



The Genoese Nationality Of Antonio De Noli

A historical and genealogical rebuttal of the toponym
hypothesis on the origins of Cape Verde's discoverer

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Society, Professor Marcello Ferrada de Noli Ph.D.

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INTRODUCTION

Researchers at the Antonio de Noli Academic Society¹ have put forward a variety of ancient sources - both in the Research Bulletin of the society and in our new published book²⁻³ - demonstrating unequivocally that the navigator belonged to the Noli family in Genoa and his actual name being Antonio de Noli. He most certain was born in the Noli borough located in nowadays Serra Riccò (Genoa) and baptized in the Church of Valleregia⁴. At the times of navigator De Noli, Valleregia was part of the road-complex "Via del Sale"⁵ communicating Genoa with Piedmont and Lombardy; this explains both the migration route of the Noli families established in these regions (See chapter VI) and the repatriation route of Antonio de Noli descendants from Cesena by 1578.⁶

The sources on the navigator's name and nationality cannot possibly be older; they start with manuscripts officially recorded at the very times when Governor De Noli was in life. For instance, the Royal Letter of 19 September 1462, documented by Marcel Balla at the Torre do Tombo National Archive, and which granted Infante D. Fernando possession of the territories discovered by "Antonyo de Nolle"⁷ [image below].

¹ adenoli.com

² Astengo C, Balla M., Brigati I., Ferrada de Noli M., Gomes L., Hall T., Pires V., Rosetti C. *Da Noli a Capo Verde. Antonio de Noli e l'inizio delle scoperte del Nuovo Mondo*. Red. Prof. Alberto Peluffo. Marco Sabatelli Editore. Italy, 2013. ISBN 9788888449821

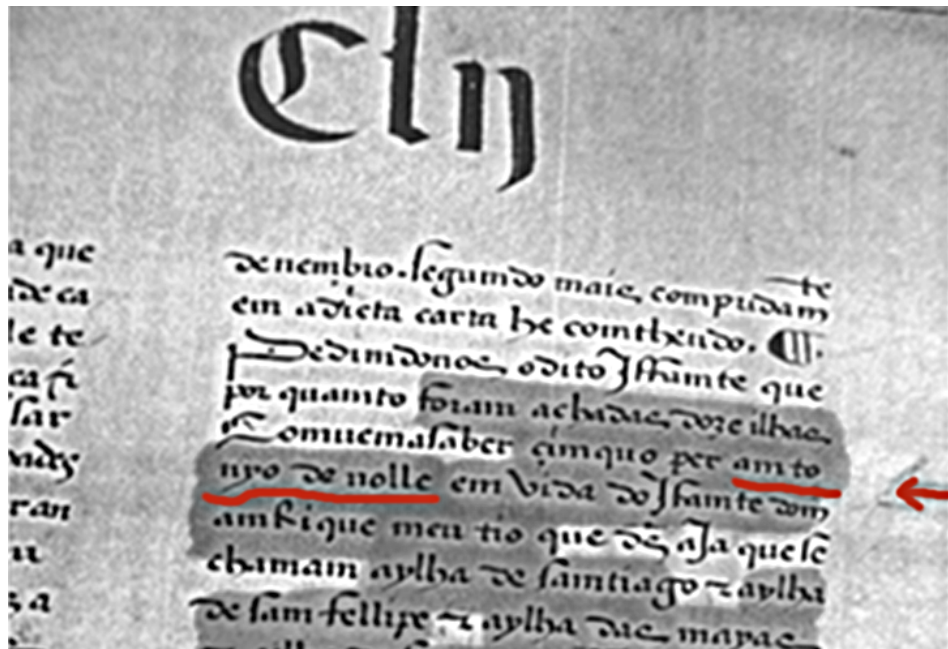
³ English version: "Antonio De Noli And The Beginning Of The New World Discoveries" Editor, Prof. M Ferrada de Noli, Sweden, 2013 <http://adenoli.com/book-antonio-de-noli-and-the-beginning-of-the-new-world-discoveries/>

⁴ The parish (*Anno* 1191) where our society have documented 2005-2009 over hundred manuscript-files on the De Noli descendants; now in the society's "Valleregia Archive"

⁵ Giovanna Cera, *La Via Postumia da Genova a Cremona*. Dipartimento di Archeologia dell'Università degli Studi di Bologna. "L'ERMA" Di Bretschneider. Roma 2000, pag 44

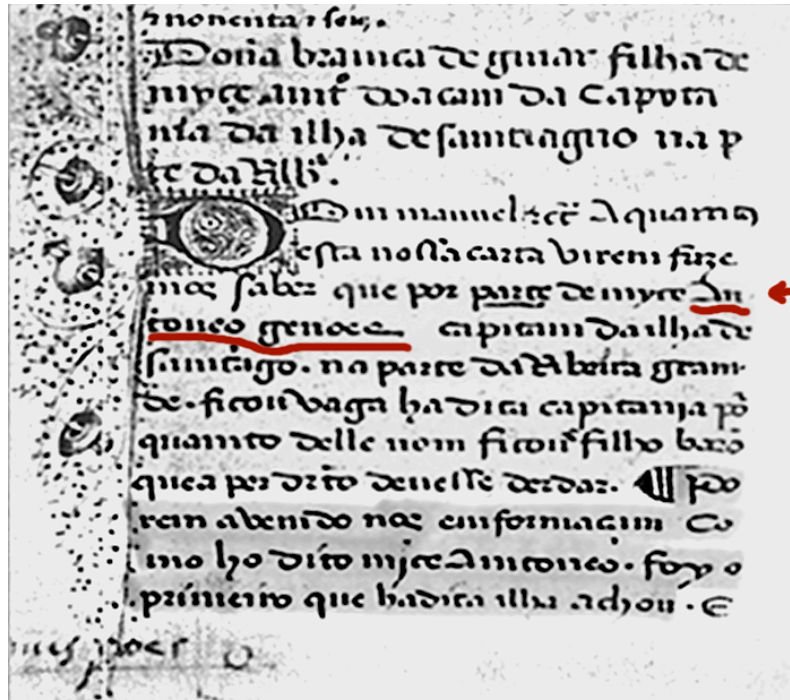
⁶ See author's article *From Italy to Cape Verde – 550 Years. A biographical study of navigator Antonio de Noli*. Research Bulletin of The Antonio de Noli Academic Society. Vol. 1, Nr.5. Pages 105-121 <http://adenoli.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/from-italy-to-cape-verde-550-years-a-biographical-study-of-navigator-antonio-de-noli.pdf>

⁷ Royal Letter made by D. Afonso V to Infante D. Fernando on 19 September 1460. Torre do Tombo National Archive, Chanc. D. Afonso V. L.1, fl. 61, Misticos, L.2, fl.152-152v. (Published in *Alguns documentos do ANTT*, pp. 31-32)



Royal Letter made by King D. Afonso V to Infante D. Fernando on 19 September 1460 ⁸

Or the Royal Letter of 8 April 1497 [image below] regulating the transference of power of the governorship of Cape Verde, and in which it unambiguously specified the nationality of Antonio de Noli as “Genoes”.



⁸ Marcel Balla (2013), *The Greatest Story Never Told. Cabo Verde, The Genesis Of The New World* [book ref. above in Note 2 and 3]

Also the manuscripts documenting the repatriation from Cesena of Antonio de Noli's descendants in Serra Riccò are of ancient date, being the first of 1586. This manuscript of 1586 [see image of the manuscript in in page 41] is the oldest we have found in the Valleregia Archive mentioning Antonio de Noli (a son of Simone de Noli and grandson of the navigator), in the referred manuscript indicated as the father of a Bartolommeo de Noli (named after the navigator's brother) -- ten years after the amnesty by Doria which allowed the repatriation of exiled families from Genoa occurred under the political turmoil years of the 1400's and mid 1500's.

These materials, together with a collection of manuscripts and findings, of both ancient and modern date, and which were presented during the international conference "From Noli to Cape Verde" (that took place in the city of Noli, September 2010), were never challenged. Not in Noli during the conference proceedings and public discussions, or neither elsewhere in Italy or abroad, after the research conclusions of the conference were published in the society's Research Bulletin.⁹ The conference had been called by the Antonio de Noli Academic Society and in its organization participated also the *Fondazione Culturale San't Antonio* of the City of Noli (for brevity referred onwards to as "the foundation"), and the Cape Verde Embassy to Italy.

