



FOSCOLO FAMILY OF VENICE

PATRICIANS & ARISTOCRATS

A GENEALOGY

M.P.FOSCOLOS



Foscolo Family of Venice
Patricians and Aristocrats
(A Genealogy)

DR MIKE P. FOSCOLOS

Singapore, 2024

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Dedication

To all members of the Foscolo family past and present.

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FOREWORD

It has often been thought that the Foscolo family were one of the golden families, which founded the Republic of Venice in 423AD. While this may be debatable, there can be no doubt the family was one of the houses that made up the patriciate class, which ruled Venice until its fall in 1797. Despite the family's prominence, there have been few attempts to document its members and their historical contribution. This is hardly surprising. Although all political and economic power in Venice was vested in the patriciate, they acted as a collective. Each member of the patriciate was elected by their peers to serve in various judicial, administrative, and political offices. While the Republic maintained excellent records, to avoid corrupt practices patricians occupied state offices for only a short period of time (anywhere between 3 months to 5 years), before being elected to an entirely new post. This makes the contribution of individual patricians and their families extremely fractured and buried deep in the historical record.

The study of patrician families and their contributions to history requires a very granular approach, involving both genealogical tracing and careful analysis of antecedent history. Unlike stand-alone historical accounts or genealogical investigations, the nexus between the antecedent history and the genealogy is difficult to isolate. For this reason, a body of work that can holdup to academic scrutiny in terms of completeness and accuracy can only be achieved progressively over a significant length of time.

The earliest attempt to document the Foscolo family, and other families within the patriciate, is credited to Venetian historian and genealogist Marco Barbaro. In his work *Genealogie Patrizie*, he presents a crude genealogical tracing of each patrician family, together with a brief outline of each family's historical

contribution. It was not until 1842 that Venetian writer and genealogist Emmanuele Cicogna produced the first genealogical tracing of the Foscolo family with antecedent history. His work takes the form of a letter entitled "*In the Marriage of the Nobleman Daulo Augusto Foscolo to the Baroness Margh Degli Orefic*". Using Barbaro as a framework, he updates the genealogy of the family and adds antecedent history, largely sourced from notable Venetian historians Marino Sanuto (the elder and younger), Alessandro Cappellari, and Flaminio Conaro. This now published work was originally commissioned by Daulo Augustine Foscolo in support of his marriage into the noble Orefic family. Although many historians and genealogist question the completeness of the work, it was a significant step in producing an account of the Foscolo family and its historical contributions.

The author of this book has attempted to build on the work of Barboro and Cicogna, using the much richer body of literature now available, as well as historical records and manuscripts. He provides a much more accurate and complete genealogy of the Foscolo family and adds significantly to the antecedent history. This allows a more complete picture of the family's contribution to the Republic of Venice to emerge. More interestingly the book extends beyond the fall of the Republic of Venice and covers members of the family in the immediate aftermath, including the famous Italian nationalist and poet Ugo Foscolo. The book also traces a branch of the family to the Levant, providing a specific example to a question that has intrigued many; what happened to the Venetian Patricians in the aftermath of the Republic.

As historian and archivist of a noble branch of the Foscolo family, the author has been in a unique position, having benefited from contact with family members that held aristocratic title under the Kingdom of Italy, and who were themselves in contact with family members with first-hand knowledge of events as far back as the

Kingdom of Lombardy Venetia.

The author does not in any way presume this book provides a complete account. As with all historical and genealogical works, it stands to reason this body of work will be extended as new knowledge and information comes to hand. However, the book does represent significant progress on previous publications, and should be of interest to historians, genealogists, as well as those bearing the Foscolo name.

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This book chronicles the Patrician Foscolo family of the Republic of Venice. The book examines the medieval origins of the family and traces notable family members through the history of Republic of Venice until its downfall at the hands of Napoleons forces in 1797. The book then continues to follow the lineage of the family in the aftermath of Republic, tracing the a less known aristocratic sub-branch of the family to Smyrna (Izmir) in the Levant. In addition to the ascendant history, aristocratic titles bestowed on the family and family heraldry is also examined. The book is suitable for those with an interest in the history of the Republic of Venice, as well as those with an interest in the history and genealogy of the Foscolo family.



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