

## Auction : Prints, Rare Books and Manuscripts

To be sold Thursday 20 June 2024 - 174 rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, 75008 Paris

Private viewing by appointment

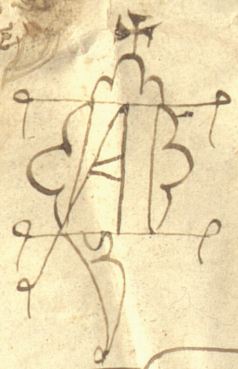
Public viewing : 17, 18 et 19 June from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM and from 14:00 to 18:00 PM

Online catalogue : <https://www.interencheres.com/meubles-objets-art/vente-manuscrits-633556>





Officiat sup nistofand  
Gund pldd pte st ang pte  
st xpo fte  
st angel pte pte  
st angel pte pte  
st angel pte pte  
st angel pte pte





# THE ALBERTINI COLLECTION

Exceptional set of illuminated heraldic parchment covers and leaves, excerpts from registers of potestates (chief magistrates), captains, judges and trustees of the "Popolo di Perugia", with painted coats of arms, medieval drawings and pen trials and contemporary inscriptions in Latin (cursive notarial scripts and display capitals). Italy, Perugia (Umbria), 13th-15th centuries.

## Description of the Collection

The 1749 items that make up the Albertini Collection are parchment covers and leaves that once protected or were part of the registers produced in the various courts of the city of Perugia (Umbria) in the last centuries of the Middle Ages and at the beginning of the Renaissance (late 13<sup>th</sup>-late 15<sup>th</sup> centuries). These courts and municipal administrative offices were governed by potestates (chief magistrates), captains, judges and trustees drawn from the bourgeois elites (always appointed foreigners from allied cities) and the ruling noble families. The proper functioning of these courts and offices was ensured by municipal officers and notaries. An impressive mass of documentation was produced which had to be organized and archived for future reference.

Like other Italian municipalities in the Middle Ages, each benefiting from real political autonomy and ensuring its own management, the city of Perugia was administered by foreign civil servants (potestates and captains of the People) invested with half-yearly mandates, responsible and accountable for the political, judicial and criminal, military and fiscal affairs of the city. They were assisted in this office by an organized administrative staff at their service, trained, amongst others, by judges and notaries. At the end of their mandate, the potestates and captains were accountable for their management, which produced by a set of documents carefully archived and compiled in registers.

The armorial covers and leaves assembled in this collection are most often the outer covers or parchment portfolios that contained the documents relating to the judgments rendered in the various courts of the city or the archives related to municipal management. These parchment leaves, sometimes preserved as bifolia when the full cover is preserved, are dated from the end of the thirteenth century to the end of the fifteenth century (1282-1493). Precise and scholarly research has allowed for the identification of most of the painted coats of arms and the dates of mandate of the potestates and captains of the People of Perugia, as well as the judges and trustees. A certain number of reproductions of these coats of arms are visible in the Notaries' Room of the Palace of the Priors of Perugia. *The Sala dei Notari* is part of the Palazzo dei Priori, the municipal palace of the city of Perugia (Umbria). This room, heavily remodeled since, was built between 1293 and 1297, therefore immediately contemporary with several of the documents presented in this sale: the room was originally used for popular meetings and sessions of the court of the Capitano del Popolo.

These covers bear the coat of arms of the Podestà or of the Captain in office and, most often, the mention of the type of documents kept in the register, the name of the notary responsible for drawing up the documents, the district of the city over which the court exercised its jurisdiction. Notaries copied the acts produced during the mandate of a given potestate, capitain or judge: the large heraldic crests could be drawn and painted by the notary himself or entrusted to artists and/or illuminators. Many of these sheets also bear inscriptions (notarial cursive script or display capital letters) or drawings, pen trials, extracts from poems, series of accounts, lists of officers, legal texts etc. In some cases, the covers may be reused parchment with earlier previous inscriptions. The notes, inscriptions and excerpts from documents often made it possible to identify and confirm the magistrates whose coats of arms adorn the covers. These parchments constitute the base for an important work of historical and philological transcription as they contain a large quantity of information, for the most part unpublished.