However, one scholar from the City of Noli put recently the question to this author - at the eve of the presentation of our book in the city of Noli 20 April 2013 - on whether our ancient sources would be tenable in demonstrating the navigator's civil whereabouts as they "were not from Italy" or "in Italian". I replied that so it was neither the case: Italian ancient sources from older times had also been recorded. In fact, the book of Joao Barros *L'Asia* (1539), the internationally most respected scholarly source of the epoch, was indeed translated to Italian and published in Venice already in 1562. In there Joao Barros reported, having direct access to the royal archives, that navigator De Noli was of Genoese nationality and of noble blood".¹⁰

⁹ Marcel Balla (2010): Editorial report - "From Noli to Cape Verde", *Research Bulletin of The Antonio de Noli Academic Society* Vol. 2, Nr.7. Pages 122-127

¹⁰ Joao Barros, *L'Asia*, written 1539 ca. (Barro's *L'Asia* Volumen has been referred as published first in Portuguese, as book, 1552-1556. It was republished in Venetia by Valgrisio, Anno 1562 A. The transcription reads "di natione genovese, et di sangue nobile, che per alcuni dispiaceri che hebbe nella patria sua se ne venne in questo regno con due navi." [Dec. I. lib. 2. cap. I.], Page 32 [See facsimile in Chapter IV in this article]

I also mentioned that already in 2005 I had published in “De Noli - the Italian Bond”¹¹ a reference to an Italian document – *Codice Diplomatico Istriano*¹² - recording Anno 1344 the family name “De Noli” (Arpuliano de Noli). With “de” unmistakable deprived of toponymous associations, since in the name annotation is given concomitantly that Arpuliano de Noli, *Vicario del Patriarca*, was from Parma (*Arpuliano de Noli da Parma*). [See further discussion in Section VI, page 37].

Another scholar (Dott. Furio Ciciliot), participating on behalf of the foundation during the above referred presentation of our book in Noli (an event organized by the foundation - that for some reason would rather support the thesis that the navigator would have instead born in the city of Noli) put forward in public the observation that the Della Cella manuscript¹³ from 1700's was not a “sufficiently ancient” source as to serve as indication that the navigator (born in the 1400's) would have been, as Della Cella indicated, Genoese and of the same family of Giacomo de Noli (which was a member of the XII-Ancient Council of Genoa by 1382, composed by noblemen chosen by the Duke Nicolas de Guarco).

A further observation raised by the same scholar on behalf of the local foundation (institution which paradoxically is a co-publisher of our book), referred to the “semantics” of the navigator's name itself (*Antonio De Noli*, in contrast to *Antonio Da Noli*). On the one hand he asserted that the suffix “De” denotes in Italian, the *same* as in the case of “Da”, *only geographic provenience* (for which it would be tenable to assume that the navigator would instead have been born in the city of Noli).

On the other hand, and in order to make the above semantic misconception acceptable, he discarded in absolute terms the alternative that the suffix “De” used among some families in Italy at that time, would have been *then* an indication of distinction or nobility; such as the one reported by Joao Barros, cited above, referring to Governor Antonio de Noli – and as it did as well

¹¹ Ferrada de Noli M. (2005) *De Noli. The Italian Bond. With historical remarks on Genoa navigator Antonio de Noli, discoverer of Cape Verde and the very first governor of the European colonial regimes in South-Saharan Africa*

¹² *Codice Diplomatico Istriano* - volume III, Annotazione 478. In *Scrinium Adriae. Medioevo e dintorni*. http://www.scriniumadriae.it/cdi/basecd_3.html

¹³ Della Cella (1783): *Famiglie Di Genova. Antiche, e moderne, estinte, e viventi, nobili, e popolari*". Parte II, D.E.F.G.I.L.M.N.O./ MDCCLXXXIII. Pages 293. The manuscript was found by this author at the Library of the University of Genoa in 2008,

multiple other authors (see Section V down bellow). This, affirmed Ciciliot, it is *impossible* because nobility it did not exist in Italy at the epoch but initiated long afterwards!

Instead of presenting any proof or evidence to sustain the contentions above, Ciciliot quoted in the event the words of the president of the local cultural foundation of the City of Noli, Ms. Claudia Manzano, for whom the name of the navigator is Da Noli – because so they have called him for years, she said. In fact, this since the publication by local author P.B. Gandoglia's of his book "In Repubblica", which launched the ungrounded thesis - also known as "*tesis patriotica*" - and that it can summarized: *The name is 'Anton Da Noli' because he was born in Noli, and the proof that he was born in Noli is that his name was Anton Da Noli'*". I would have called that instead the "Tautological thesis"; but finally I found that "Thesis Campanile" is far more appropriate [Referred in Section II].

In the context above I also put forward the following question [see Chapter II, referring the genealogical argument]:

Why is the name "De Noli" (and not "Da Noli") the one preserved among the variety of documented descendants of the navigator's family not only in Italy, but also in Cape Verde or, Brazil - where it is spoken Portuguese and the most natural suffix would otherwise been "Da" (like in Vasco Da Gama, etc.)?

In this essay I will refute one by one the historic and semantic misconceptions of Ciciliot, uttered on behalf of the local foundation's interests and that for some reason seems reluctant to publicly acknowledge the true Genoese origin of navigator Antonio de Noli, the famed discoverer of Cape Verde. I will not elaborate on the possible motivations for this apparently negation. Instead I will refer exclusively to the facts and documented evidence, that to the best of our knowledge, we at the society have established after years of research work. In fact, at our age, all of us among university professors and investigators making the core of this academic society convey together about 150 years used in researching on navigator Antonio de Noli's historic enterprises and family whereabouts.

I

On name semantics, and the argument negating the existence of nobility as political ranks in Medieval Italy

Let me first declare that the least important, if important at all, is to argue on how much “noble blood” – as Barros referred in the famed biographic description – navigated in Antonio de Noli when he discovered the first Cape Verde Islands. For it was that explorer-achievement, together with the enterprise of leading the building of an entirely new nation, which made him notable.

Secondly, I have personally ideological aversion to deal with scholarly or familiar subjects of so-called nobility; it represents a vile class-distinction in which I personally do not believe in, I do not participate in, and in fact I have politically fought against it my entire life.

With that said, Dott. Ciciliot is still wrong in facts when he implied that “nobility” as such it did not exist in Genoa, Italy or Europe at the 1400’s and around. “Nobility” in the sense of constellations of interests of the powerful or usurpers in society which have received a title of distinction from other powerful or usurpers in society, or for instance as political social force, or further even as definite political parties, it indeed existed.

What about, for instance, the two main parties popolari and nobile which disputed the government of Genoa and other cities during the times and before and after navigator De Noli? What about the reasons why he went to political exile – caught, as Gandloglia indicated, in the middle of disputes between known aristocratic powers such as the Fregoso and Adorno? I will develop here on some local developments at the time in Genoa and in regard to the documents cited in our research. But first a few words on the “semantic” issue of the suffix “de”.

The suffix “de” in Italian family names

Dott. Ciciliot was wrong when affirmed that “De” in Italian is only indicative of geographic provenience, such in *Da* (or *Di*). In actual fact, the “De” in the family name “De Noli” could simply mean, “pertaining to the Noli family”

(i.e. Antonio Dei Noli), which it was the actual fact. The same regarding the De Noli descendants recorded in the Valleregia archive.

This, regardless that a) in praxis, many family names starting with “De” belonged in ancient times to “nobility” classes or occupying positions of power or wealth; and b) regardless the documentation in our archives that Noli families in Northern Italy have been ascribed a variety of nobility ranks.

In this context, a relevant fact to establish thou, it is that the meaning of the suffix “de” can have a completely other significance than the exclusively “geographic provenience” which Ciciliot wrongly argued. I give a demonstration of this in chapter VI, with some illustrations. Here, introductorily, I will refer to this clarification done by Wikipedia editors on the subject “Italian name” and referring the “the medieval Italian habit of identifying families by the name of the ancestors” – “dei” becomes “de”:

“In time, the middle possessive portion ("of the") was dropped, but surnames became permanently pluralized and never referred to in the singular, even for a single person. Filippo Ormanno would therefore be known as Filippo Ormanni. Some families, however, opted to retain the possessive portion of their surnames, for instance Lorenzo de' Medici literally means "Lorenzo of the Medici" (*de'* is a contraction of *dei*, also meaning "of the"; c.f. The Medicis).”

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The absolute negation of that “nobility” did not exist in Italy at that time - in order to sustain that “De” could mean only geographic provenience, is more than inaccurate; it negates the history of Italy and Genoa in particular

Dott. Ciciliot criticized the use of the Della Cella manuscript (of 1700’s) I found in the Library of Genoa University, for not being sufficiently old. At the same time he affirmed that “nobility” ranks were inexistent at that time in Italy (and in Genoa for that part). In that manuscript Della Cella states that the navigator pertained to the same family of Giacomo de Noli, one of the XII-Council (the council of the ancients) appointed by the government of Duke Nicolas de Guarco in Genoa by 1382 (page 193: “*Giacomo de Noli fu un de XII-Anziani del Comune sotto il Duce Nicolas de Guarco*”). A separate research source indicates that De Guarco had appointed in such position of trust “the noblemen that have been neglected in the previous administration” (Simonde Sismondi’s

¹⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_name

"*Histoire des Républiques Italiennes du Moyen Âge*" (Paris, M.D.CCC.IX. Tome Septième, Page 232).

