

*Perillustrissimo* \*

# *Rodolfo Braggiotti*

(1720 c. - 1796)

\*“Perillustrissimo” is an Italian title used to express respect and honor. The word “Illustrissimo” means “most honorable” or “most distinguished.” The prefix “Per-” adds emphasis to the expression. This term was commonly used in letters or official documents to address individuals of high rank.

*A Pera ci sono tre malanni: peste, fuoco e dragomanni...*

*In Pera, there are three disasters: plague, fire, and dragomans...*

## **Chapters....**

### ***The Braggiotti family in Constantinople...***

*The origins of the Braggiotti family*

*Francesco Braggiotti, clerk to the Levant Company merchant Ralph Pemberton (1715/6)*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti is born in Constantinople (circa 1720)*

*British Ambassador Count Kinnoull and Mr. Braggiotti (1730–1736)*

*Francesco Braggiotti, merchant in British records (1740)*

*The Braggiotti family as members of the Saint Anne Congregation (1741)*

*The Braggiotti house in Pera (1742)*

### ***Cornelis Calkoen period (1727–1744)***

*Rodolfo Braggiotti in the service of the United Provinces of the Netherlands (1744)*

*Anglo-Dutch relations*

*Dragomans...*

*The education and duties of dragomans...*

### ***Jan Carol Des Bordes period (1744–1747)***

*Rodolfo Braggiotti in Ankara (1745–1747)*

### ***Elbert De Hochepped period (1747–1763)***

*Baron Elbert De Hochepped is appointed ambassador (1747)*

*Grand Vizier Divitdar Mehmed Emin Pasha receives Baron Elbert De Hochepped (1752)*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti continues to engage in commercial matters (1755)*

*The inoculation case of Francesco Braggiotti (1759)*

*A letter by Silahdar İbrahim Ağa translated by Rodolfo Braggiotti (1761)*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti gets married (1762)*

*Doctor Filippo Gobbi*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti becomes the chief dragoman (1763)*

### ***Willem Gerrit Dedel period (1765–1768)***

*Willem Gerrit Dedel is appointed ambassador (1764)*

*Grand Vizier İbrahim Pasha receives Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel (1765)*

*Ralph Pemberton passes away (1765)*

*The fire of Pera (1767)*

*Funeral ceremony of Willem Gerrit Dedel (1768)*

### ***Friedrich Johan Robert von Weiler period (1768–1776)***

*Rodolfo Braggiotti prepares his will (1775)*

### ***Chargé d'affaires Joost Frederik Tor period (1776–1778)***

*Francesco Braggiotti Jr. gets married (1777)*

***Reinier van Haaften period (1778-1784)***

*Reinier van Haaften is appointed ambassador (1778)*

*A proclamation on maritime trade translated by Rodolfo Braggiotti (1780)*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti accompanies the departing Ambassador Reinier van Haaften on his visit to the Grand Vizier (1784)*

***Frederik Gijsbert Baron van Dedem van de Gelder period (1785-1793)***

*Rodolfo Braggiotti accompanies the newly arrived Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert van Dedem from the Netherlands on introductory visits (1785)*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti's debate companions*

*Frederik Gijsbert Baron van Dedem van de Gelder departs Constantinople (1793)*

***Jean Pierre Panchaud and Rodolfo Braggiotti period (1793-1796)***

*The Testa family*

*The memorandum prepared by Jean Pierre Panchaud and Rodolfo Braggiotti (1795)*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti passes away (1796)*

***After Rodolfo Braggiotti (1796-1809)***

*The contested inheritance of Rodolfo Braggiotti (1797)*

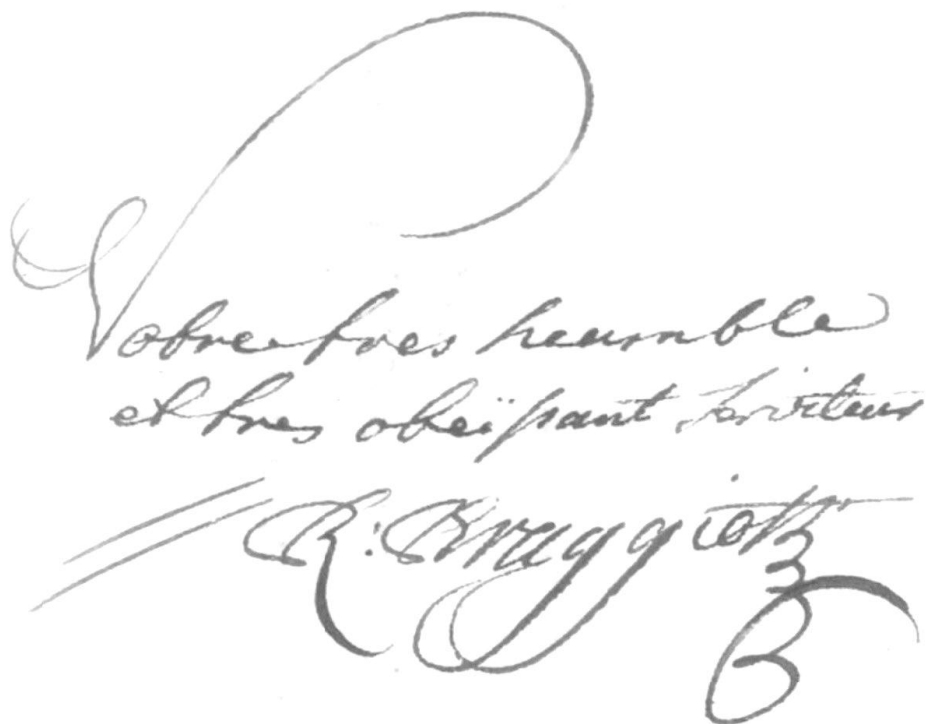
*The Braggiotti house in Büyükdere (1797)*

*The Braggiotti family comes under Prussian protection (1799)*

*The Braggiotti candle factory is shut down by order of the Sublime Porte (1802)*

*Francesco Braggiotti Jr. passes away (1805)*

*Lucie Braggiotti passes away (1809)*



Votre tres humble  
et tres obeissant serviteur  
R. Braggiotti

## *Introduction*

One of the most prominent and esteemed figures of the Braggiotti family was Rodolfo Braggiotti. A member of an ancient Venetian lineage, Rodolfo served the Dutch Republic as a dragoman from a young age. He rose through the ranks at the Dutch Embassy in Constantinople, eventually becoming First Dragoman and then chargé d'affaires. His flamboyant signature can be found on numerous historical documents of his period.

He accompanied ambassadors during their formal audiences with the Sultan and took part in official ceremonies, dressed in the traditional attire of a dragoman - wearing a fur-lined kaftan and a distinctive headdress, the kalpak. He was a figure closely associated with the Ottoman court, maintaining strong relations with Grand Viziers, Reis Efendis, Muftis, and fellow interpreters of the Sublime Porte. His duties regularly brought him into the heart of Ottoman governance.

His brother-in-law served as a physician to Sultan Mustafa III and later to Sultan Abdul Hamid I. Rodolfo himself was more than a dragoman - he was also a medical doctor, an orientalist, and an intellectual. He took a deep interest in Eastern literature and even translated the famed "Law Code" (Kanunname) of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. Known for his eloquence and wide-ranging knowledge, he was unafraid to debate leading minds of the time.

Following his death in 1796, Braggiotti's legacy became the subject of much dispute. Dozens of pages of documents in the Dutch National Archives (75 pages in total) reveal internal family conflicts and the legal battles over his inheritance.

Now, after centuries of silence, forgotten memoirs and faded portraits whisper the story of the man beneath the dragoman's kalpak. Braggiotti's life opens a window onto eighteenth-century Constantinople, revealing its diplomatic rituals, cultural exchanges, and the intricate fabric of trade and power.

*Fabio Tito  
Izmir, July 2024*

## *The origins of the Braggiotti family*

The noble Braggiotti family, which eventually settled in the Levant, had its roots in Venice. From there, the family moved to Milan, later relocating to the island of Corfu, and eventually reaching Chios.

*Les Braggiotti, nobles de Venise, avaient été à Milano d'abord, puis à Corfou et après à Chio...*

(Source: *Les anciennes familles Italiennes de Turquie*, Willy Sperco, Lui Zelliç Matbaacılık, 1937)

The Braggiotti family appears in the general registry of Catholics on the island of Chios from the 1500s onward, recorded in baptism, marriage, and death registers.

In 1587, Angerù Brajoti is listed as the godmother of Georgio Menini, son of Antonio, who was born on Chios (Liber I/293). This is the earliest known evidence of the family's presence on the island.

In 1603, Maria Brajoti appears as the godmother of Isabella Puzzolo, daughter of Agostino (Liber I/692).

(Source: <https://gw.geneanet.org/marmara2?lang=fr&m=S&n=braggiotti&p=>)

From Chios, the Braggiotti family would later move to Constantinople and eventually to Izmir.

By around 1715, Francesco Braggiotti appears in Constantinople, working as the clerk to English merchant Ralph Pemberton.

In this role, Francesco simultaneously worked as a clerk, interpreter, and merchant.

### *Francesco Braggiotti, clerk to the Levant Company merchant Ralph Pemberton (1715/6)*

In the year 1715/16, Francesco Braggiotti appears in Constantinople as the clerk to Ralph Pemberton, an English merchant operating under the umbrella of the Levant Company. This is the earliest known record confirming the Braggiotti family's presence in Constantinople.

At this time, both Francesco Braggiotti and Ralph Pemberton were involved in an *avania* incident. In the 18th century, *avania* referred to a kind of unofficial tax or extortion imposed on foreign merchants.

Three English merchants in Constantinople - Robert Constantine, Robert Stamper, and Dudley Foley - submitted a petition to the ambassador reporting that a corpse had been found near their residences. A total of 608 kuruş was spent to "settle" the *avania* with the local authorities. The cost was divided into 11 shares. The households of Stamper, Constantine, Foley, and two Italian merchants (likely Bernardo di Negri and someone named Carli) paid two shares each, totaling 442 kuruş and 24 akçe. Two others - Francesco Braggiotti and a man named Pagano - contributed smaller amounts.

The three Englishmen requested reimbursement of their portion, 221 kuruş and 8 akçe, from the community treasury, claiming their efforts had served the broader interests of the English nation. One fellow merchant opposed them, stating that had the dragoman not “meddled in the matter,” none of them would have been involved at all. Nevertheless, the council voted by majority to declare it a “national avania.”

*(Source: Bir avaniayı ortadan kaldırmak için yapılan masrafların bir dökümü, 1 Mart 1715/6, Register(s) of the Chancery at Constantinople, mainly concerning petitions to the British ambassador, commercial disputes and orders and appointments, 1708-1716, British National Archives, Kew)*

The dissenting voice in this matter was none other than Ralph Pemberton. He argued that the corpse was found in the garden of Bernardo di Negri’s house and that had the dragoman, Chirico, not interfered without orders from the ambassador, only di Negri would have been implicated. Pemberton claimed the dragoman had tried to quietly resolve the matter with the Galata voyvoda and the neighborhood. In fact, the first secret meeting regarding the incident had been held at Francesco Braggiotti’s home.

*(Source: Kapitülasyonlar ve Osmanlı Hukuk Sistemi, 18. yüzyılda kadılar, konsoloslar ve beratlılar, Maurits H. van den Boogert, çeviren Ali Coşkun Tuncer, 2014)*

*...This merchant, Ralph Pemberton, claimed that the corpse had been found in the grounds of the residence of one Bernardo di Negri, who would have been the only one to suffer from it, if Chirico had not “stirred in this business” without instructions from the ambassador. Pemberton claimed that the dragoman had attempted to settle the matter quietly with the neighborhood and the voyvoda of Galata. The first secret meeting about the matter had taken place in the house of Francesco Braggiotti, Pemberton’s own scribe...*

*(Source: The Capitulations and the Ottoman Legal System, Qadis, Consuls and Beratlıs in the 18th Century, Maurits van den Boogert, 2020)*

All the individuals mentioned—Robert Constantine, Robert Stamper, Dudley Foley, and Ralph Pemberton—were merchants affiliated with The Levant Company.

The Levant Company had been established in 1581 by English merchants who had obtained a royal charter from Queen Elizabeth I to conduct trade with the Ottoman Levant.

Ralph Pemberton had been trading in Constantinople under this company since 1712.

*(Source: <http://www.levantineheritage.com/pdf/Levant-Co-Members-1695-to-1824-D-Wilson.pdf>)*

The Levant Company was a major commercial and diplomatic presence in Constantinople.

By organizing and regulating England’s trade with the Ottoman Empire, it helped strengthen economic ties between the two states. The English community in Pera not only enriched the cultural and social

life of the city, but the company's operations also played a central role in shaping the economic fabric of the district.

In 1737, Richard Pococke, who visited Constantinople, described Pera and Galata as areas heavily populated by descendants of the Genoese who had settled there during the Byzantine era. Some of these families still lived in the area and served as dragomans for ambassadors. Each nation had a designated number of dragomans – usually one or two who handled most of the nation's affairs, while others were used occasionally by merchants. There were also “giovani di lingua,” or language boys, who received low pay and waited in rotation at the palace to accompany foreigners when needed.

*(Source: A Description of the East, and Some Other Countries, Richard Pococke, 1745)*

Could Francesco Braggiotti have been one of the dragomans occasionally employed by merchants, as Pococke describes? Very likely. In addition to working as a clerk, Francesco likely acted as a translator for Ralph Pemberton. Fluent in Ottoman Turkish, Greek, French, and Italian, he could easily communicate with local officials. Belonging to a family that had long resided in the Levant, he was well-versed in local customs and often served as an intermediary. After all, acting as a scribe was one of the fundamental roles of a dragoman.

Another source states that before professional diplomats arrived, merchants from Europe preferred to employ translators from the Latin Catholic families of Galata.

