

THE ORIGINS OF ADELAIDE MABILI AND HER MARRIAGE TO GIORGIO DE CHIRICO RESTORATION OF THE HISTORICAL TRUTH

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It seems fairly certain, Nicarchus, that the lapse of time will bring about much obscurity and complete uncertainty regarding actual events, if at the present time, in the case of events so fresh and recent, false accounts that have been concocted obtain credence.

Plutarch, *Symposium of the Seven Sages*

I. In October 2010 on the website of the Archivio dell'arte metafisica an article was published by Paolo Baldacci entitled *Origini e storia della famiglia Chirico o Kiriko da Ragusa a Costantinopoli (circa 1720-1870)* [Origins and History of the Chirico or Kiriko Family from Dubrovnik to Constantinople] which, as was pointed out, would be part of the first chapter (paragraphs 2-4) of an upcoming book, *Il viaggio ansioso. Vita, arte e misteri di Giorgio de Chirico* [The Anxious Voyage. Life, Art and Mysteries of Giorgio de Chirico]. Some months earlier, in July 2010, an article had appeared entitled *Evaristo de Chirico era nato ad Istanbul e non a Firenze* [Evaristo de Chirico was born in Istanbul and not in Florence], a text that was withdrawn and resubmitted with a foreword entitled *Trovato l'atto di nascita di Evaristo* [Evaristo's birth certificate found]. More recently, in September 2012 the Archive site published *Un nuovo documento sulle origini della famiglia de Chirico* [A New Document on the Origins of the de Chirico Family], which reproduces a letter of 5 June 1722 signed by a certain Nicolò Theyls.

On behalf of Fondazione Giorgio e Isa de Chirico, I began research in order to document the first period of Giorgio de Chirico's life, from his birth to the 1930s, a period in which, following his mother's death, he cut the umbilical cord that somehow bound him to the country of his birth where he had spent his childhood and adolescence. The aim of this research is to document the repercussions this connection – never studied in depth – had not only on his artistic production but also on the human and economic aspects of the family.

Moreover, the relationships that Giorgio de Chirico and his family had with other Greek families up to the 1930s were very important, first in Greece and then in Munich and France, relationships which to date have been paid little attention. It is equally important to create a precise historical image of Evaristo's family life and the cultural and social context of their forebears. To this end, some years ago together with the invaluable help of Paolo Picozza, I began systematic research into documents

concerning the origins of this family and its cultural background, an area poorly studied and interpreted to date because it is scantily documented or, even worse, has been wilfully distorted.

So in dealing with this subject I was initially highly interested by the publication of Baldacci's article where I hoped to see corrections of the innumerable errors found in his 1997 monograph *De Chirico - The Metaphysical Period 1888-1919*, and in Gerd Roos' 1999 book *Giorgio de Chirico e Alberto Savinio, ricordi e documenti, Monaco, Milano, Firenze, 1906-1911* [Giorgio de Chirico and Alberto Savinio, *Memories and Documents*, Munich, Milan, Florence 1906-1911]. Errors are also found in other writings that investigate the early period of the artist's life and which are often due to lack of documentation, to a mistaken reading of existing documents or, even worse, to a wilfully mistaken reading for purposes that need not be gone into here. These errors may be corrected on the basis of the documentation I have acquired.

However, it is with surprise and bitterness that I must note that Baldacci, no less than 13 years after the publication of his monograph, continues to insist on his errors and, that in the article in question, seeks in an apparently documented historical reconstruction to create a story that has nothing to do with actual fact. As if his task were not to discover the true facts through research that is as laborious as it is necessary but rather to declare, as stated at the beginning of his piece, his much repeated conviction according to which *Giorgio de Chirico and Alberto Savinio never tell the truth; in a word they are great swindlers, especially Giorgio – and nothing in their writings should be taken seriously*. It is suggested that they wilfully concealed their origins and their family history. Indeed in the previous article, with reference to Evaristo's death certificate in which he is described as "Florentine", Baldacci lets himself go with an actual *J'accuse*, maintaining without even thinking of another simple possibility, that "Gemma and the children lied about the birthplace of their husband and father, right from the day of his death in their statement to the Athens registry office". In actual fact, it was normal when a relation died, especially at home, for someone other than a family member to notify the registry office since the family had to take care of the funeral arrangements, as de Chirico himself points out. In this specific case it was a domestic servant, moreover illiterate, who documented the "Florentine" origins of the late Evaristo.¹

This obsessive and recurrent accusation that the de Chirico brothers manipulated and concealed their family history for a series of unknown reasons – which exist only in the fervid minds of Baldacci and Roos – turns out to be wholly unfounded, yet is instrumental to their theses.

Reading Baldacci's article, by the same yardstick I too would have to declare that in all the writings of Paolo Baldacci and Gerd Roos: *Nothing is truly and seriously documented, so nothing must be taken seriously; and a great many conclusions are erroneous, wilfully or otherwise!*

In this article I cannot and do not wish to give the whole history of the origins of the de Chirico family, which would call for further more research, but which at any rate is very different from what Baldacci states in his text, insisting for example on the family's "origins in Dubrovnik" due to a strange obsession with wanting to see them as distant from Italian soil and culture.

¹ See N. Velissiotis, *La nascita della Metafisica nell'arte di Giorgio de Chirico*, Edizioni Centro Ellenico di Cultura, Milan 2011. The certificate in Greek with an Italian translation is published on p.55.

II. I will limit myself here to pointing out that the family of Kyriko or Chirico (and not Quirico as it would have been if it were of Franco-Latin origin) is a family of Greek origin which left Rhodes on 1 January 1523, together with another 4000 Greek families of the Catholic faith, in the retinue of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes, Philippe Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, following conquest of the island by Suleiman the Magnificent after five months of war. Unable to take the Castle of Rhodes, Suleiman signed an agreement with Villiers, who had travelled alone to his encampment. With this agreement he could leave the island with all arms and honours, taking with him all the Catholic families on the island. On the first day of 1523 fifty ships left Rhodes for Messina. Leaving their families in Sicily the knights found refuge in Viterbo, moving to Malta only in 1530.

The Kyriko or Chirico family, made up of merchants, seamen and diplomats, maintained contacts with Greece and the Ottoman empire also because they spoke fluently not only Greek but Italian, Turkish and French, which was uncommon in those days. This is why they found employment as diplomats in various Italian states. As early as 1600 they moved to Calabria and Tuscany. The branch of Giorgio de Chirico's forebears settled in Tuscany and in particular in Florence and Livorno where, perfectly Italianized, they worked as diplomats and also acquired various patents of nobility. They owned property and moved to various places for their work, including Piedmont, Odessa, St Petersburg, Constantinople and elsewhere. The de Chirico family of Odessa in particular aided the 1821 Greek revolution with arms and money. However, as aforementioned, this is not the place and time to publish the entire family history.

Alternatively, I wish to focus on paragraph 4 of Paolo Baldacci's text, "Giorgio de Chirico e Adelaide Mabili. Apogeo e decadenza di una dinastia" ["Giorgio de Chirico and Adelaide Mabili. Apogee and Decline of a Dynasty] since it concerns Evaristo de Chirico's parents, the grandparents of Giorgio and Alberto, and also because it directly concerns the history of Giorgio de Chirico inasmuch as Baldacci's reconstruction results in numerous errors that have prompted a series of repercussions regarding the story of the artist's life and that of his brother Savinio.

A poetic and romantic description of the meeting between Giorgio (Maria) de Chirico and Adelaide Mabili appears in Savinio's 1943 book *Casa "La Vita"*. In the chapter *Variante di Casa La Vita* Savinio writes: "Of Spanish origin, the mother of uncle Gustavo and paternal grandmother of Aniceto was born Countess Mabili y Buligny and was of a rare beauty [...]. Isabella (as uncle Gustavo's mother was called) was the daughter of His Catholic Majesty the King of Spain's consul in Corfu. Isabella had just turned sixteen when baron Giorgio C., Ambassador to His Majesty the King of Sardinia, travelled from the Isle of Feaci on his way to Constantinople. Baron C. saw Isabella and asked for her hand in marriage. A month later they sailed together, united before God and man, for the Golden Horn."²

In a 1933 article on his uncle, the poet Lorenzo Mavili, Savinio noted his grandmother's correct name, not Isabella but Adelaide Mabili y Bouligny, and perfectly described both the life and death of his great (maternal) uncle as well as his literary work which he knew thoroughly.³ So we should

² A. Savinio, *Casa "La Vita"*, Bompiani, Milan 1943, p. 267.

