Paola Volpini, Diplomatic Practices and Networks of Relationships. "Minor" Ambassadors at the Court of Spain (xvi-xvii centuries)

In this paper are considered the researches that arise from the study of the representation of “minor” States and not fully sovereign organisms at the Court of Spain in the early modern Age, as part of an approach to the history of diplomacy that wants to propose new paths of research. First, some recent research on the history of diplomacy that have led fruitful innovations about methods and topics are discussed. Important stimuli to the history of diplomacy have come from other fields of research, such as transnational history, political and constitutional history (information and communication politics and political forms of States), social history (on the networks and the role of agents and patronage) and the history of the transferts culturels.

Then the approach adopted by the essays collected to the study of the diplomatic mission of “minor” States at the Court of Spain is examined. This approach allows us to examine various aspects of the mission of diplomats; offers many insights on the criteria for selection of the figures to be sent, on the terms of the political mandate of the emissaries and then on the characteristics of the authority of who sent the diplomats.

In this sense it is highlighted the fact that the research on relations between States and on diplomacy can no longer be separated from those on the internal political structure of the “minor” States: from Monarchies (composite Monarchies, polycentric Monarchies etc.), to the Republics or the Confederations of States; from unions of cities to small States etc.

The essay also provides rich insights on the formation of networks of diplomatic relations with members of the Court, with diplomats of other States, with members of their “nation” on site, thus offering useful information for the study of networks, cultural exchanges and the identity of the diplomat in the early modern Age.

The political significance of the presence of emissaries of a sovereign to another State is thus the result of the combination of different levels of
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management and practice of power: from the delegation and the recognition of the public function of the ambassador to the balance of power; from the networks of interest to the relations of friendship (between ambassadors, with members of the Court, with members of their own “nation”); from the practices of negotiation and public audience to private interviews, secret or informal contacts.

*Keywords:* Diplomacy; Historiography; “Minor” States; Spanish Court; Diplomatic Representation.

*Ida Mauro,* «Mirando le difficoltà di ristorare le rovine del nostro onore». The Neapolitan Nobility and the City of Naples’ Embassies in Madrid

The article examines a form of communication between the Neapolitan Kingdom and the Spanish Court in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth century. In this dialogue between the “centre” and the “periphery”, local political bodies aimed to present petitions directly to the monarch, through the practice of sending delegations of ambassadors or agents that complemented the actions of other figures (such as viceroys and high councils).

Studying the diverse and frequent embassies sent by Parliament (after each assembly held until 1642) or by the city of Naples, we see that the nobility of the five Neapolitan seggi attempted to monopolise these diplomatic practices. On the other hand, viceroys tended in different ways to avoid the sending of new delegations that could criticize their government in Madrid. Of the numerous Neapolitan ambassadors, I focus on the case of the double delegation of Michele Cavaniglia, Duke of San Giovanni, who was in Madrid from 1641 to 1648 and from 1659 to 1660.

From 1547 the Kingdom of Naples requested the presence of a resident delegate, or ambassador, at the Court, like those who already represented the interests of other kingdoms (such as the Milanese). The king temporarily approved this request in 1631, but it was only conceded firmly in the Eighteenth century, under the Hapsburg Austrian rule.

The continuity of this communication throughout the two centuries of the Hapsburg Spanish dynasty facilitated rule and promoted the cohesion of the monarchy.

*Keywords:* Delegations; Spanish Monarchy; Kingdom of Naples; Viceroys, Michele Cavaniglia, Duke of San Giovanni.

*Paola Volpini,* Resources and Limits of Ferdinand I of Medici’s Diplomacy at the Spanish Court

With this paper, I intend to reflect on the inner workings of diplomacy,
networks of relationships and the flow of information in the early modern Age, in the light of recent historiographical trends that have led to a complete reconsideration of diplomatic history. Object of analysis is the politics of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in its relations with the Spanish monarchy, as part of broader relationships between European States during the end of the Sixteenth century and the beginning of the Seventeenth century. First I analyze the ways to interpret forms of domination of the Spanish monarchy on Italian potentates, both internal and external to it: from the networks of relationships to direct rule, from the offer of offices in the ranks of the monarchy to the opening of the large “market” of marriages with members of high aristocracy.