*(Source: Enfants de Langue et Drogmans / Dil Oğlanları ve Tercümanlar, 1995)*

***Ralph PEMBERTON***

***Son of Sir Francis PEMBERTON (1624-1697) and Annie Whichcote (1628-1731)***  
***(Highgate, 1684 - Constantinople, 1765)***

*(Source: Family Tree of Hilda Mary Pemberton)*

*Some other sources, however, report that he died in Of, Trabzon...*

*Born in 1684 - Highgate, London, England*  
*Deceased in 1765 - Of, Trabzon, Turkey*

*Spouse: Maud Leigh*

*(Source: <https://gw.geneanet.org/mwwhelan>)*

***Rodolfo Braggiotti is born in Constantinople (circa 1720)***

Rodolfo Braggiotti was born around the year 1720, near the end of the Tulip Era (*Lâle Devri*), most likely in Constantinople, where his father Francesco Braggiotti was working as clerk and interpreter to merchant Ralph Pemberton.

According to the death registers of the Santa Maria Draperis Church (III/389), Rodolfo passed away in 1796 at the age of 76. Another source, however, states that he died at the age of 80 in the same year (...in 1796 op de leeftijd van tachtig jaar).

(Source: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/78076486.pdf>)

Rodolfo's godfather was likely Ralph Pemberton, who had a close professional relationship with his father.

Pemberton also served as godfather to several other Braggiotti siblings: Catarina Braggiotti in 1725 (Santa Maria Draperis, I/167/642), Francesco Braggiotti in 1728 (I/172/667), and Lucia Braggiotti in 1729 (I/177/684).

Moreover, the given name *Rodolfo*—uncommon within the Braggiotti family—may well have been chosen in reference to Ralph Pemberton himself. Linguistically, the names Ralph and Rudolph are connected through their Norse origin. In church records, the Latin form *Rodolphus* was likely used.

Ralph comes from the old Norse name Hrolf, which is a contraction of Hroldolf. This name would later evolve into Rudolf or Rudolph, making Ralph and Rudolph names with a shared root origin.

(Source: <https://mikespassingthoughts.wordpress.com>)

*Francesco BRAGGIOTTI Sr.,  
born around 1690, worked in Constantinople as the clerk, dragoman, and merchant associated with  
Ralph Pemberton of The Levant Company.*

*He married Smaragda Marini (1690–1755),  
daughter of Giovanni Marini (c. 1665–1715) and Catarina De Negri (c. 1668–1735).  
Together, they had eight children:*

**Rodolfo BRAGGIOTTI (c. 1720–1796)**

Godfather: Possibly Ralph Pemberton

First Dragoman and chargé d'affaires at the Dutch Embassy in Constantinople

Married Marie Dané

**Antonio BRAGGIOTTI?**

Listed as a *giovane di lingua* (trainee interpreter) at the Austrian Embassy in Constantinople (1735)



**Catarina BRAGGIOTTI (1725–1753)**

Godfather: Ralph Pemberton

**Anna BRAGGIOTTI (1727–1727)**

**Francesco Jr. BRAGGIOTTI (1728–1805)**

Godfather: Ralph Pemberton

Dragoman at the Dutch Embassy in Constantinople

Married Marianne Bonifacy, daughter of Dr. Jean Paul Bonifacy

**Lucie BRAGGIOTTI (1729–1809)**

Godfather: Ralph Pemberton

Remained unmarried; was a *Tertiaire de St. François* (a lay member of the Franciscan Third Order)

**Maria BRAGGIOTTI (1731–1731)**

**Victoria BRAGGIOTTI (1731–1732)**

***The Earl of Kinnoull and Mr. Braggiotti (1730–1736)***

George Henry Hay, 8th Earl of Kinnoull, arrived in Constantinople on April 15, 1730, as the British Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. Accompanying him was his butler, Samuel Medley, who would keep a detailed daily journal throughout their stay.

(Source: *The Earl and His Butler in Constantinople: The Secret Diary of an English Servant Among the Ottomans*, Nigel and Caroline Webb, 2008)

According to Medley's journal, the ambassador befriended a local resident referred to as "Mr. Braggiotti," and frequently met with Ralph Pemberton, a merchant of The Levant Company ("...merchant, attends chapel and dines with Lord Kinnoull").

Medley also mentions that in 1734, Mr. Braggiotti's son Antonio began serving as a *giovane di lingua* (trainee interpreter) under Ludwig von Talmann, the Austrian ambassador to the Sublime Porte (1728–1737).

*It is not clear who Mr. Bragioty (or Brigoty, or other various spellings) may have been, but he and his son dined with Kinnoull earlier that year... Kinnoull wrote to Robinson, the English Resident in Vienna, sending him A thousand thanks" for all he had done for Antonio Bragiotti – the son, presumably – in recommending him to Prince Eugene to be a giovane di lingua (that is, a trainee interpreter) to the Emperor at Constantinople. His father is a particular friend."*

Count Kinnoull thanks the British Ambassador in Vienna, Thomas Robinson, for all he has done regarding Antonio Braggiotti. Robinson must have recommended Braggiotti to Prince Eugene...

Ambassador Hay will leave Constantinople in the autumn of 1936...

Here are some entries from the secret diary of the butler Samuel Medley about Braggiotti and Pemberton...

*April 15, 1734: The Earl dined in the dining room with Mr. Braggiotti and two Swedish gentlemen. He had supper at the Dutch ambassador's house. It was a rainy day.*

*September 17, 1734: Mr. Braggiotti's son dined with His Excellency. The Earl received a guest. I walked to the great mansion and later visited Mr. Clarke.*

*October 7, 1734: I walked alone and then again with Mr. Clarke – and with Mr. Pemberton (a merchant).*

*December 17, 1734: A lovely morning. I walked to Galata. Mr. Braggiotti met me and helped me buy fabric for a suit. Later, I walked with Mr. Brown to Baptista the tailor and then to Mr. Hillar's, where we shared a bottle of wine. His Excellency dined in his cabinet and had supper at the Venetian ambassador's house.*

*December 18, 1734: I visited Mr. Braggiotti to discuss the lining, and then went with Mr. Brown to the French tailor. His Excellency dined in my lady's room.*

*January 3, 1735: It was very rainy. Mr. Braggiotti and his son dined with His Excellency in my lady's salon.*

*March 15?, 1735: I attended the funeral of Mr. Braggiotti's mother. The French ambassador visited His Excellency that evening.*

*April 6, 1735 (Easter Sunday): His Excellency attended church in the morning and had lunch with all the merchants in the afternoon – Mr. Hanger, Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Clarke, two Miss Savages, a Hungarian Protestant officer, and myself. We commemorated our Saviour's death and resurrection.*

*July 5, 1735: His Excellency dined at 3 o'clock. Mr. Braggiotti was present.*

*August 11, 1735: A rainy morning. The merchants were in Belgrade. Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Braggiotti dined with His Excellency. Mr. Vizicoff visited him.*

*January 11, 1736 – Mr. Pain preached and administered communion. Present were Mr. Pemberton, Mr. Abbot, the two Misses Savage, two other individuals, and poor worthless myself...*

The Mr. Braggiotti mentioned in this diary must be Francesco Braggiotti, who at that time had business relations in Constantinople with the British merchant Ralph Pemberton. Therefore, the student interpreter Antonio Braggiotti would be either a brother of Rodolfo Braggiotti...

We also see that Medley wrote in his diary that he attended the funeral of Mr. Braggiotti's mother.

15 Saturday - I was at the funeral of Mr. Braggiotti's mother...

The person Medley refers to as the mother here should not be the actual mother of Francesco Braggiotti, but rather his mother-in-law, Catarina De Negri, who died in March 1735. Indeed, Catarina De Negri passed away on Saturday, March 26, 1735. March 15, on the other hand, was a Tuesday, so the number 15 must refer to a different kind of sequence or numbering used in the diary...

Catherina De Negri, 26 Mars 1735, Ste Marie Drap  ris, Mort 1/585.

(Source: <https://gw.geneanet.org/marmara2>)



A page from Samuel Medley s diary.

In the lower right section, Medley refers to the funeral of Mr. Braggiotti s mother (March 1735)... (Source: <http://www.leginipress.co.uk/samsdiary.htm>)

## ***Francesco Braggiotti in British Records (1740)***

Francesco Braggiotti's name appears in British commercial records, particularly in documents related to the firm Barker & D'Aeth, which had been operating in Galata since 1736. This company was established in Constantinople by Benjamin Barker and Thomas D'Aeth, both merchants of the Levant Company.

*Papers concerning effects of Messrs Law & Brown (London) in the hands of Francis Braggiotto (Galata), assigned to Evelyn Chadwicke (London); Accounts of sale (4) and account current from Francis Braggiotto to Law & Brown, 18 June 1740*

These documents show that assets or transactions belonging to Law & Brown were being handled by Francis Braggiotto in Galata. Included are four sales records and a statement of current account dated June 18, 1740, transferred to Evelyn Chadwicke in London.

*Barker & D'Aeth (Galata), Family and business papers and correspondence of the Radcliffe family of Hitchin Priory, 1538-1944, Business, Edward & Arthur Radcliffe, With "cargazoon" of the "Delawar", and undated letter concerning Francis Braggiotto, 22 Sept 1742; 16-19 Oct 1742*

These documents pertain to the Barker & D'Aeth firm in Galata and are part of the Radcliffe family's collection of business and family correspondence. They include the cargo manifest of the ship Delawar and an undated letter concerning Francis Braggiotto...

*Francis Braggiotto (Pera [Near Constantinople]) to Benjamin Barker, forwarded to E& AR by Barker & D'Aeth or Benjamin & George Barker, endorsed by ER as forwarded by Barker & D'Aeth, 16-19 Oct 1742*

This document is a correspondence sent by Francis Braggiotto from Pera, near Constantinople, to Benjamin Barker. The letter was forwarded to E. & A.R. (likely another party or organization) by either Barker & D'Aeth or Benjamin & George Barker...

*Barker & D'Aeth (Galata) - With copies of accounts of sale and account current from Francis Braggiotto [represented as Braggiotti] (Galata) to Law & Brown (London), 9 and 25 Mar 1742*

This record, found among the papers of the Barker & D'Aeth company, contains sales accounts and copies of current accounts sent by Francis Braggiotto (also referred to as Braggiotti) to Law & Brown in London. The documents are dated March 9 and 25, 1742, and reflect the consistency of financial reporting and transactions between Braggiotto and Law & Brown...

*Francis Braggiotto (Pera [Near Constantinople]) to Benjamin Barker, forwarded to E& AR by Barker & D'Aeth or Benjamin & George Barker, 1 June 1756*

*Francis Braggiotto (Pera [Near Constantinople]) to Benjamin Barker, forwarded to E& AR by Barker & D'Aeth or Benjamin & George Barker, 1 Nov 1756, endorsed as forwarded by B & G Barker, 1 July 1757*

*(Source: Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies)*

In summary, these documents found in British archives reveal that Francesco Braggiotti was, during this period, engaged in business relations with The Levant Company – which worked closely with the British Embassy – as well as with other British-based firms.

The records reflect detailed financial interactions and correspondence between Francesco Braggiotti and key commercial figures such as Barker & D'Aeth, Law & Brown, and the Radcliffe family. They serve as significant sources for understanding how British merchants operated in Constantinople and managed their networks in London through transregional partnerships and correspondence beyond geographical boundaries...

### ***The Braggiotti family belonged to the Confraternity of Saint Anne (1741)***

In the 1741 register of members of the Confraternity of Saint Anne (*Catalogo de fratelli e sorelle della Confraternita di Sancta Anna*), we find the following members of the Braggiotti family residing in Constantinople at the time...

*Francesco Braggiotti Senior*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti*

*Francesco Braggiotti Junior*

*Francesco Braggiotti di Domenico*

(Source: *Deux documents d'archives pour l'histoire de la latinité ottomane de Constantinople: Catalogo de fratelli e sorelle della Confraternità di Sancta Anna, 1741 & Notice historique par César Saih, Rinaldo Marmara, 2004*)

This confraternity was particularly engaged in charitable activities and offered its members the opportunity to participate in all religious ceremonies. The leadership of the confraternity was structured with a president and a vice-president. The president's duties were primarily religious in nature. They were responsible for organizing and actively participating in various ceremonies, especially during Holy Week and the Easter feast.

During designated feasts and at times specified by the council, members wore a standardized garment referred to as the *sack*. This was a loose-fitting robe made of fine white fabric, with sleeves, likely fastened with a rope belt similar to those of the Franciscan order, and included a hood.

The confraternity owned its own flag and valuable sacred objects, among which were a painting of the Risen Christ, a silver icon of Saint Anne, and a finely carved silver reliquary containing the Holy Thorn...

(Source: *Osmanlı Başkentinde Bir Levanten Senti Galata – Pera, Rinaldo Marmara, 2020*)

### ***The Braggiotti House in Pera (1742)***



A Constantinople panorama created in 1741–1742 by Giovanni Francesco Rossini (1688–1764), Sergeant Major and Military Attaché of the Venetian Embassy (*Veduta di Pera e della costa d'Asia dal Palazzo di Svezia*, 39 x 95 cm., disegno acquarellato su carta, realizzato per il bailo veneziano Andrea Erizzo presso la Sublime Porta nel 1741-42 dal tenente colonnello Giovanni Francesco Rossini, addetto militare dell'ambasciata veneziana di Costantinopoli), depicts the house of the merchant Braggiotti in Pera...

(Source: *Eredità dell'Islam, arte islamica in Italia*, Giovanni Curatola, 1993)

In the foreground of the engraving, from left to right, are the houses of the Swedish translator Gian Gioglu, the translator named Amirà, the house of the merchant Braggiotti, and the house and garden of the English merchant Willis.

(Source: *Il Palazzo degli ambasciatori di Venezia a Costantinopoli e le sue antiche memorie*, Tommaso Bertelè, 1932)

*Pierre Jamjoglou, interprète du roi de Suède à Constantinople en 1787.*

(Source: *Istanbul et les langues orientales*, 1997)

*Christophe Amirà, Drogman du Consulat de France à Smyrne (1696)*

*Alessandro Amirà, vivant à Constantinople en 1731*

(Source: <https://gw.geneanet.org/marmara2>)

Within the Levant Company, there were many merchants bearing the surname Willis...

(Source: <https://www.levantineheritage.com>)

Alexander De Groot states that this house in the engraving belongs to the translator Rodolfo Braggiotti...