³ A. Savinio, *Lorenzo Mabili*, in "Pan" by U. Ojetti, Rome 1933 and *Notiziario Culturale dell'Istituto Italiano di Atene* (in Greek), vol. 5, pp. 3-5, January-February 1961. See also A. Savinio, *Scritti dispersi 1943-1952*, edited by P. Italia, Adelphi, Milan 2004, "La metamorfosi del vecchio poeta", pp. 1768-1773.

not consider Savinio the novelist and Savinio the historian in the same way. And we shall also see how the de Chirico brothers, quite precisely and without alterations, recounted what they had learnt in the family from their mother and also, I believe, from their uncle Gustavo who is well described by Savinio.

III. The most significant passages from the fourth paragraph of Baldacci's article "*Giorgio de Chirico and Adelaide Mabili. Apogee and Decline of a Dynasty*":

At this point we must reconstruct on a more solid basis the legendary but partly evanescent figure of grandfather Giorgio, passed off by his grandson Alberto in 1937 as "Ambassador of the Kingdom of Italy" and subsequently inserted, with the same position, among the characters of one of the last stories in "Casa La Vita". Moreover we need to understand the origins of the Italian nationality and citizenship of various members of the de Chirico family who, a few at a time, moved to Tuscany almost in their entirety. At least for Evaristo, father of Giorgio and Alberto, nationality is documented by the 1895 letters between the Italian Embassy and the Ottoman Foreign Ministry in which he is described as "sujet italien" (Italian subject).

The birth and baptism certificate of Giorgio Maria is yet to be found in spite of research carried out at Istanbul in the registers of Sent Antuàn, the Catholic Cathedral of Pera, which currently hold certificates regarding the parishes of Büyükdere, with the baptism documents of Evaristo and other family members. So we are not completely sure of the year of his birth and do not know when he died. The poor health of which the Sardinian consul speaks must however have been an excuse for avoiding nomination to the position of the deceased brother.

According to documents in the Archive of the Foreign Ministry in Rome, Giorgio never held any position in the Sardinian Legation, whereas he figures with regular continuity as a member of the Russian Legation in the Almanach de Gotha which every year lists the composition of the diplomatic corps of each individual embassy: third counsellor from 1836 to 1847; state counsellor with the title of Knight from 1848 to 1854, when he also held the position of chief interpreter. In 1855 the Russian Embassy in Constantinople was closed due to the Crimean War which broke out the previous year and which saw Russia against the Ottoman Empire, the latter defended by an English-French alliance to which Cavour would add the Kingdom of Sardinia. After 1854 there are no traces, in the various diplomatic Legations accredited to Constantinople, of the Knight Giorgio de Chirico who, probably, having passed the age of sixty had been pensioned off. This information should be compared with what Savinio recalls in his various writings and with what the family said about his grandfather, of whom a portrait exists that depicts him as "fine featured and very blond", his chest decorated with the cross of St Nicholas and other Tsarist medals.

In the end he was attributed, logically, prerogatives and positions that probably belonged to other relations or forebears. He was said to have a wealth of imperial Russian and Hapsburg honours, special counsellor to Tsar Nicholas I, ambassador to the courts of Vienna and Great Britain, representative of the Kingdom of Sardinia and later the Italian crown at the Ottoman Porte. If we remove from the list everything concerning his diplomatic positions for the Kingdoms of Sardinia and Italy and for other powers, excepting Russia, we shall be close to the truth.

Savinio writes that what was remembered about him was his strict religious commitment and his per-

fect knowledge, over and above Italian, of French, English, Spanish and Russian, languages in which he composed poetry after withdrawing from his career late in life.

Giorgio, contracting one of the many and highly advantageous marriages that had distinguished the family for two centuries, married the countess Adelaide Mabili y Bouligny, daughter of the Spanish consul in Corfu.

To trace the history of this marriage, of which Savinio gives a colourful account albeit moulded to make his grandfather appear as the Sardinian ambassador, we have to disentangle complex family trees that are not always very clear, and dates of marriage, birth and death that are often uncertain. Adelaide Mabili, who seems to have been born in 1799, was the daughter of don Lorenzo Eliodoro and granddaughter of Juan José Eliodoro de Bouligny y Mabili, a small-scale merchant born in Alicante in 1735 without any nobility of birth. Having made his fortune in trade with the East, Juan José was appointed plenipotentiary of the Crown of Spain in Constantinople at a time when the Spanish government had decided to establish diplomatic relations with the Sublime Porte. His son, Lorenzo Eliodoro (Alicante 1763 - Corfu 1853) had inherited his father's position as minister of Spain and married, apparently in 1785, Teresa Elena Timoni, daughter of Caterina de Chirico and Michelangelo Timoni. After the death of his first wife, and in any case at the turn of the century, Lorenzo Eliodoro left his position in Constantinople and moved to Corfu as Spanish consul to the Republic of the Seven United Islands, a sort of Russo-Ottoman protectorate in the Ionian Sea. In Corfu Lorenzo married twice more and lived to a ripe old age.

In spite of a certain incongruence of dates, it would seem that Adelaide was born from Lorenzo's first marriage to Teresa Elena Timoni, so on the mother's side she would have de Chirico blood in her veins. Her grandmother, Caterina de Chirico, was the aunt of Federico Maria, first Dragoman of Sardinia, and the great-aunt of Giorgio, the husband, who was therefore a second cousin. Their union, which was long and unhappily prolific, was seriously exposed to the danger of having impaired children, which in fact turned out to be the case.

The date of Giorgio and Adelaide's marriage is uncertain, just as the date of Adelaide's birth appears to be. In Savinio's view the grandmother "was just sixteen when baron Giorgio C., ambassador of his majesty the king of Sardinia (...) asked for her hand in marriage". If the 1799 date of birth and Savinio's information were true we should have to place the marriage between 1815 and 1816. But the last of the eight children, Gustavo de Chirico, Giorgio and Alberto's "Florentine" uncle, was born in 1850, making it fairly difficult if not impossible to believe in the mother's date of birth which perhaps should be adjusted by a few years.

The marriage between Giorgio de Chirico and a Mabili y Bouligny also marked [...] the beginning of decline, both due to the hereditary defects manifested in some of their numerous children and the fact that from the mid 30s the de Chiricos, together with many other families living in the Pera district, started to lose control of the western legations which they had formerly run to great profit. [...] Some families, such as the Franchinis, rose even higher on the honours ladder while others, like the de Chiricos, ruined and tossed here and there at random into the various consular missions [Sturdza refers to the collateral line of the descendents of Luca, brother of Federico Maria, who entered into the service of Russia and settled in Odessa], lost their identity and even the memory of their true origins (...). The families that remained in Istanbul sent their children to study in the countries whose interests they represented with the Sultan. On completing their studies these young people began classic diplomatic careers, established residence abroad and no longer returned to Constantinople.

A story very similar to that of the de Chirico family. In the grandparents' unfortunate lineage there were two daughters who settled in Florence and Rome between 1861 and 1870 following marriage to Italian residents, and the only truly healthy and able son, Evaristo, who studied in Italy in the same years, graduating in engineering probably in Turin and becoming an Italian citizen in virtue of a right granted to the children and descendants of foreign diplomats who had served the Savoy Kingdom.

But the de Chirico family's Italian citizenship, which is unquestionable, must not be confused with full possession of a "national" cultural identity, which in any case had not fully emerged even in Italy itself. The deeply-felt quest for and achievement of this identity would mark the intellectual, human and artistic paths of Giorgio de Chirico and Alberto Savinio. Born in Greece without any experience of the Dubrovnik "nation" of Constantinople, the ancient Franco-Latin homeland of their forebears, they lived the experience of their new Italian homeland, or of "nationality by choice" as Alberto called it, in a wholly intensified and anomalous way. Giorgio and Adelaide had eight children over a period of about thirty years (1820-1850).

