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Abstracts

RICCARDO NERI, Lettere inedite del Cardinal nepote Flavio Chigi a Cesare Maria Rasponi in occasione del Trattato di Pisa del 1664 tra Francia e Santa Sede

After a mortal fight in Rome on August 20th, 1662 between some mercenary soldiers at the service of Pope Alexander VII and French ambassador's guard, the already bad diplomatic relationship between the Holy See and the French Crown becomes an open clash. While the Holy Roman Empire is fighting the Ottomans in Eastern Europe, the Holy See no longer enjoys the Spanish military protection. At this point, the Pope seems to have no real allies to face the rising power of France, and especially its army. That is why the Pope decides to negotiate with the young Luis XIV accepting the Grand Duke of Tuscany's proposal for a peace congress in Pisa. Cesare Maria Rasponi is sent to Tuscany to discuss the terms of peace with the French minister under Flavio Chigi's supervision; he is the cardinal-nephew of Alexander VII, and he remains in Rome to update his uncle on daily bases. The essay studies the unpublished, secret and in some cases encrypted correspondence between Rasponi and Chigi, shading a new light on the strategies of the Papal diplomacy during the period of January 1664 till August 1664, when the cardinal-nephew goes to France as a consequence of the Treaty of Pisa of February 12th, 1664 in order to present the apologies of both the Holy See and the Chigi family for the events of the August 20th, 1662.

Keywords:

Treaty of Pisa

Flavio Chigi

Cesare Maria Rasponi