



Premodern Diplomats Network

# Splendid Encounters 3: Diplomats and Diplomacy in the Early Modern World

Department of History and Civilisation  
European University Institute  
Florence

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015





**THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2015**

Time	Speaker
9.00	Registration
9.30	Welcome and Introduction
9.45	Keynote Lecture
	Diana Carrió-Invernizzi, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid Imagined embassies in seventeenth century Europe: Spanish Habsburg diplomats and visual communication

**10.45 – 11.15 MORNING COFFEE**

**PANEL 1: THE FIGURE OF THE AMBASSADOR AT THE ENGLISH COURT Chair: Bobby Anderson**

11.15 – 13.00	Vincenzo de Meulenaere, Ghent University, <i>Lodewijk van Praet, Habsburg ambassador to Henry VIII's court</i> Georgina Moore, Bath Spa University, <i>Baldesar Castiglione and Courtly Masculinity</i> Ernesto Oyarbide, University of Oxford, <i>Count of Gondomar (1567-1626), Spanish ambassador in the court of King James</i>
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**13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH**

**PANEL 2: CEREMONIES AND PROTOCOL Chair: Laura Mesotten**

14.00 – 15.30	Diego Pizzorno, University of Genoa, <i>Ceremonies and ancient magnificence: meaning and representation of a Genoese 'embassy of obedience' through a private report</i> Ettore Cafagna, University of Verona, <i>Diplomatic protocol and political legitimation: the case of Venice and the Dutch Republic in the early 17th century</i> Michał Wasiucionek, European University Institute, <i>West/East Divide, Diplomacy and Coffee in the Early Modern Europe: the Experience of Polish-Moldavian Diplomatic Encounters</i>
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**15.30 – 16.00 AFTERNOON COFFEE**

**16.00 – 17.00 PRESENTATION:** The Medici Archive Project, *Digital Humanities and Diplomacy*

**PANEL 3: LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS Chair: Anna Kalinowska**

17.00 – 18.30	Roger Lee Jesus, University of Coimbra, <i>Diplomacy and Empire in Portuguese Asia during the government and viceroyalty of D. Joao de Castro (1545–1548)</i> Ozden Mercan, European University Institute, <i>An Ottoman Ambassador in Florence: Mustafa Aga's Role in Ottoman–Tuscan Negotiations in 1598</i> Rikard Drakenlordh, Bath Spa University, <i>King Charles XII of Sweden and the Diplomatic Expedition to the Madagascar Pirates in 1718</i>
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FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2015

Time	Speaker
8.45 – 9.15	Registration

**PANEL 4: DIPLOMACY BEYOND AMBASSADORS: INFORMAL AGENTS BETWEEN HABSBURG COURTS**

Chair: Rafael J. Valladares Ramírez

9.15 – 10.45	Rubén González Cuerva, German Historical Institute in Rome/IULCE, <i>Five Ambassadors, the Queen of Hungary and her Confessor: How to Defend Spanish Interests in Vienna around 1632</i>
	Miguel Conde Pazos, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid/IULCE, <i>Discreet and pragmatic Diplomacy: the Marquis de la Fuente and the Spanish Agents in Poland (1642–1667)</i>
	Koldo Trápaga Monchet, Universidade Nova da Lisboa/IULCE, <i>The Political Development of Habsburgs' Courts through John of Austria and official and unofficial Agents (1665–1679)</i>

10.45 – 11.15 **MORNING COFFEE**

**PANEL 5: WOMEN AND DIPLOMACY** Chair: Samuel Morrison Gallacher

11.15 – 13.00	Vanessa de Cruz Medina, Independent researcher, <i>Medici's Secret Diplomacy: Women, Gifts and Political Alliances at the Court of Philip III of Spain</i>
	Alejandra Franganillo, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, <i>Between France, Savoy and the Spanish Monarchy: The Princess of Carignano, 'prisoner' in the Spanish Court (1636–1644)</i>
	Laura Oliván, University of Vienna, <i>Between discourses and practices: Imperial Ambassadors in Madrid (1650–1700)</i>
	John Condren, University of St Andrews, <i>Braganza, Este, and Medici marital diplomacy under the umbrella of French geopolitical strategy in the 1680s</i>

13.00 – 14.00 **LUNCH**

**PANEL 6: PERFORMANCE AND DIPLOMACY** Chair: Georgina Moore

14.00 – 15.00	Bram van Leuven, University of St Andrews, <i>Diplomacy With(out) Borders? Translating French Court Ballet across European Cultures and Languages</i>
	Suna Suner, Don Juan Archiv Vienna, <i>Diplomacy and Theatre in the Early Modern Era: Ambassadors and Ambassadors in the Italian Opera History</i>