Ricciardus de Cancellariis de Pistorio. Podestà in 1334 (janvier-juin 1334) : *coupé : au premier d'azur au porc d'or passant lampassé de gueules, au deuxième d'or plain* (Cancellieri da Pistoia)  
Collection Albertini, lot 502, 13 parchment leaves :  
estimate 1 700 / 1 900 €



Perugia - Sala dei Notari – Palazzo dei Priori  
Podestà Ricciardo "de Cancellariis" (Cancellieri) da Pistoia (d'oro, al capo d'azzurro, al maiale del primo sostenuto dalla partizione).

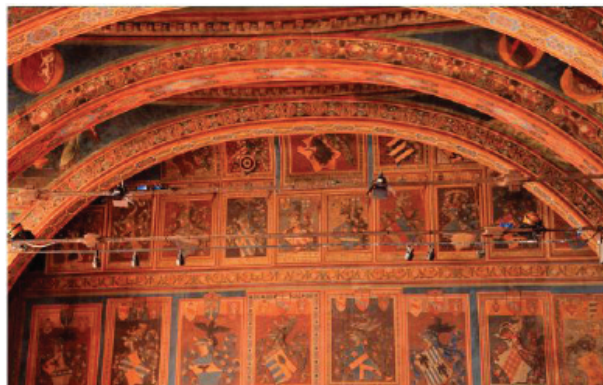


# Provenance

**1. City of Perugia (Umbria),** documents and fragments from the ancient archives of the city of Perugia. In the nineteenth century, the city of Perugia still belonged to the Papal States who could dispose of its archives through regular and legal sales. Part of the extant archives and registers are kept in the following repository: Archivio di Stato, Fondo Fasano di Gardone (Perugia). This « fondo » reintegrated the Archivio di Stato after the war of 1914-1918, when the Italian State seized from the hands of a German national part of the parchments which had been sold in 1853 (see below). It should be noted that this seizure took place in a context of “war booty” and was not the result of the cancellation of the sale of 1853.

**2. Sale, Perugia, 1853. In 1853,** under the papal rule, the municipality of Perugia sold, through a regular and legal deed of sale, a selection of medieval registers and parchments of a financial and judicial nature from the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries, including the illuminated heraldic covers. Following the sale of 1853, the documents, archives and fragments were dispersed. The municipality of Perugia tried to buy back the archives but without success. Since the archives were sold and dispersed legally, Josef Spithöver, the merchant-bookseller of German origin but established in Rome, sold a number of leaves. Part of these archives were acquired by Luis Albertini based in France (see below). See: Archivio di Stato. *Archivio storico del comune di Perugia. Inventario*. Rome, 1936, pp. 4-5 (“Diplomatico”):

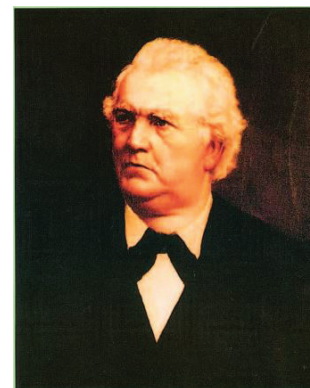
*« La serie denominata di Fasano di Gardone è venuta a trovarsi così costituita in seguito ad una singolare vicenda. Questa rilevante complessodi pergamene insiemea circa un migliaio di fascicoli e registri in prevalenza di amministrazione giudiziariae finanziaria fu deliberatamente eliminato dall’Amministrazione del Commune di Perugia, nel 1853, mediante un regolare atto di vendita. Dopo varie vicende, che non è opportuno, è nemmeno possibile, ricostruire, questa importante mole di materiale archivistico riappare alla luce alla finedella guerra mondiale 1914-18 nella villa du in suddito tedesco a Fasano di Gardone, confiscata come preda bellica et dallo Stato restituita, con alcune condizioni, al Commune di Perugia ».*



Sala dei Notari – Palazzo dei Priori (Perugia, City Hall)