(Text by Paolo Baldacci, *Origins and History of the Chirico or Kiriko Family from Dubrovnik to Constantinople* [1720-1870 ca.]

IV. In this hotchpotch of true and false information, only apparently well documented yet passed off with certainty, Baldacci constructs the first of his arguments against Giorgio de Chirico: the *madness* (impaired children) that undermined the de Chirico family due to intermarriage between persons of the same blood. The second edifice, that of the *non-Italianness of the family*, which is insinuated in this piece, is another falsehood. Clearly the statement that the de Chirico family is not Italian has the main purpose of bearing out his theories on de Chirico and Savinio. In fact Baldacci writes in *Evaristo de Chirico was born in Istanbul and not in Florence*:

In effect the question of the origins of the de Chirico family, of the country where their forefathers were trained and resided – just like the place of birth of the two artists' parents – has much greater importance than would appear at first sight. In fact ascertainment beyond the shadow of a doubt that the family was not originally of Italian nationality would not only explain the two brothers' vague attitude on the matter but would confirm an interpretive picture in which the lack of a "certain homeland", and therefore the tormenting search for a national identity, was one of the chief drives behind Giorgio de Chirico's poetics.

Prior to this Baldacci had stated:

It seems inexplicable and senseless that in the historical reconstruction of moments and figures in modern art there may arise discussions and differences even about the place of birth of an artist's parents. But not when one is dealing with Giorgio de Chirico and his brother Alberto Savinio whose family origins have always featured obscure or mysterious aspects, once elucidated only by the almost always nebulous, imprecise or decidedly untruthful statements of the artists involved. And above all not when one has to do with a body like the Giorgio and Isa de Chirico Foundation which is obstinately committed, for reasons which largely elude us, to defending the imaginative versions spread by the two brothers.



fig. 1 Coat of arms of the family of Sofia Pieri, first wife of Lorenzo Mavili

Baldacci seems to forget that Italy became a nation after the marriage of Giorgio de Chirico and Adelaide Mabili and well after the birth of Evaristo de Chirico. As for the family's ties to Graeco-Italian soil and culture, this as I said will be the subject of my upcoming book.

The origins of Adelaide Mabili and her marriage to Giorgio de Chirico are described and documented below:

1) Jean de Bouligny y Largier (1697-1772), born in Marseille, moved to Alicante around 1717 where he married Maria Antonia Paret y Vinet. They had three sons – José (1726-1802), Juan (1726-1799), who was the Spanish *chargé d'affaires* in Constantinople from 1782 to 1799, and Francisco (1736-1800) who had an important military career and was Governor of Louisiana, in America, in 1791⁴ – and one daughter, Francisca.

2) Lorenzo Mavili, an Italian from Naples, professor of jurisprudence, moved to Spain in 1759 in the retinue of King Carlos Sebastián de Borbón y Farnesio, who became emperor of Spain. For phonetic reasons he changed his surname to Mabili or Mabily. He met Francisca Bouligny, Jean de Bouligny y Largier's daughter, who later became his wife.

3) Their son, also named Lorenzo, who bore the two surnames Mabili and Bouligny, was born in Alicante in 1765 and studied jurisprudence at the seminary of Orihuela (Murcia). He lived for some years in Marseille to study French. Nominated "Joven de la Lengua" on 8 July 1788, he joined the *Segreteria della Legacion Espagnola* in Constantinople, where his uncle Juan and his cousin José, Juan's son, were employed, on 19 November 1789.⁵

4) The abovementioned uncle Juan, son of Jean Bouligny y Largier, who married Elena Marconié y Penarroja in Cartagena on 7 September 1755, had come to Constantinople from Spain with his son José Eliodoro Bouligny y Marconié, delegated by the King's Minister Floridablanca, and had succeeded in negotiating an armistice between the two countries which, after the naval battle of Lepanto, were still at war. The 21 chapter armistice was signed by Spain on 24 December 1782 and by the Sublime Porte on 24 April 1783. Juan purchased the Bujuk-Dere palace, where the Spanish Embassy was established and where he was nominated plenipotentiary of the Spanish Crown. Denounced by the minister of Spain Floridablanca for his relations with the French, he had to return to Spain on 19 January 1793.⁶

⁴ G. Hassioti, *Gli antenati di Lorenzo Mavili e la loro corrispondenza*, in *Kerkiraika Chronika*, 26, 1982, pp. 416-423; Id., *Gli antenati di Lorenzo Mavili e la loro corrispondenza diplomatica*, Mnimon 7, 1979, pp. 99-117.

⁵ D. Ozaman, *Les diplomates espagnols du XVIII siècle. Introduction et répertoire biographique (1700-1808)*, Madrid, Casa de Velázquez-Maisons des Pays Ibériques, 1998, folders 195-196.

⁶ J. W. Zinkeisen, *Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches in Europa*, Gona 1864, vol. VI, pp. 363-365 and vol. VII, pp. 63-65.

5) He left his position to his son José. However, the latter's friendships with the French community and government also aroused the suspicion of the Sublime Porte which, in a document of 1 October 1799, invited him to leave the country within fourteen days.⁷ On 29 July 1800 he was in Vienna where he met the new Spanish Consul of the Sublime Porte, Ignacio del Corral. He arrived in Madrid in September 1800. Nominated consul in Sweden he presented his credentials in Stockholm on 23 July 1805 and died three months later.⁸ Lorenzo and Eliodoro are therefore two distinct people, cousins, and not the same person as Baldacci maintains.

6) Lorenzo Mabili y Bouligny had already returned to Spain. Towards the end of the 19th century he was supposed to go back to Constantinople to take the place of his cousin (Royal Proxy of 26 September 1800)⁹, but he was suddenly nominated Consul at the "Government of the Republic of the Seven United Islands"¹⁰, replacing Esteban Messalo. This was certainly due to his full command of Italian, which was spoken in the Ionian islands. He reached Corfu on 30 December 1803,¹¹ taking up the post and title of Spanish Consul on 11 January 1804.¹²

7) Lorenzo Mabili y Bouligny was married for the first time on 13 January 1807 to Sofia, the 18 year old daughter of Antonio Pieri of the aristocratic family of the counts Pieri, members of the City Council¹³ (fig. 1). Both were very good looking as may be seen from their portrait, a drawing.¹⁴ Suffering from tuberculosis, Sofia went with her brother Marino to receive treatment, first in Venice and later in Padua where she died on 8 December 1807.¹⁵ Her brother, who suffered from the same disease, died the following February. He was buried in the Padua cemetery where his sister lay.¹⁶



fig. 2 Coat of arms of the family of Catterina Dusmani, second wife of Lorenzo Mavili and maternal grandmother of Evaristo de Chirico

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. VII, pp. 751-754, in which Taleytrant's entire document of 27.4.1799 is published which states: "de Bouligny a d'ailleurs des droits à notre considération en raison du zèle et empressément qu'il témoigne pour tout ce qui a rapport aux Français de Turquie".

⁸ D. Ozaman, *op. cit.*, folders 193-194.

⁹ *Ibid.*, folders 328-329.

¹⁰ Russia and Turkey signed the treaty of 21 March 1800 which decided the independence of the "Eptanissos Politia", which is to say the "Republic of the Seven United Islands".

¹¹ Document 1, published on p. 103 of this essay. Arrival of Lorenzo Mabili in Corfu. Corfu Region Archive, Health Inspectors, envelope 117, Passenger List 1803-1804.

¹² Diplomatic credentials of Lorenzo Mabili, Corfu Region Archive, envelope Lorenzo Mavili. Also published in K. Daphnes, N. Karydes, *Kerkyraika Chronika*, 1960, vol. VII, p. 10.