I was astonished to hear Dott. Ciciliot's contention on that "De" [e.g. *Duca* (Duke) *Nicholas de Guarco* or *Giacomo de Noli*, as specifically is given in the Della Cella manuscript, page 123, last para) cannot possibly be indicative of pertinence to families ascribed to nobility ranks, because nobility did not exist at that time in Italy! Any student in Genoa that had gone a history book at school know that in Genoa nobility ranks were not only existing, but also that "nobility" constituted one of the two main political factions alternatively in the government of the epoch. As a matter of fact, the government of Duke De Guarco was accused of favouring *only* the interests of the nobility and for that reason he was eventually ousted by a popular rebellion instrumented by the Fregoso and Adorno.

For instance, the Wikipedia article (Italian) on Doge Guarco mentions specifically in that context "the noblemen of the Palace and of the Council" (the council of ancients in which Giacomo de Noli was one of the XII-ancient members entrusted by De Guarco): [*... porteranno dal marzo 1383 ai primi tumulti del popolo. Inizialmente stroncati e soffocati, a nulla poté il doge Nicolò Guarco difendersi dalle sempre più accrescenti accuse di cospirare con la nobiltà ai danni del popolo genovese e sempre nulle furono i successivi provvedimenti quali l'eliminazione delle tasse o il troncare ogni rapporto con i nobili di palazzo e del Consiglio*"].¹⁵

That the name was De Guarco (*Nicolas de Guarco*, and *Antonio de Guarco*) is found in multiple occasions all across the above mentioned book *Histoire des Républiques Italiennes du Moyen Age*, by Jean-Charles-Léonard Simonde de Sismondi. Also in BIOGRAPHIE UNIVERSELLE, ANCIENNE ET MODERNE is mentioned that "et Nicolas de Guarco lui fut substitue' sur le tronc ducal."

We at the society have enough documentation, issued prior to the 1700's, that unequivocally demonstrate that the name of the navigator was Antonio De Noli and that he came from the Republic of Genoa. We have now new indications that the place of birth would have been the ancient borough of Noli, situated at that time in Northern Genoa and which is now part of the Serra Riccò municipality in the Genoa Province.

¹⁵ http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicol%C3%B2_Guarco

I would say that if for the sake of the discussion I would be ready to put away the Della Cella manuscript on the base that it is "too recent". The question is, what it would happen with the one and only found document that have indicated that at least it is *possible* that the ancient origins of the De Noli family in Genoa are from the old city of Noli?

The president of the Cultural Foundation or her advisers should instead thank our society for we found that manuscript of Della Cella, instead of refuting such 1700's document as "too recent". And otherwise, where would they find a manuscript older than that one, reporting that the origins of the navigator's family are or might be in Noli?

To the best of my knowledge, there is NOT any other *earlier* document, and which has been exhibited, referring the De Noli (or the so-called "Da Noli", or any "Noli" from that part) as ever existing in the City of Noli.

Further, the reader would notice that the Dela Cella manuscript does not AFFIRM that the origins of this family are from the City of Noli. He only speculates on "it is POSSIBLE" that the Noli family may have their origin there. The manuscript only says, "L'origine si può supponere dalla piccola città o Castello di Noli".

On the other hand, what Della Cella affirms positively is that members of the same family of the navigator have been living in Genoa since generations before.

II

The Toponym-campanile VS. Historical theses

On the evening of 20th of April - and while walking in the beautiful and enigmatic medieval venues of Noli - Prof. Corradino Astengo mentioned to me, commenting the discussion at the foundation moments before, that it is not uncommon in Italy that local communities put forward point of views as the best views, but representing more local interests or traditions, rather than facts. And that is what he referred as “campanilismo” (from *campanil* = the local bell-tower).

I believe Prof. Astengo’s interpretation would do well as summary of the event, at least regarding the content put forward by the foundation’s surprisingly and totally non-announced “disliking” of fundamental research conclusions in the book.

In the presentation of our book called by the Cultural Foundation of Noli, Furio Ciciliot had been announced as *moderator*; I have been invited as *author* and Alberto Peluffo – which is also member of the foundation’s board - invited as the *editor* of the Italian version.

However, once the meeting had begun, it was revealed by the president of the foundation that Dott. Ciciliot has been called there as the “critic” (*il critico*) of the book on behalf of the Foundation. So it is registered in the videotape. This partly explains that the opinions expressed by Ciciliot were not only similar than what the president of the foundation wrote in her *Presentazione* of our book, but also as in the case of the said “Presentazione”, NO DOCUMENT WHATSOEVER WAS EXHIBITED to sustain the old unfounded local thesis, on that the navigator was instead “Da Noli from Noli”. And it was peculiar for the readers to realize that such “Presentazione” negates in a diametrical opposition main research conclusions contained in the book they were meant to present. Namely, for instance that research has established that the navigator was from the Republic of Genoa, and his name being Antonio de Noli, of the De Noli families of Genoa.

In a certain moment it came the unreasonable episode in which that in Noli “even it does exist a street of name Antonio DA Noli” was indicated as argument.

I explained that there are dozens of cities in Italy, including Serra Riccò (Genoa), where it is found the oldest “Via Noli”¹⁶ among those municipalities having the name “Noli” or “Antonio Noli” in their streets. Other streets are found for instance in Rimini, the port of Cesena (where the navigator’s family arrived from Cape Verde); or also via “Antonio da Noli” in Rome, etc.; a most known among these streets the one in Firenze, Tuscany. But no one of those cities or municipalities has ever claimed that the navigator was born in those places just because of such name in their streets. In Voltri, near Genoa harbour, and where its folks believe that the expedition of the Noli brothers sailed to exile Portugal - there is a street named “Fratelli Noli” (The Noli brothers). I was also told in Voltri that one reason why the Fratelli Noli chosen Portugal it was because the striking similarity between the ancient Genoese dialect and ancient Portuguese.

In fact, the street-name “Antonio *da* Noli” was set in various of those cities municipalities after 1945, as homage to the warship sank by a German mine at the ends of WW2. In what regard the street name in the city of Noli, a good question to establish (not really important but still interesting) is whether the street-name *Da Noli* in the city of Noli was set before or *after* their publication of Gandoglia’s book in where the “Campanile thesis” (Antonio “Da” Noli = born in Noli) was launched for the first time. It is of outmost importance to remind in this context that **Gandoglia never exhibited any manuscript or document to sustain his local claim.**

For the book "In Repubblica. Vita intima degli uomini di Noli studiata nell'archivio del Comune" (Finalborgo 1926)¹⁷ - a comprehensive history of de City Noli, by Bernardo Gandoglia. The City of Noli made available for author Gandoglia all existing archive sources. However, among the 696 pages of his book, Professor Gandoglia devotes Antonio da Noli only two lines in just only one page, and one foot note. The most remarkable observation is that Gandoglia emphasizes - about Antonio being from Noli - that “so it is

¹⁶ Via Noli, Piedmont [Serra riccò (Genoa)]

¹⁷ Bernardo Gandoglia "In Repubblica. Vita intima degli uomini di Noli studiata nell'archivio del Comune" (Finalborgo 1926) - a comprehensive history of de City Noli, by Bernardo Gandoglia.

believed" ["il nostro Antonio (così si crede) è a Genova, ove più tarde si trovò compromesso nelle fazioni fra gli Adorno e i Fregoso"]. If Gandoglia would have had any evidence of such claim in the archives he thoroughly studied, Gandoglia would surely have expressed himself otherwise.

I include here a transcription with a further rebuttal on Gandoglia's thesis which I previously published in "From Italy to Cape Verde - 550 Years. A biographical study of navigator Antonio de Noli"¹⁸, (See page 114, "*Toponym VS. Historical theses*"):

Toponym VS. Historical theses

The *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani* (Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana, Roma, 1925, 1965) is clear on the issue of the place of birth of Antonio de Noli: "Born in Genoa of a family with origins from Noli" ("*Nacque a Genova da famiglia di origine nolese*").

