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Abstracts

ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, *La diplomazia dei Gonzaga e i negoziati di Westfalia (aprile 1646 - gennaio 1647)*

This research reconstructs the diplomatic mission to Westphalia of the Marquis Francesco Nerli, ambassador of the Gonzagas, which took place between April 1646 and January 1647. The great quantity of dispatches sent by the Duke of Mantua's representative in Münster highlights the frantic activity carried out by the Gonzagas' diplomacy in an attempt to defend their own 'specificity' and 'voice' in front of the great powers of the age: the Empire, the French crown, the Spanish court.

The renewed French interference in Italian affairs after the War of Mantuan Succession of 1631 had caused the first troubles to the Habsburg power system in Italy. The failure of Marquis Nerli's mission was witness to the problems that the 'diplomacies' of the little States of the Italian Peninsula were to face in the second half of the 17th Century, following the Treaty of Westphalia.