**Panel 7: THE CIRCULATION OF NEWS** Chair: Anna Kalinowska

15.00 – 16.00	Nina Lamal, KU Leuven/University of St Andrews, <i>Looking for alternative eyes and ears: Italian correspondents in the Low Countries (c. 1590–1632)</i>
	Francesco Malfatti, European University Institute, <i>Broadening the horizon of Medicean diplomacy: the ambassadorial mission to Transylvanian court (1593)</i>

16.00 – 16.30 **AFTERNOON COFFEE**

**Panel 8: EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA** Chair: Francesco Malfatti

16.30 – 17.30	José Miguel Escribano Páez, European University Institute, <i>Diplomacy without Kings. The diplomatic negotiations between the Hispanic Monarchy and the Maghreb cities (1500–1511)</i>
	Michael Talbot, Université Paris 1 Panthéon–Sorbonne, <i>A reassessment of British and French diplomacy with the 'Barbary States', 16th–18th century</i>

17.30 – 18.00 **Concluding discussion**

**CONFERENCE DINNER**

## ABSTRACTS

**Diana Carrió-Invernizzi, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid**

### ***Imagined embassies in seventeenth century Europe: Spanish Habsburg diplomats and visual communication***

In seventeenth-century Europe, ambassadorial envoys and secretaries had to take special care when arranging the signing of treaties such as Münster (1648) and Nijmegen (1678). The appearance and the decor of spaces in which such accords took place (with tapestries and paintings) was highly important to the success of their enterprise and many of those spaces they used have survived until our time (albeit in some cases much transformed).

Nevertheless, images of the places in which these diplomatic negotiations were celebrated are scarce, the best known being that of Somerset House in London (1604). (Logically, we do not take into account those paintings or engravings that depict festivities or processions in which ambassadors participate, or those paintings representing allegories of peace.)

In what measure were these paintings created for a moment and a precise place and for something so condemned to lose its political significance? (like the treaty of the ambassador Pascual de Aragón with the royal family, painted by Pietro del Po in 1662). Or, in contrast, how far were they painted to fix official memory in the future (as seems to be the case in Ter Borch's painting of the ratification of the Treaty of Münster)?

Did these painters really bear direct witness of how these treaties were signed? Who gave them their assignments and how did they do so? It seems that we must finally reflect upon the relations that Spanish ambassadors maintained with this pictorial genre.

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**Vincenzo De Meulenaere**

### ***Lodewijk van Praet, Habsburg ambassador to Henry VIII's court***

Central to the proposed paper are the Anglo-Habsburg relations of the second quarter of the 16th century, and in particular, the role played by Lodewijk van Praet (ambassador from 1522 till 1525) at the court of Henry VIII. The arrival of this Flemish aristocrat heralded a period of closer cooperation between Henry VIII and Charles V. In 1521, the English foreign policy changed radically, taking a new, active pro - Habsburg stance. The Treaty of Bruges (1521) was the first of many treaties in this process and this 'secret treaty' led to the formation of an Anglo-Habsburg alliance, confirmed in the Treaty of Windsor (1522). A biographical analysis of Lodewijk van Praet will be the first order of business. Special attention will be paid to the social and political circles in which he moved in his homeland and his diplomatic role as agent of Charles V will be assessed.

Lodewijk van Praet's actions will be analyzed and compared with the diplomatic rules and codes of behaviour as they were outlined by the 17th century diplomat Jean Hotman de Villiers. Did Lodewijk van Praet for example possessed the cardinal virtues of courage, righteousness and temperance? Diplomatic immunity, the secrecy of diplomatic correspondence and the protocol are a few of the various aspects of the early diplomatic métier that will be examined within the frame of diplomatic rules and codes. Particular attention will be paid to the way in which Lodewijk van Praet perceived policy-making at the English court and how this was recreated in their correspondence with the emperor.

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**Georgina Moore, Bath Spa University**

### ***Baldesar Castiglione and Courtly Masculinity***

Whilst undertaking his ambassadorial duties Baldesar Castiglione wrote *The Book of the Courtier*: the years spent lovingly writing and editing this manuscript left him with a work which proved to be an excellent guide to courtly life and behaviour. Whilst receiving little praise within his home country of Italy and being censored by the ecclesiastical authorities, the work was influential in other European countries, particularly in England, where men soon adopted the behaviours of the courtier as their own. This paper shall consider how Castiglione's *The Courtier* influenced English reflections on courtly behaviour.

