

## THE PRIORY OF BARLETTA



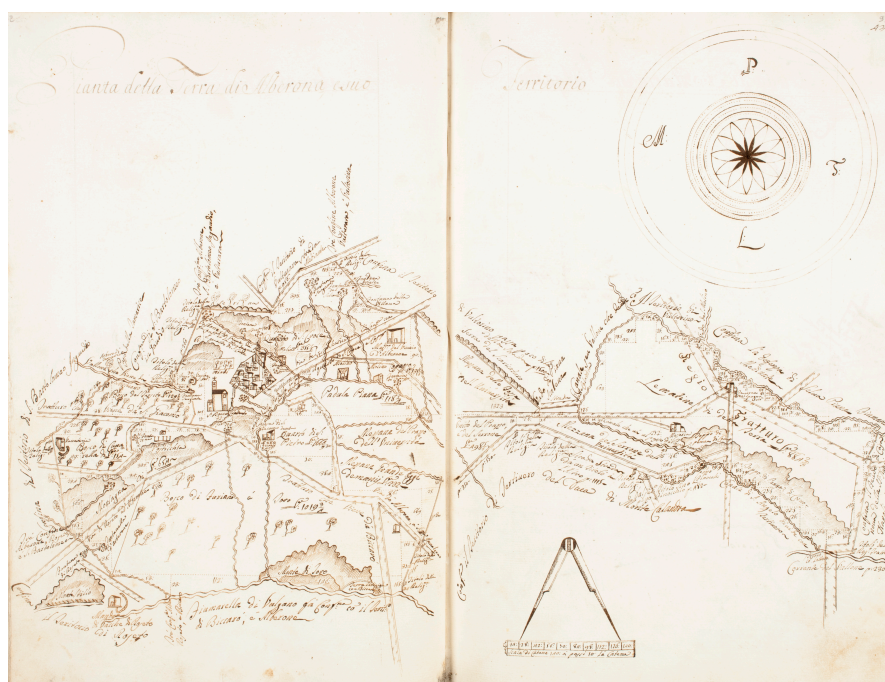
The prioral *domus* of Barletta, situated on a flat area just outside the city walls, was founded shortly after the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century as replacement for that in Bari, which had been demolished following the rebellion of 1156. Though already in ruins by 1399, it remained active until 1528, the year in which it was destroyed by French troops led by Renzo de Ceri. Having been moved inside the city walls, it remained there until the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, when it was transported to its present location in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The priors, Fra' Don Tommaso Castromediano, De Giovanni, and Piccolomini, later embellished it with a bell tower, which they adorned with the coat of arms of the Order. Meetings of the Prioral Assembly were held in the Sacristy. Among the relics conserved was a fragment of the Cross of Jesus. Attached to the church was the Pilgrims' Hospital, owned by the Order and was served by the Knights.

The Priory's assets included several landholdings which supplied it with a very substantial income:

- ☞ the two Bailiwicks of **SANTO STEFANO** and **SS. TRINITÀ DI VENOSA**;
- ☞ the Magistral commandery, reserved for the Grand Master, of **MARUGGIO**;
- ☞ the commandery of **SAN GIOVANNI DI TROIA**, one of the most ancient properties of the Order, was first mentioned in the Bull of Pope Lucius III of 1182, which granted the Order the Church of the Holy Sepulchre of Troia and the Church of Santa Maria di Balneo;
- ☞ the commandery of **SS GIOVANNI E STEFANO DI MELFI**;
- ☞ the commandery of **GRASSANO**, the origin of which dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, had a commandery house with a garden, a cellar with an ice-house, four caves and a wooded area known as "*la Padula*";
- ☞ the commandery of **SANTA MARIA DI PICCIANO DI MATERA**;
- ☞ the commandery of **MOLFETTA E TERLIZZI**, established in 1199 following a donation to the Hospital of Bari by one Giovanni Terlizzi;
- ☞ the commandery of **SAN PRIMIANO DI LARINO**;
- ☞ the commandery of **SAN GIOVANNI DI MONOPOLI**, named after the Church of San Giovanni, which existed before 1350 in Monopoli;
- ☞ the commandery of **SANTA CATERINA DI BARI, RUVO E BITONTO**, established in 1768 through the union of Santa Caterina di Bari and of Ruvo and Bitonto;
- ☞ the commandery of **NARDÒ**, which consisted of olive trees in the area around Lequile and vineyards in Corsano;

- ☞ the commandery of **FOGGIA**, established from various properties in the Table of Apulias district, which was a thoroughfare for herds coming from Abruzzo;
- ☞ the commandery of **SAN GIOVANNI DI BARLETTA E DEL SANTO SEPOLCRO DI BRINDISI**;
- ☞ the commanderies of **POZZO MONACO AND TORRETTA DI BARLETTA**, which were detached from the Priory in June 1780, comprised two estates;
- ☞ the commandery of **TORRE DI LAMA**, an estate in the territory of Foggia, detached from the Priory in 1786;
- ☞ the commanderies of **PUTIGNANO LA MAGGIORE AND LA MINORE**;
- ☞ the commandery of **SAN GUIDO DI CASAMASSIMI**, founded between 1760 and 1770 by Guidotto Maria Casamassimi;
- ☞ the commandery of **LIZZANO**, founded in June 1771 by the noble Chyurlia family, was reserved for the firstborn or for a representative of the family with seniority in the Order and, when the latter was on holiday, was administered by the head of the family or by the Receiver of Barletta;

and, lastly, the **CANONE DEI BENI DI NOLA**, the title held by Fra' Cesare de Ildaris after 1776, by Magistral grace of Grand Master de Rohan.



### A FEW NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVE

The Cabreos Collection comprises about fifty manuscripts, including cabrei and improvements, which relate to some properties of the Order of Malta in the regions of Apulia and Basilicata, dating between 1599 and 1804.

Most are volumes of average size, written in Latin and Italian and decorated with beautiful colour plates, created by “compassatori” or royal land-surveyors, whose names can be read between the lines of the first pages of every volume.

The documents, now all in digital format, can be studied at the Magistral Archives of the Order in Rome by appointment, or can be purchased by contacting this address: [archives.biblio@orderofmalta.int](mailto:archives.biblio@orderofmalta.int).