*He lived in a large house next to the Dutch Embassy...*

(Source: *The Netherlands and Turkey*, Alexander H. de Groot, 2009)

*Braggiotti, Rodolphe, dragoman Dutch embassy; house features in panorama of Constantinople...*

(Source: <https://labankaptein.com/pieter-van-woensel-index/>)

This house must be the residence of the merchant Francesco Braggiotti, meaning it is the family home of Rodolfo Braggiotti...

Pera is located on a hill, and all the ambassadors resided there... The ambassadors lived here with greater splendor than in other places, in accordance with the country's traditions, and their tables were open to everyone...

*(Source: A Description of the East, and Some Other Countries, Richard Pococke, 1745)*

In the 1740s, Pera stood out as the most cosmopolitan and European-like district of Constantinople...

Diplomatic missions, trade, and social life made Pera different from other parts of Constantinople. The intense relations with Europe greatly shaped Pera's cultural and economic structure. During this period, Pera was the region that best represented both Constantinople's and the Ottoman Empire's connections with the West.

In Pera, architecture was largely in the European style. There were embassy buildings and large mansions built with stone and wood. These structures, inspired by European architecture, reflected the cosmopolitan nature of the district. The narrow streets and passages of Pera were characteristic features of the area. These streets were places of intense commercial and social interactions...



*Veduta di Pera e della costa d Asia dal Palazzo di Svezia, Giovanni Francesco Rossini (1742), watercolor, 39 x 95 cm., Venice, private collection.*

*In the foreground, from left to right: the house of the Swedish translator Gian Gioglu; the house of the translator Amirà; the house of the merchant Braggiotti; the house and garden of the English merchant Willis.*

*(Source: Eredita dell'Islam - Arte Islamica in Italia, Giovanni Curatola, 1993)*

## ***Rodolfo Braggiotti in the service of the Dutch Republic (1744)***

Rodolfo Rodolfo Braggiotti began working as a dragoman in the service of the United Dutch Republic, probably in 1744, during the term of Ambassador Cornelis Calkoen (1727-1744).

He would serve the Dutch Embassy in Constantinople for more than fifty years...

Since the 17th century, the Netherlands had been a country that developed its commercial and diplomatic relations with the Ottoman Empire.

Dutch merchants were engaged in trade activities in Pera and traded goods from the West.

During this period, the trade of commercial goods such as silk, velvet, and brocade fabrics, valuable spices like black pepper, cinnamon, cloves, saffron, dried and salted seafood, and tobacco was of great importance.

The earliest document we have that shows Rodolfo Braggiotti's connection with the Dutch Embassy in Constantinople, particularly related to commercial matters, dates back to February 1, 1744.

The manuscript, which consists of 583 pages and is part of the collection of the Foundation for Historical Research and Documentation Centers, founded by Ertuğrul Zekai Ökte, has the Italian title *Libro di tutti Commi Lettere e Certi Memori del principato adj pmo Febraio l'anno 1744 p. Rodolpho Braggiotti Drag<sup>o</sup> Nell'Ambasciata di Sua Eccza Cornelio Calkoen...*

(Source: [https://isamveri.org/pdfdrg/lnd01/028952\\_LANDAUJM.pdf](https://isamveri.org/pdfdrg/lnd01/028952_LANDAUJM.pdf))

*...Among the manuscript materials in this vakfiye are numerous as yet uncatalogued original documents from the Dutch Embassy and consulates in the Ottoman Empire. Stored in several large containers, they number several thousands and cover the period 1740-1830, approximately. Herein I proceed to discuss one such document which may well be among the most interesting in this collection.*

*The manuscript is entitled Libro di tutti Commi (=Commandamenti) Lettere e Certi Memori del principato adj (=adjacente) pmo (=primo) Febraio l'anno 1744 p. (=per) Rodolpho Braggiotti Drag<sup>o</sup> (=Dragomano) Nell'Ambasciata di Sua Eccza (=Eccellenza) Cornelio Calkoen. It comprises 528 numbered pages (of which one folio, pp. 7-8, is missing), plus one unnumbered written page at the beginning and twelve unnumbered pages, listing the documents, at the end. The size of the pages is 31.5 cm. x 19.5 cm. The manuscript is closely written (but legible nonetheless), mostly in Ottoman Turkish, but with frequent headings in Italian, at first, and later in French, as well as with occasional translations of some of the documents into Italian, especially in the earlier parts of the manuscript.*

*At the end of the manuscript, on page 528 (erroneously inscribed 524) one reads: Finit en 31 Mars 1773, par R. Braggiotti, premier Draf<sup>n</sup> (=Dragoman) de l'Ambassade de Leurs Hautes Puissances (short for: Leurs Hautes Puissances les Etats Généraux, i. e., the Netherlands) sous l'Administration de M. de Weiler, chargé des affaires de la dite Ambassade...*

(Source: [https://isamveri.org/pdfdrg/lnd01/028952\\_LANDAUJM.pdf](https://isamveri.org/pdfdrg/lnd01/028952_LANDAUJM.pdf))

As can be understood from this manuscript, the languages spoken and written by Rodolfo Braggiotti included Italian, French, and Ottoman Turkish. Additionally, Greek, and possibly English, Dutch, and perhaps Arabic should also be considered...



However, we do not have information about the type of education Rodolfo Braggiotti received. Before becoming a dragoman, was he a *giovane di lingua* (a young language learner) or a student translator?

Moreover, sources also mention that he was a medical doctor...

*Rudolphe Braggiotti (d. 1796), First Dragoman of the Dutch embassy since 1767, a learned orientalist as well as a medical man...*

*(Source: Eastward Bound: Dutch Ventures and Adventures in the Middle East, G. J. H. van Gelder, Ed de Moor, 1994)*

*Rodolfo Braggiotti, who was also a doctor, replaced Caratza...*

*(Source: İstanbul'da Hollanda Sarayı, Marlies Hoenkamp-Mazgon, 2002)*

*One should also note the link of the profession of dragoman and that of physician, which occurs not infrequently at the time among the Latin as well as the Greek group of dragomans. Rodolpho Braggiotti, the Dutch First Dragoman since 1767, and Skarlatos Karatza, his predecessor in that function, who served a number of viziers as their doctor, are just other examples...*

*(Source: The Netherlands and Turkey, Alexander H. De Groot, 2010)*



***Pera'da An Embassy in Pera, Jean Baptiste Vanmour, c. 1720 - c. 1744***  
***This painting gives a nice impression of the embassies in Pera's diplomatic district.***  
***These embassies consisted of a stone ground floor designed for servants***  
***and a wooden upper floor with splendid rooms...***  
***(Source: Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)***

## *Anglo-Dutch relations*

Francesco Braggiotti, the father, came from a Venetian family and worked as a secretary and translator for Ralph Pemberton, a merchant of the British Levant Company in Constantinople. At the same time, he was collaborating with many merchants and companies of English origin. He was also close friends with the British Ambassador in Constantinople... His sons, Rodolfo Braggiotti and Francesco Braggiotti, would later serve as dragomans for the Dutch Republic...

So, what kind of relationship existed between these countries at the time? In the 18th century, relations between England and the Netherlands were complex and multifaceted, especially in terms of trade, diplomacy, and military alliances.

The British Levant Company was founded in the 16th century to trade with the Ottoman Empire. British merchants needed consular and dragoman services to conduct trade within Ottoman territories.

The Netherlands was also an important European power trading in Ottoman territories. The Dutch traded through the VOC (Dutch East India Company) and similarly benefitted from consular and dragoman services.

By the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century, England and the Netherlands had established military and diplomatic alliances. For instance, during the War of Spanish Succession (1701-1714), both countries fought against Spain alongside Austria and other allies... These alliances were maintained through diplomatic missions and information exchange. While trading in Ottoman territories, England and the Netherlands may have cooperated to protect similar interests, such as ensuring the safety of their merchants and keeping trade routes open.

Francesco Braggiotti served England and protected its commercial interests in the Ottoman Empire. His sons, on the other hand, worked to safeguard the interests of the Netherlands. The fact that Francesco Braggiotti's sons began working as dragomans at the Dutch Embassy could have been a reflection of diplomatic cooperation and information sharing between England and the Netherlands...

### *Dragomans...*

According to the Turkish Language Institution, "dragoman" is of French origin and means translator.

*Fransızca dragoman, çevirmen*

(Source: <https://sozluk.gov.tr/>)

However, when looking at Larousse, it is seen to originate from the Arabic word "turdjumān." It refers to an official translator responsible for assisting diplomatic and consular representatives in the Ottoman Empire.

*Drogman, italien dragomanno, de l'arabe turdjumān, interprète. Dans l'Empire ottoman, interprète officiel chargé de seconder les agents diplomatiques et consulaires.*

(Source: <https://www.larousse.fr/>)

According to the Italian Treccani dictionary, dragomans were Europeans who acted as interpreters between Europeans and the Arabic, Turkish, and Persian-speaking peoples of the Near East. They worked in embassies, consulates, diplomatic and commercial missions, port and customs offices, European courts, and with Eastern rulers...

(Source: <https://www.treccani.it>)

Another source states that this word (Arabic ترجمان *tarǧumān*, *turdschuman*) has Semitic roots and is also seen in Akkadian (*targumannu*) and Aramaic (*targemana*)...

(Source: <https://world4.eu/dragoman-vincenzo-belluti/>)

## ***Training and duties of Dragomans...***

Only France and Austria were the countries where citizens born in their own countries were employed as dragomans. These two governments had established training schools in their countries:

In Paris, the École des Jeunes de Langue, which became the École Nationale des Langues Orientales vivantes in 1795, and in Vienna, the Orientalische Akademie, founded in 1754...

However, despite these schools, both France and Austria continued to employ a large number of Levantines in their embassies and consulates...

Other capitulation powers, such as England, the Netherlands, and Prussia, did not have training programs for their citizens to serve as dragomans. As a result, they could only employ citizens born in their own countries in this role in exceptional cases.

These countries were dependent on the services of Levantines...

In both cases, their duties were the same: to serve as indispensable intermediaries between the ambassador, their government, and the Sublime Porte...

The linguistic skills of these dragomans enabled them to overcome the social and cultural barriers between the East and the West. In addition to their basic tasks of translation and secretarial work, dragomans had to inform their ambassadors about legal matters, local customs, and protocols.

Dragomans provided all kinds of assistance to their ambassadors and, over time, became their diplomatic representatives with Ottoman officials, gradually taking over the ambassador's duties and becoming their eyes, ears, and mouth...

During the period 1675–1740, the influence of locally recruited dragomans grew steadily and they enjoyed full diplomatic protection. Criminal and civil cases involving foreign nationals could not be prosecuted by the Ottoman judiciary in the absence of the relevant embassy dragoman. Any decision made by the kadi had to be approved by the dragoman present at the court hearings. Even his dissent or absence rendered the work of the Ottoman judiciary invalid...

*(Source: The Netherlands and Turkey: Four Hundred Years of Political, Economical, Social and Cultural Relations, Alexander H. De Groot, 2007)*

In any case, more than one interpreter was on duty at each embassy. For the Dutch embassy, this number never exceeded four.

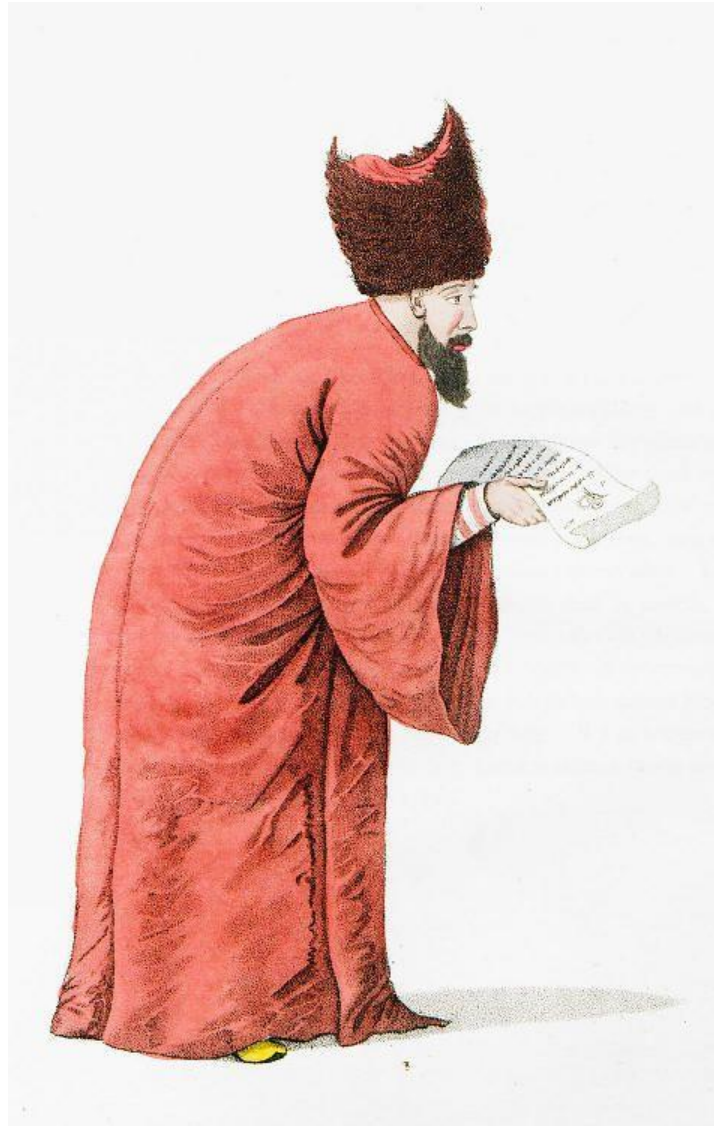
The first interpreter was important because he was also the ambassador's advisor. The first interpreter visited the Sublime Porte every day and held discussions on ceremonies, new laws, conflicts between consuls and local authorities, and general political developments.

The Count of Saint-Priest, who was the French ambassador to the Sublime Porte between 1768 and 1784, stated that the ambassador could only be the first secretary of the first interpreter...

