, according to the rule prescribed for the succession to the feuds *jure francorum* granted by the Kings of Sicily of the House of Aragon.

SECTION II.—FEUDAL TITLES PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY THE KINGS OF SICILY OF THE HOUSE OF ARAGON.

83. We now proceed to the examination of the titles presumed to have been granted to the Kings of Sicily (House of Aragon).

84. When the Kings of Sicily held the sovereignty of these islands, before the infeudation of Malta to the Order of the Knights of St. John (A.D. 1530), they used to grant in fee lands (existing here and bearing special denominations) to some of their faithful and well-deserving subjects, the feudatories engaging to perform military service, or to pay an annual rent as an acknowledgment of feudal tenure. These grants were made by letters issued by the Sovereign, and called *privilegia*, the feudatory being sometimes styled *miles* or *magnificus*. These designations which conferred on the feudatory no title of nobility descendible to his heirs and successors in the fief, but merely a personal mark of distinction, occurred sometimes in the investiture which the subsequent holders of the fief received from the Sovereign.

By the laws and customs which at that time obtained in Sicily, another class of fiefs was recognised, to which the dignity of Baron was annexed. This title was held to be annexed to a fief in cases where the Sovereign, in the deed of grant, erected, by a special clause, those feudal lands into baronies, which were said to be holden of the King, and where the possessor of those lands transferred them to others, with the King's license, provided, however, they continue to be held in fee, and such conveyance was entered in the Rolls or Royal Pandects; in which latter case the fief was called *quaternato*. Some Feudists, among other classes of noble or baronial fiefs, enumerate the grants of castles, towns, or other inhabited places, with jurisdiction and vassalage annexed thereto. In feudal times, however, the possessors of a fief, though not entitled to enjoy the dignity of Baron, commonly styled themselves barons, an appellation which was intended to designate the holder of an estate in fee, and not to confer a particular title of nobility on the descendants of the person who had originally obtained the grant and the feudal investiture. But when a fief which, according to the original deed of grant, was a simple and untitled fief, was by repeated declarations of the local sovereigns recognised as a noble fief, and all its successive possessors were acknowledged and styled as barons, in that case the title and dignity of baron was considered as annexed to the possession of that fief, and inheritable by all the holders of it.

85. The gentlemen who claim, as feudatories, the title of Baron, are Conte Gio Francesco Sant, as possessor of the fief "ta Ghariescem" and "Tabia," and the "Barone di Cicciano" Alessandro Scerberras, as holder of the two fiefs of "Diar il Bniel" and "Bucana."

I.—Fief of "Ghariescem" and "Tabia."

86. The fief possessed by Conte Sant was originally granted by Frederick King of Sicily to Enrico de Sosa, November 12th, 1372. That fief having subsequently reverted to the Crown, was re-conferred upon Stefano Lo Blundo, by King John, Infante of Spain, on the 28th June 1416. These two grants were made before the Order of St. John took possession of these islands. Stefano Lo Blundo sold the fief to Antonio Inguanez, from whose family it was acquired by Gio Maria Cassia, whose son Giacinto Cassia was dispossessed of it, in consequence of its having reverted to the principality, by a judgment dated the 18th June 1535, after the Rota Romana had, by various decisions,\* declared the feudal nature of the aforesaid land, which Giacinto claimed to hold in his own right. A deed of transaction was subsequently entered into between the said Giacinto and the Procurators of the *Comun Tesoro* of the Order. That deed was received by Notary Michele Ralli on the 14th April 1638, and was assented to by Grand Master Fr. Giovampaolo Lascaris de Castellar and his Council, on the 16th April 1638. By virtue of that transaction, the land *ta ghariescem* was ceded to Giacinto Cassia and to his children and descendants for ever, and the feudatories were to discharge the annuity which their predecessors were bound to pay. It was further agreed that the land should

\* Decisiones S. R. Rom. Recentiores, Pars 6; Decis. 29, Decis. 212, Decis. 310, Decis. 314.

Comun  
Tesoro of  
the Order.

be possessed *jure feudi*; that it could be transferred to and divided among the descendants of both sexes of Giacinto Cassia, without the Grand Master's license, until the total extinction of the descent of Giacinto; and that the holders of it should annally pay into the Tesoro of the Order, fifty Sicilian ounces of general weight, equivalent to 10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* sterling. Giacinto was to obtain the investiture, take the oaths of *fealty*, and procure the Bulls from the Cancelleria, and all his successors in the fief were to receive the investiture from the Grand Master.