Accordingly, all along since the publication in Venice 1562 of the classic "Asia" of de Barros, written 1539¹⁹ until the beginning of XX century, it has been of public knowledge that the place of birth of Antonio de Noli is Genoa. As late as 1894, Prospero Peragallo - one most distinguished Italian historian - referred to the navigator as *Genovese* and as "Noli" (not "da" Noli).²⁰

However, this was challenged during a period some decades ago, after the publication of Bernardo Gandoglia's book "In Repubblica" in 1926²¹, focused on the history of the City of Noli. The local Gandoglia launched the thesis (I call it also *tesi patriottica*) that the navigator "Da Noli" was "Nolese" (born in Noli), and, according to Emanuele Diotto²² the emphasis in the Gandoglia's argument is particularly based in the "Da" which would denote the navigator's birth (in the Republic of Noli). This is in turn an argument taken directly

¹⁸ *From Italy to Cape Verde - 550 Years. A biographical study of navigator Antonio de Noli*. Research Bulletin of The Antonio de Noli Academic Society. Vol. 1, Nr.5. Pages 105-121 <http://adenoli.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/from-italy-to-cape-verde-550-years-a-biographical-study-of-navigator-antonio-de-noli.pdf>

¹⁹ Joao Barros, *opus cit.*

²⁰ "...spianare gli ardui problemi cosmografici e geografici che si presentavano, i *genovesi* Antonio, e Bartolomeo Noli. . . e il *veneziano* Luigi di Cà da Mosto". In Peragallo Prospero (1894) "Disquisizioni Colombine. N. i 2 e 3. Epoca dell' arrivo di Colombo in Portogallo / La Sfera di Dante de Rinaldi, e il sig. HARRISSE. Tipografia Nazionale, Lisbona. Page 79

²¹ B. Gandoglia (1926), *opus cit.*

²² Emanuele Diotto, *Antonio da Noli e la scoperta delle isole del Capo Verde* <http://www.larici.it/itinerari/restodelmondo/capoverde/>

from Giovanni Delscalzo's "Antonio da Noli" (1943). But neither this author indicated any verifiable source for such affirmation. He mentioned a certain birth certificate containing the particle "da" before "Noli" but referred no information where the document was, or where he would have seen it in original or replica, or heard about it, etc. [see Note B]. Further bibliographic references on this topic (biographers or authors of history books that also would state that the navigator Noli was born in Noli) is neither given by authors Gandoglia or Diotto. I have asked personally in Noli City, in formal meetings of 2005 and 2008, both to high Municipality authorities or Church officials in Noli for the whereabouts of this document - the birth or baptism certificate mentioned by Diotto/Gandoglia or any other that could show the origin of Antonio Noli in the City of Noli. But after five years I am still waiting for their answer. Now to the *tesi storica*:

João de Barros, the most prominent among the Portuguese historians of the epoch - referred in the literature in terms of "the most trustworthy historian of the Portuguese voyages" ²³ reported explicitly that Antonio di Noli was "di natione genovese". As the official King's historian, Barros had access by 1539 to the very documents detailing the appointments of Captain de Noli in the official exploration enterprises and later entitled him in the governorship, as well as other members of the de Noli family. Barros had even the possibility to meet explorers, navy officers and government officials that had met Antonio Noli personally. Further, countless books and history research articles on the subject of Italian intercontinental discoveries have contributed with details confirming this report of being Genoa the original nation of Antonio de Noli.

With regard to the name "de Noli" (instead of "da" Noli), of particular interest are two sources. One is based on accounts from 1462, at the very epoch of the de Noli in Cape Verde, and which is preserved in chronicles of the Franciscan Order. In this chronicle (O Covento de S. Bernardino. Apontamentos. A Fialho d'Almeida) referring to Antonio de Noli's brother Bartholomew, it is distinctly stated both that his family name was "de Noli" and that he was a "Genovez". ²⁴

²³ "Barros, the most trustworthy historian of the Portuguese voyages, (Asia, chap.2. and 3.) whose works comes down to 1539, and who had before him relations of the discoveries made by hos countrymen". In: Spotorno, Giovanni Battista "Historical Memoir of Christopher Columbus and His Discoveries". Treuttel and Wurtz, London, 1823. Page xxiii.

²⁴ "Occidente. Revista Illustrada de Portugal e do Extrangeiro". 16, Anno -XVI Volume - No. 515. Page 85

Another is the testimony of Sir Richard Francis Burton - British consul and famous explorer, discoverer of Tanganyika Lake. He had grown up in Italy and later served as British consul in Trieste. As erudite in languages and geography history, he knew well the Italian discoveries in Africa [plaque at Trieste, Italy, at the right]. Burton visited the Island of Antonio de Noli in 1865 and based much information directly from their inhabitants. In his "Letter V. Cape Verde Islands"²⁵ Burton explicitly states all the names by which the commander was known (Antonio de Nola, or Nolles, Nolle, and Noli) but not one mention to "da Noli".

A Genealogical argument

If the name of the navigator would have been "Da Noli", which according to ungrounded claim of the toponym-thesis would indicate that the navigator was born in Noli. However:

Why is the name "De Noli" (and not "Da Noli") the one preserved among the variety of documented descendants of the navigator's family not only in Italy, but also in Cape Verde or, Brazil - where it is spoken Portuguese and the most natural suffix would otherwise been "Da" (like in Vasco Da Gama, etc.)?

I refer here partly to the comprehensive investigation by Professor Trevor Hall on the descendants of the "Clan De Noli" which participated in the expedition and colonization of Cape Verde Islands. Trevor Hall, a Ph.D. from John Hopkins University and who has published extensively on issues around navigator De Noli and the earlier development of the Cape Verde society Hall describes for instance the whereabouts of Andre de Noli, living in Cape Verde Islands from the 1550s to 1630s.²⁶

Prof. Hall referred to a variety of the De Noli descendants in Cape Verde between up to 1704. He states introductorily: "During the early sixteenth century, the governess and other second-generation De Noli family members

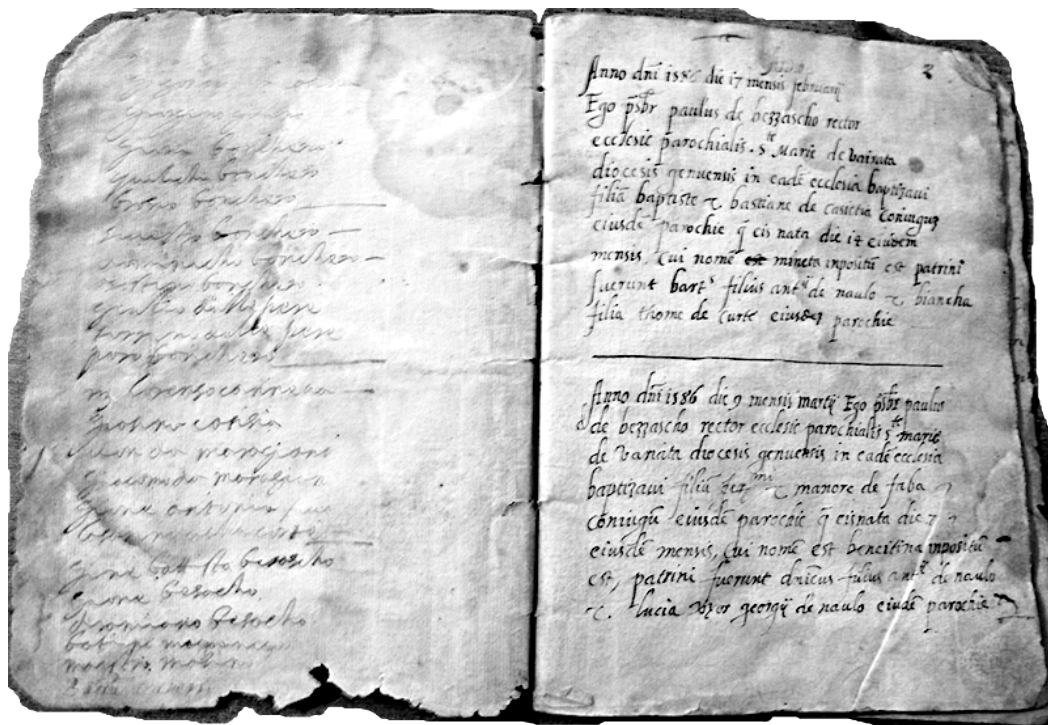
²⁵ Sir Richard Burton. From London to Rio de Janeiro. Letters to a Friend. Letter V. Cape Verd Islands. Page 496

²⁶ Trevor Hall (2013): *Governor Antonio de Noli and His Family in the Cape Verde Islands and Portugal: Discoverers, Colonizers, and Governors, 1460-1704*. In: Astengo et al., *Da Noli a Capo Verde. Antonio de Noli e l'inizio delle scoperte del Nuovo Mondo*. Red. A Peluffo. Marco Sabatelli Editore. Italy, 2013. Page 103

lived in the Cape Verde Islands and were rich, powerful Portuguese nobles who governed the islands and controlled the maritime economy. “²⁷

The thorough scholarly work of Hall goes on listing some prominent figures of Cape Verde in the 1500's - including descendants of Bartolommeo and Raphael de Noli - such as the Knight Dom Joham de Noli, “a Portuguese nobleman and also a knight in the Order of Santiago”²⁸

In sustaining this genealogical argument I refer also to the manuscripts of Valleregia [described in Chapter VI below] referring the descendants of name “De Noli” (and not “Da Noli”) in Italy.



Facsimile of a manuscript dated 1586, referring to descendants of Antonio de Noli in Serra Riccò De Noli [See details in Chapter V, page 44]

²⁷ Id., page 68

²⁸ Id., page 97

III

Manuscripts' relevance is in the accuracy of the content they report.

The fact that Della Cella manuscript is from the 1700's is not a proof that the information provided on events occurred about 200 year prior that would be incorrect.