*Monsieur le maréchal, le roi peut envoyer à Constantinople, pour le représenter, l'ambassadeur le plus habile et le plus consommé en diplomatie; celui-ci ne peut être et ne sera jamais que le premier secrétaire du premier drogman...*

*Marshal, the king may send to Constantinople to represent him the most skillful and experienced ambassador in diplomacy; but he can and will be the first secretary to the first interpreter...*

*(Source: Revue de l'Orient, de l'Algérie et des colonies, bulletin de la Société Orientale de France, 1864)*



*A dragoman, Octavien Dalvimart, 1802*  
(Source: *The Costume of Turkey, Illustrated by a Series of Engravings; with Description in English and French*)

### ***Rodolfo Braggiotti in Ankara (1745-1747)***

After Ambassador Calkoen's departure in 1744, embassy affairs in Constantinople were overseen by embassy secretary Jan Carol Des Bordes (1744-1747), who held the title of interim representative.

The first record concerning Rodolfo Braggiotti found in the Dutch National Archives corresponds to this period. It is a letter dated January 13, 1746, written in response to Braggiotti's letters dated November 30 and December 20, 1745, and indicates that Braggiotti was in Ankara at that time.

*(117) Outgoing letters. Minutes, 1744-1748*

*R. Braggiotti, Angora, 1746,*

R. Braggiotti, Angora, 1747

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

A M. Braggiotti a Angora (Pera ce 13 Janv. 1746)

The letter sent to Rodolfo Braggiotti on January 13, 1746, is a significant document reflecting the diplomatic and commercial context of the time. The author of the letter states that he received Braggiotti's letters dated November 30 and December 20. The latter reached him via a courier on December 28. The author intended to reply immediately but was delayed due to the Ottoman Empire's heavy workload. This intense activity was caused by the arrival of Mustafa Efendi from Iran and the Khan of Crimea...

After the delay, finally, Mr. Caratza delivered a letter from the Agha of the Janissaries and a firman (imperial edict) from the Ottoman government to the author. The same writer expresses confidence that, with these documents, the individuals in question will be persuaded. He also notes that, if the issue cannot be resolved, Rodolfo Braggiotti should proceed as he sees best...

The letter also notes that many individuals were in no position to make payments, and in this situation, Rodolfo Braggiotti is advised to manage affairs as best as he can and not to be too forceful.

Moreover, it appears that in his letter dated November 30, Rodolfo Braggiotti stated that he had succeeded in winning the *Kadı* (local judge) over to their side.

Braggiotti's presence in Ankara in 1746 was likely related to diplomatic duties, the management of commercial relations, or information gathering. Serving in a key city like Ankara to protect and promote the interests of the Embassy of the United Provinces of the Netherlands in Constantinople would also have been important for monitoring political and economic developments in the Ottoman Empire's interior regions.

Indeed, from the first letter sent to Rodolfo Braggiotti, we learn that certain Dutch merchants such as D'Amiral (possibly *Amirà*?) and Justinus Leytstar were active in Ankara at that time. Leytstar, for instance, purchased textiles worth 727 *kuruş*.

*Pieter Jacobus (Pietro Giacomo) Leytstar, merchant in Istanbul (Leytstar brothers) with Justinus Johannes, bankrupt Oct 1740, from 1743 in Angora, he was still merchant in Angora in Dec 1757...*

(Source: <https://www.levantineheritage.com>)

Ankara was especially renowned for its mohair production. This valuable fiber, obtained from the wool of Angora goats, was in high demand in both local and international markets. The region's fertile lands also played a significant role in the production of wheat, barley, and other grains. Livestock farming was widespread as well, making leather and leather goods important commercial commodities. Beyond mohair, Ankara was also a center for the production and trade of various textile goods. Other raw materials such as cotton and linen were likewise important trade items...

But this letter constitutes a significant and valuable document from multiple perspectives:

- **Historical and Diplomatic Perspective:**

The letter offers important insights into the diplomatic and bureaucratic operations of the 18th-century Ottoman Empire. It reveals the administrative structure of the Ottoman state, its relationships with local officials, and modes of communication within the state.

- **Economic and Commercial Perspective:**

The letter provides information about the economic conditions, commercial transactions, and currencies of the period. Details regarding Justinus Leytstar's textile purchase and payment issues offer clues as to how Ottoman trade functioned.

- **Social and Legal Perspective:**

The section concerning the *Kadı* (judge) serves as a key source for understanding the legal and local justice system in Ottoman society. The judge being persuaded and the public's financial struggles shed light on broader social and economic challenges.

- **Administrative and Governance Perspective:**

The letter explains how the Ottoman administrative system operated, how *firman*s (imperial decrees) and other official documents were used, and how governance and control mechanisms functioned. Moreover, the writer's warnings about careful management offer insights into the administrative practices of the time.

- **Linguistic and Stylistic Perspective:**

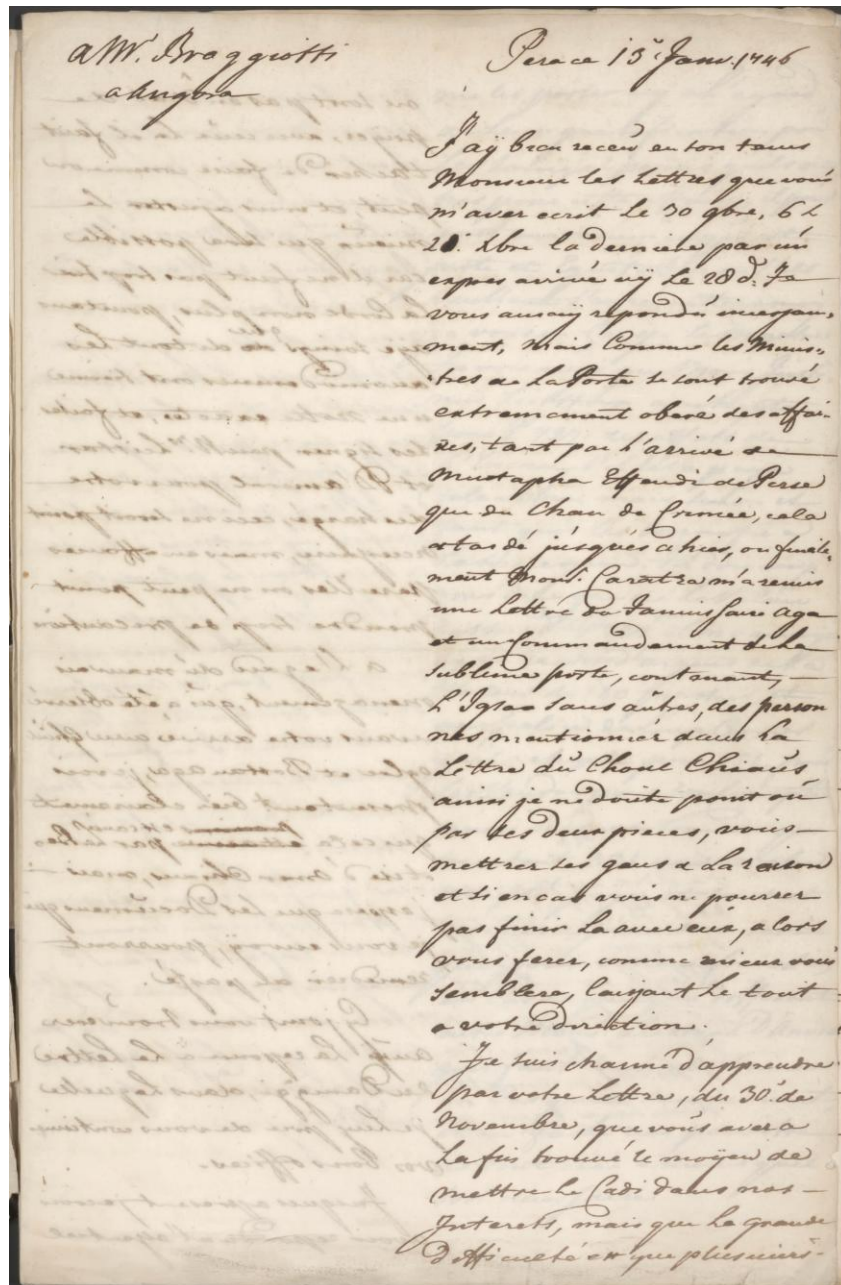
The letter is an example of 18th-century Ottoman bureaucratic language and diplomatic style. The formal tone, terms, and expressions used provide information on the linguistic structure and writing conventions of the period.

- **Cultural and Social Perspective:**

The names and places mentioned in the letter provide context on Ottoman culture and social structure. It also offers information about prominent figures of the era and their respective roles.

(Source: This analysis was generated by the GPT model developed by OpenAI.)





The first record concerning Rodolfo Braggiotti in the Dutch National Archives  
is this letter dated January 13, 1746...

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

This letter is followed by another dated January 18, 1747...

A Mons. Braggiotti a Angora (a Pera ce 18 Janv. 1747)

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

Rodolfo The letter dated January 18, 1747 was written in response to Rodolfo Braggiotti's letter of January 4. The sender's previous letter, dated January 13, is also included as an attachment.

Here are some key points from the letter dated January 18, 1747...



The letter evaluates positively the outcomes of Braggiotti's meetings in Ankara with Ali Pasha and expects that these talks will have the desired influence on the local judges. There is confidence that matters will soon be resolved as a result of these efforts.

It states that Braggiotti has fulfilled his duties and done everything within his power.

The sender requests a detailed report of Braggiotti's activities and asks him to proceed as he sees fit, based on the situation.

The sender confirms receiving two promissory notes sent by the enforcement officers and notes that Mr. Meyer (possibly the merchant Jan Hendrik Meijer?) has accepted them, so there is no doubt they will be paid at maturity.

It is mentioned that the goods seized by Braggiotti could be sold more profitably in Pera, and he is asked to transport them there.

Finally, the sender advises Braggiotti to be patient with the debtors...

### ***Baron Elbert De Hochepped is appointed ambassador (1747)***

Toward the end of 1747, Baron Elbert De Hochepped was appointed as the new Ambassador to Constantinople, a position he held from 1747 to 1763. In the Dutch National Archives, the following documents related to Rodolfo Braggiotti from this period can be found...

*(181) Letters to the Dragoman of the Sublime Porte and to the Reis Efendi. Records, 1755  
Includes a letter from R. Braggiotti, dragoman in Constantinople.*

*(237) Letters from Dragoman R. Braggiotti, 1748–1756*

*(608) Letters from R. Braggiotti, 1760–1763*

*(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*

The earliest document related to Rodolfo Braggiotti from this period is dated September 30, 1748, and is addressed to First Secretary M. Rigo, located in Büyükdere, from Pera.

*Monsieur Rigo, Premier Secrétaire d'Hollande, Büyükdere*

From the letter in question, it is clear that Rodolfo Braggiotti had already left Ankara by this time and returned to Pera.

This correspondence between Braggiotti and M. Rigo, both of whom belonged to Latin families settled in the Ottoman Empire, is also noteworthy for containing a paragraph written in Greek with Latin letters, making it particularly interesting...

*Sas efharisto dhia tin cali opinion pu ehete dhia loghumu, omos then ine cata pu tharite...*

*Thank you for your kind views about me, but the situation is not as you think...*

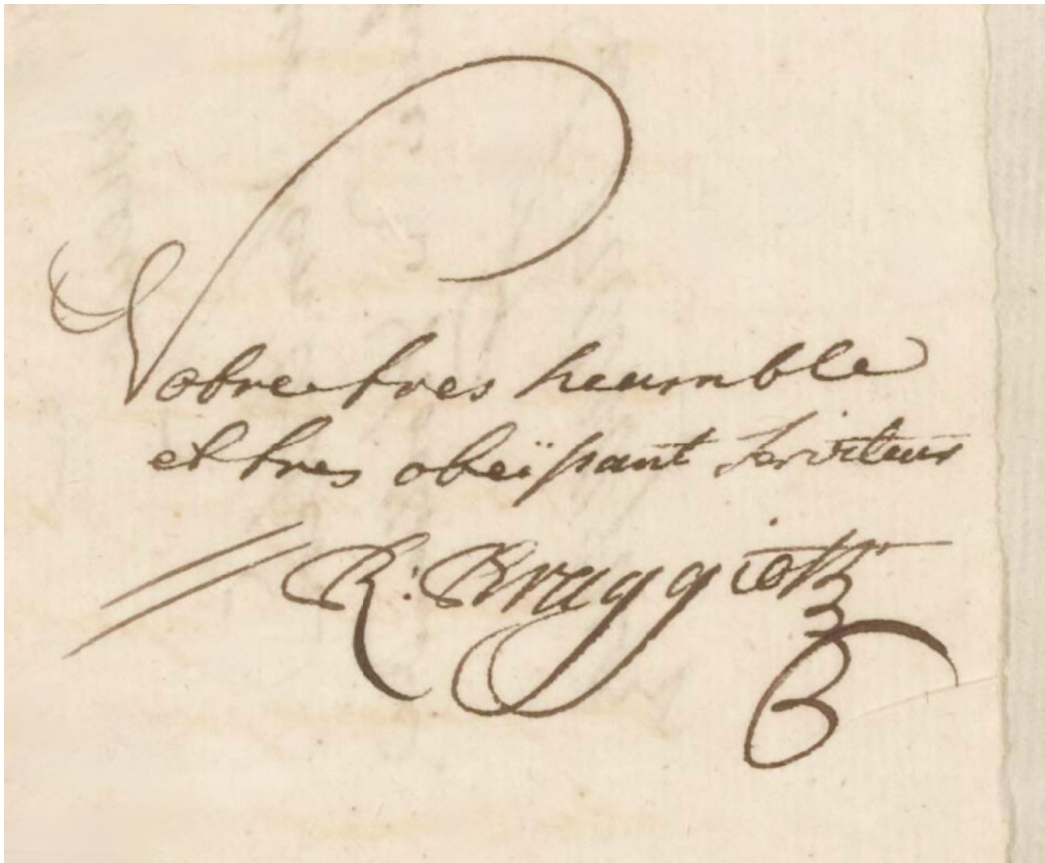
This writing style was also referred to as Fragochiotika (*or Franco-chiote*). It was named after the first religious translation work printed in Rome by Vincenzo Castagnola, a Jesuit from Chios, in 1595. The work was a Latin-script Greek translation of Diego de Ledesma's Christian Doctrine...

There are 139 pages of documents written by Rodolfo Braggiotti in the Dutch National Archives related to the period 1748-1756. Most of these documents are letters sent to First Secretary M. Rigo, and they typically end with the phrase *Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur*".