**3. Josef Spithöver (1813-1892)**, bookseller of German origin (born in Westfalen), whose German language and antiquarian bookstore was established in 1845 in Rome (Piazza di Spagna). Spithöver described and sold many important archives and manuscripts, some now preserved in museums and patrimonial collections. For example an Album containing Italian illuminations, compiled by Spithöver [Manchester, John Rylands Library, Latin MS 14] : « *MINIATURE ANTICHE* » et « *J. SPITHÖVER. ROM.* ». See also Fragments and cuttings of illuminations purchased from Josef Spithöver in 1860 : see Rowan Watson, « Educators, Collectors, Fragments, and the "Illuminations": Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the Nineteenth Century », in *Interpreting and Collecting Fragments of Medieval Books*, ed. Linda L. Brownrigg and Margaret M. Smith (London, 2000), pp. 28, 36 [Londres, Victoria and Albert Museum, Acc. nos 1487–1537]. On Josef Spithöver, see Elvira Offenbach. *Josef Spithöver. Ein westfälischer Buchhändler, Kunsthändler und Mäzen im Rom des 19. Jahrhunderts* (Schnell & Steiner, 1997).



Josef Spithöver (1813-1892)



Bookstore de Josef Spithöver, Rome, Piazza di Spagna

**4. Luis Eugenio Albertini (1823-1880)**, diplomat of Italian origin through his father Massimiliano and Peruvian origin through his mother Francisca. Luis Eugenio Albertini was first class secretary for the Peruvian Legation in Paris. His daughter married a doctor from Dordogne in 1885, but they had no offspring. The collection then passed by inheritance to the family of the current owners.



Luis Eugenio Albertini (1823-1880)

**5. France.** Private family collection, by descent to the current owners.  
**Sale authorization following a “rescrit” (article L-212-I-I of the French Code du patrimoine) granted by the Service Interministériel des Archives, dated December 11, 2023.**



## Other recorded witnesses

In addition to the leaves currently in the Archivio di Stato (Perugia), partly seized in 1922 in the aftermath of the First World War, there were public sales at the beginning of the century, notably at Sotheby's (April 10, 1919, lot 698). These 29 leaves are now in Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum, MS 299.1-29<sup>1</sup>. Also recorded are 48 leaves and covers at the University of California at Stanford (Court of the Podestà records, 1290-1386)<sup>2</sup>

Other examples, not always properly identified, were sold on the rare book or antiquarian market, more or less correctly identified (online and public sales). A series of 24 parchment leaves from the same provenance were catalogued by Daniela Kromp Rare and Unique Books, *Outsiderhood or Books from the Fringe*, Munich, 2019.



Collection Albertini, lot 508, 12 parchment  
leaves : estimate 1 700 / 1 900 €

<sup>1</sup> Lot purchased by P. M. Barnard, bookseller in Tunbridge Wells, and subsequently purchased by the "Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum". See: Wormald, Francis. Giles, Phyllis M. *A Descriptive Catalog of the Additional Manuscripts in the Fitzwilliam Museum Acquired between 1895-1979* (excluding the McClean Collection), Cambridge University Press, 1982, pp. 277-79; Morgan, Nigel. Panayotova, Stella. Reynolds, Suzanne. *A Catalog of Western Book Illumination in the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Cambridge Colleges*. Part Two. Vol. 1-2: Italy and the Iberian Peninsula. London, 2011, cat. no. 281

<sup>2</sup> <https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/4082833> : Gift of the Associates of the Stanford University Libraries, 1975. Mainly accusations or condemnations made before, or issued by, the podestà of Perugia. They involve cases of moral conduct, violence, robbery, armed threat, drunkenness, and disorderly conduct.