¹³ Document 2, published on p. 104 of this essay. Marriage of Lorenzo Mabili and Sofia Pieri. Archive of the Corfu Catholic Bishop's Residence, Marriages 1795-1833, p. 51.

¹⁴ Portrait of Lorenzo Mabili and Sofia Pieri, published in *Kerkyraika Chronika*, 1960, vol VII, p. 11. Sturdza erroneously thinks that it is Teresa Elena Timoni, and consequently Baldacci does the same.

¹⁵ E. Rizos-Rangavis, *Livre d'Oro de la Noblesse Ionienne*, Editions Eleftheroudakis, Athens 1925, p.138.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 139.

Lorenzo, who had good relations with the island's French Governor Cesar Barthier, as early as 1808 encountered problems with the French Imperial Commissioner Jules Bessi res, the new governor of the Heptanese. General Mateo Maximiliano Prospero, count de Lessens, asked the police to open his letters, transcribe them and send them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, where they remain today.¹⁷

In a letter of 8 December 1808 Lorenzo (perhaps due to depression after his wife's death), asked to be relieved and to leave Corfu, but the request was not immediately dealt with or was not communicated. The recall document, signed on 11 April 1809, is kept in Madrid.

8) Consequently, Lorenzo Mabili remained in Corfu where he fell in love with his second wife whom he married on 18 June 1809, Countess Catterina (or Cattina), Tonina, Contarina Dusmani, 29 years old, daughter of count Giovanni Spiridon Dusmani (member of a great and important Greek family that had close relationships with the Russian royal family, the Ottoman Empire and other European royal families). She too was marrying for the second time (fig. 2).¹⁸

As early as 1808, Lorenzo pledged allegiance to King Joseph I (Bonaparte), who had become king of Spain, and in 1811 he was nominated Italian Consul.¹⁹ However on 12 September 1811 Joseph Bonaparte's Foreign Minister, Azanca, asked for him to be relieved (*reformado*) and returned to Spain. The close relations between the Dusmani family and the Russian royal family were in fact the reason behind a gradual lack of trust in Lorenzo Mabili on the part of the Spanish authorities.

9) Instead of returning to Spain, as declared in his departure document from Corfu on 31 March 1812²⁰ and, fearing for his fate²¹, after making a secret will with his wife, he took refuge with Catterina in Naples, his father's homeland, where he lived in the street called Monte di Dio. In Naples **his two children were born and baptised, Adelaide in 1812 and Paolo in 1814** (fig. 3).²² In 1814 he was obliged to return urgently to Madrid (even missing his son's baptism)²³, in order to *justifier sa conduite et obtenir sa purification* and be able to go back to Corfu, which would occur on 15 June 1815 with a decree signed by Minister Ignacio de Salaya.²⁴

¹⁷ Michael Th. Laskaris, *Don Lorenzo Mabilly de Bouligny. Il nonno di Lorenzo Mavili*, in *Kerkyraika Chronika*, 1960, vol VII, pp. 5-15.

¹⁸ Document 3, published on p. 105 of this essay. Marriage of Lorenzo Mabili and Catterina Dusmani, Archive of the Corfu Catholic Bishop's Residence, Marriages 1795-1833, p. 62. Their love is borne out by their numerous letters.

¹⁹ Letter from the Gouverneur-General des Iles Ioniennes dated 20 January 1811. Corfu Region Archive, envelope Paolo Mavili.

²⁰ Departure document: Commissariat General de Police a Corfu. Registre des D partes. Corfu Region Archive, Police, envelope 1825, volume 2.

²¹ Wills made with Notary Theodoros Manessi. 19/31 March 1812 by Lorenzo Mabili de Bouligny son of Lorenzo and Catterina Dusmani daughter of Spiridone, wife Mabili (presentation counterfoils). Corfu District Archive, Notaries, envelope M44, Wills Book, p. 12.

²² In the marriage documents of the children, Adelaide and Paolo, their births are declared as Naples 1812 for Adelaide and 1814 for Paolo. As regards the latter, see the certificate of baptism, fig. 3. For transcription of the text, see Document 4 in this essay on p. 106, Corfu Region Archive. Paolo's certificate of baptism (Parish of San Marco di Palazzo, Naples) was found thanks to its transcription in a notary's deed of 16/28 March 1836, drawn up to give him the possibility, since he was 21 years old, of voting for parliamentary representatives. Corfu Region Archives, Notary deeds book, n. 876.

²³ In a letter from Lorenzo Mabili in Madrid to his wife Catterina, dated 30 December 1814, we discover that Lorenzo was not present at the baptism of his son Paolo (Carlo, Ferdinando) which took place in Naples on 23 November 1814. Archive of the Institute of Modern Greek Studies, Manolis Triantaphilidis Foundation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

²⁴ The decree signed by Minister Ignacio de Salaya on 15 June 1815, in which Lorenzo Mabili was authorised to return to Corfu. Archive of the Institute of Modern Greek Studies, Manolis Triantaphilidis Foundation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

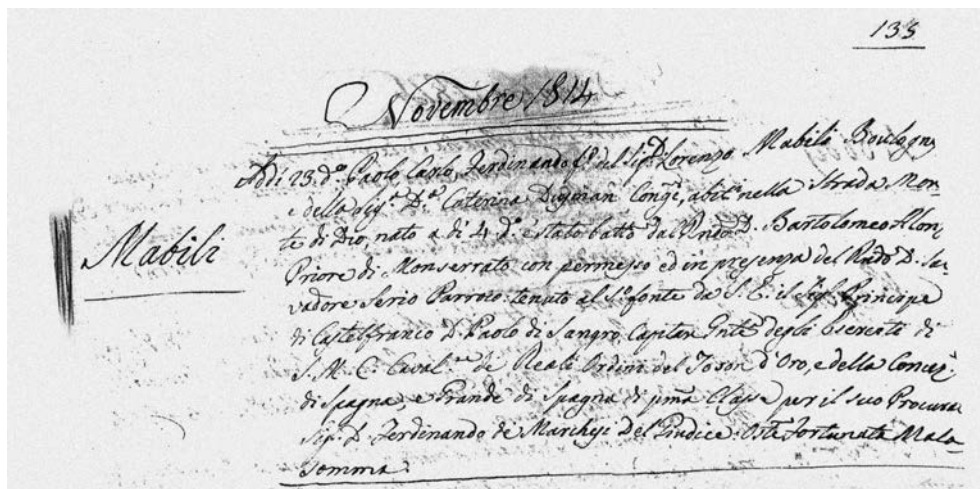


Fig. 3 Baptism certificate of Paolo Mabili, Naples, 23 November 1814

10) Once back in Corfu with all his family he asked for citizenship rights to the “Republic of the Seven United Isles”, which was granted on 28 April 1825.²⁵ Census took place in 1828.²⁶

11) In 1828 Giorgio de Chirico, son of Federico Maria, passed through Corfu on one of his trips from Italy to Constantinople where he worked as a dragoman in the Imperial Russian Embassy at the Court of Constantinople. He had formerly worked (and possibly still did) as an interpreter for the Kingdom of Sardinia, together with his father and brother.

He got to know the 15 year old Adelaide, Giovanna di Dio, Laura, Antonia, Anastasia, Maria Mabili, fell in love and asked for her hand in marriage. The wedding took place in Corfu on 23rd August 1828 (fig. 4).²⁷

A few days later he left with his wife for Constantinople, as Savinio recounts.

12) Their life, work, adventures and misadventures in Constantinople and their return to Italy with their children will be part of another chapter in this interesting story. From the marriage certificate we learn first and foremost that Giorgio (Maria) de Chirico (figs. 5-6) was about 30 (actually 33). He died in Rome (where he had moved in May 1865 with his wife Adelaide and their children Alberto, Zenaide, Evaristo and Gustavo) on 9 November 1867, having received his last rites, and was buried at the Monumental Cemetery of Campo Verano (fig. 7).²⁸

²⁵ Documents 5, 6, published in this essay on p. 107. Act of the Parliament of the United States of the Ionian Islands, 28.4.1825, and publication in the Bulletin of the United States of the Ionian Islands, n. 384 of 7.5.1825. Corfu Region Archive, Acts of Parliament.