This phrase was commonly used in 18th and 19th-century French correspondence as a sign of great respect and humility. It was especially favored in formal, diplomatic, or business letters. The phrase, which translates to "Your very humble and very obedient servant" in English, or "Çok alçakgönüllü ve çok itaatkâr hizmetkârınız" in Turkish, was a standard closing that conveyed respect and allegiance.

During this period, there was a certain standard of politeness and formality in correspondence, and such expressions were used to show the writer's respect and loyalty to the recipient. These phrases served to maintain both a formal and sincere tone in written communications, emphasizing the recipient's superiority or respected status.

For the period 1760-1763, 89 pages of documents written by Rodolfo Braggiotti are preserved in the Dutch National Archives.



*A sample signature of Rodolfo Braggiotti (1760)...*  
(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

### ***Grand Vizier Divitdar Mehmed Emin Pasha receives Ambassador Elbert De Hochepped (1752)***

Baron Elbert De Hochepped was received by Grand Vizier Divitdar Mehmed Emin Pasha on February 14, 1752, to officially announce the death of Prince William IV of Orange and Nassau, which had occurred on October 22, 1751. In accordance with the protocol rules of the Sublime Porte, this news was delivered in French.

Rodolfo Braggiotti accompanied Baron De Hochepped during this visit. The Grand Vizier's response, also in French, was conveyed through Rodolfo Braggiotti...

*Il Sig. Rodolfo Braggiotti, dragomanno e interprete della Porta, diede questa risposta del Gran Visir...*

*(Source: Mercurio storico, e politico il quale contiene lo stato presente dell'Europa; ciò che si tratta in tutte le corti; l'interesse de' principi, i lor maneggi, e generalmente tutto ciò che v'ha di curioso, 1752)*

*Le Grand Visir a fait remettre à l'Ambassadeur par le Sieur Rodolphe Braggiotti, l'un des interprètes de la Porte, la réponse suivante, qui était aussi en langue française...*

*(Source: Gazette, April 22, 1752)*

The text found in these sources serves as a chronicle of the diplomatic visit made by Baron De Hochepped, Ambassador of the United Provinces of the Netherlands, to the Sublime Porte...

Summary of the document...

#### **The Ambassador's notification:**

- o On February 14, the ambassador of the Dutch Republic, Baron De Hochepped, was officially received by the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.
- o During the meeting, the ambassador formally announced the death of Prince William IV of Orange and Nassau, and the succession of his son, William V, who had been appointed *stadhouder* under the regency of his mother, Princess Anna.
- o It was emphasized that the Dutch Republic had communicated this development to all sovereign powers in Europe, and had chosen to notify the Ottoman Empire through its ambassador - an act seen as a sign of respect toward the Sublime Porte.

#### **The Grand Vizier's response:**

- o On behalf of the Ottoman Sultan, the Grand Vizier delivered an official reply to the Dutch ambassador's notification.
- o The Sultan expressed sorrow over the death of William IV and conveyed satisfaction regarding the appointment of William V as *stadhouder* under his mother's regency.
- o He affirmed that the Ottoman Empire would maintain its amicable relations with the Dutch Republic and remain committed to the terms of their imperial treaties.

This text is an important historical record that reflects the level of diplomatic relations between 18th-century Europe and the Ottoman Empire, as well as the political dynamics of that period...

(Source: This analysis was produced by a GPT model developed by OpenAI.)

### ***Rodolfo Braggiotti continues to deal with commercial matters (1755)***

A letter written in 1755 by Rodolfo Braggiotti - preserved in the National Archives of the Netherlands - indicates that he continued to be involved in commercial matters within the embassy during this period...

This French letter, most likely addressed to Ambassador Baron Elbert De Hochepped, concerns difficulties related to the delivery of certain ships.

*Sir,*

*We are encountering great difficulty in having the matter of the ships' delivery included in an official decree. Therefore, I respectfully request that Your Excellency send me, as soon as possible, a strongly worded letter*

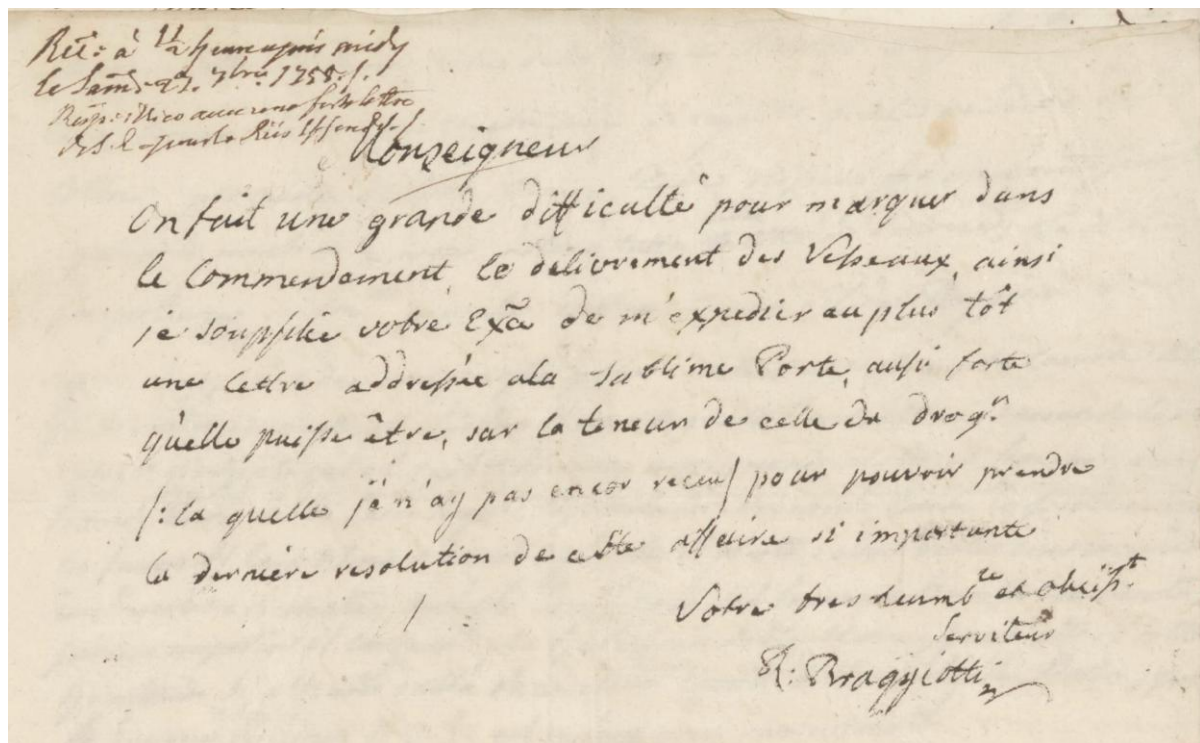
addressed to the Sublime Porte, particularly emphasizing the role of the interpreter. This letter will help secure a final decision on this important matter.

Your very humble and obedient servant,

R. Braggiotti

In this context, the letter effectively conveys both the seriousness of the issue and the importance of securing support for its resolution.

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)



Recu à l'heure après midi  
le Samedi 7. 7bre 1759. f. 1.  
Rapp. de M. de la Roche à M. de la Roche  
A. de la Roche à M. de la Roche  
Monsieur  
On fait une grande difficulté pour m'arguer dans  
le Commandement le délivrement des Vaisseaux, ainsi  
je supplie votre Exce de m'expédier au plus tôt  
une lettre adressée ala Sublime Porte, aussi forte  
qu'elle puisse être, sur la teneur de celle du drog.  
la quelle j'ai n'ay pas encois reçu pour pouvoir prendre  
la dernière resolution de cette affaire si importante  
Votre tres humble et obéissant  
serviteur  
R. Braggiotti

A letter written by Rodolfo Braggiotti (1755)

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

## The inoculation case of Francesco Braggiotti (1759)

In 1759, Dr. Mackenzie examined the case of inoculation involving Francesco Braggiotti, who was then serving as a student dragoman (interpreter-in-training) under Baron Elbert de Hochepped. The medical observations regarding this case were later published by the Dutch physician Anton de Haen...

(Source: *Refutation de l'inoculation servant de réponse a deux pièces qui ont paru 1759, (dissertation de: De La Condamine et lettre de Tyssot), 1759*)

The case of Francesco Braggiotti's inoculation appears in numerous Latin and French sources from the 18th century that deal with smallpox and its prevention through vaccination.

Francesco Braggiotti (born in 1728), who was inoculated at the age of seven months, was the younger brother of Rodolfo Braggiotti.

Dr. Mackenzie recounts the events as follows...

*...Dans le mois de Janvier 1759, je traitai le fils de S. E. l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Généraux, âgé d'environ dix-huit ans de la Petite-Vérole naturelle. Quand toutes les pustules tombèrent, il entra dans sa chambre un jeune homme de trente ans, appelé Francesco Braggiotto, qui est actuellement dans le service de l'Ambassadeur comme Jeune de langues, je lui fis des reproches en badinant, puisque je ne l'avais pas vu dans la chambre de Mr. le Baron de Hocchepied du commencement de sa maladie, jusqu'à ce que le danger fût passé; il me répondit avec quelque chagrin & peine, Monsieur, j'ai été inoculé à l'âge de sept mois, l'on m'assure que j'ai été en danger, & à l'âge de sept à huit ans j'ai eu la Petite Vérole naturelle, & j'ai couru grand risque d'en mourir, de forte que j'ai toujours grande peur de la Petite-Vérole. Comment, dis-je vous vous oubliez? cela ne peut pas être, ce sont des contes faits à plaisir, &c. Il me répliqua avec assurance que tout était vrai; pour couper court, il réveilla ma curiosité de façon à me faire examiner le cas, qui a été confirmé par le Pere, le Frère, & les Tantes de ce Monsieur...*

(Source: *Refutation de l'inoculation servant de réponse a deux pièces qui ont paru 1759, (dissertation de: De La Condamine et lettre de Tyssot), 1759*)

*...In the month of January 1759, I was treating the son of His Excellency the Ambassador of the States-General, who was about eighteen years old, for natural smallpox. When all the pustules had fallen off, a young man of thirty years, named Francesco Braggiotti, who was then serving the Ambassador as a jeune de langues (interpreter-in-training), entered the room. I jokingly reproached him for not having appeared in Mr. Baron de Hocchepied's room from the beginning of the illness until the danger had passed. He replied with some distress and unease: Sir, I was inoculated at the age of seven months. I am told that I was in danger at that time, and between the ages of seven and eight, I contracted natural smallpox and nearly died from it. Since then, I have always been terribly afraid of smallpox. What? I said, You must be mistaken. That cannot be – those are just fanciful tales. He firmly insisted that it was all true. To be brief, he aroused my curiosity enough to make me investigate the case, which was confirmed by this gentleman's father, brother, and aunts...*

The individuals mentioned here are Francesco Braggiotti's father, Francesco Braggiotti, his elder brother Rodolfo Braggiotti, and his aunts, sisters of his mother, Smaragda Marini. The statement of Francesco Braggiotti, the father of Francesco, regarding his son's inoculation is as follows:

*Monsieur. Ma Famille m'apprend que mon fils Francesco a été inoculé lorsqu'il était en nourrice à l'âge de sept mois, il eut beaucoup de boutons au visage, & quelques-uns au corps; & environ à l'âge de sept ans il eut la Petite-Vérole naturelle très-violente, c'est tout ce dont je puis vous informer à ce sujet.*

*Pera, le 11 Mai, 1759.*

*(signé) François Braggiotto*

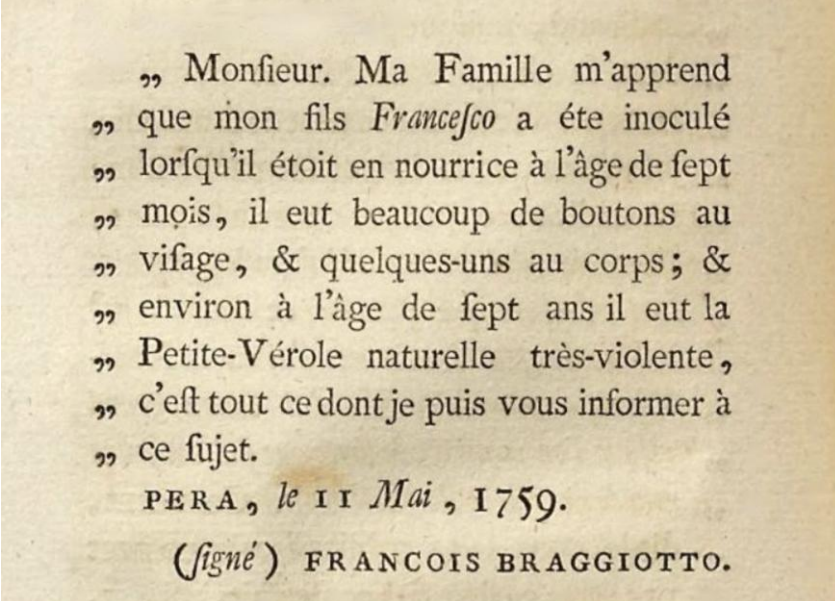
*My Dear Sir, My family has informed me that my son Francesco was inoculated at the age of seven months, during the period when he was still being breastfed. He had numerous pimples on his face and other parts of his body, and around the age of seven, he suffered from a very severe case of natural smallpox. This is all I can tell you regarding the matter.*

*Pera, 11 May, 1759.*



(signed) François Braggiotto

(Source: *Refutation de l'inoculation servant de réponse a deux pièces qui ont paru 1759*, (dissertation de: De La Condamine et lettre de Tyssot), 1759)



*Francesco Braggiotti's statement regarding his son Francesco's inoculation (1759)*  
(Source: *Refutation de l'inoculation servant de réponse a deux pièces qui ont paru 1759*,  
(dissertation de: De La Condamine et lettre de Tyssot), 1759)

Another source recounts the story as follows...

