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Diplomatic Gifts on Henri III’s Visit to Venice in 1574

The visit of the new king of France, Henri III, to Venice in 1574 offered both the monarch and the republic an opportunity for gaining prestige. Henri presented himself to the public in many ceremonies as the new French ruler, whereas Venice used the visit for cultivating its traditional image as defender of the Christian faith. The exchange of gifts during the visit demonstrated the good diplomatic relations between the two states and presented a sign of the generosity that was required as a strategy of political representation. The gifts distributed by the king were traditional and depended on the rank of the recipient. Either they were associated with the ritual act of knighting or they were given as grateful recognition of rendered services. Venice, however, presented gifts of a more practical nature that were directly connected with the course of the visit itself.

The date of May 30, 1574, marked the death of Charles IX, King of France, and the proclamation of his brother Henri (1551-1589) as heir to the throne (Fig. 1). The year before, on May 11, 1573, Henri had been elected king of Poland, and he entered Krakow on February 18, 1574, where the coronation took place three days later. The Poles did not consent to his departure to take up the French throne, however, and thus Henri fled at night from Krakow on June 18. So as not to endanger his flight, he made only a limited number of arrangements, and in secret. He had entrusted jewels and other personal valuables to the French ambassador to Poland, Pomponne de Bellièvre, who had departed for Paris a short time beforehand. Simultaneously, he had sent a letter by messenger to his mother, Catherine de’ Medici, asking that she provide financial aid as quickly as possible. In leaving Poland, his route led him initially to the imperial court in Vienna, where he sojourned from June 25 to June 29. With the advice of Maximilian II, the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia, Henri decided on the future course of the journey. He proceeded via northern Italy and Venice to Lyon and from there to Paris. This choice of route offered two advantages. It avoided passage through Protestant German lands, which were dangerous owing to hostilities in France with the Huguenots. On the other hand—and this is crucial—it permitted Henri’s journey to Paris to be staged as an uninterrupted via

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triumphalis. The festive entries, which were prepared for the king in Vienna, in the Italian cities, and in Lyon, were the prelude for his triumphal entry into Paris. Every step with which Henri approached the French capital was accompanied by signs of honor and contributed to his prestige and to the visualization of his new function as king of France. The individual ceremonies and rituals were an integral component and conditio sine qua non of this rite of passage, which found its formal conclusion—in both ritual and legal respects—in his coronation as Henri III in Reims on February 13, 1575, and his entry into Paris on February 27, 1575.

On June 30, 1574, the French ambassador to Venice, Arnoul du Ferrier, presented Henri’s letters to the Venetian senate. In the letters, Henri expressed the wish to travel through Venetian territories and requested that the necessary pass be issued. At that time the Venetian state comprised the Veneto, Friuli, and part of Lombardy. Simultaneously, the ambassador indicated that the king would greatly appreciate a visit to the Serenissima, as he had heard of its inimitable beauty. The Signoria issued the permit and immediately began preparations without awaiting a definitive decision from the monarch. Also on June 30, 1574, four ambassadors extraordinary were elected, who would welcome Henri at the border and escort him for the duration of his stay in Venetian territories. They were Andrea Badoer, Giovanni Michiel, Giovanni Soranzo, and Giacomo Foscarini, with Badoer as appointed spokesman. On July 1, Foscarini was elected treasurer and put in charge of settling the travel costs. Michiel was particularly well qualified for this position, as he had served as ambassador to the French court in the past. At the same time, two secretaries were elected, who were to assist the ambassadors extraordinary in performing their tasks. They were Alvise Bonrizzo and Andrea Suriano.

Henri’s route to Venice led from Pontebba, via Venzone, San Daniele, Spilimbergo, Sacile, Conegliano, Treviso, and Mestre to Venice. The visit to the Serenissima was the symbolic climax of the journey. In form and content, the entries that marked Henri’s arrival in Conegliano and Treviso were only precursors. Correspondingly, after Henri left Venice for Paris, the entries at Padua and Rovigo, the final points in Venetian territories for this event, took place with a gradual decrease of expenditure and minimized iconography. After the king left Venetian territories, he continued his journey in the direction of Ferrara, in order to reach French soil via Mantua, Cremona, and Turin. For the duration of his stay in Venetian territories, Henri traveled as a guest of the Serenissima, which provided his retinue with board, lodging, and
new horses at every stop. Messengers guaranteed daily communication between the ambassadors extraordinary who were attending to the king and officials in Venice, who strove to satisfy every requirement and desire of the French party. To commemorate the occasion permanently, the senate resolved on March 12, 1575, at du Ferrier’s instigation, to affix a gilded marble tablet with a black inscription on the wall of the upper loggia at the end of the Scala dei Giganti in the Doge’s Palace. The tablet can still be found there today (Fig. 2).5

Henri’s State Visit to Venice

The structure of Henri’s sojourn in Venice corresponded to the traditional phases of the ceremony of *adventus principis* created for rulers in classical antiquity: preparations, entry, presentation of the city, and
the giving of gifts on departure. Alvise Mocenigo (not the doge, but another family member with the same name) and Giacomo Contarini were in charge of the design of the festivities. The king's festive entry took place on July 18, 1574. Doge Alvise Mocenigo (Alvise is the Venetian form of Luigi, which sometimes appears in the documents for him) and the Signoria met Henri and his entourage in several galleys in Murano, where he had spent the first night. They then escorted him to San Nicolò on the Lido and were welcomed by the patriarch of Venice, Giovanni Trevisan, and the clergy (Figs. 3-4). A triumphal arch and a loggia had been constructed in the king's honor. Under a baldachin, Henri was led to the altar in the loggia, where a *Te Deum* was sung. Following prayers and the benediction, the king, the Doge, the Signoria,
the papal legate, and princes and ambassadors boarded the Bucentoro (a gilded state galley used only on the most festive occasions) which awaited them on the bank. Flanked by fifteen galleys and thousands of other boats and accompanied by music, pealing bells, and gun salutes, the Bucentoro traveled toward the Piazza San Marco. There, the state barge turned into the Grand Canal and brought the king to Ca’ Foscari, which along with the adjacent twin palazzo Ca’ Giustinian had been prepared as quarters for Henri and his entourage. The presentation of the city took place in the course of the following days. It encompassed a traditional program of entertainment, including regattas, theater performances, and concerts, in addition to a banquet and a ball. Further events on the agenda were an audience with the Doge and participation in a session of the Maggior Consiglio, or Grand Council. A third component was sight-seeing, including St. Mark’s Treasury, the halls of armor in the Doge’s Palace, and the Arsenal. The guest’s personal interests were also taken into consideration. Thus, Henri visited the famous art collection of Giovanni Grimani, the patriarch of Aquileia, and on the monarch’s insistence, the Signoria organized a “war of fists” ("guerra dei pugni"), the popular sporting battle between the Castellani and the Nicolotti. In keeping with the conventions of state visits, the sojourn was concluded with a valediction ceremony and the presentation of gifts.

Gifts on Behalf of the Signoria

A lavish reception itself was a customary gift on a prince’s visit. Just such a reception was organized in Venice, for example, on July 19, 1574, for both the papal legate and the ambassador of Genoa. Indeed, the entire program of Venetian festivities for Henri must be understood as tribute to the French king. Henri and his entourage spent almost a month in Venetian territories as guests of the republic. This hospitality probably cost the Signoria approximately 100,000 ducats. The only surviving account, which covers the accumulated expenditures of the state visit for the period July 5-27, 1574, is one for about 21,000 ducats. This represents only a part of the expenditures, however, and at the same time, it offers interesting insight into the scale of the entourage and into the groups of people involved in the state visit. The same account contains evidence that gifts were given to the papal legate and to the duke of Savoy. Exactly what kind of gifts is not recorded, but the value of the items is 128 and 119 ducats respectively. In comparison to the other outlays, both sums can be classed as rather small.
At one of the meetings between Henri and the Signoria, the Doge presented Henri with a valuable manuscript on behalf of the republic. The manuscript contains the original statutes of the *Ordre du Saint-Esprit* (Order of the Holy Spirit), which was founded in 1352 by Louis I d'Anjou, King of Jerusalem, Naples, and Sicily, and which Henri would reestablish in 1578 (Fig. 5). This work comprises ten parchment leaves and is illuminated with numerous ornate miniatures. This gift was not only unique and valuable but also a reference to an ancestor of Henri's from the House of Anjou (his title before his accession to the French throne had been Duc d'Anjou) and to the spiritual congeniality of Henri and Louis. (Henri was well known for his deeply religious way of life, which found expression in daily spiritual exercises and inspired other such gifts. When he stopped in Monza on August 11, 1574, for example, the Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Charles Borromeo, gave him a golden reliquary cross set with jewels in which a sliver of wood from Christ's cross was kept.) No documents have been located, however, that explain why this manuscript was selected by the Venetians. Was the Signoria conscious of the special significance of the Whitsun festival for Henri's personal history and therefore chose the statutes of the Order of the Holy Spirit as a gift? At Whitsun 1573, Henri was elected king of Poland, and at Whitsun 1574, he was proclaimed heir to the French throne. Furthermore, the statutes represented the most diplomatic of all diplomatic gifts: the effusion of the Holy Spirit implied international understanding.
On July 23, 1574, the Collegio (the Venetian council of ministers) resolved to commission the ambassadors extraordinary to purchase a magnificently equipped carriage as a gift for the king. As it was to serve his onward journey, the horses were to be accustomed to carriage harnesses as well as handsome. In order to complete the order in the short time available, the ambassadors were permitted to appropriate such horses regardless of the owner or his social status. Subsequently the owners were to be paid. The carriage was sent to the mooring at the Portello, one of Padua's city gates, where Henri arrived late on the evening of July 27. The king refused the baldachin prepared for him and made use of the carriage for his entry into the city. On the following day the monarch visited the Basilica of St. Anthony and donated an ornate silver lamp worth 800 ducats to the altar of the saint. (Empress Maria, the widow of Maximilian II, donated a similar lamp to the altar in 1581 when she lodged in Padua before continuing her journey.)
The Duke’s Present