It has been noted that Castiglione's ambassadorial work is neglected from mention within this work, and this paper will expand upon Douglas Biow's argument that it is conspicuous by its absence. Castiglione argues that before a man can become an ambassador, he must first of all become the perfect courtier. In essence there is no need to describe the behaviour of an ambassador, as he must be a perfect courtier. In this paper I will discuss Castiglione's perfect courtier and explore the models of masculinity which he illustrates throughout the work. Models of medieval chivalry and warrior display are juxtaposed with softer more gentlemanly behaviours. The ambassador acted as a physical representation of his prince and therefore embodied his presence, adding a further layer of importance to the ambassador's manly façade.

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**Ernesto Oyarbide, University of Oxford**

### ***Count of Gondomar (1567-1626), Spanish ambassador in the court of King James***

Throughout the centuries, the first Count of Gondomar (1567-1626), Spanish ambassador in the court of King James, has been the target of heterogeneous historical interpretations and paradoxes. He managed to become an extremely successful political figure in the English court from 1613 to

1623, but this prowess also gained him many enemies in London and estranged him from some political circles in Madrid. The figure of a Machiavellian Count of Gondomar remained firmly set in English historiography for centuries.

Nonetheless, the historical figure of this diplomat started a slow process of reassessment during the second half of the twentieth century. It is within this new historical context that this study aims to analyse the figure of this Spanish diplomat through an analysis of his personal collection of English books and prints. This paper will give special relevance to the English portraits collected by Gondomar and will comment on their significance from a cultural point of view that heavily relies in the moral theories of the times. It does so in the hopes of providing a more nuanced historical understanding of Gondomar's relationship with British culture and provide some reasons for his success in London. Gondomar's collection of English portraits has been very little studied until now and this paper wishes to include material from the Biblioteca Nacional of Madrid that has never been analysed in previous articles (e.g. Gondomar's *Baziliologia*). This paper finishes with the contention that, far from being a Machiavellian figure, Gondomar was, if not a cultural Anglophile, at least a diplomat with deep knowledge and appreciation for British affairs.

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Diego Pizzorno, University of Genoa

***Ceremonies and ancient magnificence: meaning and representation of a Genoese 'embassy of obedience' through a private report.***

This study focuses on the 'embassy of obedience' sent by the Republic of Genoa to Pope Paul V in 1605. The analysis is based on a private document: the report compiled for Sinibaldo Doria by Manfredo Ravaschiero, which took part in the mission itself. Retracing meticulously the ceremonial evolution of the embassy, the long report highlights the significance of a well-established ritual which regulated and renewed relations between Rome and the Catholic states. Attention to precedence, the order of meetings and visits, and the careful use of clothing are just some elements of a complex symbolic scheme still unknown. Being a private writing, the report gradually becomes a detailed narration of evocative places of Rome: a journal in which Ravaschiero lingers on monuments, buildings and antiquities. Descriptions, anecdotes and historical digressions give the diplomatic document a background that accomplishes and justifies the ceremony of obedience, recalling that imaginary of magnificence that made Rome the ceremonial scene of Catholic states' politics.

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Ettore Cafagna, University of Verona

***Diplomatic protocol and political legitimation: the case of Venice and the Dutch Republic in the early 17th century***

Preserving the legitimation of a state within the international

community is one of the most important tasks of diplomacy, today as well as in the early 17th century. The political legitimation of a state is also linked to the representation that the state gives of itself and of its identity. With my presentation I aim to enquire the way the diplomatic protocol has been used in the early 17th century in order to legitimate the presence and the rank of a state in the European political arena. I will use the case study of the two most prominent representatives of a republican form of government as the Republic of Venice and the Dutch Republic. Using diplomatic documents and legal works concerning precedence and diplomatic protocol issues, I will link the ceremonial spaces, protocols and precedence together for a better understanding of the legitimation strategies used by the early modern diplomacy. The case of Venice and the Dutch Republic is important because early modern republics had to make up for the lack of legitimacy produced by the absence of a royal dynasty with a complex legitimation system. This system is composed by a sum of historical elements, diplomatic tradition and self-representation, aiming to give to these republics the rightful and appropriate space in the European political context of the time.

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Roger Lee Jesus, University of Coimbra

***Diplomacy and Empire in Portuguese Asia during the government and viceroyalty of D. Joao de Castro (1545-1548)***

The creation of a Portuguese 'State' (*Estado*) in the Indian Ocean in the first half of the 16th century was strongly supported by the exercise of diplomacy. This element was central to the Portuguese presence in this region since the arrival of Vasco da Gama in India, in 1498. Even after the conquest and the construction of several fortresses, the Europeans presence was always fragile given their numerical inferiority. Diplomacy was understood as a key factor to maintain and expand their influence and presence in this region of the world.