²⁶ Document 7, published in this essay on p. 107. Census book of the inhabitants of Corfu, 1828. The Mabili family. Corfu Region Archive, Censuses.

²⁷ Document 8, published in this essay on p. 108. Marriage of Giorgio de Chirico and Adelaide Mabili. Archive of the Corfu Catholic Bishop's Residence, Marriages 1795-1833, p. 148.

²⁸ Historical archive of the Vicariate of Rome. I thank Paolo Picozza for the information. In the left margin: “n° 763, De Chirico Georgius Die nona mensis novembris anno millesimo octingentesimo sexagesimo septimo 1867, circa meridiem, Georgius De Chirico q(uondam) Friderici Constantinopolitanus vir Adelaidis Mabilis, degens in Via A. Romualdi n. 262, ecclesiae sacramentis in infirmitate susceptis, animam Deo reddidit,

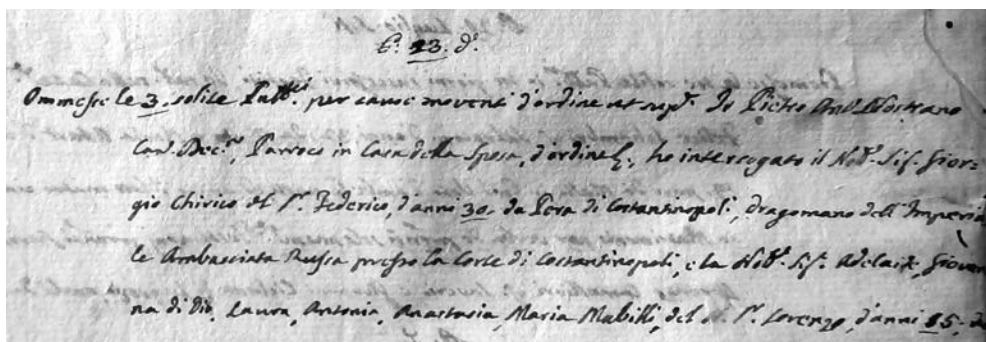


Fig. 4 Marriage of Giorgio de Chirico and Adelaide Mabili. Archive of the Corfu Catholic Bishop's Residence, Marriages 1795-1833, p. 148

13) Savinio's account of his grandfather's life was precise, as may be seen, right down to the reference of receiving the last rites shortly before his death. Instead of using Sturdza as the only source, who in turn based what he wrote on a book by the journalist Luisa Spagnoli (*Lunga vita di Giorgio de Chirico*, Longanesi, 1971), Baldacci need only have sought, over and above the certificate of baptism – which he did not find – the marriage certificate which, for a historian, is an even more important source of information. From the latter certificate he would have seen that Adelaide was 15 (being born in Naples in 1812), thus easily avoiding the hazardous statement that she was born in 1799 and had her last child, Gustavo, at the age of 51 (“difficult but not impossible to believe in the mother's date of birth, which should perhaps be adjusted by some years”). I feel that a historian should not proceed with adjustments and approximations just because they fit his theories. If he had given credence to Savinio he would have found the marriage certificate in the place where it is necessarily kept and where I found it.

V. Last we forget any of the people that Paolo Baldacci has placed in his cauldron it should be pointed out that Teresa Elena Timoni, daughter of Caterina de Chirico de Andria and Michelangelo Timoni de Antan, actually married a Boulogny: José Eliodoro Boulogny y Marconiè, son of Juan de Boulogny y Paret (Alicante 3 March 1726 - Madrid 9 January 1798 [of Constantinople]), and Elena Marconiè y Penarroja (born Madrid 9 December 1736). They married in Cartagena on 7 June 1755. José Eliodoro, born in 1758, would then marry Teresa Elena Timoni de Chirico in Constantinople on 9 April 1785. Born in Constantinople on 12 February 1759, Teresa would have three children with José Eliodoro – Clementina, Teofilo and Agata – and live a long life (she died in December 1830), something she shared with many of the de Chirico family.²⁹ Gerd Roos, in turn has declared with certainty that this marriage resulted in the birth of Helene, Adelaide and Paolo, misinterpreting what Savinio wrote.³⁰

anno vitae suae septuagesimo secundo. Eius corpus die sequente ad parrochiam hanc ecclesiam rite delatum, postea ad s(anctum?) publicum caemeterium transmissum fuit. A. Cari Valenti vicarius curatus”.

Translation: “On 9 November of the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven (1867), towards midday, Giorgio De Chirico, son of the late Federico of Constantinople, husband of Adelaide Mabili, resident in Via A. Romualdi N° 262, having received the sacraments during his illness, rendered up his soul to God in the seventy-second year of his life. The following day his body was ritually brought to this parish church and then taken to the holy public cemetery. A. Cari Valenti, vicar-curate”.

²⁹ D. Ozaman, *op. cit.*, folders 193-194; G. Hassioti, *Tendiendo Puentese nel Mediterraneo. Estudios sobre las relaciones hispano-griegas* (ss. XV-XIX), Encarnación Motos Guirao, Centro de Estudios Bizantinos, Neogriegos y Chipriotas, 2008, pp. 155-173.

³⁰ G. Roos, *Giorgio de Chirico e Alberto Savinio. Ricordi e documenti Monaco-Milano-Firenze 1906-1911*, ed. Bora, Bologna 1999, p. 35.



fig. 5 Portrait of Giorgio Maria de Chirico, father of Evaristo de Chirico, by unknown painter



fig. 6 G. de Chirico, portrait of his paternal grandfather Giorgio Maria de Chirico, 1936, oil on cardboard, 27x15.3 cm

I feel it is appropriate to point out that only Lorenzo's branch of the family bears the surname Mavili (in Italian) or Mabily (in Spanish). José Eliodoro certainly did not bear this surname, nor could he since he had no direct relationship with the family.

VI. The history of Adelaide's family may be defined as such: her mother Catterina Dusmani died on 3 January 1845 in Santa Mavra (Lefkada)³¹; her father Lorenzo Mabili on 7 October 1853 in Corfu.³² Adelaide's brother Paolo, who was very close to his sister, married Giovannina Capodistria-Suffi on 16 November 1845³³ and had two children, Ester and Lorenzo. The latter became a famous man of letters, philosopher and poet, a chess player renowned throughout Europe, a Greek politician and national hero (he died on 28 November 1912 during the battle of Epirus against the Turks, at the head of volunteers from Garibaldi's army). After the father's death Ester and Lorenzo changed their Spanish surname Mabili back to the original Italian Mavili.

³¹ Document 9, published in this essay on p. 108. Death certificate of Catterina Dusmani, 3 January 1845. Corfu Registry Office n. 118.

³² Document 10, published in this essay on p. 108. Death certificate of Lorenzo Mabily Bouligny, 7 October 1853. Corfu Registry Office n. 148.

³³ Marriage of Paolo Mavili. Registry Office, Marriages, Corfu n. 92 of 16.11.1848.

Gemma de Chirico (née Cervetto), who was also the daughter of an Italian, Augusto Cervetto, and a Greek, Margarita Alivisatos (descendent of a highly important family with origins in Cephalonia), left Greece definitively in 1906 with her children after the death of Evaristo. She stopped off in Corfu to see Ester and Lorenzo, an event described by Savinio in the chapter “Lorenzo Mavili” of his book *Narrate, Uomini la Vostra Storia* [Men, Tell Your Story].³⁴

VII. We can thus conclude that, *no marriage between blood relations took place, no shadow of madness which could obscure the lineage of Giorgio and Adelaide, no impaired child.*

Baldacci is consequently mistaken when he states in his writings that apart from Evaristo, Adelaide’s son, a serious man and a great worker, the other members of the family lived in a state of unreality due to a hereditary illness deriving from presumed endogamy. Quite another story emerges from the letters of the widow Adelaide and her children to their brother Paolo (to be published shortly): the only child to become a problem for his mother was precisely the one who was “in the mountains in Turkey [where he is] working indefatigably”, whereas the rest of the family were well married or happily settled in Italy. For the only child who worried her – Evaristo – his mother did her best to find him work in their Greek homeland.³⁵

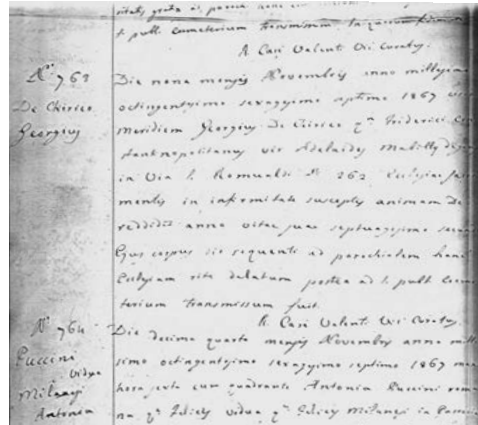


fig.7 Death certificate of Giorgio Maria de Chirico, buried at the Verano cemetery, Rome

³⁴ A.Savinio, *Narrate, Uomini la Vostra Storia*, Bompiani, Milan 1942, “Lorenzo Mavili”, pp. 143-158.