Catherine de’ Medici had asked her brother-in-law, Emanuele Filiberto, Duke of Savoy, to accompany Henri on his journey and to remain at his side as a mentor. Emanuele Filiberto reached Venice on July 20, 1574, and informed the Signoria that he would forgo a festive entry, as he had come to demonstrate his reverence and did not wish to disrupt the progress of the festivities in Henri’s honor. The duke was housed in Doge Alvise Mocenigo’s private palazzo, which is located opposite the Ca’ Foscari on the Grand Canal. The immediate vicinity to the king’s
quarters proved advantageous for the numerous meetings that were required to arrange Henri’s onward journey. On July 27, Emanuele bid farewell to the Doge and thanked him for the hospitality demonstrated in Palazzo Mocenigo. He left a gift for the lady of the house, who is identified in the documents as the Doge’s wife. This is incorrect, however, as Loredana Marcello had died in December 1572. The marriage had been childless, thus only the Doge’s sister, Isabella Da Molin, can be considered here. Since the death of her sister-in-law, she had attended to Alvise. She was presented with a belt made of thirty golden rosettes. In the middle of each rosette was a precious stone, adorned with four pearls. The value of the belt was estimated at 1,800 ducats.

Gifts on Behalf of the King

In Vienna, Henri and his entourage had been welcomed with great honor. The Empress had personally supervised all of the preparations, and on Henri’s departure she gave him a sumptuously decorated portable bed as well as bed and table linens, all together worth 10,000 ducats, in order to make his onward journey as comfortable as possible. In accordance with etiquette, such marks of respect required an acknowledgement: thus the king distributed gold chains, goblets, and gifts of money, all together amounting to 12,000 ducats. The Apostolic Nuncio at the imperial court, Giovanni Dolfin, even spoke of gifts amounting to more than 20,000 ducats. As the king had ordered the urgent transfer of 12,000 ducats to Vienna, the smaller sum is more probable.

An anonymous eyewitness report spans the period July 8-29, 1574, and imparts many details of daily life during the royal visit. The author had traveled to Venice on July 8 and had awaited the arrival of the king there. For this reason he only knew of the events prior to July 17 from hearsay. Among these is an anecdote about royal generosity in Treviso. The French entourage often mentioned a certain Tasca, who saw to the accommodations in each location en route and who twenty years earlier had been the valet of Giovanni Cappello, the Venetian ambassador at the court of Henri II, Henri’s father (r. 1547-1559). When the king thanked Tasca for his outstanding service, Tasca replied that it should be taken for granted as he had known Henri since birth. Thereupon the monarch placed a chain with a timepiece around his neck and knighted him. Furthermore, Tasca was given 500 ducats and additional gifts. Distributing gifts was a ritual act that exemplified the virtue of generosity required of kings and princes. During his journey, Henri repeated this
gesture on many occasions in order to establish his new role as a French king.

Two sources contain a register of the gifts given by the king in Venice. One of these is the account drawn up by du Ferrier on July 31, 1574, of revenue and expenditures; the other is a record to be found at the end of the report of the festivities by Marsilio Della Croce, which was printed on December 1, 1574. It is not known where Della Croce obtained his information. Even if his information does not correspond in all its minutiae to the actual expenditures, it is detailed enough, however, to imply extremely close contact to officials in government circles. As indications of the value of individual gifts vary greatly in the numerous reports published about the festivities, du Ferrier's account can be regarded as the only reliable source forming the basis of these values.

The monarch used the morning of July 23 to make purchases at the Rialto and in the Merceria. At the perfume merchant's shop alone he spent 1,125 ducats. Then Henri called on the famous jeweler Antonio Della Vecchia to buy jewelry and gold chains worth approximately 12,000 ducats. A part of this he intended to distribute at the end of his visit as gifts to people delegated to his service by the Serenissima and to other dignitaries. For the goldsmith's work on the chains, costs amounting to 586 ducats were accrued. Moreover, the king took an interest in a gold scepter set with precious stones, which was alleged to have cost 20,000 ducats. Because he had to pay half of the purchase price immediately, but did not have the financial means at his disposal, he left further negotiations to du Ferrier. At the beginning of August, Henri reminded his ambassador to strive to settle debts with his creditors in Venice. The traders from whom the king had acquired pearls and other items were to be pacified with money and securities, so that they would not withdraw the goods.

Henri granted numerous audiences in Venice, so that every ambassador could pay his respects and congratulate the king on his succession to the throne. A meeting took place between Henri and the ambassador of the Sublime Porte in Constantinople which is not mentioned in the diplomatic records but only in du Ferrier's account. During the audience, the ambassador presented the king with a gift of several balsams (cosmetic and medicinal creams) and "terre sigillée." This so-called sealed earth was a compound containing clay, which was employed as medication—particularly to treat sepsis. The term originated from the custom of stamping on it the cipher of the Sultan's name (in Turkish, a tughra). Henri thanked the Turkish ambassador with a gold chain worth 300 ducats.
On the day of his departure, July 27, Henri summoned thirty-nine young Venetian noblemen who had been delegated to his service and thanked them. In return, their spokesman, Matteo Zane, thanked him for the honor bestowed on them. The Signoria had elected forty men, but one of them was unwell for the duration of the state visit. Du Ferrier arranged that each man be presented with a gold chain worth 100 ducats on behalf of the king, and he asked of Henri, via a messenger, if it would not be generous to also award the invalid with a gold chain. Whether the king agreed to the suggestion cannot be established, as only the sum for the thirty-nine chains is documented. Likewise, the young noblemen attempted to award the French nobleman who had delivered the gold chains to them with a gift and they sent a valuable silver bowl filled with confectionery. As an act of courtesy, however, the gift was not accepted.

The Doge accompanied the king in a gondola as far as Lizzafusina. There, he guided Henri to the piatta (a special Venetian type of cargo ship, used on rivers and canals, here meaning a gilded version for festive occasions) that would take him on the river Brenta to Padua. A lengthy farewell ceremony followed at which they assured each other they would maintain the friendly relationship between their two states. Then the king departed. As the Doge boarded his boat to return to Venice, he was detained by René de Villequier, the king’s most intimate advisor. De Villequier addressed him in French, so that Mocenigo had difficulty in understanding him. On behalf of the king he presented the Doge with a ring bearing a large diamond and requested that the Doge wear the ring in memory of Henri. Mocenigo made two modest attempts to decline the gift. As de Villequier insisted that it was the king’s express wish, the Doge accepted the ring, kissed it and promised to fulfill the request to wear it.

Henri had acquired the diamond in Venice as a gift for the Doge and had it set in a ring. In du Ferrier’s account, the purchase price is given as 1,050 ducats. Almost every commentator on the festivities estimated the diamond ring to be worth as much as 1,500 ducats or they deemed it simply as having a “grandissimo valore.” The presentation of the gift did not take place directly between the two princes but by means of an intermediary. From this, the authors of the reports on the festivities conclude that Henri had at first forgotten to present the ring, but then remembered it before the Doge departed. One chronicle even reports that the king had not noticed the omission until after his arrival in Moranzano. It is not possible to clarify whether the king in fact forgot the gift or whether he wanted to facilitate the Doge’s acceptance of it by using an intermediary, as he knew of the Venetian law forbidding gifts
from foreign princes. As he also chose an indirect method of presenting the gold chains to the young noblemen and to the ambassadors extraordinary and their secretaries, however, the gift-giving method was probably calculated.

