



The Military Order of the Collar of Saint Agatha of Paternò

Grand Chancellor's Bulletin

NOVEMBER 2020

Welcome, Knights and Dames and friends of the Military Order of the Collar! In these difficult times of pandemic, we cannot get to see each other regularly as we like, and so to keep us in touch with each other I shall try to produce a regular bulletin of anything that occurs to me. If anyone reading this has something they would like me to include in a future issue or has any other comment to make, please get in touch via the email address at the foot of each page.

Royal Wedding:

Everybody loves a wedding and here particularly we love this wedding, when don Roberto married his fiancée Cristina on the 19th September in the Family's ancestral church of Santa Maria di Gesù, Catania.

We wish the happy couple every blessing and much joy in their life together!



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Why are we called the Military Order of the Collar of Saint Agatha of Paternò?

In the 13th Century much of southern and southwestern Europe had been overrun and conquered by the Arabs. The Kings of Aragon were among the first to push back against this. After liberating much of north-eastern Spain (today's provinces of Aragon, Catalonia and Valencia) they started the conquest of the Balearic Islands and liberated Minorca by **military** means.

In order to hold the island they constituted an **Order** of knights whose members were bound to their king and to each other by an oath. The knights wore a distinctive **collar** to set them apart. **St Agatha** was a saint to whom there has always been a particular devotion around the Mediterranean; the chapel of the Royal Palace of the Kings of Aragon in Barcelona is dedicated to her. The direct descendants of the Kings of Aragon are the House of **Paternò** and hence, don Francesco Paternò Castello is our Grand Master!

Of course, today we don't engage in military activity but instead we enact our role as an order of chivalry by our charitable ventures, by collecting funds for and participating in worthy causes.

Charitable Activities

Very soon we shall have the annual illustrated Report from don Anders Blomqvist the Grand Hospitaller to show us exactly what the various parts of the Order have been able to do, even in these difficult circumstances.

Logo

We have Father Guy Sylvester to thank for the nifty Art Deco style Cross of the Order in the footer of this Bulletin which he knocked off thinking it would make a good lapel pin. I think it makes a very fetching logo for this Bulletin. It's the kind of thing Fr Guy does when not designing arms for bishops and looking after his parish.

Livestreamed Masses

You should be aware that throughout the pandemic our Chaplain Fr Sebastian-M Jones has been livestreaming daily Masses – in both English and Latin to suit your preference – from his church of St Alban-on-the-Moors in Cardiff at this web address: https://www.facebook.com/StAlbanontheMoors/?ref=br_rs.

Contact Details

If you have moved home or changed your email address in living memory, have you told your head of jurisdiction? Has he told me? It is the only way to keep in touch. Please tell him and hope he tells me!

Events

We congratulate those jurisdictions that are able to have some direct activity, even in these times.

On the 3rd October 2020 the Grand Priory of Terrae Danubicae arranged that Solemn Prayer for health, peace and the success of MOC and for its Knights and Dames was celebrated at the Patriarchal Cathedral of Saint Nedelya in Sofia. Starting from the 12th November 2020 there will be meetings at all the Commanderies in Bulgaria.

On the 21st November 2020 the Grand Priory of Terra Nordica will have a goose themed dinner for members.

On the 12th December 2020 the Grand Priory of the English Tongue will hold a pre-Christmas virtual Cocktail Party with charitable Auction.

Noble Titles

Don Francesco has bestowed the following titles:

- ✦ Don Anders Jarlskog, *Marquess di Val Vicari* to be *Duke of Calvià*
- ✦ Da Susanna Jarlskog to be *Duchess of Villafranca de Bonany*
- ✦ Da Tina Anthin to be *Countess of Graniti*



My Coat of Arms

When I was being awarded a coat of arms I naturally wanted it to be “me”. What do I mean “me”? Well to tell a story about who I am, where I am from and what I do:

My creation as Baron Sant Andrea was a complete surprise to me and with no association with anything called Andrew, depicting something of Saint Andrew was going to be a struggle. So with the help of my fellows in the College of Arms, Perpignan, Aragon, and Catania, we came up with some ideas:

You will see from the Crest above the helmet a Wyvern holding a Bee. This is a nod to my surname, Walesby. A Wyvern is a Welsh dragon and the Bee being the “by” pronounced “bee”. Going down you will see a Baron’s coronet on top of the Shield. The Supporters are a Horse showing my love of horses and a Wyvern again holding a Bee. The rampant horse has cross bones across its shoulders and withers as homage to my profession as a Funeral Director. The Shield is two horses rampant dexter and sinister supporting a black bar with a leopard’s face in homage to the arms of a Bishop of Hereford, St Thomas Cantilupe (1218-1282). My motto *Usque ad Mortem*, meaning : To the Death.



Recently I was raised to the rank of Viscount with the predicate of Vall de Lleida in the Kingdom of Aragon. Lleida is an ancient city in Spain’s north eastern Catalonia. The Coat of Arms of the city has its origins in the 13th century. So I decided to quarter my arms with that of the city with a simple change to the design: a lily with a green stem and three silver blooms on two red vertical bands.

H.E. Don Patrick Walesby Viscount Vall de Lleida

RACA – what on earth is that?

The RACA is one of the institutions under the Royal House of Aragon, Majorca and Sicily (sometimes called “the Crown of Aragon”). The abbreviation stands for “Royal Aragonese College of Arms” (in Italian “Real Collegio d’Armi Aragonese”). RACA has two main functions: ceremonial and heraldic. As the reader can imagine the ceremonial role is what is seen during the investitures.

Ceremonial Role

During the investitures one or more officers of RACA is acting. They are easily recognized by their tabards. Their functions during the investiture are often to bring forward the candidates and after the dubbing take the new knights and dames back to their seats. They also lead the entry exit processions.

Heraldic Role

This function includes into the following tasks:

- ✦ To register and record the Arms and Genealogies of Noble, Titled and Armigerous Families conceded, recognised and confirmed by the Head of the House of Aragon, Majorca and Sicily.
- ✦ To issue Certificates of Titles and or Arms and to propose and petition for Titles of Nobility.
- ✦ To attribute Grants of Arms and Augmentations of Arms.
- ✦ To issue Certificates of Family Trees and Pedigrees.
- ✦ To formulate Regulations, Ceremonials, Precedents and Forms of Protocol
- ✦ To cooperate with the Marshal of the MOC in the observance of Regulations on Insignia and Uniforms and of the Ceremonials and Heraldry of the MOC.
- ✦ To appoint Officers of the College of Arms by means of Letters Patent.



The RACA is active institution, even between the investitures. The result of what a knight and dame can see is their coat of arms that is registered in the RACA Armorial, published on www.mocinfo.info where the password is “**fir**mo”.

In the next newsletter from RACA we will present the structure of RACA and also who in it is doing what.

Lockdown Activity

What have you been up to in these times of confinement? Have you done anything you could share that might interest or amuse us? We had the inevitable attempts at bread and even pecan brownies, whose only problem was that there wasn't enough of them!

An experiment in planting slices of supermarket tomatoes was a huge success and for months we seem to have lived off little other than the fruit. But we are not the only ones with green fingers; meanwhile in Latisana, Stefano Serra found that one after another of his collection of cacti burst into fragrant flowers.



What can you share with us? We'd love to hear what you manage to get up to.

Stephen