³⁵ Document 11, published in this essay on pp. 109-110. Letter from Adelaide de Chirico to her brother Paolo, 1 October 1872. Archive of the Institute of Modern Greek Studies, Manolis Triantaphilidis Foundation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

“Livorno 1 October 1872. Tuesday, Piazza Manin n. 4, My Dear Paolo, I am really grateful that you sent me such an affectionate and detailed letter. I read your letters with great pleasure because they inspire calm and wellbeing. They have a real soothing effect on my agitated spirit! But with all the pleasure your writing brings I don’t demand that you write me very often, not wishing to take advantage of your kindness, all the more so when I know how busy you are.

I am very happy to hear that my dear Lorenzino studies and studies appropriately so he will become a very fine young man worthy of such a Father. I am equally pleased that dear Ester is in the Country harvesting her grapes. Say hello and give her a hug from me. And tell my dear Giannina a great many affectionate things, how joyful I shall be to see her again.

You should like to have news of Zenaide; she and her husband are just an hour away from Marseille in the countryside: thanks be to God that they are both in very good health. Aglaë’s marriage took place last Sunday, 29 September. Now she is Madame Afan de Marchesi de Rivera. Evaristo is still in the mountains in Turkey, working indefatigably, he’s on the point of making a great career, may God help him!

The unbearable Gustavo will write to you soon, meanwhile he kisses your hand and that of his aunt. Alberto too will not delay in writing, he would do so more often but is always occupied by a thousand little boring items of family affairs. What can I say of myself? My monastic kind of life offers nothing of interest. I go to church and sometimes, but I rarely take a carriage ride. That’s how I spend my days, I’m always at home dealing with domestic matters. Who is this woman who with such wretchedness sent invitations to the ball held aboard the English frigate? In any case she must be a woman of very limited spirit: poor thing, I feel sorry for her!

I am pleased to hear that the Dusmani family are in good health, please send my best regards, especially to cousin Antonio and nephew Nani; I don’t know if he remembers the youngest of the misses Serristori: in any case tell him that she has made a brilliant marriage: she has married the son of Count [?] of Milan. Adieu Dear brother, I leave you praying that you will think of me and I embrace you together with all your family, always your very affectionate sister Adelaide”.

What is most bothersome is that in Baldacci's laborious text it is all too clear that he is perfectly aware that everything he writes is based on questionable information and documents, if not totally unfounded, but he prefers in any case to bend over backwards with dates of birth and death of the people involved. When a historian finds himself in this kind of situation he would normally pause and investigate further. Whereas Baldacci, who shows little interest in seeking the truth, surges ahead with his false construction with the sole purpose of reconfirming his preconceived theses which, strangely, always and in any case converge – though he states the contrary – in the destruction and denigration of the image of Giorgio de Chirico (and his family), the former not only as an artist but also as a human being, going so far as to find the seeds of mental illness in his ancestry on the basis of a marriage concerning another couple, as we have seen (see point V). Even when obliged to speak well of certain forbears such as Federico de Chirico, he adds: "Although certain contemporary observers and many current historians [*which ones?*] have brought to light Federico's structural inability to look beyond [...] it was also due to him that a treaty of friendship and trade [...] was signed (1825)."

Documents are also used for this purpose. Amusing if it did not elicit sadness is a text which, though possibly interesting for a study of the origins of the de Chirico family in Italy where a direct kinship is confirmed, is published solely for purposes of denigration (website of the Archivio dell'arte metafisica, September 2012: *Un nuovo documento sulle origini della famiglia de Chirico* [A New Document on the Origins of the de Chirico Family]). The document, consisting of a malicious and rancorous letter from a certain Nicolò Theyls in 1722, concerns one Luca Chirico whose father, the author of the letter writes, was a Neapolitan banned from the Kingdom of Naples and married to a Jewish woman: "I have already written to Your Excellency of this Signor Luca, who is a man without honour and without religion. The father of this Chirico is a Neapolitan who, banned from the Kingdom, went to Dubrovnik and married a Jewish woman. So may Your Excellency consider to what damned race this Chirico belongs, born to an outlaw and a Jewess [...] Pera of Constantinople, 5 June 1722." All this with view to allowing a certain Heidrum Wurm of Hamburg the contemptuous opinion: "In a word, Luca Chirico was a character of whom in German one would say *sehr schillemd*" (turncoat or traitor). Certainly by publishing such a document dated 1722 (dating back five generations to Naples) for the sole disparaging purpose indicated above, one understands that Baldacci feels that the de Chirico hereditary trait *par excellence* is that of the swindler, even prior to the "subsequent mental illnesses". In the end he can consider himself fully satisfied: the whole de Chirico family is *ab origine* mendacious, cheating and moreover descendants of what Nicolò Theyls calls a *damned race* without realising, at least one hopes so, that he has slipped into that full-blown anti-Semitism which brings to mind Anton Giulio Bragaglia. Whatever the origins of Giorgio de Chirico and his family may be – and they are yet to be ascertained – any Jewish forefathers would have been a great honour to him: we need only read his *Memoirs* on this subject. In publishing a document of that kind one would have expected serious in-depth inquiry and some duty-bound precise information, all of which, oddly, is wholly lacking.

Nor should we repeat Baldacci's error by distorting Savinio's descriptions of his family. In fact he does not describe sick people enclosed in a house-cum-mental asylum but rather people who belong to an age already gone by and who, unable to accept social and cultural evolution, have withdrawn from real life into places where they feel protected. They prefer to live, in Stefan Zweig's words, in the *Welt von Gestern* (World of Yesterday), aggravating their differences with a present that they cannot understand and assimilate. Evaristo on the other hand managed to step over this boundary and enter into what we call the "modern era", subsequently transferring his wealth of experience to his children.

I may conclude by stating that Baldacci's study does not correspond to what is required from an attentive scholar because his work, if it should ever be published as envisaged, has already been given the lie by documents, at least with regard to the history of Giorgio de Chirico's family, and ought to be decisively corrected with regard to his early working years in Munich, Italy and France.

The research begun by the Foundation, which has come up with hundreds of previously unknown documents, including many letters from Adelaide and her children to their brother Paolo, letters that supply precise information about their family life in Italy, before and after the death of their grandfather Giorgio, in Rome, Florence, Genoa and Livorno, also indicating the addresses where they lived, will throw definitive light on the history of a decidedly Italian-Greek family bound by their origins to these two countries. We may thus understand why, on the one hand, the family in times of difficulty always found refuge in Italy and, on the other hand, why Evaristo went to work in Greece after his engineering studies in Florence, Genoa and Turin. His life and work in Greece will be described, his marriage to Gemma, the birth of their children, the years of their childhood, the death of Evaristo and then the reasons behind the choice of the Munich Academy for Giorgio's studies and the choice of Paris as a place to build up the two brothers' future: decisions made by Gemma de Chirico also on the basis of her relationships with rich and important Greek families who lived between Athens and Paris.