At the request of the senate, the Doge presented a final report on July 29, 1574.\textsuperscript{43} First he described his conversations with the king, which were predominantly characterized by an exchange of polite set phrases but which also contained the advice to strive toward domestic peace in France. Furthermore, he emphasized the thanks expressed by Henri for the numerous marks of respect, as well as Henri’s enthusiasm for the spectacle on the day of his entry, which he praised as the most magnificent in the world. Then Mocenigo described the physical strain that the visit had imposed on him and that he had dutifully accepted in service to the state. Finally he came to discuss the gift. He mentioned that he had seen a ring attached to a cord around the king’s neck as they boarded the gondola to Lizzafusina. As it later transpired, this was the diamond intended for the Doge. Mocenigo described the ring as particularly beautiful because of the large diamond and made a suggestion to the senate on how the gift should be dealt with. In honor of subsequent Doges and to commemorate its bestowal by Henri, the ring was to be engraved on its inside and thereafter kept either in the sanctuary at St. Mark’s or in the church’s shrine of the procator cassier (the treasurer among the procurators who were charged with the administration of St. Mark’s). On festive occasions the procurator would present the ring to the Doge, so that he could wear it to demonstrate the dignity and honor of his office as well as to commemorate the monarch eternally.\textsuperscript{44} Mocenigo emphasized the political symbolism of the ring: it should stand not only as a mark of respect from the French king but should also be showcased as a visible sign of the “ottima intelligentia” between the two states—a phrase that today would mean “optimum bilateral relations.”

The gift to the Doge triggered lively discussion, which du Ferrier reported in a letter to the king. One party wanted the diamond ring allocated to the treasury, while the other advocated that it stay in the possession of Alvise Mocenigo and his family. Du Ferrier was mistaken, however, when he reported that it had been decided to leave the diamond ring with the Doge as long as he lived and transfer it to the treasury only after his death.\textsuperscript{45} This was presumably still one of the options when the ambassador wrote the letter at the end of July. On September 16, 1574, an almost unanimous resolution was passed in the senate. The procurators of St. Mark’s were instructed to have a suitably large gold lily produced, in the middle of which the stone was to be
mounted. A legible inscription was to be placed under the diamond to memorialize Henri’s visit to Venice. The text clarified that though Doge Alvise Mocenigo was the recipient of the diamond, it served to commemorate the king’s goodwill toward the republic in perpetuity. It was not a matter of a private present, but an official one given to the state. Accordingly, the diamond was to be kept in the treasury at St. Mark’s and displayed on special occasions on the high altar along with other treasury items. The gift was seen as a medium of a symbolic communication and was presented to the public as the sign of friendly relations between two states.

The procurators of St. Mark’s commissioned the goldsmith Zuane Fiamengo with the execution of the lily. For this work Fiamengo was made cash payments on November 4 and 5 and December 23, 1574, totaling 136 ducats. On March 24, 1575, he received a further thirteen ducats for the gilding of the silver base to which the lily with the diamond was to be affixed. Moreover, the procurators commissioned the case maker Stasul Canton to produce a leather-covered wooden box lined with velvet, in which the gold lily was to be kept. Payment took place on March 31, 1575. On the same day Fiamengo received a final payment amounting to eighty ducats with the information that the lily was placed in the sanctuary.

On July 29, 1574, the four ambassadors extraordinary bid farewell to the French king in Rovigo, the final point in Venetian territories. After a speech of thanks, Giacomo Foscarini was knighted by Henri, as he was the only one of the four ambassadors not yet to bear this title. On the same day Andrea Badoer wrote to the Doge in order to make his first report on the official conclusion of the ambassadors’ mission. He mentioned that shortly before his departure, the king sent a nobleman to their quarters to present each of the four ambassadors with a gold chain worth 500 ducats and to each of the two secretaries a gold chain worth 200 ducats. Moreover, he gave Colonel Stella, who had commanded the advance guard, 200 ducats. The delegated nobleman explained that Henri did not send more valuable gifts as he knew such gifts would have to be declined in accordance with Venetian law. Consequently, with items of a relatively low value the king intended to express his gratitude for services rendered and asked that they be accepted to commemorate him. Following a modest, formal refusal, the gifts were accepted to fulfill the monarch’s wish. Shortly thereafter Henri proceeded to the landing on the river Po and was accompanied by the ambassadors who thus had the opportunity to thank him personally for the gifts. Back in Venice the four ambassadors extraordinary likewise submitted a report to the
First they described how they strove to fulfill the tasks of office as honorably as possible, with a high level of personal application and using private financial means. Their princely manner, much admired by the public, was meant to enhance the prestige and the dignity of the state. Then the ambassadors expressed their actual concern, namely the king’s gift, and applied for permission to retain the gold chains. As justification, they stressed that they did not wish to adorn themselves with the chains but instead to wear the gifts as a visible sign to the entire world of the monarch’s gratitude toward the republic. The chains were interpreted not as reward for the services the ambassadors rendered but as acknowledgment of the marks of respect that the Doge and the senate gave to Henri. The object was thus abstracted from the body of the wearer and elevated to a medium of symbolic communication; the gift was the visualization of the honor and prestige of Venice. Wearing the chain thus signified service to the state, which the ambassadors demonstrated in humility toward the republic. Moreover, the king had presented the chains in “perpetua memoria.” They are thus situated in the context of an ars memoriae and attest to the two states’ outstanding diplomatic relations. These strategies of reasoning were the only way for the ambassadors to reach the goal of retaining the gift. In their report to the senate, they avoided declaring the value of the gold chains, whereas in their correspondence with the Doge, they mentioned an estimated value of 500 ducats for each chain. This sum is confirmed in du Ferrier’s account and indicates the king’s generosity, for most other dignitaries received gold chains worth only 100 ducats. (In fact, du Ferrier was infuriated when he heard that the king had sent 200 ducats to Colonel Stella because du Ferrier had already awarded him a gold chain worth 100 ducats, unaware of the gift of money. The ambassador stated he would have liked to utilize the ducats for more urgent needs.) The explosive power of this issue, which the senate had to judge with respect to the gifts, is made clear by these documents. On August 28, 1574, judgment was passed. In appreciation of their numerous services in the past and of their high level of personal application during the king’s visit, the ambassadors were permitted to retain the gold chains given to them by Henri, but with the proviso that this decision would not set a precedent. The senate explained its judgment as a demonstration of benevolence and munificence toward deserving subjects. The governmental institution thus referred explicitly to the princely virtue of magnanimitas and appropriated the maëstas associated with it. This is one of the monarchic traits that would mold the image of the Venetian republic.
Henri III’s 1574 Visit to Venice

No sources give information about the location of the gold chains that the two secretaries and the young noblemen received. A resolution exists, however, concerning a gift given to the Venetian ambassador to Poland, Girolamo Lippomano, on behalf of Henri on his departure.62 According to the account, du Ferrier had withheld a sum of 1,400 ducats, in order to provide the ambassador and his secretary with the traditionally customary gifts, so that they would find them on their return to Venice. For 1,200 ducats, chains or silver tableware were to have been bought for Lippomano and the rest spent on his secretary.63 On January 17, 1575, the senate decided to permit the gift to remain in Lippomano’s possession.64 A further exception to the rules of law had already been created by the committee on September 20, 1574, when it permitted the Venetian ambassador to the French court, Sigismondo di Cavalli, to retain the gift presented to him by Catherine de’ Medici on his departure. In its reasoning, the senate mentioned it wished the generosity that other people had been shown in similar cases should prevail toward Cavalli.65

The king commissioned du Ferrier to distribute money, chains, and other gifts on his behalf to numerous people and institutions connected with the visit to Venice.66 Gold chains were the most prevalent gifts; their value corresponded to the status of their recipients. Thus, the king had a chain worth 100 ducats presented to the admiral of the Bucintoro, Giovanni Battista Rodengo, the chamberlain, whom Henri had knighted, also received a chain worth 100 ducats. On the recommendation of the duke of Savoy, a chain worth 200 ducats was sent to Andrea Boldù, who had been responsible for the king’s personal requirements. Antonio da Canale had assumed responsibility for the festive entry as governatore generale del trionfo. In appreciation of his service, he was knighted by the king and received a gold chain worth 300 ducats. Likewise, Alvise (Luigi) Foscari, in whose palazzo Henri had resided, was thanked with a gold chain worth 300 ducats.67 Other people who were knighted during the course of the journey also received gold chains, for example, Bartolomeo Lippomano, the podestà (chief magistrate) of Treviso, Vettor Bragadin, the capitano of Padua, as well as Zuane Foscarini, the podestà of Murano. The value of these chains is cited in one Venetian chronicle as 300 ducats per chain. This value cannot be considered reliable, however, because for Giacomo Foscarini at least, who is also mentioned in that chronicle, a chain worth 500 ducats is documented.68 Antonio Roncalli, in whose palazzo the king spent the night in Rovigo, was knighted and received a gold chain worth 100 ducats.69

Gifts of money were just as common. The recipients can be divided into five categories. The first category concerns personnel who either
carried out military duties or who were at least engaged in their broader context. The armory, which was visited by the king, received 30 ducats and the Arsenal 800 ducats. Two hundred ducats went to the lieutenant of the bodyguards and his sixty halberds. Twenty drummers received 100 ducats and eighteen trumpeters got 90. Three subordinates of Colonel Stella, who had prepared the quarters for Henri and his entourage, were provided with 30 ducats. The crews of the various boats were also borne in mind: for the galley, which took the king from Murano to the Lido, 100 ducats; for the Bucintoro, in which he made his entry, 100 ducats; for the seventeen gondolas that had stood at the disposal of the king and his entourage, 228 ducats; for the piatta that took him to Padua, 25 ducats.