# The Albertini Collection : A Medieval Heraldic Treasure Trove

The Albertini Collection is valuable and precious for multiple reasons. It offers first and foremost a magnificent collection of the coats of arms of the potestates, captains of the People of Perugia and others officers in charge of the city between 1283 and 1493. Some coats of arms are unknown and unpublished, and in some cases, these are the only known representations of a given shield. The interest of this type of documentation for the heraldry and prosopography of Italian families has been acknowledged for some time by heraldists (Wolff, Popoff, Giorgetti) but it remains, to this day, little known. Many documents of this sort are currently housed in Italian State Archives but, in the absence of inventory tools, remain inaccessible. Within the Archivio di Stato, Perugia, there are two groups of leaves and covers directly related to the Albertini Collection: (1) the first transmitted directly by the “cancelleria decemvirale” organized by Giuseppe Belforti in 1792; (2) the second kept within the Fondo “Fasano di Gardone” (archive reinstated in Perugia in 1922) <sup>1</sup>.

The present collection of parchments leaves and illuminated covers from municipal registers, by far the largest currently known in private hands, completes the identified institutional holdings (Perugia, Cambridge Fitzwilliam Museum, Stanford University) and provides new information on magistrates and their emblems. These notarial and municipal register covers offer one of the most precise and best documented heraldic sources for the region of Umbria and the Marche (Ancona, and a great number of other Italian towns and fiefdoms such as Spoleto, Bologna, Brescia and small towns such as Recanati or Staffolo), a region that had produced very little complete armorials prior to the sixteenth century. Extending over a long time period (over two centuries), the documents in this collection also allow for the study of the evolution of forms of shields towards the more Renaissance models that one sees in architecture, in manuscripts and art works in general (such as the “chanfrein” shield (lot 1, lot 10, lot 12 et passim), the “rondache” shield (lot 13, lot 90) which is a “tondo” circled by laurel and flanked by two putti, in the spirit of the works assigned to Della Robbia. One should also note the interest these documents present for the recording and identification of mottoes, heraldic supports, crests etc.

Furthermore, the armorial constituted by these register covers – albeit fragmentary – is precious because it betters our knowledge of other heraldic sources, in particular the coats of arms painted or carved on stone or terracotta slabs that the magistrates and families affixed to the walls of public palaces and offices. Many of these coats of arms make up the heraldic decor of the *Sala dei notari* in Perugia. With flaming and vibrant colors, these shields are truly a delight for the modern eye.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://san.beniculturali.it/web/san/avanzata-scheda-complesso-documentario?step=dettaglio&SAN\\_ID=san.cat.complArch.17051&id=17051&codiSanCompl=san.cat.complArch.17051](http://san.beniculturali.it/web/san/avanzata-scheda-complesso-documentario?step=dettaglio&SAN_ID=san.cat.complArch.17051&id=17051&codiSanCompl=san.cat.complArch.17051)



HIC EST LIBER MALLIORS COMVHIS PERVSII PORTE  
 TEMPORE MAGNIFICI ET GEHEROSI MILITIS COMITIS ET  
 EXIMIJE DOCTORIS DNI RANERII DEMASCHIS DEMAS  
 HIS DE ARIMINO PRO VNO ANNO PARTIM 1466. ET PARTIM  
 1467. ~~~





## Sketches, pen trials and drawings from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries



Beyond the evident heraldic, historical and notarial interest of the present documents, there are also a fair number of medieval drawings on certain leaves, ranging from simple pen trials, first rough tracings of coats of arms to more elaborate designs. These drawings allowed notaries or artists to give free rein to their imagination and break with the official and sometimes repetitive nature of financial and legal documents.

There are of course sketches of coats of arms, variations of painted coats of arms. Traced in brown ink, these may be first drafts, corrections or variants (for example lot 11, lot 22, lot 62, lot 66 etc.). Other drawings include rough drafts of notarial "signi" (notarial seals) (for example, lot 29, lot 35), or decorated letters with pen flourishing and ornaments (for example lots 38; lot 56 (grotesque and ornament around a poem by Seneca: "Stet quicumque pane / Aule culmine lubrico..."; lot 93).