The aim of this paper is to analyse the Portuguese diplomacy in South Asia during the time of the governor and viceroy D. João de Castro (1545-1548). For almost three years, Castro was the highest official, representing the king himself and the interests of the Crown in the Indian Ocean during a period of political and military tension, with several wars with Indians sultanates. Through letters, chronicles, reports and even treaties this paper will examine and discuss the strategies adopted by Castro to sustain the Portuguese presence as well as his network spread in several regions.

We will also observe his practices in the strong ceremonial of diplomacy and in the gift-giving process (from and to him), used to strengthen relations and the symbolic image of the governor and viceroy court. These perspectives will allow an improved understanding about the role of diplomacy in the Portuguese Empire, especially regarding the physical distance between the Realm and the 'State of India, a six month journey that connected West and East.

Ozden Mercan, European University Institute

***An Ottoman Ambassador in Florence: Mustafa Aga's Role in Ottoman-Tuscan Negotiations in 1598***

Prior to the eighteenth century, there were no resident embassies of the Ottoman Empire in Europe. The absence of such institutions should not imply a lack of interest on the part of the Ottomans in conducting diplomacy with the outside world. On the contrary, recent scholarship points out that there were intensive contacts and diplomatic relations between the Ottoman Empire and Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The *Sublime Porte* frequently sent envoys and ambassadors to various European powers, especially the Italian states for different purposes - from negotiating peace treaties to inviting foreign rulers to attend imperial celebrations in Ottoman Constantinople. There are already a number of studies that focus on Ottoman diplomats in Venice and their reception and perception by the *Serenissima* during the early modern period. In this paper, the author looks beyond Venice and explores the diplomatic exchange between the Ottoman Empire and Grand Duchy of Tuscany in the second half of the sixteenth century, through the diplomatic mission of an Ottoman ambassador, Mustafa Aga, to Florence. In 1598 Mustafa Aga was sent to Florence to deliver the letters from Sultan Mehmed III and Grand Admiral Halil Pasha to Grand Duke Ferdinando I de' Medici, in response to his request for friendship and privileges. Besides delivering the letters, he also conducted negotiations with the grand duke and attended courtly ceremonies.

Even after his return to Constantinople, he continued to cultivate his relationship with the grand duke. Being 'the servant of the sultan' and at the same time 'in the service of the grand duke', Mustafa Aga acted as a cultural broker in Ottoman-Tuscan relations. In light of the unpublished diplomatic correspondence and reports, this paper will not only discuss the diplomacy conducted by Mustafa Aga in Florence but also evaluate his role in mediating between the Ottoman court and the grand duke throughout the Ottoman-Tuscan negotiations.

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Rikard Drakenlordh, Bath Spa University

***King Charles XII of Sweden and the Diplomatic Expedition to the Madagascar Pirates in 1718***

In this paper I propose to take a fresh look at Charles XII of Sweden and the negotiations to form an alliance with the infamous Madagascar pirates and their then current leader, Captain Edward England. This is a relatively unknown diplomatic historic event and my hope is to, by giving this paper, stimulate further interest regarding the subject. Another interesting aspect is how a state conducted diplomatic negotiations with people who were stateless like the Madagascar pirates.

I will argue that Sweden was interested in forming an alliance with the pirates in order to gain an African colony and to have the opportunity to deliver maritime strikes against the East India trade using stateless pirate ships.

In 1717, British and French diplomats were approached by pirate emissaries offering economical advantages in form of ships and capital in return for a safe haven. Both the British and the French turned down the offer, why the pirates turned to the next European super power in turn, Sweden, with the same offer. This time the pirates sweetened the deal by offering Sweden the possibility to acquire Madagascar as a protectorate. King Charles XII was very tempted by the offer, and on 24 June 1718 he wrote a letter of protection for the pirates, and shortly thereafter a diplomatic expedition lead by one of Sweden's most experienced diplomats, Otto Klinckowström, was sent on its way to Madagascar.

Central sources are documents from the Swedish Board of Trade, letters from the archive of Otto Klinckowström and older secondary sources.

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Rubén González Cuerva, German Historical Institute in Rome/IULCE

***Five Ambassadors, the Queen of Hungary and her Confessor: How to Defend Spanish Interests in Vienna around 1632***

After the departure in 1630 of the ordinary ambassador Aytona, the Spanish representation at the Imperial Court entered a period of uncertainty. In absence of an authoritative figure, the court of Madrid successively instructed five agents to negotiate individual issues: Antonio de Castro, Jacques Brunneau, the Marquis of Cadereyta, the Duke of Guastalla and Senator Ottavio Villani. These five men had very disparate backgrounds as well as different official roles as residents or extraordinary ambassadors. Obviously, clashes among them quickly appeared, offering us an interesting case of study of the notions of representation and authority.