In addition, there were people who had served the king and his entourage and had performed tasks comparable to offices at court: 60 ducats to the senior seneschal Girolamo as well as a further 60 for the other seneschals; 50 ducats for the master of fare Carlo di Maggi and a total of 23 for his three colleagues; 80 ducats to the six kitchen stewards and their assistants; 60 ducats to ten wine stewards; 130 ducats to thirteen cooks; 42 ducats to seven cellar masters; 48 ducats to twenty-four servants in the Ca’ Foscari; and two attendants there together received 25 ducats on special instructions of the king.

Furthermore, the Doge’s staff, who had participated in ceremonies and in arranging the banquet and the ball at the Sala del Maggior Consiglio, were remembered: the master of ceremonies with 30 ducats, the seneschal with 20 ducats, two valets with 24 ducats, sixteen shield bearers with 80 ducats, the senior door steward of the Collegio with 12 ducats, the keeper of the privy seal of the Doge with 12 ducats, two commanders of the Collegio with 12 ducats, seven pipers with 30 ducats, the players of the silver trumpets with 15 ducats, and the organists and choristers of St. Mark’s with 100 ducats in total.

A fourth group consisted of those people who honored the king in an artistic manner. The majority were orators who dedicated their works to Henri. In du Ferrier’s register, the scholars Doni and Andrea Me-nechini are highlighted. They presented several panegyrics and poetry and together they received 200 ducats. Two further authors, Francesco Museo and a certain Cordelier received 20 and 10 ducats respectively. The man of letters Carlo Pasquale had a laudatory speech about the king printed, for which he was thanked with 20 ducats. Forty ducats were awarded to Marthe Thudesque and her husband for two musical performances with song. Tintoretto appears to have been rather badly rewarded: he was presented with 50 ducats for the three paintings com-
missioned by the king. To Pietro Vincentino, who had created thirty-nine gilded sugar figures, went 25 ducats.\

The fifth category comprises donations for religious and charitable purposes. The chaplain who sang Mass during Henri’s visit, along with his clerics, received 100 ducats. Five hundred ducats were left for the poor and for pious works. Camille de la Croix, an invalid pensioner of the French crown, who had rendered various services to Henri’s entourage, was rewarded with 100 ducats.

An anonymous chronicler, who was the only one to cite correctly all the declarations of value of the gifts and thus must have moved within the circles of the Signoria, emphasized that du Ferrier was commissioned not only with the distribution of the gifts but also with the presentation of a variety of petitions, which had previously been addressed to the king. The most significant supplicant was Scipio Costanzo. He commanded the bodyguard that escorted the king through Venetian territories. On this occasion, he addressed Henri and asked for intercession so that his son might be freed from Turkish captivity. While still in Venice, the king wrote a letter and entrusted his ambassador to the Sublime Porte with the matter. On Henri’s departure, Costanzo was presented with a set of silverware consisting of a bowl and a jug worth 300 ducats. In his account, du Ferrier recorded only a chain worth 100 ducats. This is possibly a case like that of Colonel Stella, where du Ferrier did not learn of the king’s instructions until after the event.

In the list of accounts from July 31, du Ferrier states the expenditure on gifts as 13,216 ducats. The costs for the gifts for Lippomano and his secretary, amounting to 1,400 ducats, are itemized separately as they were not charged in the immediate context of the state visit but were regarded as farewell gifts at the end of a mission. It may be assumed that the costs were not always recorded immediately, but also written down later from memory. Several people subservient to the king, and assuredly rewarded for that, did not appear in this list, such as the Gelosi theater group who came to Venice on Henri’s request; numerous poets, orators, and musicians; the courtesan Veronica Franco who moved in poets’ circles and who gave the king two self-composed sonnets and a portrait; the winners of the “war of the fists,” or the many officials of lower status. A total amount of 16,000 ducats, as is stated by Della Croce, is therefore likely.

Following the departure of the monarch, a rumor spread around Venice that the gifts he distributed had turned out to be worth considerably less than expected. The Ferrarese ambassador to the Serenissima, Claudio Ariosto, expressed this opinion in a letter to the duke of Ferrara. He added, however, that he would need more precise information in
order to pass judgment. He had heard that the total amount did not exceed 4,000 ducats, in which the diamond ring was already included. This sum really would have been too low to do justice to a king's prestige. Three days later, however, Ariosto corrected his view. He had in the meantime learned from du Ferrier that at the time in question gifts amounting to only 4,000 ducats had been distributed, but the king had left explicit instructions for a further 10,000 ducats to be spent, and accordingly a grand total of around 14,000 ducats was to be anticipated.

Conclusion

The distribution of gifts was an integral component of the rite of passage performed by the king, as pointed up in the report on the festivities by the Bolognese scholar Gregorio Manzini: “adding with these acts to the reputation of a most benevolent and most philanthropic Prince the glory of a most generous and really most noble King.” Only by means of the ritual act of giving was Henri transformed from a benevolent and humane prince into a magnificent king characterized by his generosity. With this step the status of *magnificentia princidis* was reached, which was required by a monarch and which in this case prepared Henri for his future rank. An elected king of Poland was to be elevated to the status of a king of France appointed by God and thus to manifest his function as *vicarius Dei*. In his capacity as God’s representative on earth, the monarch possessed the right to change a person’s social status by knighting him. Henri performed this ceremonial act in every place he was welcomed as king. As the knightly accolade was in turn associated with the presentation of a gift, the king continuously set the seal on his function as *imago Dei*. The journey from Krakow to Paris, which Henri devised as a *via triumphalis* for his accession to the throne, served to demonstrate and legitimize the prestige of his new monarchical role as *rex christianissimus*.

The king’s sojourn in Venice was staged by the Serenissima as an elaborate multimedia spectacle at which ostensibly the guest of honor was celebrated, but which, when examined in detail, proved to be a strategy of political representation for the glorification and legitimation of the Venetian state. A French monarch entered the city for the first time and thus offered Venice a welcome opportunity for self-presentation. The Serenissima, with the assistance of the Holy League (a coalition of the Papacy, Spain, Venice, the Republic of Genoa, the Duchy of Savoy, and the Knights of Malta), had confirmed its traditional role as a defender of the Christian faith when it defeated the Turks near Lepanto in 1571. This image, however, had been challenged by the European
powers since 1573 when the Venetians made a separate peace with the Turks. Venice utilized the visit of the rex christianissimus to cultivate its image systematically, in order to counter rumors of a political nature and to allow the image of the Serenissima as a Christian state blessed by God to bloom anew in public. Thus Henri’s visit was regarded as a gift from God, even if it had cost the Venetian exchequer the equivalent of a military campaign.

—Text translated from the German by Nicola Imrie

—Appendix 1, from the French by Pamela J. Warner

—Appendices 2 and 3, from the Italian by Evelyn Korsch

Appendix 1

Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Fonds français 3321, fols. 19r-21v

[fol. 19r] Compte de la recepte et despence faicte par moy Arnoul du Ferrier, Conseiller du Roy en son privé Conseil, et son Ambassadeur à Venize des deniers que la Royne mere du Roy Regente m’a envoiez pardeça pour le service de Sa Majesté, et autres que j’ay empruntez, par le commandement d’icelle sur son passage et entrée à Venize au mois de juillet 1574:83

Recepte.

Receu des d’ Strossi, et Guadagni Carnesquei banquiers la somme de trante cinq mil sept cens quatorze escuz pistollets, en vertu d’une lettre de change de pareille somme que la Royne m’a fait tenir, cy 35.714
Receu desdits Strossi et Balbani la somme de douze mille escuz pistollets, que le Roy m’a commandé emprunter pour son service, cy 12.000
Somme totale de la recepte quarante sept mil sept cens quatorze escuz pistollets. 47.714

Despence faicte par commandement du Roy et de la Royne sa mere:

Premierement ont esté envoiez à Vienne par commandement de la Royne douze mil escuz, cy 12.000
Item baillé par commandement du Roy au S. Gentian a Sassil la somme de sept mil escuz, cy 7.000
Item audit Gentian à Venize sept mil huict cens quarante six escuz, cy 7.846
Pour la despence faicte par ceux qui ont porté lesdits douze mil escuz à Vienne, et plusieurs courriers despeschez par commandement du Roy, et autres fournitures par moy faictes suivant le roolle qui en a esté baillé sept cens dix sept escuz, cy 717
[fol. 19v] Item par commandement de la Royne ont esté emploiés cinq cens escuz pour certaines autres fournitures par moy faictes cy 500
Item pour certain musc et autres marchandises vendues au Roy a esté payé au parfumier du Lys à Venize la somme de mil cens vingt et cinq escuz, cy 1125
Item ay retenu devers moy la somme de mil quatre cens escuz pour le present qu’il convient faire au S. Lippomano ambassadeur de ces Seigneurs en Poulougne, et à son secretaire, lesquels seront bien tost de retour, et seroit trouvé estrange si lesdits ambassadeur et secretaire ne trouvoient pardeça le present que le Roy a accoustumé faire aux ambassadeurs des Princes envoiez vers sa Majesté, attendu mesmement les services faict par ledit S. Lippomano, auquel seront bailex douz cens escuz en chaines ou vaisselle d’argent et le reste à sondit secretaire cy 1400

[somme] 30.588
Dons et présents faits par commandement de Sai Majesté a Venize.