Dott. Ciciliot (called in as critic of our research findings after nearly three years that the conference took place, and after the book was published, and without any prior notice to us the authors on that the research conclusions of the book would be contested at that opportunity of the book presentation) was brought to the meeting ostensibly with the aim to argument in support to the President of the Cultural Foundation.

In vain, I showed that dozens of authors have investigated the name and origins of the navigator and concluded that it was the Genoa-born Antonio De Noli. And all those sources are properly referred in the book. The "moderator" Ciciliot dismissed these authors because they were "too modern". He did contra by mentioning that "there are other authors", but he did not care to mention who were those authors or when did they say what! I come back to this later.

Now as to his the main "criticism" on that the Della Cella manuscript is of a "recent" date, meaning written "only" in the 1700's.

In the first place it is the *content* of the manuscript that should be analysed, or if they wish, the manuscript's authenticity (I found it at the Library of the University of Genoa). The fact that it was written in the 1700's is not a proof that the information provided on events occurred 200 year before would be incorrect.

For what do these adherents to the toponym hypothesis mean exactly? That because the Della Cella manuscript is only from the 1700's, Giacomo de Noli WAS NOT a member of the XII Ancients-Council of Genoa appointed in the government of Nicolas de Guarco? Or that his family name was not "De Noli"? Or that he was not from Genoa?

Such argument does not make sense at all. I mean, if I read an article about "Spartacus" in an encyclopaedia published in 2013, and I found that the author of the article refers that Spartacus was Thracian and that he led an slave uprising against the Roman Republic 100 years BC; would I say that Spartacus was NOT Thracian or that he never led an slave uprising because the article was written 2113 years after the events? In fact, no one that has written about Spartacus was from his time. The nearest was Plutarch that lived about 200 years after Spartacus!

Further, when I referred to the 15 or so authors that have published research conclusions in line with our findings, Dott. Ciciliot stated to the public that there are a number of authors that are much older that the ones we cited and that those authors would say "different" Different to what? "Critic" Ciciliot never said *in concrete* what research item or items were erroneous in our book. More over, Critic Ciciliot never mentioned clearly which "earlier" authors (the list, in plural) he was referring to from his part. He did not provide any name of such purported authors' works; he did not provide any bibliographic references, etc.

Deprived of the possibly of rebuttal authors as well as thesis which were never known to us in concrete - besides that they may say different to ours - I opt for restate some of the ancient or earlier reports contained in our book.

IV

A sample of Earlier sources - prior 1700's - documented by the Society on the Genoese origin of navigator Antonio de Noli

a) Professor Dott. Corradino Astengo referred in his work, see page 27 in our book, quoting a manuscript from the epoch widely known as the "Colon Map" (dated 1490) and preserved at the Biblioteque Nationale de France (here Prof. Astengo's text quoted from the English version):

"Also the so called "Columbus Map" ²⁹. . . makes reference to the archipelago of Cabo Verde with a legend that refers to their discoverer: *Hec Insule vocantur italic sermon Cavo Verde, latino veero Promontorium Viride, que invente sunt quodam genuense cuis nomen erat Anthonius de Noli, a quo ipse insule denominante sunt et nomen adhuc retinent inventoris.* ³⁰ ("These island that we call in Italian Cavo Verde, in latin *Promontorium Viride* (Green Promontory), were discovered by a Genoese whose name was Antonio de Noli, by whom the same islands were named and they still retain the name today")."

[My comment: For the this source's date (ca. 1490) see for instance "*Mapping the New World*". Quote : "This is the "Columbus map" which may have been drawn by Christopher Columbus and/or his brother Bartolomeo in Lisbon around 1490 before the discovery of the New World. The Genoese flag on the Cape Verde islands suggests someone sympathetic to the Genoese Antonio de Noli, who discovered the islands in the service of Portugal, made the map."]

b) The Royal Letter by D. Afonso V to Infante D. Fernando on 3 Dec 1460, cited by Professor Dr Lourenço Gomes referred in his research report, page 29 in the book, (here from the English version):

"Antonio de Noli; a 15th-century Genoese mariner; is the name referred to in the Portuguese Royal Chancellery document dated in either August or September 1460 as the discoverer of the eastern islands of Cabo Verde,

²⁹ Biblioteque Nationale de France. Res. Ge. AA 562.

³⁰ Barozzi P. I genovesi al servizio del Principe Enrico, in LUZZANA CARACI I. (a cura di), *Le Americhe annunciate*, Reggio Emilia 1991.

including the island of Santiago, which is the main island of the archipelago. The settlement of the archipelago began on this island in the previously mentioned document that refers to Antonio de Noli as the first settler. At that time according to this text, 12 islands had been found [...], five of them by Antonio de Noli during the life of Prince Henry, these being: Santiago, Sam Filipe, Mayas, S. Christovam and Sall, which are part of Guinea³¹

c) The original text of Joao Barros of ca. 1539, quoted by Vitorino Magalhães Godinho, as referred by Professor Dr Lourenço Gomes in his research report, page 37 in the book, here from the Italian printed version:

"... abbiamo il resoconto di João de Barros, incluso nell'opera di Magalhães Godinho, da cui si estrae quanto segue: "In que-sto stesso periodo furono scoperte le isole che ora chiamiamo di Capo Verde, da parte di Antonio de Nolle, genovese di nascita e uomo nobile, che, per qualche dispiacere avuto in patria, venne in questo regno con due navi e un barcone, in compagnia del quale vennero un certo Bartolomeo de Nolle, suo fratello, e Raf-faello de Nolle, suo nipote."

My comments:

To further explain among the Italian readers the importance and high reliability of this source (Joao Barros), I added in Note 10 of my book-chapter, found in page 42 of the Italian book:

"According to Giovanni Battista Spotorno: "Barros, the most trustworthy historian of the Portuguese voyages, (Asia, chap. 2 and 3) whose works comes down to 1539, and who had before him relations of the discoveries made by his countrymen" ³².

In my own book chapter "*Ritorno in Italia. Discendenti della famiglia De Noli a Cesena e Genova. . .*" , I included a facsimile (see page 43)³³ of the text from Joao

³¹ Royal Letter made by D. Afonso V to Infante D. Fernando on 3 Dec 1460. In: *Historia Geral de Cabo Verde (HGCV) - Corpo Documental (CD) Vol. I Instituto de Investigações Científica Tropical (Lisboa) - Direcção Geral do Património Cultural (Cabo Verde) 1988 pp. 15-16.*

³² In: Spotorno, G. B. "*Historical Memoir of Christopher Columbus and His Discoveries*". Treuttel and Wurtz, London, 1823. Page xxiii. Professor Dr. Giovanni Battista Spotorno added (page xxv) that Antonio Noli was "fellow citizen" of Christopher Columbus."

³³ Ferrada de Noli, "*Ritorno in Italia. Discendenti della famiglia De Noli a Cesena e Genova. . .*" In: Astengo C, Balla M., Brigati I., Ferrada de Noli M., Gomes L., Hall T., Pires V., Rosetti C. *Da*

Barros on the navigator. The text is from the Italian translated book published in Venice 1562. The Italian translation states that the navigator was of Genoese *nationality* (*di nazione Genouefe*). This is a clear reference to the *Republic of Genoa* (not to the *City of Genoa* itself), which would perfectly match with the hypothesis that the actual place of birth was the borough of the De Noli in Northern Genoa - the *frazione* Noli, nowadays belonging to the Municipality of Serra Riccò (Province of Genoa). I will develop on this in my next letter.

Yes, as we have mentioned above in different contexts of argumentation, Della Cella finished his manuscript "Famiglie Di Genova. Antiche, e moderne, estinte, e viventi, nobili, e popolari" some time in the 1700's, and there he stated in the section corresponding to our family that the navigator was from Genoa and belonged to the same family of Giacomo de Noli who has been in the government of Niccolo de Guarco in Genoa by the 1300's. This was the XII-Seniors Council of Genoa appointed by De Guarco.

Nevertheless, Giacomo de Noli was not the first Noli in the government of Genoa. in the *Bollettino della Società geografica italiana*, Volym 17. 1880, Page 13, "citase un Noli Anziano e consiglieri della Signoria nel 1261.

A sample of prominent modern sources given in our previous works, referring at the actual nationality or city of origin of the navigator

- Biographie Générale by Firmin Didot Frères states that Noli *appartenait à une famille patricien* ("belonged to a patrician family"). Biographie Générale. Firmin Didot Frères, publishers. Anno M DCCC LVII, Vol. 38
- Charles François Du Périer Dumouriez, "An account of Portugal, as it appeared in 1766 to Dumoriez. Printed at Lausanne 1775". Law, Debret & Balfour, London, 1797.
- W. Thomas, M.A. "The West Coast of Africa, And Its Islands". Derby & Jackson, New York, 1860. In page 327 refers Antonio Noli, a *Genoese* in the service of the Prince of Portugal.
- Russel G. Hamilton, "Voices from an Empire". [University of Minnesota](#), 1975. Page 233 refers, "The Portuguese, with the aid of *Genovese*

navigator Antonio Noli, discovered the remaining, likewise inhabited, islands of the Cape Verde Archipelago".