To add even more confusion, or maybe to ease the contacts, it existed in Vienna an alternative Spanish interlocutor: the recently arrived Queen of Hungary Maria of Austria, sister of the King of Spain Philip IV and wife of Ferdinand, heir to the Emperor Ferdinand II. The household of Maria constituted a Spanish lobby in the core of the Court: her secretary Burena and specially her confessor, the Capuchin friar Diego de Quiroga, developed a very active political role.

In contrast to the model of the previous decades, with an authoritative and almost autonomous ambassador, since this phase it seems that the informal mediation, which the entourage of Queen Maria made possible, was more efficient. At the same time, the lack of an undoubted and powerful interlocutor weakened the previously dominant influence of the Spanish Habsburgs over their Austrian relatives.

**Miguel Conde Pazos, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid/IULCE**

***Discreet and pragmatic Diplomacy: the Marquis de la Fuente and the Spanish Agents in Poland (1642-1667)***

During the first half of the 17th Century, the House of Austria maintained close ties with the Polish-Lithuanian court. Neighbour of the kingdoms of Bohemia and Hungary, Warsaw's friendship was essential during the Thirty Years' War to ensure the eastern border of the *Hereditary Lands*. To Madrid, the alliance with Poland was equally valuable for the interests in the Baltic. Therefore, Habsburg diplomacy tried to integrate the Vasa family into the dynastic system of the House of Austria. However, the number of Spanish embassies sent to Poland was low because the alliance with the Spanish Habsburgs was not popular among the Polish nobility. Consequently, most businesses were discussed by agents sent from the Spanish embassy in Vienna, following a discreet and pragmatic diplomacy.

This paper examines the work of these agents during the reign of the last two Vasa Kings (Władysław IV, 1632-1648, and John Casimir Vasa, 1648-1668) focusing on the activity of the Marquis de la Fuente. Since his years as ambassador in Venice (1642-1656), La Fuente was one of the foremost experts in the Polish court as he became confident of some of the ministers sent by the Polish kings to Italy. As ambassador in Vienna (1656-1661), La Fuente coordinated the Spanish activity in the area during the Second Northern War in order to strengthen the Emperor's influence in Poland.

Through his activity, we analyze the relationships between Madrid-Vienna-Warsaw since the rise period of the Family Treaty' to the decline under the rule of John Casimir Vasa.

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**Koldo Trápaga Monchet, Universidade Nova da Lisboa/IULCE**

***The political Development of Habsburgs' Courts through John of Austria and official and unofficial Agents (1665-1679)***

The death of Philip IV of Spain in 1665 meant an inflection point in the political attitude of his illegitimate son John of Austria. Since his stay at the court of Brussels (1656-1659), John came into conflict with the Imperial family of Vienna, who did not agree to treat him as an Infant of Spain. These problems of acknowledgment increased during the minority of Charles II, John's stepbrother. The contacts of John with the Imperial ambassador Pötting were frustrating for both sides, as neither of the two accepted the treatment demanded by the other. Therefore, the relationships were carried out through unofficial interviews of informal agents of John as Francisco Bremundan, Diego de Velasco or Mateo Patiño with different representatives of the Imperial embassy.

The chief topic discussed was the negotiation to marry King Charles II to Archduchess Maria Antonia of Austria. This was the desired plan of Dowager Queen Marianne of Austria, but

when John became 'First Minister' in 1677, he changed the political line developed until that time. John distrusted the alliance with his Viennese family and preferred to arrange the marriage of Charles II with the French Maria Luisa of Orleans. The aim of this paper is to show how unofficial diplomacy was used by John of Austria for the advancement of his own interests and its influence in the policy-making between the Habsburgs' Courts between 1665 and 1679.