Secondly the ways in which the Grand Duke Ferdinand I de Medici (1587-1609) put in place political objectives and strategies, are considered by reflecting on his instruments and limits. Three are the aspects on which the essay particularly focuses: the construction of a dense constellation of Medici agents at the Spanish Court (not only ambassadors, but also agents, trusted men, informers and spies); the identification of channels through which to approach the high dignitaries in Spain (from artistic gifts to corruption); finally, the need to diversify as much as possible circuits of relationship, so as to obtain information from sources and channels alternative to the dominant ones.

These different aspects are examined through case studies that highlight the centrality of these practices in the political strategy of a medium State as the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.

Keywords: Tuscany; Spain; Ferdinand I of Tuscany; Diplomacy; Politics; Bribery; Artistic Gifts.

Thomas Weller, Merchants and Courtiers. Hanseatic Representatives at the Spanish Court in the Seventeenth Century

Apart from the powerful dynastic States and their ambassadors, who dominated diplomacy in the course of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries, there was a wide range of smaller and seemingly less powerful actors who were involved in the field of foreign relations. A notable case is that of the Hanseatic League, a confederation of commercial cities whose origins can be traced back to the Thirteenth century. In the early modern period, the Hansa faced a series of serious economic and political difficulties. However, without being a State in the modern sense of the word, the Hanseatic League continued to perform in State-like ways in the field of foreign relations. Apart from establishing a consular network that encompassed the most important trading port cities of the Iberian
Peninsula and the western Mediterranean, the Hanseatic cities also appointed diplomatic representatives to the principal European courts. The article examines the diplomatic practice of the Hanseatic representatives at the Spanish Court, pointing to common features, such as their relatively low prestige within court society and the insufficient revenues that they shared with the representatives of other merchant republics. Although the Hanseatic cities were always concerned about the high cost of maintaining a resident at the Spanish Court, they continued to do so throughout the entire Seventeenth century. This decision was based not only on commercial interests but also on political calculations, since it was precisely the diplomatic and consular network abroad that kept the Hanseatic League alive as a politic body.

**Keywords**: Hanseatic League; Merchant Republics; Diplomacy.

*Igor Pérez Tostado*, **Diplomacy without Embassy: Informal Self-organization of Anglo-Spanish Foreign Affairs from the Civil Wars to the Protectorate**

The Seventeenth hundreds have been interpreted, if not completely as the century of the birth of international relations, at least that of the consolidation of permanent diplomacy in which early modern States worked to control and monopolize the functions of information, representation and negotiation. The new approach to the subject brought by the historiographical renewal and the multiple approaches of the new diplomatic history allow to revisit any teleological approach. An analysis of Anglo-Spanish relations during the central decades of the Seventeenth century shows that when State authority was disputed or collapsed, these three tasks were followed without embassy nor ambassador informally and through the self-organisation of long term residents in the Spanish monarchy without orders nor following any planning. Merchants, exiles and clergymen took the lead to carry on the business of information, representation and negotiation, with varying degrees of success, through informal diplomacy. This article focuses mainly on the work and connections of a long-term resident, Benjamin Wright or Ruit and his connections. In spite of all the caveats of a case study, it demonstrates the possibilities and limitations of an informal self-organised diplomacy based on resilience and continuous readaptation.

**Keywords**: Informal Diplomacy; Anglo-Spanish Diplomacy; Seventeenth century; Benjamin Ruit; Benjamin Wright.

*Manuel Herrero Sánchez*, **The Diplomatic Network of the Dutch Republic in the Spanish Court in the Second half of the Seventeenth century**

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This article analyses the diplomatic practices carried out by the complex network of representatives of the United Provinces in the Spanish Court in Madrid between the Peace of Westfalia and the new conflict caused by the beginning of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1702. The aim is not to make a detailed study of the relationship between these two powers, but to examine the nature and operation of a diplomatic system which replicated the republic's complicated constitutional structure; in addition, this system operated in parallel to the diplomatic structure set up by Spain in the Dutch Republic, which, on its part, was also the reflection of the polycentric nature of the dominions under the Habsburg. The essential role played by the representative of the Catholic king before the State Generals in the development of the bi-lateral relations is crucial for the understanding of the selection criteria used for the appointment of the Dutch representatives in Madrid, and also of the communication channels set up by these representatives in the Spanish Court and the part played by reciprocity mechanisms in negotiations with the monarchy.

