Csák Krisztina Csilla
SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME, ITALY

http://hdl.handle.net/2067/49298

I BARBERINI E L'EUROPA, Acta Barberiana 5, Viterbo, Sette Città, 2022, pp. 7–322. Edited by Tusor Péter and Boccolini Alessandro

The publication, the fifth volume of the Acta Barberiana, came to light through the contribution of the Ministero della Cultura, Direzione Generale Educazione, Ricerca e Istituti Culturali and the Centro Studi sull'Etá dei Sobieski e della Polonia Moderna (Study Center on the Sobieski Age and of Modern Poland, CESPoM). The *I Barberini e l'Europa* provides a multifaceted approach to the complex and intricate system of Baroque Papal diplomacy,

The wide spatial perspective that the *I Barberini e l'Europa* represents allows the reader to delve into the extended network of the Barberinis, ranging from Muscovy to Portugal, however, even surpassing this border, connections to North America are under the scope as well. A series of thematically different chapters constitute an overarching chronological frame, leading the reader from the rise of the Barberinis in the late 16th century throughout their golden era, the 17th century, to the eventual fading of their influence.

The volume begins with a clear, throughout list of abbreviations of the various archives utilized by the researchers. Counting significant collections, such as the *Archivio Barberini*, *Archivio Apostolico Vaticano*, *Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana*, or the *Archivio di Stato* of various cities, such as Rome, Modena, Genova, and Parma, with no claim to being exhaustive, the source material on which the works are based reflect the magnitude of the scope of the *I Barberini e l'Europa*.

The book is structured into twelve chapters, all of them following the main theme of the volume, examining a certain connection of the Barberinis to a part of Europe.

The first, chapter, Francesca De Caprio's *Il mercante Raffaello Barberini e la sua "Relazione di Moscovia"* provides an insight into one of the farthest connections of the Barberinis, namely Raffaello Barberini's diplomatic journey to Muscovy between 1564-1565. De Caprio lays the foundations of this chapter by starting with a biographical approach and then elaborates how the main subject of his research came to the diplomatic voyage. The analysis fulfills a wider approach too, the relation between the Barberini family and Muscovy is analyzed from the perspective of North-European diplomatic relations as well, including England and the Spanish Netherlands as well.

The second chapter, *The unsuccessful election of Rinaldo d'Este to the throne of Poland (1674)*, by Alessandro Boccolini, examines the background to the election of the new Polish king, where the author shows how Rinaldo d'Este almost came to the throne of Poland. We can also learn more about the extensive network of the Barberini family, Cardinal Barberini's key role in the election, and from the correspondence the role of Lucrezia Barberini as a mother who sold her jewelry just to support her son in becoming king. In the end, as we know, eventually, Jan III Sobieski became king and not the patron of the Barberini family. Economic,

diplomatic and political points of view, as well as magnate mobility, contributed to this.

The chapter written by Gaetano Platania, *Carlo Barberini e l'Europa di Centro* follows the theme of examining the Central European connections of the Barberinis, albeit from a different perspective. The author created various categories in the examination of the correspondence of the Barberinis with the various figures of contemporary Central Europe.

Péter Tusor describes the relation between the Barberinis, the Papal State and Hungary in relation to the domestic affairs of the latter. A complex political and diplomatic system is put into analysis here, including the Habsburg dynasty's relation to Hungary, the Ottoman occupation, and how the Papal State itself viewed Hungary in this age.

That the relation between the Barberinis and the Habsburgs is a recurring point of interest along the work is not surprising, given how both of them played cordial roles in the shaping of 17th century Europe. Silvano Giordano's *Urbano VIII e Ferdinando II (1628-1635). Verso una ridefinizione dei rapporti tra papato e impero durante la guerra dei Trent'anni* explores this aspect of the Barberini's history exactly, in which the author analyses the interconnecting web of pope Urban VIII's diplomatic dealings during the time of the Thirty Years' War.

The following chapter, *Les Barberini et la Franca, e Henri IV á Mazarin*, written by Olivier Poncet, examines the other side of the coin, namely the relation of the Barberini's to the greatest rivals of the Habsburgs and the Holy Roman Empire; the Kingdom of France.

Dalma Frascarelli's chapter, titled *Un "Seneca" e l' "Et in Arcadia Ego" di Guercino nella Quadreria di Antonio Barberini*, is a step away from the political and diplomatic connections of the Barberini and instead focuses on two magnificent works of art and approaches the family's history from this aspect.

The *Dopo Urbano VIII. Le reazioni Spagnole alla disgrazia dei Barberini* by Giuseppe Mrozek Eliszezynski analyses the Spanish reaction to the death of pope Urban VIII., and how the Barberini family itself dealt with the crisis that followed this event.

Isabella Iannuzzi and Gaetano Sabatini put emphasis on the network of relationships that tied the Barberini family to Portugal in the chapter *I Barberini e il Portogallo: strategie politiche, economiche,religiose e culturali per tessere relazioni con il mondo iberico*, analysing the connection not only between the family, but the Pope and the Papal State and the Iberian peninsula itself.

Matteo Binasco's chapter, *I Barberini e il Regno Inglese* shifts the focus on the connection between England and the Barberini family, which is a highly interesting topic of choice, considering the religious situation of Britain in the era.

The following chapter of the book, *I Barberini a Propaganda Fide: appunti biografici per una ricerca*, by Giovanni Pizzorusso, turns inwards and instead of focusing on the family's relations to various European states or political entities, examines the Barberini's role in the reshaping of the Papal State and the Congregation of Faith.

In the final chapter of the I Barberini e l'Europa, Matteo Sanfilippo crosses the previously established geographical boundaries, as the chapter *I Barberini e le colonie Europee in Nord America durante il seicento* explores the truly global reach of the Barberini family's network by focusing on the North American connections.