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**Vanessa de Cruz Medina, Independent Researcher**

***Medici's Secret Diplomacy: Women, Gifts and Political Alliances at the Court of Philip III of Spain***

In 1605, the Tuscan diplomat Orazio della Renna wrote a *Relazione segreta delle cose della corte de Spagna* for the Grand Duke Ferdinando I. He offered a portrait of the Spanish court and the preferences and tastes of the Spanish royals and courtiers, remarking the importance of giving gifts secretly not to cause any measure of suspicion, discontent or jealousy. And, moreover, he recommended that giving gifts by the way of the women and the wives of ministers was as the safest means. During the past decade, scholars have been studying gift giving as part of the diplomatic practices; however, the presents exchanged by women have yet to be deeply analyzed. This paper demonstrates that women were not only active gif-givers and recipients of presents of all kinds, but also played a prominent role in the political and diplomatic gift exchange in Early Modern period. It focuses on the secret negotiation to marry Eleonora de' Medici with Philip III of Spain, which offers us the possibility to study the role played by noblewomen in the diplomatic gift-giving strategies developed by the Medici between 1611 and 1617. To close this secret deal, it was settled that the Grand Duchess Maria Maddalena should commission and send extremely expensive gold-embroidered velvets to Inés de Vargas, a Spanish noblewoman married to Rodrigo Calderón, who was one of the most important Philip III's ministers. The textiles were delivered by Orso Pannocchieschi d'Elci, the Tuscan ambassador in Madrid, as negotiations progressed.

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**Alejandra Franganillo, Universidad Complutense de Madrid**

***Between France, Savoy and the Spanish Monarchy: The Princess of Carignano, 'prisoner' in the Spanish Court (1636-1644)***

In 1636 Maria of Bourbon — Prince of the Blood and Count de Soissons' daughter — left Savoy with his children and arrived in Spain. Her intention was spend a few weeks and continue her trip to Flanders, where her husband the Prince of Carignano was acting as the Captain of the Spanish Royal Army. Nevertheless, Maria remained eight years in Madrid at first as a guest and afterward as a result of Philip IV's command. Meanwhile, in 1638 the Prince Thomas of Carignano and his brother the cardinal Mauricio started a Civil War in Savoy against her sister-in-law Cristina of France, when the Duke of Savoy, Victor Amadeo I, and their son died. After Thomas and Mauricio's defeat, Maria's husband signed a deal with France and the Peace with

Cristina in 1641. This situation put Maria in a very difficult position: she continued supporting her husband's decisions which caused a constant conflict with the count-duke of Olivares, king's favourite.

Until now, we don't know so much about people who played an instrumental role into diplomatic negotiations against their wishes. This role was especially decisive during extraordinary situations, as the period of war that the Spanish kingdoms were living. For that reason, in this proposal we pretend to analyse the strategies that Maria of Bourbon developed, and how the king used her as a 'prisoner' in a very difficult time for the Spanish diplomacy during Philip IV's reign.

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**Laura Oliván, University of Vienna**

***Between discourses and practices: Imperial Ambassadors in Madrid (1650–1700)***

Numerous treaties and manuals concerning the figure of ambassador were published in seventeenth century. These texts didn't avoid the debate about female diplomacy, and although they denied that a woman could have the post of 'ambassador', they recognized the diplomatic role that Queens and princesses could exercise; among these women, some authors included wives of ambassadors: ambassadors.

According to theorists, ambassadors should facilitate the diplomatic work of their husbands, keep secrets and, in matters of law, their role as wives were over their 'title' of ambassadors. But, these discourses were not always a representation of the 'practices'. So, to better understand the role played by ambassador's wives, it is necessary to analyse 'cases studies', using a microscopic approach in order to observe little behaviours and movements of the ambassadors in particular contexts.

In my paper I will try to explain the concept of ambassador in Early Modern Europe, analyse the discourses and contrast them with the practices developed by the imperial ambassador in the Court of Madrid in the second half of seventeenth century.

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**John Condren, University of St Andrews**

***Braganza, Este, and Medici marital diplomacy under the umbrella of French geopolitical strategy in the 1680s***

In 1679, Maria Giovanna Battista, 'Madama Reale', the duchess-regent of Savoy-Piedmont, proposed to Louis XIV that her son, the thirteen-year-old duke Vittorio Amedeo II, should marry the infanta of Portugal, Pedro II's daughter and sole heir Isabel Luísa. Louis seized upon the idea as a means of ensuring that the young duke would remain remote from power in Turin, since the Portuguese court insisted that Isabel Luísa's suitor should take up permanent and exclusive residence in Lisbon. However, Vittorio Amedeo saw through

his mother's plans for his marriage, knowing that his mother aimed at total power over the Savoyard government. He therefore pretended to be seriously ill to avoid having to travel to Portugal, and the project was eventually dropped.

