

Francesco Maria Campello

1665-1759

He was born in Spoleto on 20 November.1665, eldest son of Solon of the counts of Campello and Nicola di Francesco Campelli. In 1678 he followed his father, jurist and scholar, to Macerata, where he went as secretary of Msgr. GB Rubini, great-grandson of Card.Pietro Ottoboni and governor of the Marca. There he attended the Jesuit school for three years.

In 1681 the father, thanks to the support of the Card.Ottoboni, obtained to pass to the service of the Card. Filippo Spada in Urbino as an auditor: in the university of that city, Campello completed his law studies, under the guidance of Tarquinio Urbani, and in 1684 he was appointed reader of canonical institutions. For two years he taught in Urbino, while not neglecting his literary studies; back in Umbria, having been named the auditor father at the Rota of Perugia, he began his correspondence with the main Roman literati of the time.

In 1689 Card. Ottoboni with the name of Alexander VIII, the Campello family soon benefited from the services rendered to him and his circle in the past: Campello's father was appointed auditor of the new secretary of state, Card. Rubini, and together with his second son Giovan Battista left Perugia for Rome. While the rest of the family returned to Spoleto, Campello chose to practice the legal profession also in Rome, availing himself, in addition to the support of the Card. Rubini, from the friendship and the council of the Spoletino Vincenzo Leonio, jurisconsult and affirmed literate, in the Roman environment. Thanks to Leonio's friendship and to the help provided to him by his paternal uncle Paolo, both of them, he not only entered the Arcadia with the name of Logisto Nemeo, but he soon enjoyed the friendship of Giovan Mario Crescimbeni, as well as the protection of the very young Card. Pietro Ottoboni, great-grandson of the pope, patron and arcade himself.

The death of Alexander VIII (1691) and the objective success of the "zealous" cardinals with the election of Innocent XII Pignatelli, hostile to the nepotist practice followed during the previous pontificate, did not affect the fortunes of Campello. By now known in Roman forensic circles, he participated at the same time in the many initiatives of the Arcadians, collaborating among others with Menzini, with Zappi, with Crescimbeni and with the Leonio. Having become an auditor of the Card. Cornaro in 1698, then passed to the direct service of the Card.Ottoboni as a study aide.

During the conclave following the death of Innocent XII (September 1700), in the grave atmosphere determined by the outbreak of the Spanish succession war, Card. Ottoboni in the difficult negotiations that led to the election of Clement XI, in the person of Card.Giovanni Francesco Albani of Urbino. It was a victory for the Ottoboni, much more appreciated by Campello since the Albani had shown himself to be a friend of his family since the time when his father had been an auditor in Urbino. And it was precisely to this last Clement XI that he commissioned a historical-juridical work on the

duchy of Urbino, the Constitutiones Ducatus Urbini ... to which he also actively collaborated.

But in the Rome of Clement XI he, having become, among other things, the usufructuary of a pension over a canonry of S. Lorenzo in Damaso, and now definitively established as a juriconsult, so as to become Curia's lawyer, he was not only known as a scholarly researcher, but above all as a happy improviser of verses and as a composer of sonnets and sung about the misfortunes of Italy in the manner of the Filicaia and on the glories of the Church and of Christianity at war with the Turk (known above all is the sonnet "O Peregrin that wanders the step / per this arena ", published in the *Rime degli Arcadi*, III , Rome 1716). He also tried his hand as a playwright and playwright, but not one of his plays was published; he also received good success in theater directing. Always linked to Crescimbeni, he actively participated in the literary controversy which he led against the Gravina and which led to the latter's exit from the Arcadia (1711).

The economic conditions of Campello had to be good, if he could afford in 1723 to devolve his inheritance in favor of his younger brother Bernardino, about to get married, and if at the death of Card. Ottoboni, which took place in 1749, did not hesitate to refuse to enter into the service of Benedict XIV, although he was urged. He died in Rome on 19 March 1759 and his body was buried in the church of S. Maria in Via, while the arcadians dedicated a tombstone to him in the Bosco Parrasio.

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