

OATH OF LOYALTY

Ambassadors from Malta

to the Viceroy of Sicily

9 May 1530

We, brother Hugues de Copons, Ensign and Captain-General of the galleys belonging to the Holy Order of Jerusalem, and brother John Boniface, Bailiff of Manosca and Receiver-General for the said Order, procurators and ambassadors from the most illustrious, most venerable lord, brother Philip de Villiers l'Isle Adam, Grand-Master of the sacred house of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, and of the convent of the Order, as well for ourselves as for all those who shall succeed to that charge, for the whole of the said Order, and for ourselves,

Most excellent lord don Hector Pignatello, Duke of Monteleone, Viceroy and Captain-General in the present Kingdom of Upper Sicily and the adjacent islands, as representative of His Imperial and Catholic Majesty Charles and of the Queen Jane, his mother, most serene sovereigns of Sicily;

We swear before you and take the usual oath, promising you before God, by the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and on the book of the Gospel, in the name of those whose ambassadors we are, as well as for ourselves, to hold, and to acknowledge that we hold, as a feudal tenure, conformably to the conditions contained in the act of donation of His Imperial Majesty, the most serene sovereigns, and their successors in the said Kingdoms, the islands of Malta and Goza, together with the city and castle of Tripoly, which have been lately ceded to the said Grand-Master; and to observe and keep everything more fully described in the said donation and privilege;

Concluded in presence of the lord Francis Delbose, Baron Balida, the King's lieutenant exercising the office of Chief Justice in this Kingdom, of the magnificent don Antonio di Bologna; Girolamo di Pamia, judge in the high court; Jaques Bonanns, Master of Accounts; Jerome de Rocca, King's lieutenant in the treasury; and many others.

By order of the most illustrious and most excellent lord, the Viceroy, I, Louis Sanches, have drawn up the present act in my own handwriting.

Louis de Boisgelin, *Ancient and Modern Malta* (London: G. & J. Robinson, 1804) III:206–207.