*L'histoire de Francesco Braggiotto, Interprète de l'Ambassadeur des États-Généraux, à la Porte, mérite d'autant moins d'être omise, qu'elle fait voir à quel point l'Inoculation peut donner la sécurité & la tranquillité d'âme pour l'avenir. Ce jeune homme, âgé de trente ans, avait été inoculé à sept mois. Entre sept & huit ans, il eut la petite vérole de nouveau, mais naturellement. Depuis ce temps il lui en est resté une si grande frayeur, que, pendant toute la maladie du fils de M. le Baron de Hochepped, Ambassadeur des États-Généraux, qui eut la petite vérole à Constantinople en 1759, & fut traité par M. Mackensie, il n'a osé mettre le pied dans la chambre du malade, qu'après la chute entière des croûtes, & encore qu'en tremblant, & a avoué à M. de Mackensie qu'il avoit toujours grande peur de la petite vérole. Tous ces faits ont été vérifiés & attestés par M. Mackensie...*

*The story of Francesco Braggiotti, Interpreter to the Ambassador of the States-General at the Porte, is all the more worthy of mention, as it demonstrates how inoculation can provide security and peace of mind for the future. This young man, aged thirty, had been inoculated at seven months. Between the ages of seven and eight, he contracted smallpox again, but naturally. Since that time, he has had such a great fear of smallpox that during the illness of Mr. Baron de Hochepped's son, the Ambassador of the States-General, who contracted smallpox in Constantinople in 1759 and was treated by Mr. Mackenzie, he did not dare enter the patient's room until after the scabs had completely fallen off, and even then, trembling. He confessed to Mr. Mackenzie that he had always been greatly afraid of smallpox. All of these facts were verified and attested by Mr. Mackenzie.*

(Source: *Rapport sur le fait de l'inoculation de la petite vérole*, 1765)

..... L'histoire de Francesco Braggiotto , Interprète de l'Ambassadeur des États - Généraux , à la Porte , mérite d'autant moins d'être omise , qu'elle fait voir à quel point l'Inoculation peut donner la sécurité & la tranquillité d'ame pour l'avenir. Ce jeune homme , âgé de trente ans , avoit été inoculé à sept mois. Entre sept & huit ans , il eut la petite vérole de nouveau , mais naturellement. Depuis ce tems il lui en est resté une si grande frayeur , que , pendant toute la maladie du fils de M. le Baron de Hoche pied , Ambassadeur des États-Généraux , qui eut la petite vérole à Constantinople en 1759 , & fut traité par M. Mackensie , il n'a osé mettre le pied dans la chambre du malade , qu'après la chute entière des croûtes , & encore qu'en tremblant , & a avoué à M. de Mackensie qu'il avoit toujours grande peur de la petite vérole. Tous ces faits ont été vérifiés & attestés par M. Mackensie. *Voy. sa Lettre à M. de Haen , Réfut. de l'Inoc. p. 58 , 59.*

*The story of Francesco Braggiotti...*

*(Source: Rapport sur le fait de l inoculation de la petite vérole, 1765)*

### ***A letter of Silahtar İbrahim Ağa, translated by Rodolfo Braggiotti (1761)***

Let's examine a letter of Silahtar İbrahim Ağa (1761), translated into French by Rodolfo Braggiotti. This serves as an example of the official translations made during this period. Silahtar Ağa was an important military and administrative official in the Ottoman Empire, tasked with critical responsibilities such as maintaining the security and order of the state, as well as ensuring the safety of the sultan and advising him.

*Traduction d'une Lettre du ci-devant Siliktar Aga du Grand Seigneur, Epoux de la Hanum Sultane, Nièce du Souverain sur le Trône, etc., traduit ce 29 Mai 1761, par Rudolph Braggiotti, Drogman.*

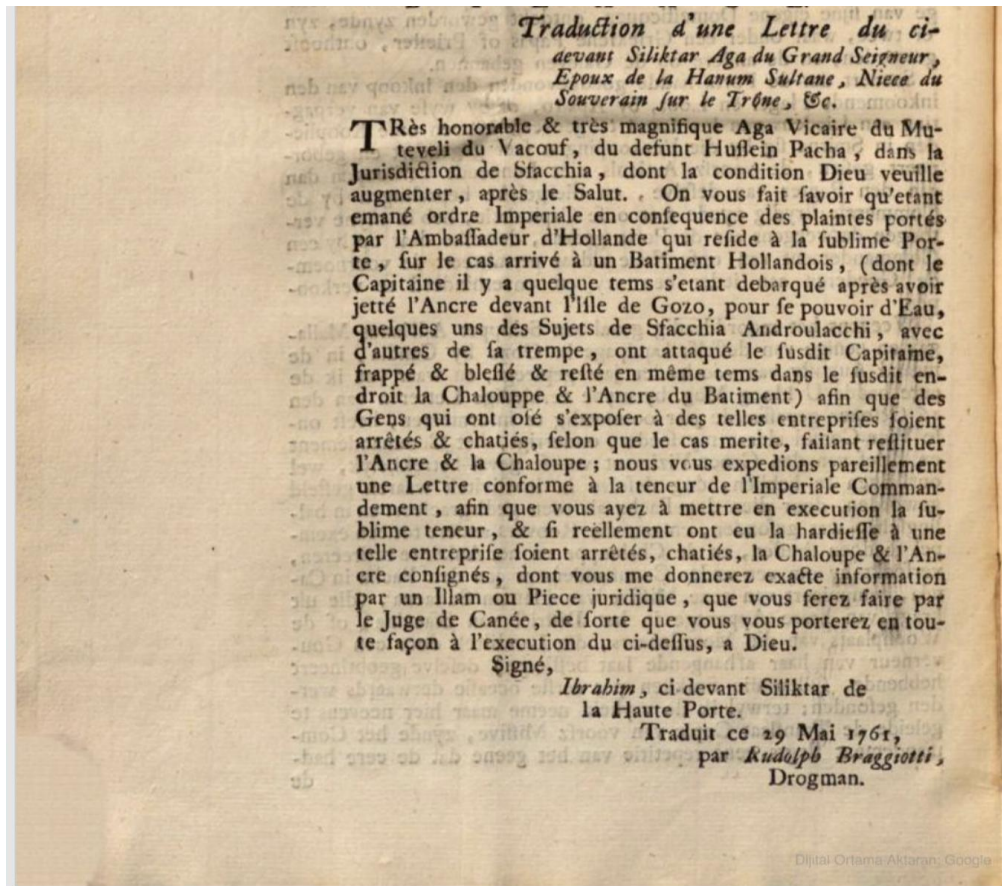
*(Source: Verzameling van Geheime Brieven van en aan de gezanten der Nederlandsche Republiek, April 1756 - April 1762)*

Rodolfo Rodolfo Braggiotti, here, has signed the French translation as Drogman. If he had been the First Translator at the time, he would have had to sign the document as Premier Drogman. Therefore, this document may help us in eliminating one of the dates mentioned, 1756, which is associated with Rodolfo Braggiotti's appointment as the First Translator.



The letter in question was written in response to complaints made by the Dutch Ambassador, Baron Elbert de Hochepped. The main reason for his complaints was that the captain of a Dutch-registered ship had been attacked near Gozo Island, and the ship's dinghy and anchor had been stolen.

Let's examine the details of the document's content...



*A letter of Silahtar İbrahim Ağa, translated by Rodolfo Braggiotti (1761)*

*(Source: Verzameling van Geheime Brieven van en aan de gezanten der Nederlandsche Republiek, April 1756 - April 1762)*

The letter is a document that reflects the bureaucratic structure and legal system of the Ottoman Empire at the time. The main subject and details below constitute the content of the letter:

- **Background of the incident:**

The letter was written in response to complaints by the Dutch ambassador. A Dutch ship had anchored near the island of Gozo to take on water. During this time, some individuals from Sfacchia attacked the ship's captain, injured him, and seized the ship's dinghy and anchor.

- **Imperial Order and response:**

The letter states that an Imperial order was issued following the incident. The order demanded the arrest and punishment of those involved in the attack, as well as the return of the ship's dinghy and anchor. This reflects the seriousness of the event and the sensitivity of international relations.

- **Legal process and administration:**

The letter contains instructions on how this order should be implemented. Authorities in Sfacchia

were instructed to prepare the necessary legal documents to report the details of the incident and the process of execution. This serves as an example of how the Ottoman legal system and administrative processes functioned during the period.

◦ **Diplomatic dimension:**

The letter is also significant in terms of managing diplomatic relations with the Netherlands. The diplomatic consequences of the incident and the way the Ottoman Empire adhered to international legal norms could have serious implications.

In this way, the letter provides important insights into the legal, administrative, and diplomatic processes of the time. It is also valuable as a document showing the Ottoman Empire's sensitivity in foreign affairs and how it responded to such incidents.

*(Source: This analysis was produced by the GPT model developed by OpenAI.)*

## ***Rodolfo Braggiotti gets married (1762)***

Rodolfo Braggiotti married one of the sisters of Gobbi, the Italian doctor of Sultan Abdulhamid I (1774–1789), and lived in a spacious house located next to the Dutch Embassy.

*He married a sister of Doctor Gaubis, physician to the Sultan Abdülhamid I (1774-1789)...*

*(Source: The Netherlands and Turkey, Alexander H. de Groot, 2009)*

In fact, if we examine the church records, we see that Rodolfo Braggiotti married Marie Dané, daughter of Jean Baptiste Dané, on April 21, 1762 (Santa Maria Draperis, Liber II/151).

Dr. Filippo Gobbi, on the other hand, was married to Victoria Dané. Therefore, Rodolfo Braggiotti must have married not one of Dr. Gobbi's sisters, but rather his wife's sister.

Furthermore, we see that the Braggiotti family, through their marriages in Constantinople, also established kinship ties with the major dragoman dynasties such as the Testa and Fonton families.

Rodolfo Braggiotti's father-in-law, Jean Baptiste Dané, was the son of Jean Baptiste Dané (1667–1698) and Catharina Testa (born 1667). Catharina Testa was the daughter of Antonio (Antonachi) Testa (1627–1667), dragoman for Austria and the Republic of Genoa.

Rodolfo Braggiotti's maternal uncle, Antonio Marini, had married Lucie Fonton, daughter of Chevalier Joachim Fonton, the First Dragoman of France.

Rodolfo Braggiotti's brother, the translator Francesco Braggiotti, married Marianne Bonifacy. Marianne Bonifacy was the daughter of Dr. Jean Paul Bonifacy and Victoria Testa...

***Jean Baptiste DANE (1698)***

**Son of Jean Baptiste DANE (1667-1698) and Catharina Testa (1667)**

***Marries in Constantinople;***

***has at least three children:***

***Marie DANE (1720 civ.)***

*Marries Rodolfo Braggiotti*

***Antoine DANE (1740 civ.)***

*Marries Lucia Vitali*

*Becomes Dragoman to the United Kingdom*

***Victoria DANE (1740 civ. - 1801)***

*In 1758, marries Filippo Gobbi (born 1721), physician to Sultan Mustafa III (1757–1774) and Sultan Abdulhamid I (1774–1789)*

*They have at least eight children*

## ***Doctor Filippo Gobbi***

Anthony Boldewijn Gijsbert van Dedem refers to Rodolfo Braggiotti's brother-in-law, Mr. Gobbi, in the following way in his memoir...

*...Je voyais aussi chez mon père le beau-frère de M. Braggiotti, dont le commerce n'était pas moins instructif, M. Gaubis, Italien de naissance et médecin du Grand Seigneur. Établi à Péra depuis trente ans, il réunissait au savoir et à une bonne éducation une longue expérience, grâce à laquelle il avait captivé sultan Mustapha, père de Sélim, et sultan Abdul-Hamid, qui régna entre ces deux princes...*

*...I also used to see at my father's house the brother-in-law of Mr. Braggiotti, whose conversation was no less instructive, Mr. Gaubis, Italian by birth and physician to the Grand Seigneur (the Sultan). Established in Pera for thirty years, he combined knowledge and good education with long experience, thanks to which he had won the favor of Sultan Mustapha, father of Selim, and Sultan Abdul Hamid, who reigned between these two princes.....*

*(Source: Un général hollandais sous le premier empire. Mémoires du général Bon de Dedem de Gelder, 1774-1825, 1900)*

So, who was Doctor Filippo Gobbi?

According to a news article published at the time in *L Osservatore Triestino*, Doctor Filippo Gobbi was born in Muggia and studied humanities in Trieste before pursuing medicine in Padua. There, he attended the lectures of Signor Macope and graduated. He began practicing medicine in Trieste, but due to a royal decree requiring authorization from the University of Vienna to practice medicine, he was forced to move to Vienna. After obtaining the necessary approval, he returned to Trieste and was appointed *Proto-Medico di Sanità*.

Chasing greater ambitions, he left Trieste and, after spending time in Ragusa and Smyrna, eventually arrived in Constantinople. There, following several successful treatments, he was appointed as physician to Sultan Mustafa.

In short, Doctor Filippo - born in Muggia and raised in Trieste - studied medicine in Padua and, after receiving authorization in Vienna, ultimately rose to a prestigious position at the Ottoman court...

