

## *An earthquake all for nothing*

Dear Readers,

Forgive the confusion but on 27 March 2008, on request from the U.M.I., I accepted to remove from the website, and within 48 hours, the document of the interview given at his son's legal office in Ravenna, by Professor Giordano Gamberini, formerly Grand Master of the Free Masons of Italy. In so doing I duly notified them that I would replace it with a writing of my own.

I am anxious to state that the interview which had just appeared on the website was, and is, a document of historic value and that the important thing about it is that it exists; apart from the document itself, it was witnessed moreover by two monarchist representatives who arrived with the request from the heads of the U.M.I., and by everyone who were aware of the facts from other sources and the facts narrated therein.

The interview in question indeed has value, but not because it has anything new to say; rather it further confirms, on the best possible proof, things which are already well known to those who know the Savoy Family from the inside, and also to those who have seen things from the outside and applied a modicum of logic; just as the [King's letters](#) are merely confirmation of the laws in force in the House of Savoy and nothing more, however much importance they may possess *per se*.

Vittorio Emanuele's [Decree N.1](#) has [no ground to stand on](#) and obviously originates from a person who had nothing further to lose. Having decided to promote his own ends, which [centered on a skirt](#), he laboured under the illusion that he could reverse the [formidable opposition of the King](#) without paying the price. In fact he knew full well what the consequences of his bid would be and that, in any case, it would result in his [automatic expulsion](#). Even before his marriage to Marina Ricolfi Doria he feared that he would be openly destituted by the King. This fear was destined to remain, even after he concocted the document which, according only to him, was intended to repair the damage. There was really no need for Professor Gamberini to tell us this, but he did anyway.

That the strategy of the decree did nothing whatever for him and that its author was perfectly aware of it, can be easily be deduced. In the first place by his composing and hiding (!) the decree at the notary's, and secondly by the fact that, following his marriage, Vittorio continued to fear that the King would take action, barring him from any official and dynastic role (which duly occurred<sup>1</sup>); but he also feared that the King would do it in regard to the [villainous document drawn up against his father](#) who, luckily for both of them, never found out. Again there was really no need for Professor Gamberini to tell us this, but he did. These were the only things of any importance that came out of the interview which appears to have caused grave embarrassment to 'some people'.

Gamberini also added, and quite rightly, that Queen Maria José shared her son's fears; but he was wrong in stating, probably because he was not personally informed, that the Queen was prepared to support the decree. The Queen certainly feared for the dynastic fate of her son, and quite apart from Gamberini's reference there is no lack of proof from other quarters. But she was not stupid, and

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<sup>1</sup> Even though he might well have delegated somebody else, the King chose Amedeo to represent him, in Italy, on the occasion of the donation of the Holy Shroud to Pope John Paul II. He never again asked his son to represent him abroad, and at one time, while he lay ill and conscious of approaching death at the end of 1982, he once again asked Amedeo to take his place at the funeral of Princess Grace of Monaco. **A fact of exceptional significance.**



would never have supported such blatant folly. Therefore in this last statement Gamberini, who by the way fails to say whether he met her or not, by leaving us in doubt, falls very wide of the mark.

However let us take a closer look at Decree N.1, and the presence of [the signature, almost impossible to hide](#), of Professor Gamberini at the foot of the said Decree N.1, the very source of this strange ‘earthquake’. What is it doing there? Professor Gamberini himself, whom I take to be a lawyer, knew perfectly well he had no power to countenance a document like that, all the less in his position as Grand Master who must have known that what was written there made no legal sense.

The document goes on to say:

[The original of this Decree](#) was deposited by His Majesty (*sic*) with the notary Desert E. Lucien [*Edmond-Lucien DESERT*] of Geneva<sup>2</sup>. The deposit was placed in a sealed envelope.