Keywords: Diplomacy; Dutch Republic; Spanish Monarchy; Policentrism.

Andreas Behr, The Representation of the Swiss Cantons at the Spanish Court at the End of the Seventeenth century: a First Approach

The early modern relationship between the Spanish Monarchy and the old Swiss Confederation was essential for two reasons: on the one hand, in the geo-political strategy of both, the Habsburgs and the King of France, the territory of contemporary Switzerland belonged to the most important areas. On the other hand, the Swiss Cantons provided mercenary soldiers for the Spanish armies and were one of the most important commercial partners of Milan. In Spanish and, although to a lesser extent, in Swiss historiography the early modern relationship between these two partners has never been a matter of particular interest. This might be due to the traditional focus of diplomatic history on relations between impersonal, "sovereign States" – a focus that obscured to a significant degree the complexity of this relationship. In the first decade of the Twenty-first century, diplomatic history has generally shifted the focus from "State-diplomacy" to the role individuals played in diplomatic negotiations. In contrast to the structural forces that earlier diplomatic history had emphasized, this new approach centers on agency and interpersonal networks and relationships. Considering these new approaches to the history of external relations policy, the present article focuses the diplomatic representatives such as ministers and ambassadors. First, the article will offer an overview of the Spanish-Swiss relations at the end of the Seventeenth century; secondly,
an approach to understand the forms of (individual) representation of the Swiss Cantons at the Spanish Court will be given.

*Keywords*: Swiss Cantons; Composite Monarchy; Diplomatic Representatives.

*Luigi Alonzi*, The Conflict “Insorgenza” versus Counter-Revolution on the Frontier between the Kingdom of Naples and the Papal State (1798-99).

At the end of the Eighteenth century Italians experienced the establishment of republican governments under the pressure of the French armies. Since then, some politicians and writers have emphasized the difficulties encountered by the new institutions to create linkages with the plebs and the multifarious world of the popular classes. This article aims to show the deep divisions exploded in that occasion, also between popular insurgents and the counter-revolutionary ruling classes, taking into account the events of the frontier between the Papal State and the Kingdom of Naples. In addition, this case-study, which can be extended to other Italian territories, outlines the necessity to distinguish attentively the narratives of the Vandean model from the realities of the Counter-revolution all over Europe.

*Keywords*: “Insorgenza”; Counter-Revolution; Vandean Model.

*Costanza Calabretta*, Berlin, 1989: Controversy about the GDR Heritage

The article focuses on the GDR heritage in Berlin, analyzing the different processes that involved monuments, streets names and government buildings. After the GDR collapse its symbolic and material heritage was at the center of the public attention. Berlin had a key position: the East part was the GDR capital city till 1989, while, between 1990-91, the city returned to be the FRG capital and the seat of the national government (instead of Bonn). The GDR memory issue was particularly controversial because it was closely related to the building of a reunified Germany identity.

The question about what should be removed and what should be preserved revealed political cleavages and provoked conflicts. The decision-making process about the GDR heritage involved different actors: city government, federal government, civic associations and independent committees. The processes related to the GDR statues (above all on one side the removal of Lenin’s statue, on the other the preserving of Thälmann’s bust and of the Marx and Engels’ statues) and the renaming of some East Berlin streets went on until 1994. Instead the controversy about the Palace of Republic lasted for many years and divided deeply West and East Berlin citizens. This Palace indeed was both the GDR Parliament seat and a cultural
center, well known and visited by the former GDR citizens. The decision to tear down the Palace and to rebuild the baroque Castle (demolished by GDR in 1950) was at the core of the public discussion for years.

The decision-making process regarding the GDR architectonic and monumental heritage reveals its symbolic role regarding the GDR collective memory and the reunified German identity.

Keywords: Berlin; Lenin’s Statue; East Berlin Streets Names, Palace of Republic.