*É figlio di Andrea, Figlio di Filippo, Milanese, che trasportò il Domicilio suo in Gorizia, ove procreo Pietro di cui in quella Città esiste tutt ora una linea, ed Andrea, che andò a studiare Medicina e fu addottorato nell Università di Padova, e che passò poi al Fisicato pubblico della Città di Muggia nell Istria Veneta. Quivi quest Andrea ammogliossi, e procreò il Filippo di cui si parla. Chiamato però al Fisicato di Trieste vi trasportò da Muggia col suo Domicilio il Filippo ancor bambino, vivendo in questa Città sino alla morte, dopo avervi procreati gli odierni Proto-Medico Dottor Domenico, e Causidico Pietro tuttora viventi. Il detto primogenito Filippo passati adunque in Trieste gli studj dell Umanità, portossi a quelli di Medicina in Padova, ove sentì le lezioni del Sig. Macope, e fu addottorato. Esercitava agli il Fisicato in Trieste, quando in obbedienza della sovrana risoluzione, che vietava l esercizio di Medicina a chi approvato non era nell Università di Vienna, colà trasferissi e ottenne l approvazione. Restituitosi in questa Città ottenne in aggiunta la nomina di Proto-Medico di Sanità; ma siccome mirava a cosa maggiori lasciò Trieste, e portossi a Ragusi, a Smirne, e finalmente a Costantinopoli. Ove dopo varie cure felici, fu eletto Medico del passato G. S. Mustafâ. Ecco chi sia il Dottor Filippo del quale si ragiona; nato in Muggia, educato in Trieste, istruito e laureato a Padova, approvato in Vienna ed esaltato nella Corte Ottomana...*

(Source: Notizie del mondo, 1785)

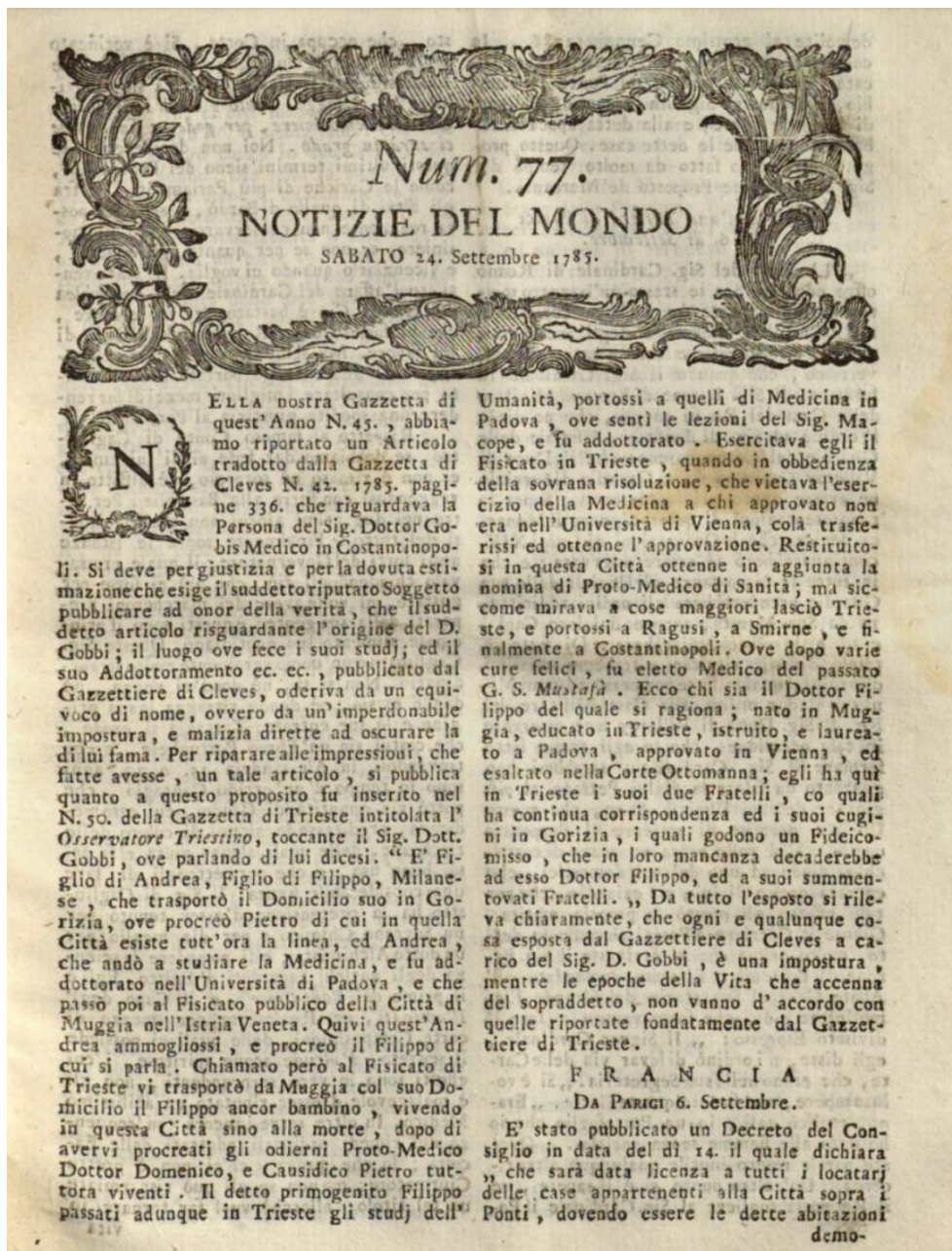
*Filippo Gobbi e non Gobbis non fu mai in Francia e nacque a Muggia, dove fu battezzato il 10 giugno 1721. Suo padre fu Andrea, nato a Gorizia [ 1671 ], laureatosi a Padova, protofisico a Muggia, poi medico a Trieste [ dove morì ].*

(Source: La Porta orientale, Volume 23, 1953)

*Nasce in Muggia ser Filippo Antonio Gobbi, celebre dottore in medicina e medico curante del Gran Sultano Mustafâ e del suo successore ...*

(Source: La Provincia, Giornale degli interessi civili, economici ed amministrativi dell'Istria, 1879)





*An article introducing Doctor Filippo Gobbi, brother-in-law of Rodolfo Braggiotti...  
(Source: Notizie del mondo, 1785)*

## ***Rodolfo Braggiotti becomes the First Dragoman (1763)***

11 On February 11, 1763, Ambassador Baron Elbert de Hochepied passed away suddenly. Likely in the same year, Rodolfo Braggiotti was promoted to the position of First Dragoman at the Embassy of the United Provinces of the Netherlands.

Although different sources mention various dates such as 1756, 1763, 1764, and 1767 in relation to this appointment, only one document provides a definitive date: a 583-page handwritten manuscript found in the collection of the Foundation for the Establishment and Development of Centers for Historical Research and Documentation (Tarihi Araştırmalar ve Dokümantasyon Merkezleri Kurma ve

Geliştirme Vakfı). On page 458, this manuscript contains the official appointment decree (*berat*) dated 8 Rebiülahir 1177, which corresponds to October 16, 1763...

*A Berat, dated 8 Rebiülahir 1177, appointing R. Braggiotti First Dragoman at the Dutch Embassy (p . 458)...*

(Source: *Exploring Ottoman and Turkish History*, Jacob M. Landau, 2004)

*According to another source, a decree (concerning the change of interpreters at the Dutch Embassy, 1091/13) found in the National Archives of the Netherlands points to July 1756.*

*In this decree, Sultan Mustafa III confirms to the Qadi of Galata that Rodolfo Braggiotti, who had previously been the second dragoman, is now the first dragoman of the embassy. The former first dragoman, Scarlato Karatza's son, had left the position upon being appointed Tercüman-ı Hümayun. Giacomo Testa became the second dragoman. This change also indicates a more general shift in the policy of dragoman appointments. Since the era of Haga, the Greek Orthodox community from the Phanar had held prominent positions at the Dutch Embassy. However, from 1756 onwards, only French Levantines were appointed.*

(Source: *...Lale ile başladı, ...It began with the tulip*, Zeki Çelikkol, Alexander De Groot, Ben J. Slot, *Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları*, Ankara, 2000)

There must be a chronological error here. Indeed, Sultan Mustafa III began his reign only on October 30, 1757.

Another source reports that First Dragoman Scarlato Caratza resigned in 1764, and was succeeded by Rodolfo Braggiotti.

*In 1764, Carlo Caratza, the First Dragoman, resigned, effectively marking the end of the Dutch embassy's significant influence at the Sublime Porte. He was replaced by Rodolfo Braggiotti, who, like Caratza, was a physician. Braggiotti came from a family of interpreters from Smyrna (Izmir). Although he had been on the diplomatic staff since 1744, he was only now appointed First Dragoman. He remained in this position until his death in 1796.*

(Source: *İstanbul'da Hollanda Sarayı*, Marlies Hoenkamp-Mazgon, 2002)

Some sources, however, state that Caratza served as First Dragoman only until 1756.

*Skarlatos ("Carel") Karatza served as First Dragoman from 1720 till 1756. He belonged to the Phanariot aristocracy and stood on excellent terms with leading Ottomans, not in the least because of his accomplishments as a medical doctor. He resigned his post when his son Nicolo became the principal dragoman of the Porte. This behavior shows a remarkable sense of diplomatic sensibility! His successor in Dutch service was Rodolpho Braggiotti, a medical man himself but belonging to the Latin community. The latter's position of Second Dragoman was filled by Giacomo Testa, a scion of an ancient established family of Genoese origins living in Galata and Pera since the fifteenth century...*

(Source: *The Netherlands and Turkey*, Alexander H. De Groot, 2010)

Let us take a look at the members of the Caratza / Karatza / Karaca family who served as Dragomans of the Sublime Porte (*Tercümân-ı Dîvân-ı Hümayûn*):

*Yorgi Karaca, Dragoman of the Sublime Porte, 1764–1765*

*Iskerlet Karaca, Dragoman of the Sublime Porte, 1765–1768 (1st Term)*

*Iskerlet Karaca, Dragoman of the Sublime Porte, 1770–1774 (2nd Term)*

*Nikolas Karaca, Dragoman of the Sublime Porte, 1777–1782*

(Source: [https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bâb-ı\\_Âli\\_tercümanı](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bâb-ı_Âli_tercümanı))

Nikolas Karaca began his service as Dragoman of the Sublime Porte in 1777, and there appears to be an error in this regard as well.

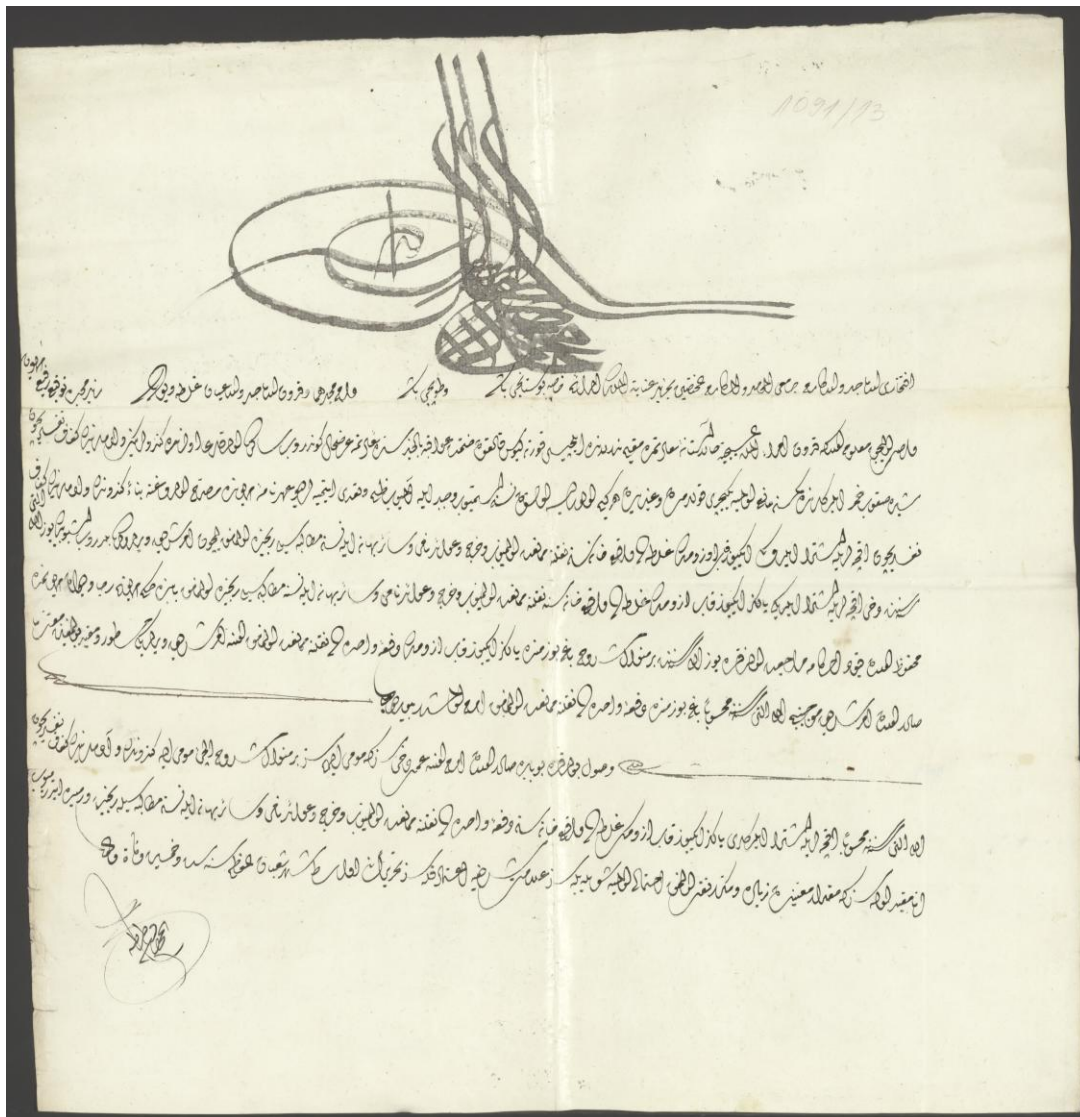
As can be seen, there is considerable confusion surrounding the exact date when Rodolfo Braggiotti became First Dragoman. In fact, some sources even mention the year 1767...