Claim of  
Conte Sant  
can only be  
assumed  
from the  
deed of  
transaction  
of 1638.

87. The Conte Gio Francesco Sant, who proves his descent from Giacinto Cassia through a female line, and who is the possessor of the fief "ta ghariescem" and "Tabia," cannot found his claims on the two grants made in 1372 and 1416 by Kings Frederick and John, those grants having become extinct; but the title of Conte Sant to the possession of the aforesaid fief is to be derived from the transaction entered into in 1638 between his ancestor Giacinto and the Grand Master and his council. Now, the title of "Barone" is neither mentioned in the grants of 1372 and 1416, nor in the transaction of 1638; the last-mentioned instrument contains no clause from which it may be inferred that a noble fief or jurisdiction was conferred on the feudatory, who is therein simply styled *Dominus Hiachyntus Cassia feudatarius*. Conte Sant, therefore, deriving his claims from the deed of transaction of 1638; cannot maintain his pretensions to any particular title of nobility by virtue of the sovereign grant made to Giacinto Cassia and his descendants; he might only assert, as the holder of a fief which is not titled, the right of bearing the denomination of Barone, which was borne by other feudatories, who were formerly styled Barons or holders of fiefs.

Expressions  
employed in  
the investi-  
tures given  
to the  
descendants  
of Giacinto.

88. Although no particular title of nobility appears to have been conferred upon Giacinto Cassia and his descendants in 1638, we must, however, submit that since the date of the above-mentioned transaction, seven investitures of the fief "Ghariescem" and "Tabia" were granted under the government of the Knights. The first was given to Giacinto Cassia, on the 27th April 1638; the second to Gio. Antonio Cassia, on the 15th January 1655; the third to Pietro Cassia, on the 13th August 1658; in which three investitures each of the feudatories is designated as *Magnificus*. The fourth investiture was granted to Domenica Cassia, wife of Stanislao Xara, on the 21st August 1678, in which she is called "filia vero quondam Magnifici Petri Cassia J. U. D. olim "Baronis de Ghariescem et Tabia." The fifth to Pietro Paolo Xara, on the 28th August 1721, in which the following words occur: "quod quidem Pheudum ad eum "uti dictæ quondam Nobilis Baronissæ Domonicæ Cassia et Xara filium primogenitum "pervenit, ad quod supradictum Nobilem Petrum Paulum Xara" . . . . The sixth was granted to Stanislao Xara, styled "Nobilis Stanislaus Xara quondam Nobilis "Petri Pauli Xara Pheudi de Ghariescem et Tabia Baronis filius primogenitus;" and the seventh was given on the 20th August 1797, to Felicita Chiara Sant—"filia vero "primogenita quondam Magnificæ Antonia Bonnici sororis secundogenitæ quondam "Magnifici Stanislai Xara olim Baronis De Ghariescem et Tabia."

Office of  
Capitano  
della Verga  
filled by  
several  
descendants  
of Giacinto.

89. During and even before the time of the Order, there existed at Notabile (old capital town), a municipal corporation called *Università della Città Notabile*, consisting of four members called *Giurati*, and of a *Capitano Giustiziero* known by the name of *Capitano della Verga*, and *Governor* of Notabile. These functionaries exercised jurisdiction in that city and the adjoining district. The *Giurati* were appointed annually, and their appointment was confirmed by the Grand Master. The "Capitano della Verga," who was considered to hold the highest and most important of all civil offices, was appointed directly by the Grand Master, and was usually chosen among the members of noble and conspicuous families of the island. From the records of the Cancelleria it appears that in the year 1659, by a Magistral Bull, the office of "Capitano della Verga" was conferred upon "Nobili ac Magnifico Pietro Cassia J. U. D. Baroni "de Ghariescem et Tabia," and that in the years 1776 and 1777 the office of *Giurato* was bestowed on "Magnificum et Nobilem Baronem Stanislauum Xara."

Claim  
admitted.

90. Now, after these explicit declarations of the Grand Masters from 1659 to 1797, made not only on the occasions of the investiture of the fiefs, but also of the appointment of some of the descendants of Giacinto Cassia to important offices under the Government of these islands, on which occasions they were styled barons and constantly designated as nobles, we do not think ourselves justified in refusing to Conte Gio Francesco Sant the title of barone, notwithstanding the non-existence of the authentic and original grant of that title, and his name will therefore be inserted in our list, not only with the addition of Conte but also with that of "Barone di Ghariescem" e "Tabia," though the family name Cassia will not be appended to the latter title. For the foregoing reasons the date of creation is stated to be the 16th of April 1638.

