

Filippo Caetani

(1565-1614)

He was born in Rome in about 1565 (the biographies and documents kept in the Caetani palace archive, in Rome, do not record either the month or the day of birth) by Honorato (IV), Lord (from 1586 dukes) of Sermoneta; Agnesina Colonna. In the first youth he was assigned to ecclesiastical career, according to the tradition of great Roman families. Afterwards, however, after the appearance of the syphilis in the firstborn Peter, his father, Honorable, decided to take the second-born Filippo to give an heir to the title: as a bride, Camilla Gaetani d'Aragona, daughter of Luigi, Duke of And Comelia Carafa; after long and difficult negotiations, the wedding was finally celebrated in 1593. After that date Caetani moved to Naples, according to an explicit clause imposed by the in-laws of the marriage contract. In the Neapolitan kingdom we find him active in the following years, with various administrative offices: from 1605 onwards, when Filippo III entrusted him to the governorate of Salerno, governed by various provinces of the Kingdom (Capitanata, Molise, etc.). During a stay in Spain he was made knight of St. James. In 1611 he contributed to the foundation of the Academy of Fine Arts of Capo di Napoli. At the death of Duke Pietro, his brother, in September 1614, succeeded him in the Duchy of Sermoneta, but in December of that same year he became seriously ill at Cisterna and, returning to Rome, died there after a long agony on 20 December. 1614. He was buried in Rome, in the church of S. Pudenziana.

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