- Bailey W. Diffie & George D. Winius "Foundations of the Portuguese Empire 1415-1580". University of Minnesota Press, 1977. Page 111.
- Irwin & Colum Wilson, "Cape Verde Islands". The Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Connecticut. Fourth Edition, 2009. Page 6

A sample of prominent modern sources referring at the actual name of the navigator, and that have been previously cited in our works

- Charles François Du Périer Dumouriez, "An account of Portugal, as it appeared in 1766 to Dumoriez. Printed at Lausanne 1775". Law, Debret & Balfour, London, 1797.
- The "Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira. Ilustrada", Lisboa, Editorial Enciclopédia, 1935-1960. Article in page 836 refer to him as *Antonio de Noli*.
- Gomes Eannes de Azurara, "The chronicle of the discovery and conquest of Guinea". The Hakluyt Society, London, 1896-1899. Page 300. Also in Portuguese by Pariz Aillaud, 1841.
- Cape Verde Islands. Handbooks prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office. No. 117. Published by H.M. Stationery Office. London, 1920.
- Bailey W. Diffie & George D. Winius, "Foundations of the Portuguese Empire 1415-1580". University of Minnesota Press, 1977. Page 106.
- C.E. Nowel "A History of Portugal". D Van Nostrand Co. New York 1952. Pages 40, 256.
- Charles Verlinden, "*Antonio de Noli e a colonização das ilhas de Cabo Verde*". Lisboa, 1963.

V

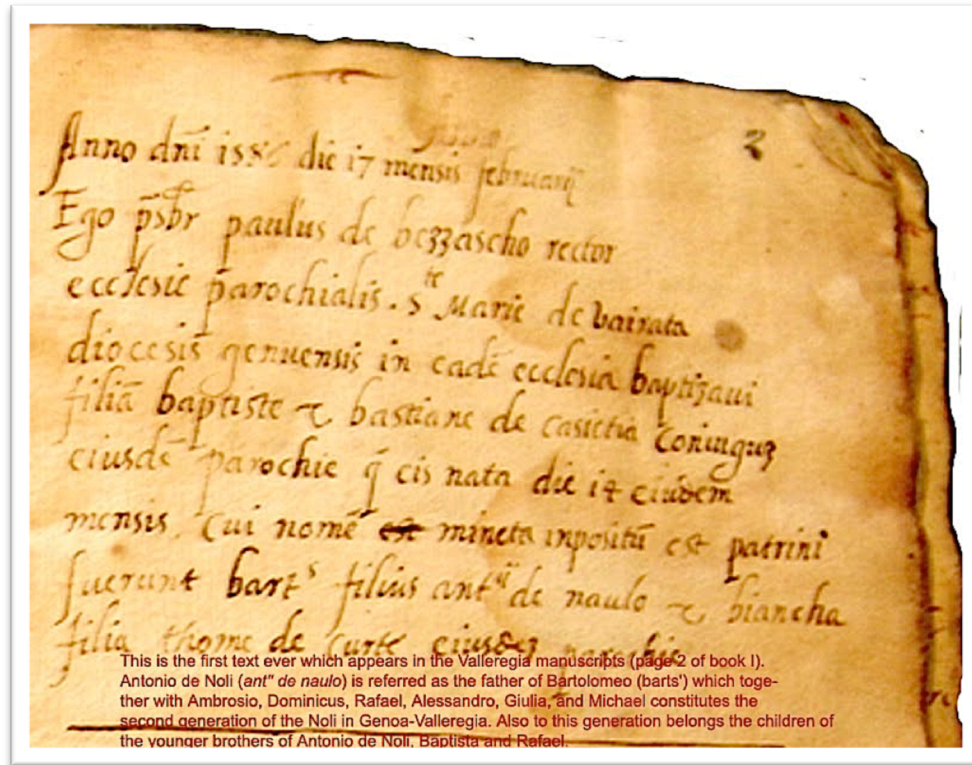
"No Nolis at all in Noli (Savona)" while in Serra Riccò (Genoa) it is found the World highest concentration per capita of Noli individuals

One citizen of Noli, which intervening from the public attending at the event, put forward that in the City of Noli there were "no Nolis", and that they have never seen or heard a record of their existence.

Meanwhile in Serra Riccò (Genoa), the manuscripts of familiar events (baptisms, marriages, etc) recorded in the Valleregia Parish mention the "De Noli" as living in Valleregia by at least 1586. The oldest manuscript is from 1586 , referring a baptism ceremony, and mentioning a godfather of name Bartholomeo de Noli, and also giving that this Bartholomeo was the son of an Antonio de Noli (attachment 1). This Antonio de Noli - referred by 1586 at a grand-father age - is mentioned already in the Cesena manuscripts reviewed in the book, giving indication that his father was Simone de Noli, the navigators son. Since both Simone de Noli and Antonio de Noli were members of the Cesena Council their whereabouts are registered in the manuscripts of the epoch. Please recall that the De Noli family was reported "estinta" in Cesena by 1574 (Verdoni, *Cronache di Cesena* 164.39) coinciding with the reentry of the De Noli in their Genoa territory. After that first civil record of 1586 it comes manuscript after manuscript, generation after generation, in which these and other first names are often repeated (we recorded until 1881, the generation of my grandfather, which also had a brother called Antonio Noli, and which have a grand-grand son of name Simone!)

In the Cesena manuscripts at the Malatestian Library as well as in the Codice Diplomatico Istriano and in the manuscripts of Valleregia, the names *de Noli*, *de Nauli*, *Noli*, *de Nolio*, and *de Naulo* are used indistinctly to refer to the same family Noli. Even a same individual is named in the very same manuscript as for instance Angelica de Nauli as Angelica de Noli (Valleregia), or Antonio de Noli as Antonio de Nolio or Antonio Noli (Cesena), or Arpuliano de Noli de Parma as Arpuliano de Naulis de Parma (Codigo Istriano). This can be just up to the Latin of the priest writing the entries in the Parish book. For instance, the new *parroco* who took in charge Valleregia parish in 1595 (of name Paolo

Rubino) changed from that moment and onwards "Naulo" to "Nauli". Italian translations from old Latin manuscripts use the generic "Noli", which is the name we have also referred to.



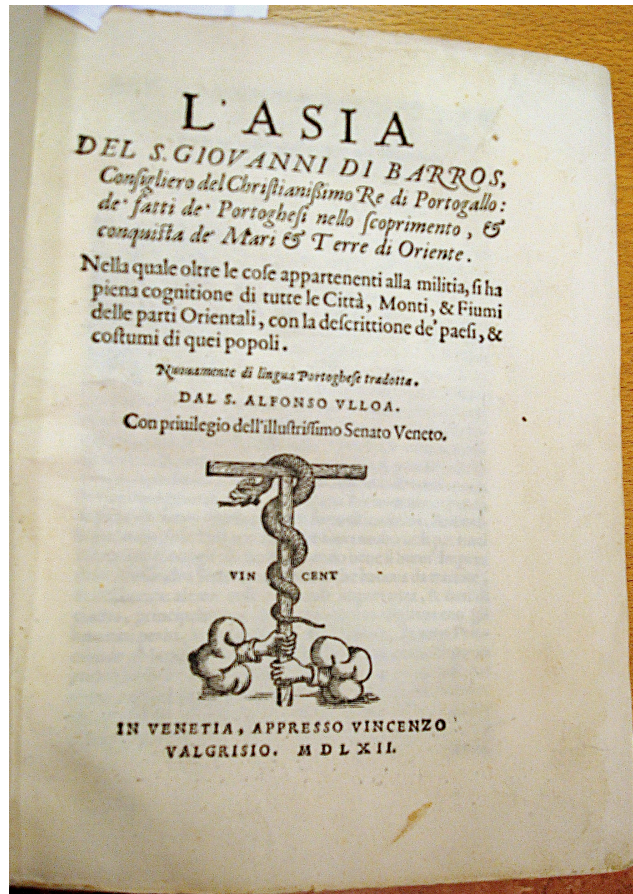
Anno 1586: Oldest manuscript in the Valleregia Archive mentioning Antonio de Noli [*Anto'' de Naulo*], a son of Simone de Noli and grandson of the navigator, here in the manuscript indicated as the father of a Bartolommeo de Noli [*Bart''de Naulo*] named after the navigator's brother) -- ten years after the amnesty by Doria which allowed the repatriation of exiled families from Genoa occurred under the political turmoil of the 1400's and mid 1500's.