Premièrement a esté acheté ung diamant que Sa Majesté a donné au Prince de Venize la somme de mil cinquante escus, cy 1050

A l’Arcenal, huit cents escus, cy 800

A la chiurme de la gallerie sur laquelle le Roy a monté de Moran a i Castelli cent escus, cy 100

A la chiurme du Bucintore sur lequel Sa Majesté a fait son entrée à Venize, et depuis y fut mené de son logis au Palais, cent escus, et à l’amiral dudit Bucintore une chaine de cent escus, cy deux cents escus, cy 200

[fol. 20r] Aux dix-sept gondoles destinées pour le service de Sadicte Majesté et de sa cour deux cents vingt et huit escus, cy 228

A la piatte sur laquelle le Roy est allé de Liscafsusina [Lizzafusina] à Padoue, vingt cinq escus, cy 25

A la salle des armes trente escus, cy 30

Aux quatre ambassadeurs et deux secrétaires qui ont accompagné le Roy depuis qu’il est entré es terres de ces Seigneurs, jusques à ce qu’il en est sorty, une chaine de cinq cents escus à chacun desdits ambassadeurs et une autre de deux cents à chacun desdits secrétaires, revenant le tout à deux mil quatre cents escus, cy 2400

A trenteneuf gentilshommes de cette Seigneurie depputez pour servir le Roy, et l’accompagner durant le temps qu’il a esté en cette ville, pour chacun desdits gentilshommes une chaine de cent escus, cy trois mil neuf cents escus, cy 3900

(Il y en avoit XL depputez, mais l’un est tumbé malade et faut aviser s’il ne seroit pas fort loulable de luy faire semblable present et de le me faire entendre par ce porteur.)

Au S. Jehanbaptiste Rodinque, maistre d’hostel, et lequel a esté fait chevalier par le Roy une chaine de cent escus, cy 100

(Si ledit Rodinque avoit eu present en partant de Rovigo, je vous prie m’en advertir.)

Au S. Girolamo, scalque maieur soixante escus, cy 60

Au S. Stefano et plusieurs autres scalques, soixante escus, cy 60


A six creditiers et leurs aidans quatre vingt escus, cy 80

Au S. Carlo di Maggi despensier-general cinquante escus, cy 50

A dix sommeliers soixante escus, cy 60

A treize cuisiniers cent trente escus, cy 130

[fol. 20v] A sept canevars quarante deux escus, cy 42

Au S. Scipion Constance cappitaine des soixante hallebardiers destines pour la garde du Roy une chaine de cent escus [100]

A son lieutenent, et soixante hallebardiers deux cents escus, cy 200

A vingt tabourins cent escus, cy 100

A dixhuit trompettes quatrevingts dix escus, cy 90

A vingt et quatre hommes depputez pour le service des chambres et salles du palais où le Roy et sa court estoient logez quarante huit escus, cy 48

A deux serviteurs dudit palais par commandement de Sa Majesté a esté baillé vingt-cinq escus, cy 25

Au S. Foscari maistre dudit palais une chaine de trois cents escus, cy 300

A trois hommes qui ont esté emplioés pour faire les logis du Roy et de sa court soubs le colonnel Stella mareschal des logis trente escus, cy 30

Audit colonnel Stella une chaine de cent escus, cy 100

(J’entens que le Roy a faict donner deux cents escus audit Stella, dont seroit bon que je feusse adverty pour emploier cette somme en autre lieu plus nécessaire.)

A la Marthe Thudesque, et à son mary qui ont esté mandés deux fois pour chanter et sonner du luth et de la viole quarante escus, cy 40

Au S. André Bolduc gentilhomme venitien par commandement du Roy a la requeste de monsieur de Savoye, suivant le memoire de monsieur de Bellegorde, une chaine de deux cents escus, cy 200

Au peintre Tintoret pour trois tableaux faicts par commandement de Sa Majesté cinquante escus, cy 50
Item suivant ledit memoire aux S.ª Doni, et Menechini hommes doctes, et qui ont fait certaines oraisons et poesmes pour le Roy, deux cens escuz, cy 200
Item suivant ledit memoire au conte de Saint-Roman cent escuz, cy 100
[fol. 21r] Item suivant ledit memoire à Francesco Museo homme de letres vingt escuz, et à un Cordelier dix escuz, pour ce cy trente escuz, 30
A Pietro Vincentino qui a presenté trante neuf figures de sucre miniées et dorées vingt cinq escuz cy 25
Au S.ª Canaletto gentilhomme venitien, cappitaine de la gallerie sur laquelle le Roy est venu jusques à i Castelli, et lequel Canalet a esté fait chevalier par le Roy une chaine de trois cens escuz, cy 300
Item a esté donné aux officiers du Prince qui ont servy au banquet qui fut fait au Roy au palais, et depuis à la colation faicte aux gentifemmes de Venize audit palais, premierement au chevalier du Prince qui est le maistre des cerimonies, trente escuz, cy 30
Au scalque du Prince vingt escuz, cy 20
Au deux camériers du Prince vingt et quatre escuz, cy 24
A seize escuiers du Prince quatre vingts escuz cy 80
Au premier huisier du Coleige douze escuz, cy 12
Au scelleur du Prince douze escuz cy 12
Aux deux commandeurs du College douze escuz cy 12
Aux sept pires du Prince trente escuz, cy 30
Aux trompettes d’argent quinze escuz, cy 15
Aux organistes et chantres de St. Marc, cent escuz cy 100
A l’ambassadeur du Grand Seigneur envoyé vers ces Seigneurs qui a fait la reverence au Roy, et donné à Sa Majesté certain baume et terre sigillée, une chaine de trois cens escuz cy 300
Au chappelain qui a chanté la messe les neuf jours que le Roy a demouré à Venize, et à ses elerez cent escuz cy 100
[fol. 21v] Item pour la façon et deschet des susdites chaines cinq cens quatre vingts six escuz, cy 586
Aux pauvres et autres œuvres pies cinq cens escuz cy 500
A Camille de la Croix pensionnaire du Roy duquel le pere est mort au service de Sa Majesté, malade grievement, et duquel les gentilshommes français et ministres du Roy venant en cette ville reçoivent plusieurs services, cent escuz 100
A Charles Pasqual homme de letres qui a fait imprimer une oraison en la louange du Roy vingt escuz, cy 20
Somme totale desdits dons et presens trente six escuz, laquelle comprinse la susdite somme de trante mil cinq quatre vingts livres monte quarante trois mil huict cens quatre escuz.
Reste trois mil neuf cens dix escuz laquelle somme a esté envoyée à monsieur de Villequier par le cappitaine St. Vincent, son maistre d’hostel.
Faict à Venize ce dernier jour de juillet Mil L.ª LXXIII.
A. du Ferrier.

Appendix 1

Translation:

Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Fonds français 3321, fol. 19r-21v

[fol. 19r] Account of the receipts and expenditures made by myself, Arnoul du Ferrier, advisor to the king on his private council, and his ambassador to Venice, of the funds that the queen mother of the regent king sent to me there for the service of his majesty, and others that I borrowed, on the order of this last on his passage and entry to Venice in the month of July 1574.83

Receipts.
Received from Sirs Strossi, Guadagni, and Carnesequi, bankers, the sum of thirty-five thousand seven hundred fourteen gold ecus [ducats], against a letter of currency in the same amount that the queen had me carry, that is 35,714

Received from the said Strossi and Balbani the sum of twelve thousand gold ecus that the king ordered me to borrow for his service, that is 12,000

Total sum of the receipts forty-seven thousand seven hundred fourteen gold ecus. 47,714

Expenditures made by order of the king and the queen his mother:
First, twelve thousand ecus were sent to Vienna on the order of the queen, that is 12,000

Item, given by order of the king to Sir Gentian in Sassil, the sum of seven thousand ecus, that is 7,000

Item, to the said Gentian in Venice, seven thousand eight hundred forty-six ecus, that is 7,846

For the expenses of those who carried the said twelve thousand ecus to Vienna, and several couriers sent by order of the king, and other supplies purchased by me according to the list that had been given, seven hundred and seventeen ecus, that is 717

[fol. 19v] Item, by order of the queen, five hundred ecus were used by me for certain other supplies, that is 500

Item, for certain musks and other merchandise sold to the king, the sum of one thousand one hundred twenty-five ecus was paid to the perfumer of the Lys in Venice, that is 1,125