I am duty bound to extend sincere thanks to the Archbishop of the Catholic Church of Corfu, His Excellency Monsignor Giovanni Spiteri, the secretary of the Archbishop's Residence Spiro Gautsi, the Institute of Neo-Hellenic Studies (Manolis Triandaphyllidis Foundation) of the Aristotelian University of Salonika, Giorgio Linardo, Paolo Picozza, Marco Maiorino and in particular to Giovanni Hassioti for the help and information received.

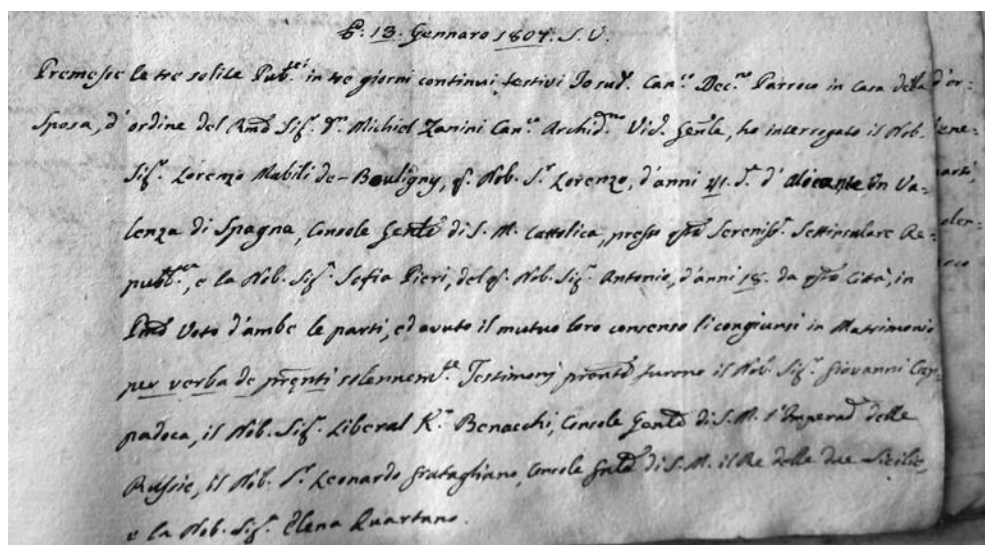
Translated by David Smith

³⁸ See P. Picozza, *Betraying de Chirico: The Falsification of Giorgio de Chirico's Life History over the last Fifteen Years*, "Metaphysical Art – the de Chirico Journals", n 9/10, 2011, pp. 28-60.

DOCUMENTS

1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	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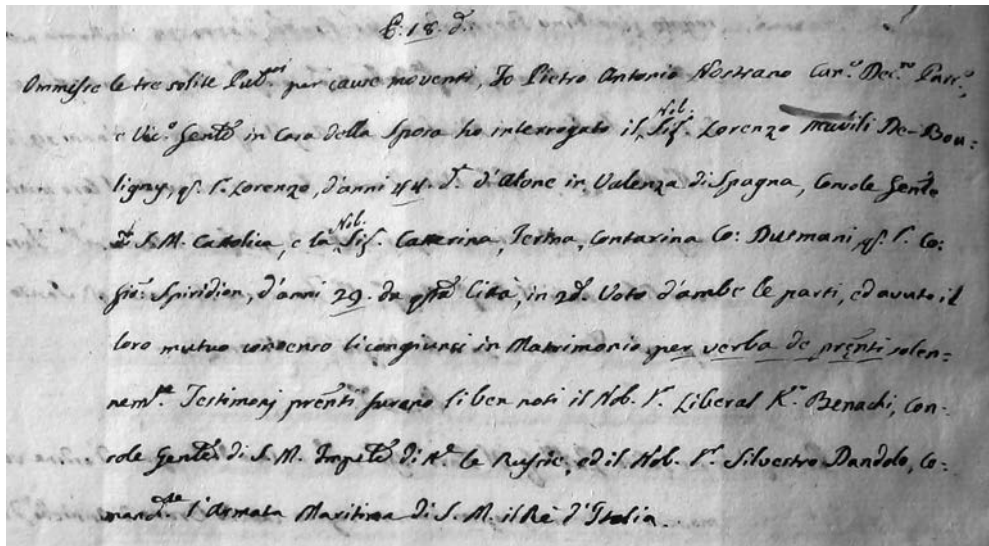
Document 1 Arrival of Lorenzo Mabili in Corfu. A.N.K, Corfu Region Archive, Health Inspectors, envelope 117, details of Passenger List 1803-1804 (line 31): Date – 1803 December 30 / Name – Mr Lorenzo / Surname – Mabili / Country – Spanish / Position – Consul / Ship – Public Coach / Provenance – from Otranto / Lodging – (not stated)



Document 2 Marriage of Lorenzo Mabili and Sofia Pieri. Archive of the Residence of the Archbishop of the Catholic Church of Corfu, Marriages 1795-1833, p. 51

13 January 1804

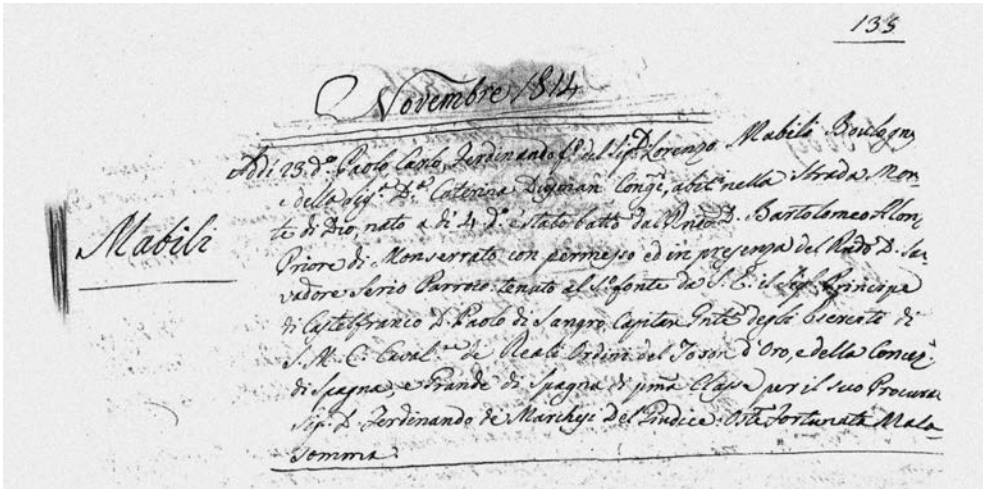
Given the usual three publications on three consecutive Sundays, I the undersigned canonical deacon, parish priest, at the bride's home, by order of the very Reverend Don Michiel Zanini, canonical archdeacon, vicar-general, questioned the noble gentleman Mr Lorenzo Mabili de-Boulogny, aged 41, son of the late noble gentleman Lorenzo, from Alicante in Valenza, Spain, consul general of His Catholic Majesty in this Most Serene Septinsular Republic, and the noble lady Sofia Pieri, aged 18, daughter of the late noble gentleman Antonio, of this city, both marrying for the first time, and having received their mutual consent I solemnly joined them in matrimony *per verba de praesenti*. The witnesses present were the noble gentleman Giovanni Cappadoca, the noble gentleman Liberal Kv Benacchi, Consul General of His Majesty the Emperor of the Russias, the noble gentleman Leonardo Gratiagliano, Consul General of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies, and the noble lady Elena Quartano.



Document 3 Marriage of Lorenzo Mabili and Catterina Dusmani. Archive of the Residence of the Archbishop of the Catholic Church of Corfu, Marriages 1795-1833, p. 62

June 1809, A.D.

On the 18th, having omitted for due cause the usual three publications, I Pietro Antonio Nostrano, canonical deacon, parish priest and vicar-general, at the bride's home, questioned the noble gentleman Lorenzo Mabili De-Bouliny, aged 44, son of the late Lorenzo, of Alone in Valenza, Spain, Consul General of His Catholic Majesty, and the noble lady Catterina Terina Contarina, formerly Dusmani, aged 29, daughter of the late (commendatore?) Giovanni Spiridion, of this city, both marrying for the second time, and having received their mutual consent I solemnly joined them in matrimony *per verba de praesenti*. The witnesses present were the well known noble gentleman Sr. Liberal K(ostantin)o (?) Benachi, Consul-General of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias and the noble gentleman Silvestro Dandolo, commander in the Navy of His Majesty the King of Italy.