There are some 400 hundred Nolis nowadays in Italy, mainly in the Genoa Province and Lombardy. However not a single Noli individual is living in the City of Noli, or related to the population of Noli ("no Nolis in Noli", as it was summed in the meeting), the highest concentration of the Nolis is found in Genoa, **and the World highest concentration per-capita of the Nolis is the De Noli descendants living in Serra Riccò (N= 98 or 1,2 per cent of the total population of the county).**

The former major of Serra Riccò, which is now the cultural adviser of the City Council, communicated us on the 14th of April, in a meeting with the De Noli descendants, on the initiative of giving the name Piazza Antonio de Noli to a main square in the city.

VI

J. Barros L'Asia, Venedig edition, 1562: "of Genoese nationality and of noble blood"



Facsimile of *L'Asia*, by J. Barros. I found the book preserved at the protected section of antiquities at Uppsala University, Sweden. The book was probably a donation by Gråberg, reported to have acquired the book while being Swedish Consul in Genoa during the 1700's

On the two-fold erroneous statement on that in Italian "De" it is exactly the same than "Da" and thus indicates exclusively provenience; further, that therefore the name of the navigator (De or Da Noli) can only mean he was born in Noli city!

Here I argument further on the uses of the suffix "de" in Italian, contesting the asseverations on this item by Dr Ciciliot (see in Section I, "*The suffix "de" in Italian family names*").

Ciciliot affirmed bluntly amid the silent of the participants and public in the referred meeting at Noli that Italians know that *De* only means "coming from a particular place".

But to affirm that in Italian "DE" means unequivocally only *geographic provenience* - like in "Di" or "Da" - is completely inaccurate. I was not completely sure I have heard Dr. Ciciliot right. But after seen the videotape I went to my files and I found some illustrations that in fact clearly differentiate the use of "de" and "da" in ancient times.

This is an entry from [REGESTI Codice Diplomatico Istriano - volume III](#) . Go to entry No 701, in which clearly "de Noli" is pertinent to the family name, and "da Parma", of the Noli branch living then in Parma, which as I reported previously steams from the "Piedmont-branch" later in Lombardy:

701. 1344. 14 Maggio, Indizione XII. Cividale.

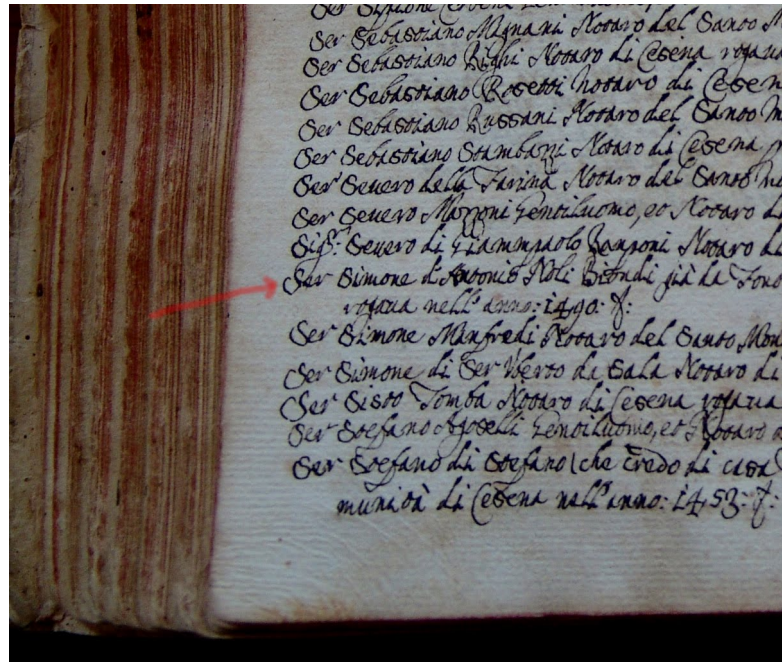
Arpulino de Noli da Parma Vicario del Patriarca accoglie
l'appellazione di Giovanni de Guarini di Padova, già Vicario di
Corrado Bojani Podestà di Muggia, contro condanna in danaro
pronunciata da que' di Muggia a suo carico.
Atti del Notajo Candellario Stefano di Cividale.

In Italian names the use of "De" have a variety of meanings, besides possibly of a synonymous of "da":

- a. In some cases it would denote "son of" (like in "De Laurentis" meaning son of Laurentius, or "De Vito", son of Vitus). The particularity here is that the surname steams from a *first-name* (Laurentius, Vitus, etc). Noli is however a *family name*, so De Noli cannot be "the son of Noli".

Instead, when the old 1400's manuscripts of Cesena would refer that the Council member Simone de Noli was in actual fact Antonio de Noli's son, the formula used was "Simone de Antonio Noli Biondi" (Biondi from the mother's family name. See Fig. 5 in page 51 of the book). On the other hand, when the manuscripts referred just the person (without the indication of fatherhood/motherhood) the name in this case was spelled to as Simone de Noli ("*Simone di Nolio*")

As illustration, I reproduce bellow this manuscript found 2009 by Dr. Carla Rosetti at the Malatestiana Library in Cesena.



Simone de Noli, son of navigator Antonio de Noli enters the Council of Cesena by 1490. Manuscript at the Malatestiana Library, Cesena. A larger image at page 49 in the referred book *Da Noli a Capo Verde*

- b. In some cases “De” it would denote ascription to nobility ranks (like in Duke de Guarco referred above) or family; as well as some times – but not exclusively – as synonym of “di” or “da”.
- c. In some case “De” would denote just a sign of distinction, wealth or “above” position in society.

By eliminating in absolute terms any credibility to authors in the past, such as Joao Barros, which in referring the navigator described his origin as being “of Genoese nationality and of noble blood” (of "sanguine nobile" as Barros stated in 1539) it would be easier to construct a toponymic explanation. The discarding of such information about the nobility rank ascribed by ancient authors and by encyclopaedia works to navigator De Noli is *a sine qua non* condition to implement a toponym thesis (or campanile thesis) on that De Noli was in fact “Da Noli” in the sense of geographic provenience, and thus born in Noli.

This is the “campanile” message delivered *after* the Gandoglia thesis to the citizens of Noli, and which apparently became a tradition, or myth. Such as that Dante had visited or stayed at the city. In actual fact he never did that. To the best of my knowledge, Dante only mentioned “Noli” once in his opus in an argumentation context illustrating something coastal! But with the years this has motivated the organization during tourist-session of the “Passegiata Dantesca”. Traditions are traditions and should be respected. But what about the historic truth which wrong interpretation, or misgiving interpretation, even if not intended so, can hurt the collective honour of other localities or families?

It is a difficult dilemma, we shall agree. And perhaps it will be solved by the public their selves, in Liguria, Italy or internationally.

Now the knowledge is spread all over in books or Internet texts, and the information reproduced here on the whereabouts of the navigator easily found in Italy and elsewhere. With regard to some of Dr Ciciliot’s conceptions, many sites in the Internet, which nothing have to do with our society, would disagree with him. For instance, the site (in English) headed “Italian noble families” lists Antonio de Noli with following description: “Antonio de Noli was a 15th century Genoese nobleman and navigator, and the first governor of the earliest European overseas colony in Subsaharan Africa.”³⁴

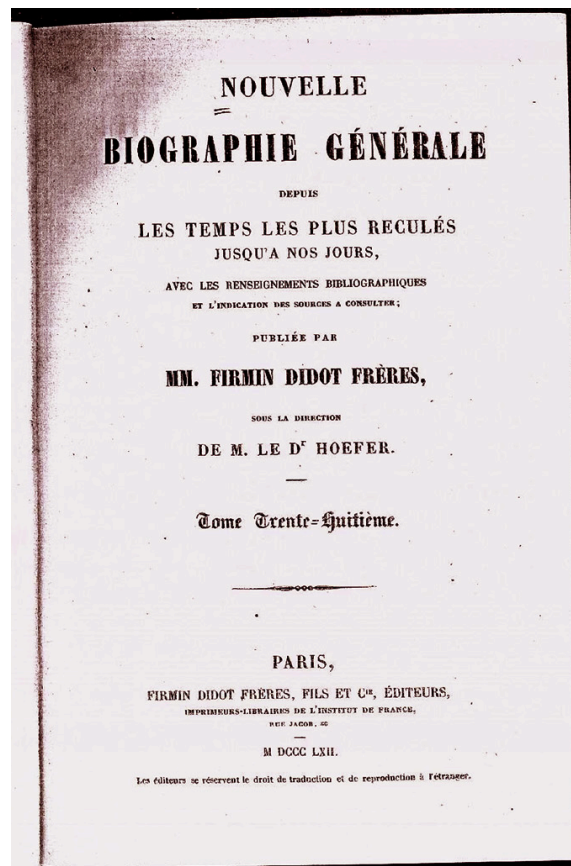
By 2008 my relatives in Genoa had provided me with this list that I post here. Most of the Noli mentioned in the "nobility list" below have belonged to the "signore" or "nobile" ranks, which are relatively low ranks in such hierarchy.