Item, I retained for myself the sum of one thousand four hundred ecus for the gift that must be given to Sir Lippomano, ambassador of these lords to Poland, and to his secretary, who were soon to return and would have found it strange if the said ambassador and secretary did not find there the gift that the king is accustomed to give to ambassadors of princes sent to his majesty, especially given the services performed by the said Sir Lippomano, to whom will be given twelve hundred ecus in chains or silver dishes and the rest to his said secretary, that is 1,400

Gifts and presents made by order of his majesty in Venice.
First, a diamond that his majesty gave to the prince of Venice was purchased for the sum of one thousand and fifty ecus, that is 1,050

For the Arsenal, eight hundred ecus, that is 800

For the crew of the galley on which the king went from Moran to the forts, one hundred ecus, 100

For the crew of the Bucintoro on which his majesty made his entry into Venice, and since was taken from his lodgings to the palace, one hundred ecus, and to the admiral of the said Bucintoro a chain of one hundred ecus, that is two hundred ecus 200

[fol. 20r] For the seventeen gondolas destined for the service of his majesty and of his court, two hundred twenty-eight ecus, that is 228

For the piatta [a small gilded boat for rivers] on which the king traveled from Lischafusine [Lizzafusina] to Padua, twenty-five ecus, that is 25

For the armory, thirty ecus, that is 30

To the four ambassadors and two secretaries who accompanied the king from the time he entered the territory of these lords until he departed, a chain of five hundred ecus to each of the said ambassadors and another worth two hundred to each of the secretaries, bringing the total to two thousand four hundred ecus, that is 2,400

To thirty-nine gentlemen of this state appointed to serve the king, and to accompany him during the time that he was in that city, for each of the said gentlemen, a chain of one hundred ecus, that is three thousand nine hundred ecus 3,900

(There were forty appointed, but one got sick and it must be asked if it would not be laudable to give him the same gift and then to let me hear about it by this messenger.)

To Sir Jehanbaptiste Rodingue, maître d’hôtel, who was knighted by the king, a chain of one hundred ecus, that is 100

(If the said Rodingue had received a gift on leaving Rovigo, I beg of you to make me aware of it.)

To Sir Girolamo, senior seneschal sixty ecus, that is 60

To Sir Stefano and several other seneschals, sixty ecus
To Lorens di Rinaldo, Leonard Coroner, and Pietro di Dona, meat steward twenty-three écus, that is to the said Dona eight écus, and the rest to the said Laurens and Leonard, that is 23
To the six banquet-hall stewards and their aides, eighty écus, that is 80
To Sir Carlo di Maggi, general meat steward, fifty écus, that is 50
To ten wine stewards, sixty écus, that is 60
To thirteen cooks one hundred thirty écus, that is 130
[fol. 20v] To seven cellar masters forty-two écus, that is 42
To Sir Scipion Constance, captain of the sixty halberdiers destined for the king's guard, a chain of one hundred écus, that is 100

To his lieutenant, and sixty halberdiers, two hundred écus, that is 200
To twenty drummers, one hundred écus 100
To eighteen trumpeters, ninety écus 90

To twenty-four men appointed for service to the chambers and rooms of the palace where the king and his court were lodged, forty-eight écus, that is 48
To two servants of the said palace by order of his majesty were given twenty-five écus, that is 25
To Sir Foscari, owner of the said palace, a chain of three hundred écus, that is 300

To the painter Tintoretto, for three paintings made by order of his majesty, fifty écus, that is 50
Item, following the said report, to Sirs Doni and Menechini, scholars who made certain panegyrics and poems for the king, two hundred écus, that is 200
Item, following the said report, to Francesco Museo, man of letters, twenty écus, and to a Cordelier, ten écus, so that is 30

To Pietro Vincentino who presented thirty-nine sugar figurines in miniature and gilded, twenty-five écus, that is 25
To Sir Canaletto, Venetian gentleman, captain of the galley on which the king came to the forts, and said Canaletto was knighted by the king, a chain of three hundred écus, that is 300
Item, given to the officials of the prince who served at the banquet that was given to the king at the palace, and then at the supper given to the gentlewomen of Venice in the said palace, first to: the knight of the prince who is the master of ceremonies, thirty écus, that is 30
To the seneschal of the prince, twenty écus, that is 20
To the prince's two chambermen, twenty-four écus, that is 24
To the prince's sixteen squires, eighty écus, that is 80
To the senior door steward of the Collegio, twelve écus, that is 12
To the prince's privy seal keeper, twelve écus, that is 12
To the two commanders of the Collegio, twelve écus, that is 12
To the prince's seven pipers, thirty écus, that is 30
To the silver trumpeters, fifteen écus, that is 15
To the organists and the singers of St. Mark's, one hundred écus, that is 100
To the ambassador of the sultan sent to these lords and who paid his respects to the king and gave his majesty certain balsams (cosmetic and medicinal creams) and terre sigillée, a chain of three hundred écus, that is 300

To the chaplain who sang mass during the nine days that the king stayed in Venice, and to his clerics, one hundred écus, that is 100

[fol. 21v] Item for the making and material [gold] lost [during making] of the above-mentioned chains, five hundred eighty-six écus, that is 586

To the poor and other pious works, five hundred écus, that is 500

To Camille de la Croix, pensioner of the king whose father died in the service of his majesty, gravely ill, and from whom the French gentlemen and king's ministers on coming to this city received several services, one hundred écus 100

To Charles Pasqual, man of letters, who had an oration praising the king printed, twenty écus, that is 20

Total sum of the said gifts and presents, thirteen thousand two hundred sixteen écus, which including the above-mentioned sum of thirty thousand five hundred eighty-eight livres amounts to forty-three thousand eight hundred four écus. Are left three thousand nine hundred ten écus, which were sent to Sir de Villequier by captain Saint Vincent, his maître d'hôtel.

Made in Venice, this last day of July, 1574.

A. du Ferrier.

Appendix 2


[fol. 29] Li doni, e presenti fatti d'ordine suo sono stati questi.

Una collana per uno di cento scuti l'una alli quaranta nobili, che servirono suae Maestà nominati qui sotto.

Al cavalliere Canale una di trecento.

Al Signor Luigi Foscari patrone del palagio, dove alloggiò una di trecento.

Al Signor Scipio Costanzo Capitano della sua guardia uno bacile, e boccale d'argento di trecento scuti con offerirselo appresso di farle liberare il Signor Giovan Tomaso suo unico figliuolo, che si trova hora schiavo del Turco.

Alli alabardicri della sua guardia trecento scuti.

Alli trombetti nonanta.

Alli tambori sesanta.

All'arsenale mille.

Al bucintoro ducento.

Alla Galea del Generale Soranzo trecento.

Al mastro di casa cento.

Al Credentiero cinquanta.

A tre gondole regie sesanta.

Alle altre cremeine dodici per una.

Alli musici trecento.

Alla sua Parocchia cento.

A quella dell'Ambasciatore suo altri cento.

In operepie monasterii è poveri trecento cinquanta.

Il resto dispensato trà la famiglia del Prencipe, et officii di San Marco cioè à scudieri, Cavalliere di Sua Serenità, portiero di colegio, Cursori, bollatore Ducale, Fanti de' Signori Capi, chi venti chi trenta è chi quaranta secondo l'essere, è condizione

Appendix 2

Translation:

Marsilio Della Croce, L’istoria della publica et famosa entrata in Vinegia del Serenissimo Henrico III. Re di Francia, et Polonia, con la descrizione particolare della pompa, e del numero, et varietà dell’Bregantini, Palaeschermi, et altri vaselli arnati, con la dechiaratione dell’edificio, et arco fatto al Lido, Venice, 1574. (The history of the public and famous entry into Venice of his Serene Highness Henri III, King of France and Poland, with the detailed description of the splendor, number, and variety of the brigantines, palaeschermi [boats some eight to ten meters long with oars], and other armed vessels, with the decorations of the building, and the arch erected at the Lido, Venice, 1574.)

[fol. 29] The gifts and presents made on his orders were the following.

A chain worth one hundred ducats to each of the forty nobles who served His Majesty, named below.

To the cavalier Canale one worth three hundred.

To Sir Luigi Foscari, owner of the palace where he stayed, one worth three hundred.

To Sir Scipio Costanzo captain of his guard a bowl and jug of silver worth three hundred ducats and besides he offered to set free Sir Giovan Tomaso his only son, who had been made a slave of the Turks.

To the halberds of his guard three hundred ducats.

To the trumpeters ninety.

To the drummers sixty.

To the arsenal thousand.

To the bucintoro two hundred.

To the galley of General Soranzo three hundred.

To the major-domo one hundred.

To the Credentiero fifty.

To three royal gondolas sixty.

To other carmine gondolas twelve for each.

To the musicians three hundred.

To his parish one hundred and to that of his ambassador also one hundred.

For pious works, monasteries, and the poor three hundred and fifty.

