



Fig. 4

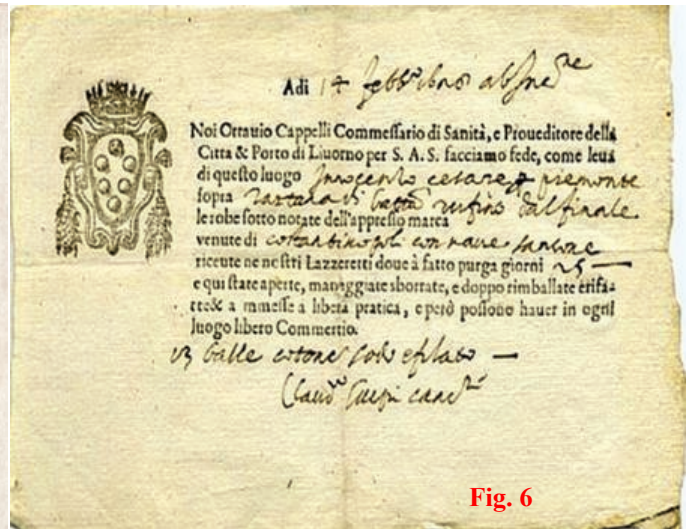


Fig. 6



Fig. 5



Fig. 8

his shield receiving many dents in the combat. Charlemagne allowed him to commemorate the victory by representing the dents as red balls, or palle, on a field of gold. The second is that the red balls represent either pills or cupping glasses for bloodletting since the Medici had been doctors or apothecaries, apparently the descendants of a charcoal burner originally from Mergello. The third explanation, and probably the correct one, is that the balls represent coins like the bezants, Byzantine coins, copied from the moneylenders, the Arte del Cambio.

It is interesting to note that the designer of the Medici Coat of Arms has incorporated three fleur-

de-lys into the top palla.



Fig. 7

MADONNA DI MONTENERO

After an epidemic of the pest in 1630/31 the Livornese population attributed the end of it to the intervention of the Madonna but it was short-lived since the epidemic returned as early as 1632 causing 200 deaths. The chapel had been built in 1603 following the appearance of the Madonna to a shepherdess in the 15th century; she was deemed to be the protectress of the city. The figure of the Madonna appears in the layout of the document soon after this as I have a health certificate of the 27th August 1649 (fig.8)



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

and she is included in the health passports I have spanning the years to 1826.

The Medici period lasted until the death of Gian Gastone in 1737; having left no heirs, the Granduchy was then taken over by the Lorenese family which was confirmed by the treaty of Aquisgrana of 1748. The design of the certificates became more elaborate as shown by an example (fig.9) of 28th November 1791(?) for a journey to Marseille under an Ottoman captain of 20 years.

In 1799 the first French occupation took place causing Ferdinand III to flee to Austria leaving the Florentine senate in charge. Ludovico di Borbone, under the Treaty of Luneville the 9th February 1801, became the ruler of the Granduchy which was re-named the Kingdom of Etruria. Fig.10 is an example of a health certificate from this period with the coat of arms of Ludovico at the left. Dated the 23rd February 1803 it is for a voyage to Marseille of the brigantine 'Nettunno' [sic] under white-haired Capt Dom.co Berny, aged 65, issued under the authority of Jacopo De Lavilette, Lt General to his Majesty Lodovico I, King of Etruria, Civil Governor of Livorno, President of Health. The Granduchy was finally restored to the Lorenese family the 29th February 1814.

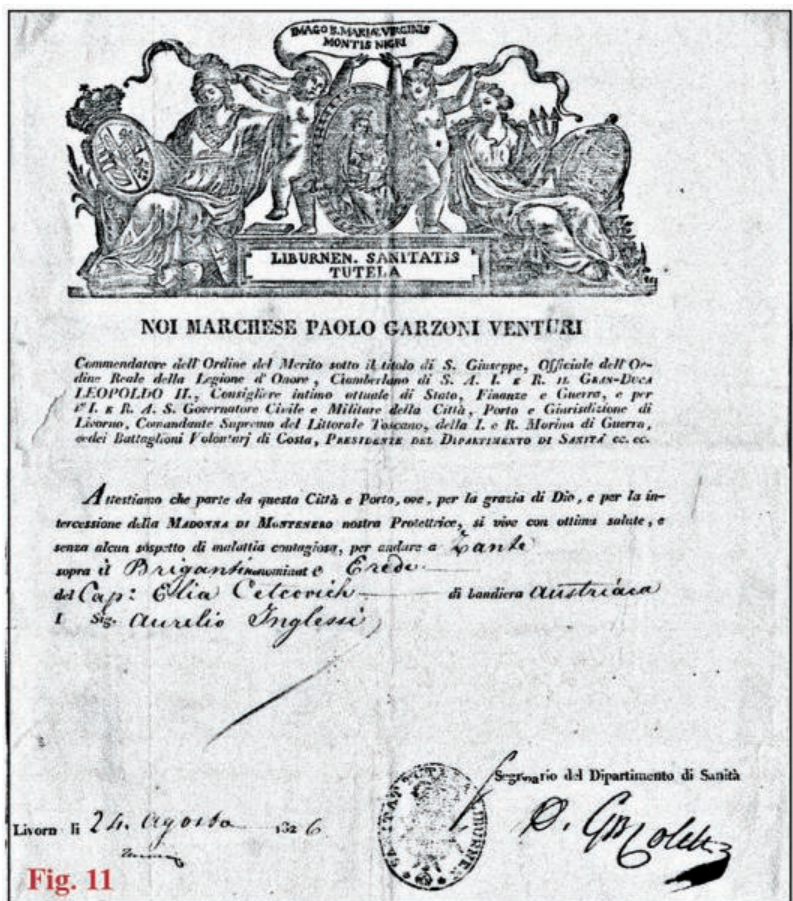


Fig. 11

The last example (fig.11) is from the period leading to Unification, a bill of health, the 24th August 1826, for brigantine 'Erede' under Austrian colours for a voyage to Zante struck with cachet of the Livorno Health Office, with an elaborate heading depicting the Madonna di Montenero.