Furthermore, there are also doodle-type drawings (small suns (probably a reference to the "porta solis" (Porta Sole, one of the oldest doors in Perugia), ornamental motifs, fleur-de-lis, manicula) but also more accomplished drawings such as the full-length portraits of women dressed in long tunics (lot 80), woman shooting a bow and arrow (lot 108) or women and men in profile (lot 65; lot 58, with a knight ; lot 77), lot 16 (two heads of bearded men in profile); lot 11), a varied bestiary including fantasy animals sometimes displaying heraldic poses (lot 33), a rider riding a dragon (lot 35) or simply a horse (lot 77); leopards, goats, eagles, birds (lot 33 ; lot 68) or disturbing hybrid creatures (lot 105 ; lot 79 ; lot 11); architectures such as this construction with a chimney reminiscent of a bread oven (lot 34).

Full of vitality and spontaneity, the drawings found throughout these official registers certainly deserve a more in-depth study and a more systematic census. The Albertini Collection contains some precious examples of this early practice of medieval "disegno", often overlooked and full of endearing surprises.





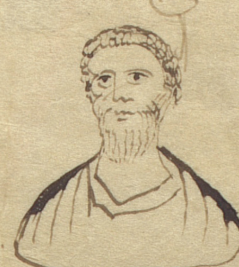
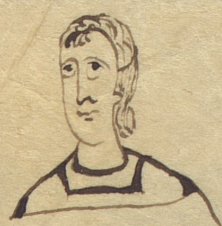


est dñus dñi



Handwritten text in a Gothic script, possibly a title or a short prayer, located above the central figure.

domus defontana lucia  
okno diffinitio lxxb  
dñus dñi n. lxxb  
d. e. g. a. n. q. u. i. t. a. d. d. s. e. a. d. a. f. q. u. i. t. a. t. p. m. a. n. p. m.





# Literature

**This sale and catalogue benefited from the expertise and scholarly studies conducted by Matteo Ferrari and Laurent Hablot, excellent and reputed heraldists.**

Cutini C., Balzani S. Podestà e capitani del Popolo a Perugia e da Perugia (1199-1350), in *I podestà dell'Italia comunale. Parte I. Reclumento e circolazione degli ufficiali forestieri (fine XII sec.-metà XIV sec.)*. Vol. I. Rome : École Française de Rome, 2000. pp. 693-739.

Giorgetti, V. *Podestà, capitani del popolo e loro ufficiali a Perugia (1195-1500)*, Spoleto, 1993.

Gorra, M. *Uno smagliante medioevo fra podestà e legati pontifici. Perugia, Palazzo dei Priori, Sala dei Notari (3e édition)*, Rome, 2020.

**Online Catalogue (153 lots) :**

**<https://www.interencheres.com/meubles-objets-art/vente-manuscrits-633556>**

## Sale Information

We gladly provide upon request full condition reports for each lot composed of a varied number of parchment leaves. We also can provide supplementary photography. The heraldic identification suggested in this catalogue constitue a first identification subject to amendment in certain cases.

For more information or any condition report and/or supplementay photography, please contact :

- [contact@mirabaud-mercier.com](mailto:contact@mirabaud-mercier.com)
- [livresanciensadeline@yahoo.fr](mailto:livresanciensadeline@yahoo.fr)







## A propos de MIRABAUD MERCIER

---

Founded in 2010, Mirabaud Mercier auction house, located at 174 rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré, in the heart of the capital's golden triangle, has established itself as a well-known and recognised player in the Paris art market. With a young and committed team, auctioneers Fabien Mirabaud and Claudia Mercier take great care in advising, appraising and valuing the works entrusted to them by families.

In 12 years of fine discoveries and sales at Hôtel Drouot, Mirabaud Mercier has recorded nearly a hundred pre-emptions, several world records and dozens of French records. In 2021, Mirabaud Mercier, in partnership with Sotheby's, discovered and sold a painting by Van Gogh entitled 'Street scene in Montmartre' for €13.1 million, the highest bid by the Anglo-Saxon auction house in France in 2021.