- Only exceptionally we find higher ranks. For instance here in Bergamo there is a street in downtown named Alessandro Noli, who refers to C. Comte Alessandro Noli.³⁵ . Others mentioned in the list were:
- The De Noli in Genoa (“nobles” in Genoa, as reported by Grande Encyclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira, Vol. XVIII, in page 836, indicating

³⁴ https://duckduckgo.com/1/c/Italian_noble_families

³⁵ <http://www.012345.com/guide/pdf/AlbanoSA02-03.pdf>

that A. de Noli "pertenezia a nobreza de Génova" - belonged to the nobility of Genoa)³⁶

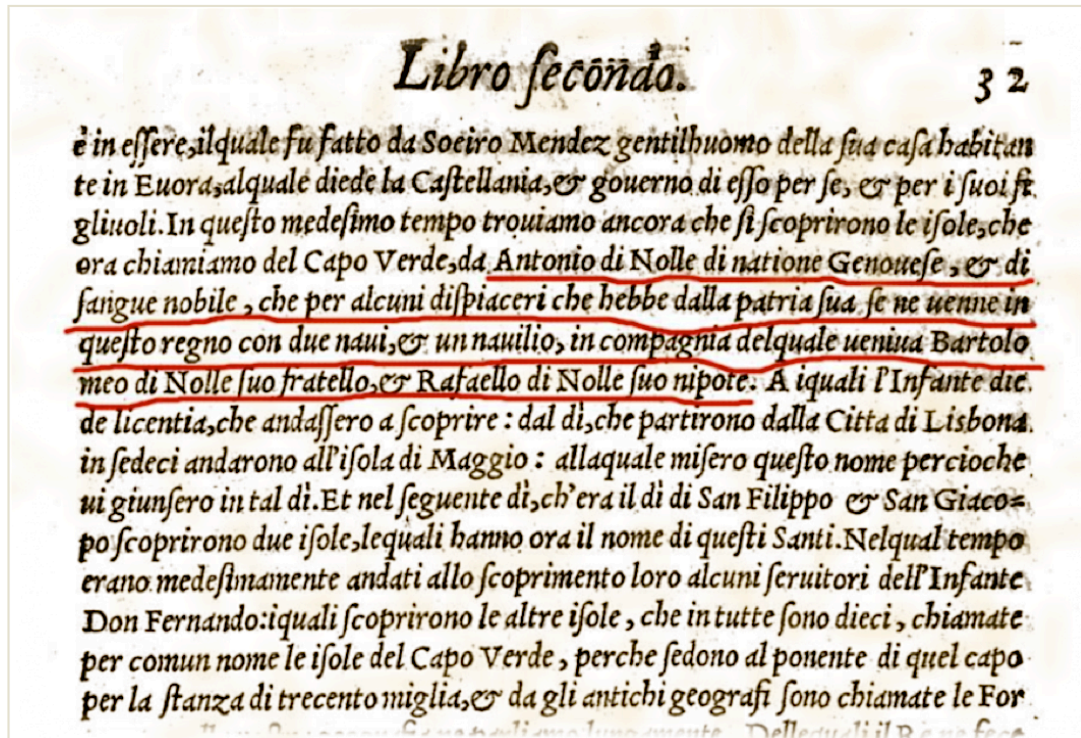


- The reputed *Biographie Générale* by Firmin Didot Frères,³⁷ which in fact was also quoted by Gandoglia 1928, states in page 210 that the navigator was Genoese ("navigateur génois") and "appartenait à une famille patricienne" ("belonged to a patrician family").

The above denomination – patrician – indicates a nobility rank also pertaining the *lower* heraldic segment, together with the *Signori* or *Nobile* ranks, which confirm the general picture referred to some old Noli families when ascribed by authors or manuscripts to nobility.

³⁶ *Grande Encyclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira*, Vol. XVIII, in page 836

³⁷ *Biographie Générale*. Firmin Didot Frères, publishers. Anno M DCCC LVII, Vol. 38, page 210



- Antonio de Noli (*Antonio di Nolle*) is referred by Joao Barros (1539) in *L'Asia* being "of Genoese nationality and of noble blood" ("*sangue nobile*", in the Italian translation of 1562 published in Venice)³⁸. Also referred by Gråberg 1803³⁹
- The *Noli* in Novara (lord family - *famiglie di signore*- from Novara, housing Castle of Cameriano, beginning XIV century). Here below a picture of the front building, mainly ruins, that I took in 2007. Ensuing, a description set up by the municipality of Casalino, in which stands that the castle was habited by several "famiglie di signore" including the *Noli* from Novara in the 1400's.⁴⁰ In Italian: "Agli inizio del Quattrocento . . . abitato da varie famiglie di signori, tra cui i Cattaneo de Cameriano e la famiglia *Noli* de Novara"

³⁸ Joao Barros, *L'Asia*, Id.

³⁹ Giacomo Gråberg, *Annali di Geografia, e di Statistica*, Genova, Anno 1802. Vol. II, page 258. Quote from page 258 "Antonio da Noli, celebre navigatore e nobile ligure, secondo alcuni [Prevot, Hist. general des vogages] ambasciadore della sua repubblica perso Alfonso V. . ."

⁴⁰ Quote from the official site of the Municipality of Casalino: "Agli inizi del quattrocento il castello - diventato un'importante fortezza - fu amministrato per diversi anni dal marchese Teodoro di Monferrato. In seguito divenne feudo dei "Botigella" e fu abitato da varie famiglie di signori, tra cui i Cattaneo di Cameriano e la famiglia *Noli* di Novara."



- The *Noli (terra da)* in Lombardy (nobles in Milan, reported in Stemmario Tribulziano, anno 1390) ⁴¹
- The *Noli* transitorily residing in Cesena (coat of arms archived in Cesena, as reported by Blazone Cesenati of 1789). Presumably from Genoa. The design of the coat the arms strong resembles that one of Genoa - red band on white shield ⁴²
- The *de Noli* from Parma (nobles at Parma, in Dizionario Diplomatico, anno 1344) ⁴³
- The *Noli Dattarino*, also in Lombardy (nobles in Cremona, as given in Blasonario Cremasco), etc. ⁴⁴
- Nobil Dama Alessandra Noli Datarino ⁴⁵
- Marchesa Rosalia Noli-Dattarino ⁴⁶
- Simone *Noli* was also member of the *Conciglio* in Cesena ⁴⁷
- Antonio *Noli* (da Treggia Rotta) became a member of the Cesenian *Consiglio* in 1556. Named as *Antonio di Nolio*, it is documented he left his position at the Consiglio in 1558 ⁴⁸

⁴¹ <http://www.memodoc.fr/tablesDesNoms-table-182.html>

⁴² <http://www.malatestiana.it/cgi-bin/wxis.exe/?IsisScript=blace/search.xis&tag6000=blace&tag6004=N>

⁴³ Codice Diplomatico Istriano - volume III, Annotazione 478. In *Scrinium Adriae. Medioevo e dintorni*. http://www.scriniumadriae.it/cdi/basecd_3.html

⁴⁴ <http://www.genealogiaitalia.com/italia/lombardia/cremona/blasonariocremasco.asp>

⁴⁵ Testimonianza di Pietro Severigni, *La Nobil Dama Alessandra Noli Dattarino*. In *IZANO NOVECENTO*, A cura di Marco G. Migliorini http://www.archividelcremasco.it/ARCHIVI%20DEL%20CREMASCO/COMUNE%20IZANO/IZANO%20NOVECENTO/0019.0_NOLI%20DATTARINO.htm

⁴⁶ Reference to Marchesa Rosalia Noli-Dattarino in Bianco Giuseppe Umberto, *Barelli Armida incontra Don Orione*. *Messaggi di Don Orione* 35(2003) n.110, p.69-79. See also Note 16 and 20 <http://www.host-lime.com/do/messaggi/articolo.asp?ID=344>

⁴⁷ Biblioteca Malatestiana, Cesena. Personal communication (14/2 2008), and photo of the manuscript page



Serra Riccò (Genoa), July 2005: D. Pissari, Parroco at the San Martino church in Valleregia, holds the manuscript of 20 August 1589 showing the family relationships at the time between the De Noli and the De Frascaroli

- Further, we found a series of manuscripts in Serra Riccò (Genoa) relating the family De Noli with the family De Frascaroli (family of known nobility, e.g. marchesi di Montacuto and signori di Frascarolo). After secured good-quality photographic copies of it, we sent it in 2008 for paleography analysis at the Malatestiana Library. The analysis indicated that Angelica de Noli would have been the spouse of Battista de Frascaroli.

We did chose an excerpt of this manuscript - one of the oldest among the manuscripts we have so far being able to document at the ancient Valleregia parish - to be included in the logo of the Antonio de Noli Academic Society (See image below). In the logo is also present the coat of arms of the Noli.

⁴⁸ Biblioteca Malatetiana di Cesena. Personal communication (16/2 2008)



Marcello Ferrada de Noli,
Ystad, Sweden, 30 April 2013