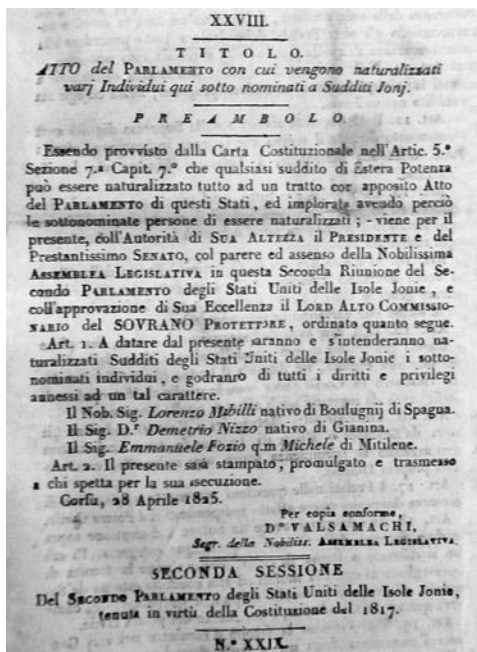


Document 4 Paolo Mabili's certificate of baptism, Naples, 23 November 1814. Parish of San Marco di Palazzo, Naples

In the left margin: Mabili

November 1814

On the 23rd the said Paolo Carlo Ferdinando, son of Mr Lorenzo Mabili Boulogny and lady D(onn)a Caterina Dusman, husband and wife, resident in the Monte di Dio road, born on the 4th, was baptised by Reverend Don Bartolomeo Alonzo, prior of Monserrato, with the permission and in the presence of Reverend Don Salvatore Serio, parish priest at the sacred font of His Excellency the prince of Castelfranco don Paolo di Sangro, Captain General of the armies of His Catholic Majesty, Knight of the Royal Orders of the Golden Fleece and the Conception of Spain and first class Grandee of Spain for his proxy Don Ferdinando de' Marchesi del Giudice; ost.le (?) Fortunata Malasomma.

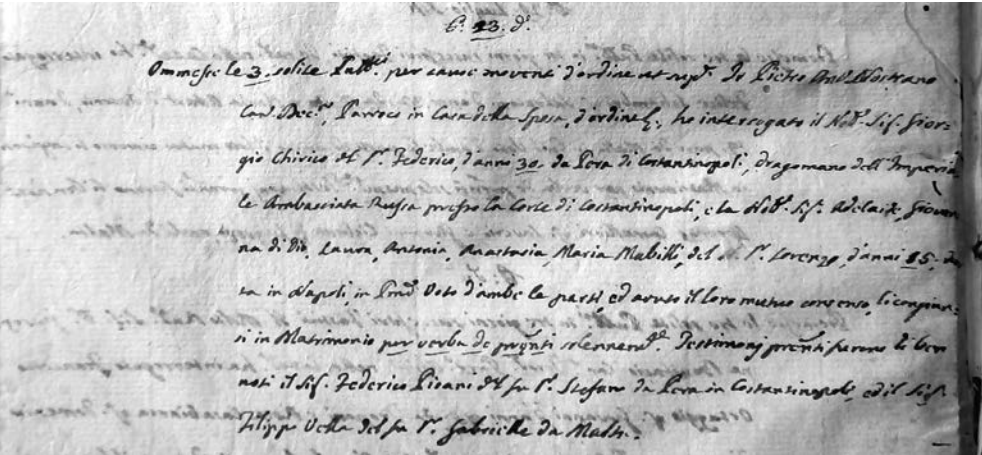


Document 5 Act of Parliament of the United States of the Ionic Islands which acknowledges rights of citizenship to Lorenzo Mabili and his family, 28 April 1825

Document 6 Publication of the Act in the Bulletin of the United States of the Ionic Islands, N° 384 of 7 May 1825.

189	Sereno Morbelli				"	Bell.	-	-	-
	Lavorante:	D			"	a	a	Hf	-
	Abitando:	E			"	a	a	16	-
	Paleo	G			(H)	a	a	a	-

Document 7 Detail of the page in the census book of inhabitants of Corfu, 1828. The Mabili family consists of: Lorenzo Mabili, aged 64; Catterina, aged 47; Adelaide, aged 16 (Evaristo's mother); Paolo, aged 14.



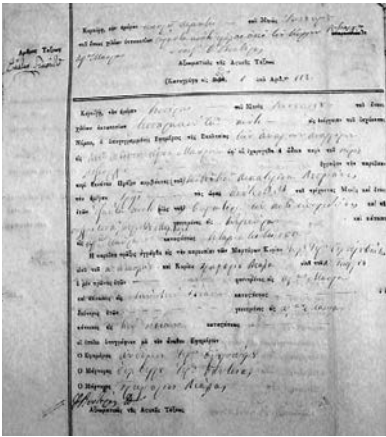
Document 8 Marriage of Giorgio de Chirico and Adelaide Mabili. Archive of the Residence of the Archbishop of the Catholic Church of Corfu, Marriages 1795-1833, p. 148

[August 1828]

On the 23rd, having omitted for causes of a superior nature the usual three publications, I Pietro Antonio Nostrano, canonical deacon and parish priest, at the bride's home, questioned the noble gentleman Giorgio Chirico aged 30, son of Federico, from Pera of Constantinople, dragoman for the Imperial Russian Embassy, and the noble lady Adelaide, Giovanna di Dio, Laura, Antonia, Anastasia, Maria Mabilli, aged 15, daughter of the noble gentleman Lorenzo, born in Naples, both parties marrying for the first time, and having received their mutual consent I solemnly joined them in matrimony *per verba de praesenti*. The witnesses present were the well known gentleman Federico Pisani, of the late gentleman Stefano from Pera of Constantinople, and the gentleman Filippo Vella of the late gentleman Gabriele of Malta.



Document 9 Death certificate of Caterina Dusmani (Mavili), 3 January 1845. Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Corfu N° 118.



Document 10 Death certificate of Lorenzo Mabili y Bouligny, 7 October 1853. Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Corfu N° 148

4.10.1872

Livorno P^o 10^obre 1872. Martedì.
 Piazza. Manini. n^o 4.

Mio Caro Paolo.

Si sono ripreso con l'istissima di addebi-
 perito una così affettuosa e dotta
 gliata lettera. Le tue lettere si
 leggono con molto piacere perché
 ispirano la calma ed il benedire,
 esse sono un vero calmante all'agi-
 tato mio spirito! però con tutto
 il piacere che provo nel leggere virtù
 caratteri non pretendo che tu mi
 debba scrivere spessissime e non so-
 londo abusare della Tua Compian-
 za tanto più suppondo quanto sono
 le tue e compiacere.

Godi moltissimo nel sentire che il mio
 Caro Corinzio studia e studia di

Document 11a Letter from Adelaide de Chirico, Evaristo's mother, to her brother Paolo, 1 October 1872, page 1

I poverelli di Aglai ebbero luogo
 l'annata scorsa 29 sett^{bre} eccolo
 ora dunque. Mod^o Agai de' Mar-
 chesi de' Meidera. Evaristo è im-
 pie in Turchia sulle montagne

lavorando indefessamente, e si è
 sul punto di fare una bellissima
 Carriera, che Addio l'ajuti!
 L'insopportabile Gustavo ti periserà

.Addio mio Caro fratello Teodoro
 pregandoti di rammentarti di me a
 bracciandoti assieme a tutta la
 tua famiglia mi dico per la scita
 tua aff^{mo} sorella. Adelaide

Document 11 b-d Letter from Adelaide de Chirico, Evaristo's mother, to her brother Paolo, 1 October 1872, excerpts from pages 2-4 (full transcription of letter at Note 35).