In 2022, the Mirabaud Mercier auction house was famous for selling the furniture from the estate of Clovis Trouille's family for nearly a million euros, and for setting world records, notably in Asian decorative arts with a diptych by Le Quoc L

In April 2024, Mirabaud-Mercier auctioned the exceptional Spitzer collection of Haute Epoque objects held by the heirs, two lots of which were pre-empted by the Musée du Louvre, including a remarkable South German altarpiece, for €185,600.

Fabien Mirabaud, vice-president of SYMEV (Syndicat national des maisons de vente volontaire), a former business lawyer at the New York and Paris bars and a graduate of the Ecole du Louvre, founded the auction house in 2010. He has been joined by Claudia Mercier, who had extensive experience in the inventory department at Christie's before heading up Tajan's development department, working in particular on its international expansion.

Mirabaud Mercier - 174, rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré – 75008 PARIS

Contact Press : Marie Vassort – 01 53 30 90 36 – [communication@mirabaud-mercier.com](mailto:communication@mirabaud-mercier.com)

Contact Sale : Marie Pozzo di Borgo - 01 53 30 40 03 - [principal@mirabaud-mercier.com](mailto:principal@mirabaud-mercier.com)

Expert for the Albertini Collection : Manuscrits anciens - Ariane Adeline - Membre du SLAM, LILA et SFEP - 06 42 10 90 17 - [livresanciensadeline@yahoo.fr](mailto:livresanciensadeline@yahoo.fr)



## Other examples from the Albertini Collection



Lot 505 - Ensemble de douze parchemins, 2 100 / 2 300 €

Iacobus Ilarii de Sanguinatiis de Padua. Capitaine en 1383 (novembre 1383-avril 1384) : tranché d'azur et d'argent, à deux demi-vols contournés posés en barre, de l'un à l'autre (Sanguinacci da Padova)





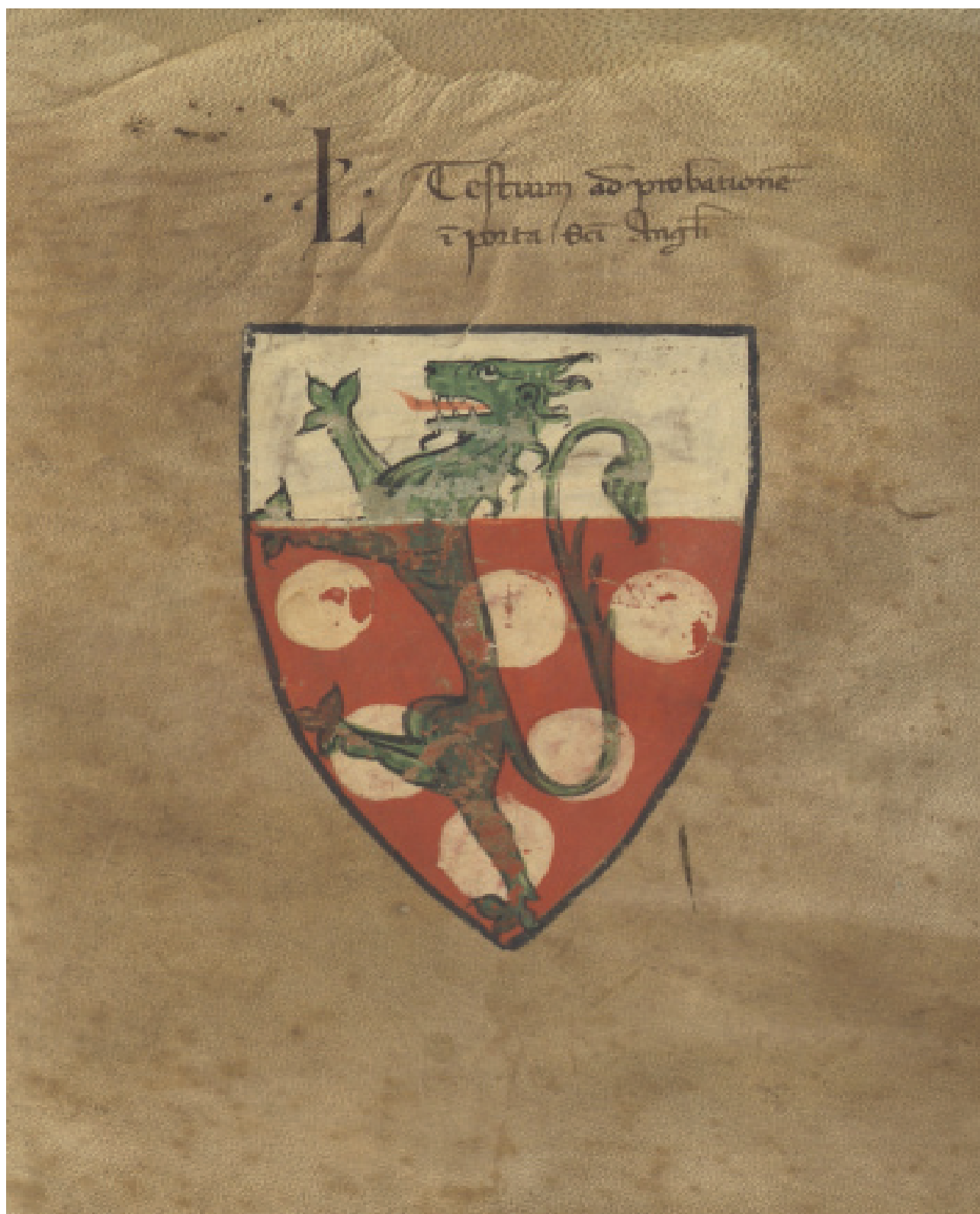
Lot 511 - Ensemble de dix parchemins, 2 000 / 2 200 €