The rest was distributed to the family of the Prince and officials of St. Mark, that means to the squires, the cavalier of His Serene Highness, porter of the council, errand boys, keeper of the privy seal of the Doge, servants of the heads [of the council of 40], some twenty some thirty and some forty depending on the office and the person’s rank, and similarly to the officials who served at the Foscari palace, including also the writers and poets who presented to the above-mentioned Majesty works in Latin and poems made for his praise, magnificence, and splendor, and these who presented paintings and other similar things, the actors who entertained him several times, and beside the gifts made to secretaries and officials who were charged with serving him during his travel from entering this state, which amount to the sum of about sixteen thousand ducats.
When the Duke of Savoy was leaving, he gave a very beautiful present to the wife of the most reverend Luigi Mocenigo, owner of the house where he stayed: a jewel belt made of thirty golden rosettes and each of them has four pearls and a jewel in the middle worth about one thousand eight hundred ducats.

Appendix 3

Biblioteca del Museo Correr Venezia, Cod. Cicogna 3281, file 4, no. 53

[fol. 1] Anno 1574
Spese fatte in Ca' Foscari per la venuta della Maestà del Re di Francia e Polonia Henrico 3.
Da 5 luglio fino a 17 detto per far provigioni de viveri, biancarie, archi de piate, barche, fachini et viver, ducati 1762 grossi sono ducati 146 grossi 21 al giorno, et dalli 17 detto fino a 27 a sua Maestà, e corte ducati 7664 grossi 3 sono ducati 766 grossi 9 fanno
in tutto ducati 9426 grossi 15
Per li due pasti a Muran ducati 1976 grossi 11
Per il banchetto in Palazzo 103 15
Per la colation in Arsenal 122 18
Per vin alla colation in Palazzo 24 6
Per la colation in Ca' Foscarini a Carmenì 15 7
Per fornimenti di gondole 13 14
Per per vestimento di servitori 30 11
Per pagamento di servitori 60 20
Per per saldo di una poliza del signor Giovanni Battista Rodego 184 17
Per pagliazzi 40 12
Per musica 392 15
Per nolli de piate erano sotto li pontili a San Marco e Ca' Foscari 97 13
Per il tapeto di veluto con frangie di argento per la tavola di sua Maestà 197 12
[fol. 2] Per presente fatto all'Illustissimo Cardinal Legato 128 6
All'Eccellentissimo di Savoia 119 7
Al Cavaliere di Montebello 17 18
Per più robe mandate al Regimento di Conegliano 137 3
Al Regimento di Chioza 411 21
Al Regimento di Sacil 200 12
Al Regimento di Treviso 334 2
Alli clarissimi Ambasciatori per Padova 485 4
Alli detti per Rovigo 746 6
Per fornir la casa per l'Illustissimo Cardinale 13 14
Per vestir l'Amiraglio del Porto 27 3
Per vestir i Ballotini 88 15
Per vestir li comandatori 416 23
Per la coperta del Bucintoro 702 8
Per tre baldachini d'oro forniti 1288 12
Numero delle persone della Corte.
La Corte di Sua Maestà 150
L'Eccellentissimo di Savoia 250
L'Eccellentissimo di Ferrara 300
L'Eccellentissimo di Nivers 150
Henri III’s 1574 Visit to Venice

Il Gran Prior fratello di Sua Maestà
Ambasciatori et altri cortigiani

n.° 1550

[fol. 3] delli quali circa la metà mangiava fuori di casa in altri luoghi, ben se li mandave di crudo per ogni posto piatti quatordeci tal che calcolo che si spesava delli soprodetti n.° 850.

dall’officio delle Rason vechie
Signori scrivan et fanti
Il signor Giambattista Rodengo con suoi homeni
Cuochi per tre cucine
Scalchi per tutto il bisogno
Dispensieri per tre dispense
Caneveri
Fachini et altri agiutanti

n.° 132

dell’eccellentissimo Collegio
Gentilhomeni astanti a Sua Maestà
Gioveni honorati per suo servitio
Alabardieri con suoi caporali e capitani
Il signor Scipio Costanzo
Tamburi e trombete
Musici
Comici
Capitani et officiali di Rialto
Maestranze dell’arsenal
Guardiani delle case
Servitori di gondole ordinarie

n.° 436

[fol. 4] Item la ciurma del Bucintoro con suoi marinari a quali si faceva le spese ad uso di galera
del Re
del Collegio
de l’officio

n.° 2258
Appendix 3

Translation:

Biblioteca del Museo Correr Venezia, Cod. Cicogna 3281, file 4, no. 53

[fol. 1] Year 1574
Expenses made at the Ca' Foscari for the visit of the Majesty of the King of France and Poland Henri III.
From July 5 to 17 for providing food, bed and table linen, floats [under the landing stages], boats, porters and food, ducati 1762 grossi are ducati 146 grossi 21 per day, and from [July] 17 to 27 for His Majesty and court ducati 7664 grossi 3 are ducati 766 grossi 9 come to
all together
ducati 9426 ducati 1976 grossi 15 grossi 11
For two meals at Murano
For the banquet at the Doge's Palace 1031 5
For the lunch at the Arsenal 122 18
For wine for the lunch at the Doge's Palace 24 6
For the lunch at Ca' Foscarini near Carmen 15 7
For decoration of 13 gondolas 1304 14
For clothing of 30 servants 652 11
For payment of 60 servants 387 20
For payment of an invoice of Sir Giovanni Battista Rodego 184 17
For 40 jesters 23 12
For music 392 15
For rent of the floats that were under the landing stages at St. Mark's and Ca' Foscari 97 13
For the velvet cloth with silver fringes for the table of His Majesty 197 12
[fol. 2] For present given to the most Illustrious Cardinal Legate 128 6
To the most Excellent of Savoy 119 7
To the cavaliere di Montebello 17 18
For more stuff sent to the regiment of Conegliano 137 3
To the regiment of Chioggia 411 21
To the regiment of Sacil 200 12
To the regiment of Treviso 334 2
To the most reverend Ambassadors for Padua 485 4
To the same for Rovigo 746 6
For furnishing the house for the most Illustrious Cardinal 13 14
For clothing the Admiral of the port 27 3
For clothing the assistant writers 88 15
For clothing the commanders 416 23
For the covering of the Bucentoro 702 8
For three decorated golden baldachins 1288 12
Number of the persons of the Court.
The Court of His Majesty n.° 150
The most Excellent of Savoy 250
The most Excellent of Ferrara 300
The most Excellent of Nivers 150
The Great Prior brother of His Majesty 300
Ambassadors and other courtiers 100

n.° 1550
Henri III’s 1574 Visit to Venice 111

[fol. 3] About half of these ate out of the house in other places, but raw food for fourteen meals was sent them to every place so that approximately n.° 850 of the above-mentioned were paid.

From the office of the Rason vecchie [a committee responsible for payments made by the Venetian state]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writers and servants</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir Giambattista Rodengo with his staff</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks for three kitchens</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneschals for all needs</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food manager for three pantries</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellar masters</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porters and other assistants</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the most excellent Colleggio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noblemen accompanying His Majesty</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young nobles for his service</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halberds with their corporals and captains</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Sir Scipio Costanzo</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drummers and trumpeters</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musicians</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actors</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captains and officials of Rialto</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers of the Arsenal</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guards of the houses</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servants of the ordinary gondolas</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Item the crew of the Bucintoro with its sailors to whom were paid the expenses in relation to the use of the galley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>by the King</td>
<td>1550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by the Collegio</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by the offices</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES

1. Archivio di Stato Venezia (hereafter ASV), Collegio, Esposizioni Principi 179, unnumbered, Esposizione del magnifico Ambasciatore del Re Christianissimo, June 30, 1574, 2: “Il Re gli scriveva in questo proposito, raccordandogli l'antiquo desiderio suo di venire in questa città fin quando che era Duca di Angiu, che intendeva le maraviglie di questa città lequal disse l'Ambasciatore che non se possono intender se non con gli occhi propri.”

2. ASV, Senato, Secreta, Deliberazioni, reg. 79, fol. 129v-30r.

3. Ibid., fol. 130v.

4. Ibid., fol. 130r.

5. ASV, Senato, Terra, Deliberazioni, reg. 50, fol. 124r. The commemorative tablet has been restored. Now there is a gilded inscription on natural marble.


7. Venice is divided into six districts. The inhabitants of the districts Castello, San Marco, and
8. For the details of the course of events during the state visit, see Della Croce, L’istoria della pubblica et famosa entrata in Venetia; AVS, Collegio, Cerimoniali I, fols. 43r-45r; Rocco Benedetti, Le feste, et trionfi fatti nella Sereniss. Signoria di Venetia nella felice venuta di Henrico III. Christianiss. Re di Francia, et di Polonia (Venice, 1574); Thomaso Porcacchi, Le attioni d’Arrigo terzo Re di Francia, et quarto di Polonia, descritte in dialogo, nel quale si descrive la sua venuta in Vinetia, et di Francesco I de’ Medici dated July 5, 1574, fol. 157v.

9. ASV, Senato, Terra, file 64, unnumbered.

10. One ducat was worth 124 soldi. In 1574, in the building trades the average daily rates payable to masters were 35 soldi and to laborers 24 soldi. Thus a master had to work three and a half days and a laborer five days to earn one ducat. See Brian Pullan, “Wage-Earners and the Venetian Economy, 1550-1630,” in Crises and Change in the Venetian Economy in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, ed. Brian Pullan (London, 1968), 158.