The Council

Aldo A. Giacci

Giordano Gamberini

Now come on! Certain people do not start over again to complain bitterly whenever they get found out. At some stage it all comes out. The wisest thing is not to get up to anything in the first place. People who have come of age and been vaccinated (as the French say), one of whom being no less a personage than the Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Italy who held office in 1969, do not idly lend themselves, and certainly not in their own name, to this sort of rubbish. For those who believe in Santa Claus... But then, for those who are not taken in it is natural to think that they have sold their signatures to Vittorio Emanuele, not so much to support his idiotic escapades but to buy him for more concrete reasons of their own. And reasons there must have been because people we are given to suppose as intelligent and responsible, in any part of the world, do not lend themselves together with their signatures to share in the asinine behaviour of just anybody, as though they had come to play together with a toy electric train. [And then they go as far as calling him “His Majesty”!](#) Am I dreaming, or what? If this is not a sorry page in the history of Italian Masonry I can only wonder what a sorry page should be.

And then, even where Vittorio Emanuele says pompously in the document that he came to his decision after hearing “Our Council” (?) there is no way he can justify any excuse. If he delights in letting himself be advised, enthralled or encouraged by the wrong people and – whether in this or in most other cases later – by scoundrels and elements more expert than he in pulling off fat scams to the sole advantage of themselves, he still has to answer for it in the first person.

As for his justification and motive for being present at the drawing up of the wretched document Professor Gamberini has told us nothing whatever, thereby defeating the mission of his interviewers and those who sent them who to this day seem not to have realized it. But there is no need for Professor Gamberini’s silence to prevent us from drawing certain conclusions.

Apart from the submissive tendency of some (who have nowhere else to go) to brush aside much of Vittorio Emanuele’s responsibility in his innumerable blundering ventures as some form of recurrent heart-warming zaniness, let it be made quite clear that this is by no means comparable – as they try to get people to believe, – to an old woman with 30 cats approached by con men who tell her to “Sign here!” while she is talking to the cat and tickling its ear. No. Our good Vittorio knows all too well that there are certain things he must not sign: but he still goes right ahead and signs them, and

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<sup>2</sup> Today’s successor to the Geneva notary, Edmond-Lucien DESERT, is Denis KELLER of the legal firm of KELLER et GLASER in Geneva.



enjoys it, hoping to get some money, or glory, out of it, while his fantasies soar to heights unknown. Maybe his motto has become: “What harm is there in trying it on? Tomorrow they’ll all forget”. Rather like the guys who pinch women in the street and collect a slap in the face – not always though. So that both the attempt to dethrone the King and the compensation in return for the others were handled exactly like pinching a woman’s backside to see if one can get away with it. Congratulations all round!

Even if there is always the temptation to go all the way, it seems superfluous to go to the trouble of attaching names and places to the vast manoeuvre of making out of which Vittorio Emanuele must probably have understood little or nothing. From what we hear, he predictably turned out to be totally useless.

Professor Gamberini, and others – who certainly did not go to Geneva to pay a social call – have placed their signatures as inspirers of the document; and as members of the so-called “Council” they have “councilled” and have in fact driven things to a pointless direction. Consequently they were complicit in the full sense of the word, without mitigation, of a real crime on the moral level, this being the only word to describe the “decree” issued, then immediately hidden, by Vittorio Emanuele. A crime that fizzled in every sense, on one hand for its original uselessness<sup>3</sup> on the other for failure of the exchange-return which did not happen, leaving our heroes with well deserved egg on their faces. To spare ourselves some embarrassment, and speaking euphemistically, let us draw a veil of pity over the whole affair and leave it to some reader, who surely knows much more, to furnish us with the reply 39 years after.