Bertoldus Rodulfi de Guaçcalotis de Prato. Capitaine en 1314 (novembre 1314-avril 1315) : parti : au premier d'azur semé de fleurs de lys, au deuxième fascé de sable et d'argent, au chef d'Anjou (Guazzalotri/Guazzalotti da Prato)



Lot 515 - Ensemble de dix parchemins, 1 900 / 2 100 €

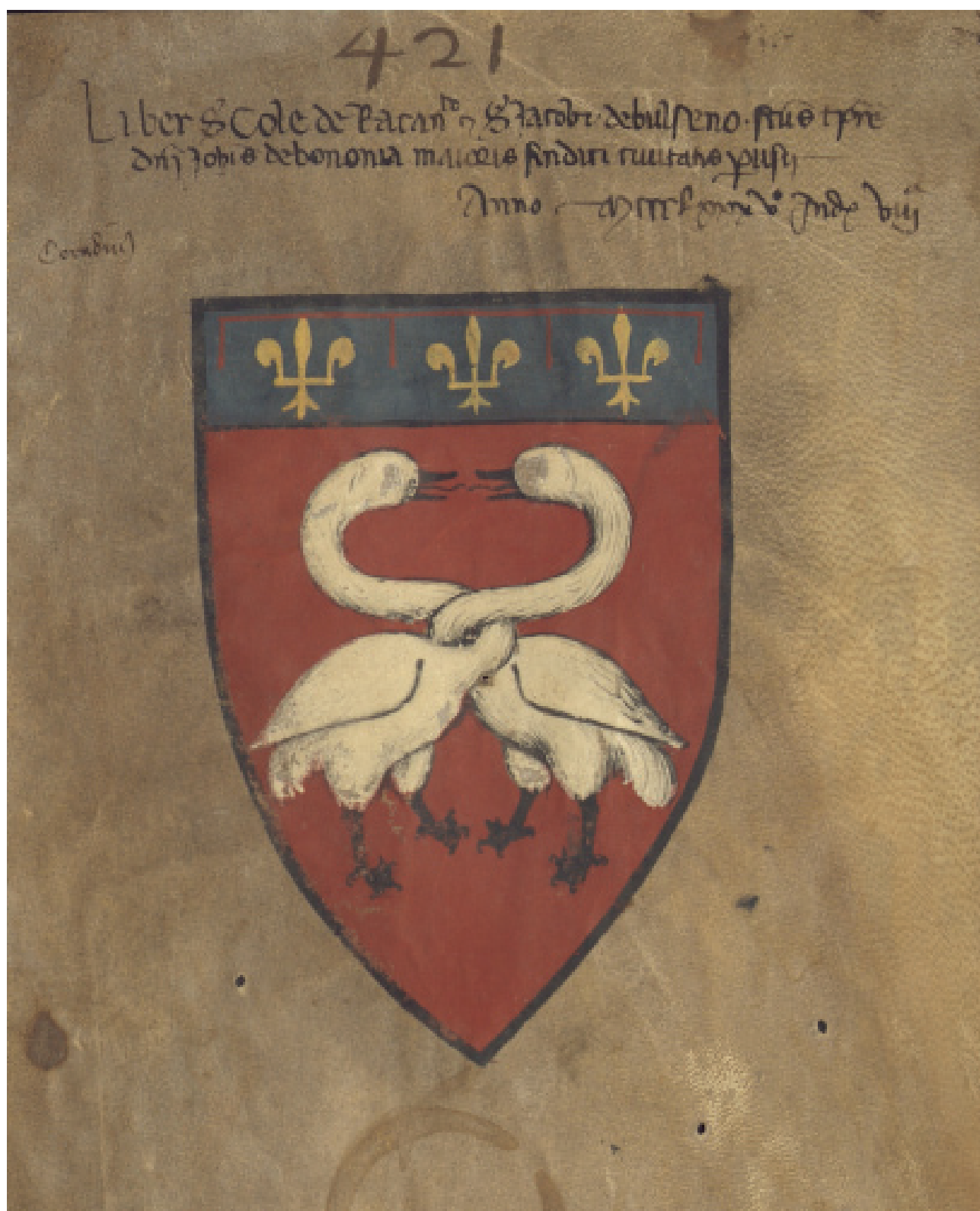
Iohannes Orsatti de Orsactis (Orsattis) de Padua. Podestat en 1463 (mai 1463-avril 1464) : d'azur  
à l'ours levé d'or, lampassé de gueules (Orsato/Orsati da Padova)