12. Ibid., 2. Among the individual items were the equipping of thirteen gondolas (1,304 ducats), three golden baldachins (1,288 ducats), and the banquet in the Doge’s Palace (1,031 ducats).


14. BMCV, Cod. Gradengio-Dolfin 191, vol. 2, fol. 75r: “Che questo manoscritto, oltre al merito che aveva, per la materia di cui trattava, e per la sua antichità, era di più stimabilissimo per le belle miniature in carta pecora, che conteneva.”

15. ASV, Senato, Dispacci, Ambasciadori, Milano, file 3, fol. 326r.

16. ASV, Collegio, Notatorio, file 51, no. 1.

17. The Pontello in Padua was considered the most important river port in Venetian territories. A monumental portal made of Istrian marble and a wide flight of stairs formed an adequate setting for festive receptions.


19. Niccolò de’ Rossi, L’istoria di Padova, 60 and 166; quoted in Nolbac and Solerti, Il viaggio in Italia di Enrico III re di Francia e le feste a Venezia, Ferrara, Manovia e Torino (Rome, Turen, Naples, 1890). The last is very detailed, but erroneous in parts. All of these books are in the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana Venezia (hereafter BNMV).

20. ASV, Notarile, Testamenti, b. 1256, no. 12: addendum from November 10, 1574, regarding Al­vise Mocenigo’s will.


22. Archivio di Stato Firenze (hereafter ASF), Mediceo del Principato, file 4332a, fols. 156r-59v, Letter from Giambattista Consini in Vienna to Francesco I de’ Medici dated July 5, 1574, fol. 157v.

23. Ibid.


25. BNF, Cinq cents de Colbert 366, 640f, and 663. Du Ferrier had the sum brought to Vienna by his messenger. Henri confirmed receipt of the money on June 29, 1574.


27. See Appendixes 1 and 2.

28. The Merceria is a shopping street leading from the Rialto to the Piazza San Marco. On instruction of the Signoria, it was stocked with a particularly extensive range of goods for the duration of the state visit.

29. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 19v.

30. ASF, Mediceo del Principato, file 2983, fol. 65r-v, Letter from Orazio Urbani from Venice to Francesco I de’ Medici dated July 31, 1574, fol. 65v; Della Croce, L’istoria della pubblica et famosa entrata in Venetia, 22; Porcacchi, Le attioni d’Arrigo terzo Re di Francia, fol. 32v.

31. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 21v.

32. Della Croce, L’istoria della pubblica et famosa entrata in Venetia, 22, states the purchase price was perhaps as much as 26,000 ducats.

33. ASF, Mediceo del Principato, file 2983, fol. 65r-v, Letter from Orazio Urbani from Venice to Francesco I de’ Medici dated July 31, 1574, fol. 65v.

34. BNF, Cinq cents de Colbert 366, 702-4, Letter from Henri III from Cremona to du Ferrier dated August 9, 1574, 703.

35. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 21r.

36. For security reasons, the king had not wanted to call on the services of the young noblemen and apologized for this to the Signoria. See BNF, Cinq cents de Colbert 366, 685, Letter from Henri III from Pontebba to du Ferrier dated July 10, 1574.

37. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 20r.

38. Porcacchi, Le attioni d’Arrigo terzo Re di Francia, fol. 39r.

39. “De Villachler” is given in the Doge’s report, but in the register of the king’s entourage such a name does not appear. First on the register is the name “de Villequier” who had the title of camerier maggior. René de Villequier is the person in question. He was one of the king’s closest confidants, and in 1578 when the Order of the Holy Spirit (founded in 1325 in Naples) was reestablished by Henri III he was accepted into the order. See ASV, Archivio Proprio Francia, b. 7 bis, unnumbered, Letter from Borboluto Bidemani from Villach to Girolamo Mocenigo dated July 6, 1574.

40. E.g., BMCV, Cod. Correr 1306, Cronica dell’incidita città di Venetia, fol. 71r, and Cod. Correr 1307, Cronaca veneta, fol. 142r.

41. BMCV, Cod. Correr 1339, Vite de Dosi de Venetia, fol. “F.” The diamond ring’s value was the equivalent of the banquet the Signoria held for 3,000 guests.

42. BMCV, Cod. Correr Miscellanea Ms., T. VII, no. 1035, fol. 303f.
43. ASV, Collegio, Esposizioni Principi 179, unnumbered, Ragionamento del Serenissimo Principe fatto col Re christianissimo, July 29, 1574.

44. Ibid., 12: “Questa cosa crediamo, che sarebbe con dignità, et honore del Principe, che li fosse veduta così bella, et honorevol gioia, et di gran satisfazione della Maestà Christianissima quando intendesse, che con questo mezo si [13] havesse voluto conservar in questo stato una perpetua memoria del Christianissimo nome suo.”


46. ASV, Senato, Terra, Deliberazioni, reg. 50, fol. 46v.

47. Ibid.: “Henrici III, Francorum, et Poloniae Regis per hanc urbern et Polonia in Gallias redeun­ti mus has Mocenigo Ducii perpetuam eius benevolentiae in Remp.cam testimonium. Milleseimo Quingentesimo Septuagesimo quarto, mense Iulo.”

48. Ibid.

49. ASV, Procuratori di San Marco de supra, Chiesa, scontro, reg. 28, unnumbered.

50. Ibid.

51. Ibid.

52. Ibid.; Nolhac et di casa Lambranzi & Co. sury were sold in 1821 to the jeweler Biscetti-
diamond and other precious stones from the trea­

53. Della Croce, L’historia della publica et famosa

54. ASV, Senato, Dispucci, Ambasciatori, 44, fols. 51r-52v.

55. Ibid., fol. 52r-v.

56. ASV, Senato, Terra, file 63, unnumbered.

57. Ibid., fol. 1r: “la corte et casa nostra et per qualità, et quantità tenesse stato di Principe, non senza admiratione di tutti quelli luochi, per dove siamo passati: tutto per honore et grandezza [1v] di Vostra Serenità et di questa Excellentissima Re­

58. Ibid., fol. 2r: “Anzi a tutto'l mondo un segno visibile, non meno della gratitudine di sua Maestà ricevuta del servizio et assistenza nostra appresso di lei, che di quella, che ne è più cara, et stimamo molto più della Serenità Vostre et della Signorine Vostre Eccel­lentissime.”

59. Ibid., fol. 1v.

60. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 20v.

61. ASV, Senato, Terra, Deliberazioni, reg. 50, fol. 38r.

62. Poland was not among the states to which the Serenissima usually sent ambassadors. When Henri

63. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 19v.

64. ASV, Senato, Terra, Deliberazioni, reg. 50, fol. 109r.

65. ASV, Senato, Terra, file 64, unnumbered.

66. Della Croce, L’historia della publica et famosa

67. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 20r-21v, and Della Croce, L’historia della publica et famosa

68. BMCV, Cod. Correr 1427, Cronica veneta, fol. 530r: “Sua Maestà fece diversi cavalieri, cioè

69. BMCV, Cod. It. VII 164 (7306), Memorie del passaggio per lo stato veneto di Principi e soggetti esteri, fol. 60, and Nolhac and Solerti, Il viaggio in Italia di Enrico III, 165.

70. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 19v-20r.

71. Ibid., fol. 20v-v.

72. Ibid., fol. 21r.

73. Ibid., fols. 20v-21v.

74. Ibid., fol. 21r-v.

75. BMNV, It. VII 393 (8647), Cronaca veneta
dall’origine della città fino all’anno 1593, fol. 132r. Petitions can be found in ASV, Consiglio dei

76. Lucangeli, Successi del viaggio d’Henri III, 42, and Della Croce, L’historia della publica et famosa

77. BNF, Fonds français 3321, fol. 20v.

78. Catalogo di tutte le principali et più honorate corrisposte di Venetia, intro. Silvio Ceccato, ed.

79. Della Croce, L’historia della publica et famosa

80. Archivio di Stato Modena, Cancelleria du­cale, Avvisi e notizie dall’estero, b. 8, unnumbered, Letter from Claudio Ariosto from Venice dated

81. Ibid., Letter from Claudio Ariosto from Venice dated July 31 1574.

82. “Aggiungendo con queste opere al nome di benignissimo e humanissimo Principe, la gloria di liberalissimo, et veramente Illustrissimo Re”; Man­zini, Il Gloriosissimo Apparato, fol. 9v.

83. The amounts in the column of figures are
given in the original in Roman numerals, but are here converted into Arabic numerals to be more readily understood.

84. Annotation in the margin of the page.

85. Annotation in the margin of the page.

86. Number missing.

87. Annotation in the margin of the page.

88. In France at this time the units of currency “livre” and “écu” had the same value.

89. A credentiero was a banquet-hall steward who stood by a large sideboard, or credenza, where cold foods such as salads, fruit, and frozen desserts were handsomely displayed, and who, with his assistants, prepared this buffet.