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<sup>3</sup> Though it should no longer be necessary at this point, if we do need further proof, – in spite of the decree shut away in Geneva, his supporters giving their own interpretation to the King’s silence, and the adulators who kept reassuring him - Vittorio Emanuele did not feel at all sure about his dynastic rank; what is more he was perfectly convinced he had lost it. This is confirmed by the sheet of paper he held clutched in his hand as he roamed the corridors of the London Hospital in 1982 after the King had entered his final stages of his illness. His sisters, Maria Beatrice who, in Sperone’s book, makes it quite clear, and Maria Gabriella, who remembers distinctly, say that their brother drifted nervously through these corridors, and that the sheet of paper contained one last desperate, though useless, attempt, to get his father to sign a deed of indemnity for his marriage. And yet he did not dare to propose it because of his ceaseless fear of being heaved out of the sick room.

It is only too plain that even if the king, in a less lucid moment, had put his signature to the paper, Vittorio Emanuele would still find himself very far from redeeming his dynastic problem. And in as much as he went around telling everybody, it would have come to nothing, just as the King had written to him; this is exactly what happened later with the [declaration, possessing no legal validity](#), which he made [his mother and sisters sign in 1983](#).

The three reasons which we never tire of repeating until sooner or later it will finally enter into people’s heads, are:

- the (constitutional) King in exile did not have the power to change the dynastic laws in force without a Parliament. In fact what King Umberto II wrote was: «[But even if I should fail in my duty](#), it would come to nothing because **no one could recognize the validity of what I had done.**»
- [in order to reverse the consequences](#) of the failure to obtain prior consent to his marriage and to restore Vittorio Emanuele to the dynastic position from which he was destituted, all the King could have done was call upon the other male members of the House of Savoy and, without being able to oblige their consent, simply ask them to renounce the new dynastic positions they had automatically acquired. None of this happened.
- If the King had then decided to “fail in his duty” and favour his son by changing the rules of the House of Savoy, though it never entered his head to do so, he would have needed to issue a decree, or in any case a document (to deliver, or else have delivered to his son at the appropriate moment) as proof that he wished to change the constituted laws governing the House, among which the dynastic laws held pride of place. But as we all know, and this includes the people who pretend they don’t know how to read, what the King intended, in his letters of [1960](#) and [1963](#), was precisely the opposite, and he simply allowed the automatic force of the dynastic norms to come into operation. Paganini does not repeat himself!



If we insist on the concept of crime it is because the “decree” is tantamount to a patricide, a moral patricide that is clandestine, beyond cowardly, ignoble, miserable, abject and quite extraordinarily stupid. Under the Kingdom the name for it would be “High Treason” carrying a terrible punishment, and naturally followed by loss of hereditary titles and prerogatives. Much worse in the case of war. Of course it has always been implied that Vittorio Emanuele is and will remain a contemptible human being and the same goes for those who have supported him in this episode, and in many other circumstances too, but in spite of all the unassailable proof of his destitution, they continue to support him and his son to this day. Who knows for what inadmissible interests?

Why did I put the interview on the website and, immediately after, how was it that some were sneaking away from what had now become a hot potato: how did it get hot in the first place? It is hard to understand both for the proof just given that everything was already known, and that the document added really very little, for its intrinsic importance was slight. Like the letters of the King it was on the website. They are papers that help to clarify, redundantly, episodes which form part of the history of the Dynasty. This is why I find it so hard to understand the embarrassment of certain people in thinking they have missed some word which did not come spontaneously but had been cleverly extorted, and for a document whose value has been extolled for no reason at all. But honesty, loyalty and uprightness are one thing; a code of silence is their diabolical distortion, whatever can be hatched up to justify it; no free being is bound to respect false rules of a so-called game. If in certain blackmail situations the risks entail catastrophic consequences, it is understandable that one would make the best of circumstances. But let us make it quite clear that none of this has any bearing on our case where there are no elements which can justify anyone in making a good, or interesting, fellow of himself by crying: “Wolf!”

One word more. Vittorio Emanuele has the tic of dragging everyone and everything before a court of law. We strongly urge him to sue on the basis of the above exposé.

Your devoted,  
*Giovanni Volpi*

31 March 2008