Lot 526 - Ensemble de onze parchemins, 2 000 / 2 200 €

Ugolinus de Liaçariis de Bononia. Capitaine en 1319 (novembre 1319-avril 1320) : coupé : au premier d'argent, au deuxième de gueules à six besants d'argent, au lion de sinople lampassé de gueules brochant sur le tout (Leazari da Bologna)





Lot 535 - Ensemble de douze parchemins, 2 000 / 2 200 €

Iohannes de Aristotelis de Bononia. Syndic en 1385 : de gueules à deux cygnes affrontés d'argent, les cols enlacés, les têtes affrontées, becqués et membrés de sable et langués de gueules, au chef d'Anjou (Aristotelli da Bologna)



Lot 540 - Ensemble de douze pièces, 2 300 / 2 500 €

Iacobus de Confaloneriis de Placentia. Podestat en 1325 (juillet-décembre 1325) : de gueules à la bannière d'argent à la hampe du même posée en bande, au chef d'Anjou (Confalonieri da Piacenza)





Lot 539 - Ensemble de onze parchemins, 2 000 / 2 200 €

Magistrat non identifié : d'azur au poisson d'argent, oreillé de gueules, sautant en bande



Lot 539 - Ensemble de onze parchemins, 2 000 / 2 200 €

Iacobus de Cesarinis de Urbe. Capitaine en 1454 (mai-novembre 1454) : d'or à l'ours passant de sable, colleté et attaché à une colonne d'argent par une corde du même (Cesarini da Roma)





Lot 542 - Ensemble de treize parchemins, 2 000 / 2 200 €

Petrus de Saracenis de Senis. Capitaine en 1350 (janvier-juin 1350) : d'or à la tête et buste de maure de sable  
(Saraceni da Siena)



Lot 548 - Ensemble de seize parchemins, 2 600 / 2 800 €

Bonifatius Lippi de Ricciardis de Pistorio. Capitaine en 1341 (août 1341-février 1342) : palé d'or et d'azur (Ricciardi da Pistoia)