Louis XIV had, in any case, changed his mind, and begun to feel that such a marriage was a threat to French interests in the Spanish succession. This did not prevent the king of France from trying to arrange a suitable marriage for the spurned infanta over the next ten years. Suitable, in this context, meant simply that the bridegroom should be a prince whose family were traditionally friendly to France. Louis expected that by sponsoring a marriage, he could derive security benefits for the French crown in a geographically sensitive area. By the early 1680s, few German princes were willing to encourage (or tolerate) Louis XIV's participation in their dynastic politics. This meant that the small northern Italian states were obvious sources of Francophile candidates. Among these were Grand Prince Ferdinando de' Medici (heir to Grand Duke Cosimo III of Tuscany); and Duke Francesco II d'Este of Modena, whose sister Maria Beatrice was the duchess of York and afterwards, from 1685 to 1688, queen of Great Britain. This paper will discuss how Louis tried to impose his domineering and bullying style upon these young Italian potentates in encouraging them to marry the infanta of Portugal, and how Ferdinando and Francesco in turn resented the French king's interference in their sovereign prerogatives. This interference contributed to the reasons why all three ruling families – the Este of Modena, the Medici of Tuscany, and the Braganza of Portugal – drew closer to the Spanish and Austrian Habsburgs after 1680, and certainly after 1688.

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**Bram van Leuven, University of St Andrews**

***Diplomacy With(out) Borders? Translating French Court Ballet across European Cultures and Languages***

The French ballets (*ballets de cour*) given at the Renaissance court of the late Valois and early Bourbon monarchs were chiefly intended as diplomatic events. The lavishly produced spectacles fulfilled an important function in the demonstration of royal power. This paper starts from the observation that previous research on *ballet de cour* has tended to overlook the question of how the genre supported diplomatic negotiations across European cultures and languages. *Le Paradis d'amour*, a ballet performed in 1572 to mark the controversial wedding between the Catholic princess Marguerite de Valois and the Protestant prince Henri de Navarre, will serve as a primary case study. The pageant offers an intriguing insight into the politico-religious turmoil in which *Le Paradis d'amour* may have transcended national boundaries and languages, but in the ambiguity of its political messages also introduced misunderstandings among the English convoys, who were sent to confirm the Anglo-French alliance between Elizabeth of late sixteenth-century France as it helped effect peace by staging a religious reconciliation between Catholics and Protestants.

This paper seeks to highlight the essentially European context in which the French court ballets were held by exploring

eyewitness accounts of *Le Paradis d'amour*, written by Dutch and English ambassadors, as instances of 'cultural translation,' that is, the cultural transfer of values, beliefs, histories and narratives. The term will provide a point of departure for a discussion of the ways I and Charles IX, and the Dutch deputies, who showed a deep interest in France's treatment of its religious tensions.

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Suna Suner, Don Juan Archiv Vienna

***Diplomacy and Theatre in the Early Modern Era: Ambassadors and Ambassadors in the Italian Opera History***

Don Juan Archiv Wien's project 'Ottoman Empire and European Theatre' researches the cultural influences and transfers between the Ottoman Empire and Europe from the aspect of the performing arts. A research direction within the project 'is *Theatre and Diplomacy*, a theatre and opera-historical research project which concerns itself mainly with the cultural role of diplomats between the Ottoman Empire and European states. The project brings together the fields of theatre and diplomacy which date back to a long history in Europe on a cultural-historical level; explores their correlations and examines the extent to which the field of diplomacy has been influential on theatre/opera history in Ottoman and European frameworks. This has up to today been a neglected area in the field of cultural-historical studies.

Diplomats *did* play a rather significant role in the Italian opera history which is evidence to how opera and diplomacy have been historically interrelated; and special relevance can be attributed to diplomats in the Europe wide history of Italian opera: research shows that there are over 200 opera pieces which are connected with diplomats. In the Italian opera history, ambassadors acted as dedicatees and dedicators, impresarios, artists and dramatis personae of opera pieces. As the printed libretti reveal, ambassadors' operas, occurring in 1610, were an international phenomenon from about 1640 to at least 1800. Of these over 200 opera pieces, the majority (82 pieces) were given in Rome, and the greater part of these fall between the years 1683-1740, that is, from the Second Siege of Vienna by the Ottoman army until the death of Emperor Charles VI.

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Nina Lamal, KU Leuven/University of St Andrews

***Looking for alternative eyes and ears: Italian correspondents in the Low Countries (c. 1590–1632)***

In recent years, historians have increasingly studied the circulation of news in early modern Europe. The role of diplomats in the provision of information to their rulers or governments has been widely recognized. The aim of this paper is to study the problems which governments encountered and the solutions they devised when they did not have an official representative to a particular state. The revolt in the Netherlands and the involvement therein of the Italian states is particularly suited for this purpose. From 1566

onwards, there was a growing need at Italian courts for information of the political and military developments, yet there were no Italian diplomats residing in the Low

Countries. Thirty years after the start of the revolt, a papal nuncio was finally sent to the Habsburg Netherlands, residing permanently in Brussels. However, other Italian states still did not have official representation. How did these Italian states have access to accurate and trustworthy news of events in the Low Countries? Through careful analysis of the news reports sent to Mantua, Ferrara, Modena, Urbino, Florence and Rome between 1590 and 1632, this paper will demonstrate the importance of alternative networks for the exchange of political and military information.

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Francesco Malfatti, European University Institute

***Broadening the horizon of Medicean diplomacy: the ambassadorial mission to Transylvanian court (1593)***

At the end of sixteenth century the Grand Duchy of Tuscany could rely upon stable and continuing diplomatic relationships with a vast majority of states scattered all over the European continent. This complex network of ambassadors, secretaries, middle-men, informers formed the backbone of the diplomatic apparatus, which underpinned and vehiculate Ferdinando I de' Medici's ambitious – sometimes reckless – foreign policy.

Also the Medicean participation to the so-called *lange Türkenkrieg* (1593-1606) could be seen as a tile of that complex mosaic represented by Florentine foreign relations. Indeed, Tuscan troops joined the Holy Roman Empire army on Hungarian battlefields to fight against the Sublime Porte and came into contact with the kaleidoscopic dimension of both Habsburg and Ottoman vassal states. Among them stood out the Voivodeship of Transylvania ruled by Sigismund Bathory which raised the interest of the Grand Duke to the extent that he was induced to send an official envoy at Transylvanian court in 1593.

Those circumstances represent a useful case study for a better understanding of the functioning of Medicean diplomacy outside the boundaries of 'structured' and traditional diplomatic relations. The analysis aims at observing the interaction between the formal and informal diplomatic networks with a special focus on the relationship between appointed ambassadors and brokering figures, as well as on circulation of information, and flows of news.

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José Miguel Escribano Páez, European University Institute

***Diplomacy without Kings. The diplomatic negotiations between the Hispanic Monarchy and the Maghreb cities (1500–1511)***

Traditionally, early modern diplomacy has been understood as just another mean of the exercising power by Kings and Princes. Nevertheless, in the last years, this image has been challenged by some historians who, from different

approaches, have pointed out the multiplicity of actors involved in different diplomatic activities. This pluralistic approach allows us to study new forms negotiations that were far from fixing into the traditional scheme of inter-state

diplomacy. In this presentation I will analyse one of these cases. Most specifically, I will focus on the set of diplomatic contacts between a multiplicity of actors coming from the southern coast of the Iberian Peninsula and the Maghreb to deliver some Muslim cities of this region during the opening decade of the sixteenth century. Thus, I will reconstruct the complete portrait of actors involved in these bargaining processes, the practices they employed, and the different interests at the stake. In so doing I aim to show that we can better understand the diplomatic relationships connecting both shores of the Mediterranean Sea abandoning the rigid model of dyadic negotiations between kings.

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**Michael Talbot, Université Paris 1 Panthéon–Sorbonne**

***A reassessment of British and French diplomacy with the 'Barbary States', 16th–18th century***

The Ottoman North African Regencies of Algiers, Tripoli, and Tunis – popularly known as the Barbary States – provide something of a diplomatic conundrum. Whilst subject to the authority of the Ottoman sultan in Istanbul, they operated to a high degree of autonomy, even to the extent of making treaties with foreign powers and dispatching ambassadors. Whilst much of the historiographical focus of interactions between the European mercantile nations and the Regencies has focused on the issue of slavery and piracy, my paper proposes to demonstrate several features of relations that can help us to understand this diplomacy in a more nuanced fashion. My examining the treaty texts and diplomatic correspondence between the Regencies and Britain and France, in Ottoman Turkish as well as English and French, it is possible to see that relations were dominated by questions of maritime sovereignty and regulation of commerce. Moreover, unlike those of their Ottoman overlords, the treaties of the Regencies with European states were explicitly bilateral. This means that we can get a far greater sense of the interests that concerned the Regencies themselves, especially in terms of looking after their merchant and merchant shipping, something that is rarely focused on in the historiography. It will also focus on the language and symbols employed by the North African rulers, which in some respects adopted or mimicked the conventions of the Ottomans and Europeans, and in others asserted a distinct identity as a group of states operating in a perpetual state of war. This reassessment of British/French diplomacy with the Barbary States will therefore aim to provide the North African voice to the diplomatic story, and discuss the interests of the Regencies beyond the often cartoonish narratives of pirates and white slavery.

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Anna and Bobby look forward to seeing you at Splendid Encounters IV in Budapest, 2015