*Rodolpho Braggiotti, the Dutch First Dragoman since 1767, and Skarlatos Karatza, his predecessor...*

(Source: *Istanbul et les langues orientales*, 1997)

*Braggiotti (d . 1796) , First Dragoman of the Dutch embassy since 1767, a learned orientalist as well as a medical man...*

(Source: *Eastward Bound: Dutch Ventures and Adventures in the Middle East*, G. J. H. van Gelder, Ed de Moor, 1994, s. 138)



The decree concerning the replacement of interpreters at the Dutch Embassy, 1091/13  
(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

## Willem Gerrit Dedel is appointed ambassador (1764)

From 1765 onwards, the jurist Willem Gerrit Dedel would serve as the Ambassador of the Dutch Republic in Constantinople (1765–1768). Regarding this period, the National Archives of the Netherlands contain the following documents of note concerning the Braggiotti family:

(632) Register of outgoing letters, 1764–1765

F. Braggiotti, Constantinople

R. Braggiotti, Constantinople

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

In 1765, when Willem Gerrit Dedel arrived in Pera, he was accompanied by his secretary Friedrich Johan Robert von Weiler, who would later succeed him, his chef Pierre Puvy, and his friend Johan



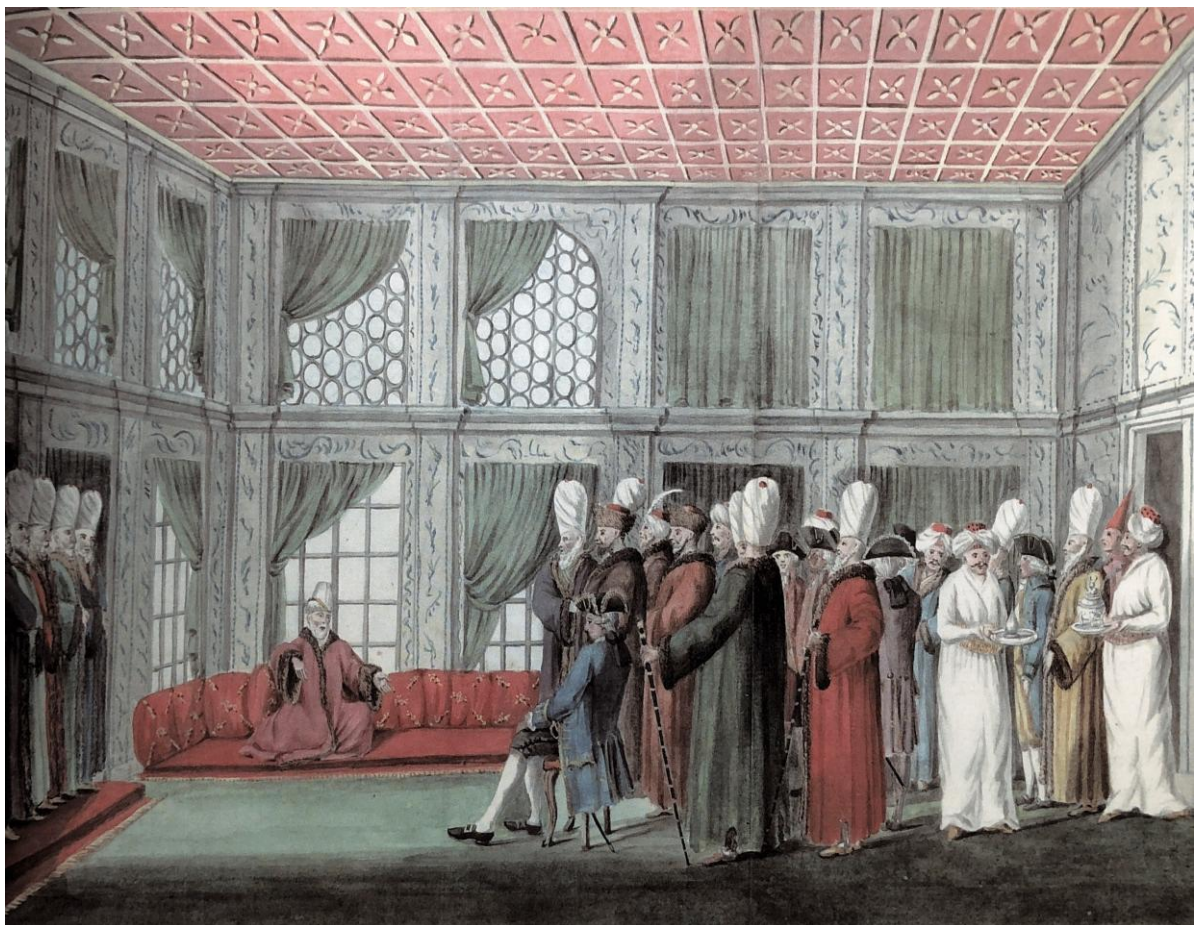
Raye van Breukelerwaard. The travel journal kept by Johan Raye, now preserved at the Royal Library in The Hague, covers the years 1764–1769 and includes several valuable watercolor paintings.

One of these depicts Grand Vizier Ibrahim Pasha receiving Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel...

*Cérémonie de l'Audience de l'Ambassadeur auprès du Grand Visir Ibrahim Pacha*

*(Source: İstanbul'da Hollanda Sarayı, Marlies Hoenkamp-Mazgon, 2002)*

Among the figures present around Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel at the audience depicted in the painting, one would expect to find Rodolfo Braggiotti, who was serving as First Dragoman at the time...



*The audience of Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel by Grand Vizier Ibrahim Pasha...*

*Johan Raye's travel journal (1764-1769)*

*(Source: İstanbul'da Hollanda Sarayı, Marlies Hoenkamp-Mazgon, 2002)*



*Detail: Among the figures wearing kalpak and robes  
surrounding Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel,  
First Dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti should also be depicted...*

## ***Ralph Pemberton passes away (1765)***

In the same year, Ralph Pemberton, the business partner of the Braggiotti family and the godfather of the Braggiotti brothers, also passed away. According to some sources, he died in Constantinople, while others suggest Trabzon, Of...

*Ralph Pemberton (Highgate, 1684 - Constantinople, 1765)*

*(Source: Family Tree of Hilda Mary Pemberton)*

*Ralph Pemberton (Born in 1684 - Highgate, London, England, Deceased in 1765 - Of, Trabzon, Turkey)*

(Source: <https://gw.geneanet.org/mwwhelan>)

It is interesting that Trabzon's Of district is mentioned as the place of death, and it seems more likely that he passed away there.

So, what was eighty-year-old Ralph Pemberton doing in Trabzon? Trabzon, an important trade port on the Black Sea coast, was known for the trade of goods like silk, spices, tobacco, and grain. Was he there for a business related to these trades, or was he simply passing through Trabzon on his way to another destination? We don't know.

However, before his death, in August 1765, we see his signature on a report prepared in Constantinople regarding the decline of trade.

*Reports concerning the decline of trade in Turkey and the Ottoman Empire...  
Copy of the factors of Constantinople, dated on 24 August 1765.*

(Source: *The National Archives, Kew*)

The issues mentioned in the report were as follows:

- **Lack of quarantine stations:** The lack of quarantine facilities for ships coming from the Levant during plague times.
- **Dutch trade:** The increase in Dutch trade.
- **French trade:** The revival of French trade.
- **Restarting overland trade:** The resumption of overland trade through France after the peace.
- **Exports to Spain and Portugal:** The export of mohair and yarn to Spain and Portugal.
- **Deficiencies in the company's terms:** Deficiencies in the company's terms, particularly the list of goods to be traded from Livorno.
- **Export of Turkish goods:** The export of Turkish goods.
- **Consulate issues:** Issues related to the consulate, likely concerning fees.
- **Trade maxim:** A principle referred to as the "trade maxim," meaning that as more doors open, trade will flourish even more.
- **Precious metal trade and other trading methods:** The trade of precious metals (such as gold and silver), as well as the comparison of bartering and payment methods.



The signatories of the document were: Ralph Pemberton, Benjamin Barker, Thomas Talbot Foley, Peter Tooke, John Humphrys, Peter Abbott, William Palmentier, George Abbott, and Thomas Ashbyn. These details provide important clues for understanding the dynamics of trade and events in Constantinople during that period.

*(Source: This analysis was produced by the GPT model developed by OpenAI.)*

After Ralph Pemberton's death, the furniture and belongings in his residence in Pera were to be sold at an auction...

*Account of what Mr Ralph Pemberton's Household...*

*Furnitures & Effects sold for at Public Auction held at His Dwelling House in Pera the [no date] 1766, entered into the register 10 May 1766.*

Bu Among these belongings was Ralph Pemberton's renowned china cabinet, a porcelain collection that was famous...

*...only rivaled in Drummond s neighborhood by Ralph Pemberton s china cabinet...*

1766 The auction held in 1766 lasted for sixteen days, and the sales of each day were meticulously recorded...

*In the case of the merchant Ralph Pemberton, the auction took place over sixteen days, and for each day, the sold items were noted separately in the chancery register...*

*(Source: The Power of the Dispersed, Early Modern Global Travelers beyond Integration Edited by Cornel Zwierlein, 2022)*

## ***The Pera fire (1767)***

Pera was a district that frequently faced fires. The fact that the buildings were usually made of wood and built very close to each other, the use of stoves and grills, and the limited firefighting equipment contributed to the fires causing significant damage.

An Italian popular song, satirical poem, or folk saying of the time equated fires, the plague, and the dragomans as Pera's three scourges, its three calamities...

*A Pera ci sono tre malanni: peste, fuoco e dragomanni...*

On the night of October 26-27, 1767, a fire broke out in a tailor's shop in Pera, causing significant damage to the Dutch Palace, Santa Maria Draperis Church, and the house of Dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti, which was adjacent to these buildings.

*In addition to the items stolen by malicious individuals during the fire, it was learned that First Dragoman Braggiotti's house, whose roof completely collapsed due to constant water exposure, also suffered extensive damage to its furniture...*

*(Source: <https://ilibrariana.wordpress.com/2020/10/05/een-panorama-van-constantinopel-in-het-huis-te-heemstede/>)*

*En 1767, le 27 octobre, un incendie terrible ravagea tout le quartier de Péra, l'église de Ste-Marie fut détruite, comme les palais des représentants de Hollande, de Naples et de Russie: celui de France fut sauvé grâce aux efforts des équipages des navires français ancrés dans le port de Constantinople...*

*27 On October 27, 1767, a devastating fire ravaged the entire Pera district, destroying Santa Maria Church and the palaces of the Dutch, Naples, and Russian representatives. The French palace was saved thanks to the efforts of the crew of French ships anchored in the Constantinople harbor...*

*(Source: Histoire de la latinité de Constantinople, François Belin, 1894)*

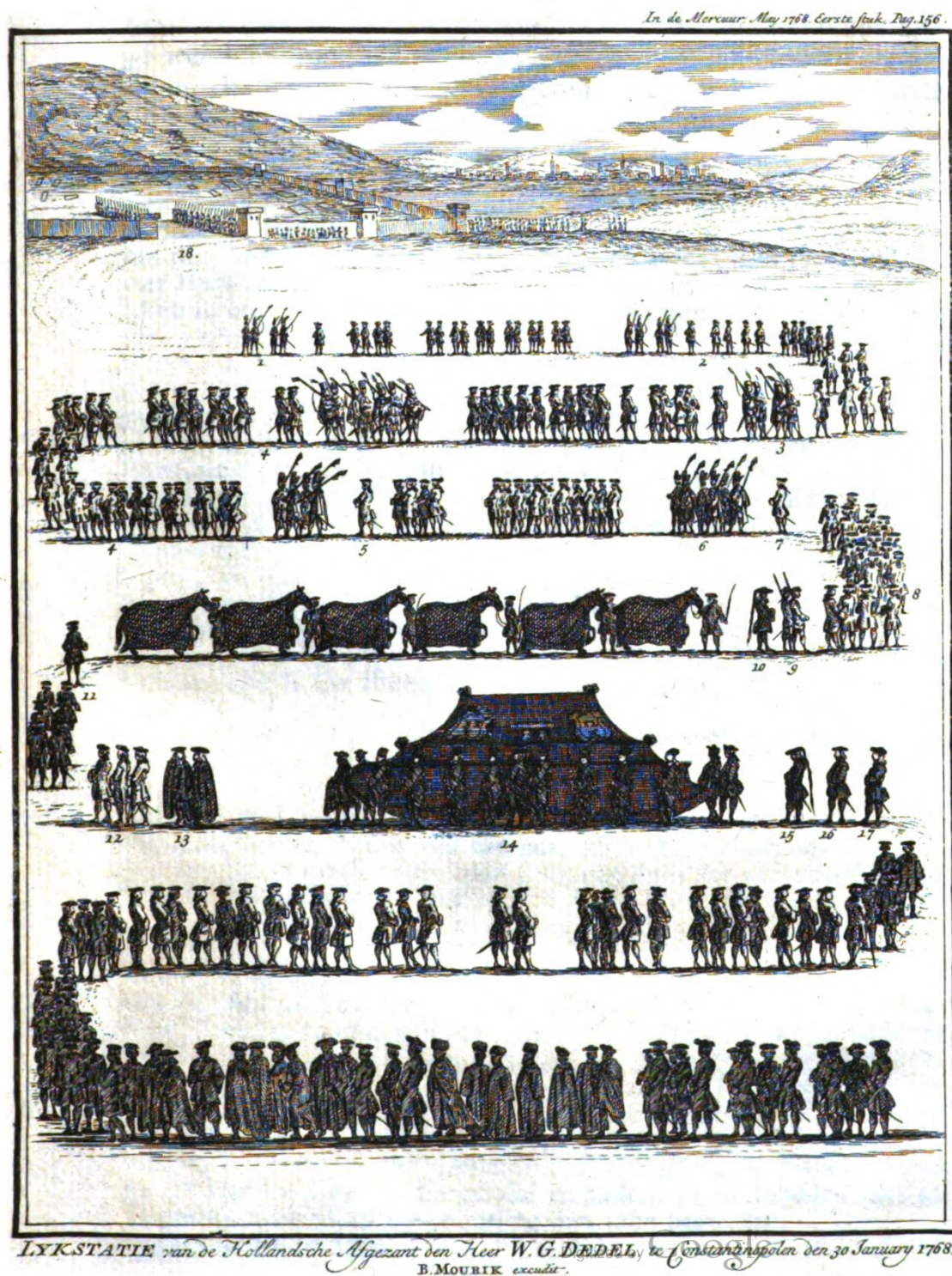
## ***The funeral of Willem Gerrit Dedel (1768)***

Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel passed away on January 26, 1768, in Constantinople, succumbing to a strange illness. His funeral procession would be long and magnificent, and was organized as follows...

I. The Russian Representative's procession (Four Janissaries, a Palace Minister, four Household Servants, Twelve Attendants); II. The Swedish Ambassador's procession (Four Janissaries, a Palace Minister, Four Household Servants, Twelve Attendants); III. The Imperial procession (Four Janissaries, a Palace Minister, Four Household Servants, Twelve Attendants); IV. The two Venetian Ambassadors' procession (Eight Janissaries, Two Palace Ministers, Eight Household Servants, Twenty-four Servants); V. The French Ambassador's procession (Four Janissaries, a Palace Minister, Four Household Servants, Twelve Attendants); VI. The late Excellency's six Janissaries; VII. The late Excellency's doorman; VIII. The late Excellency's eighteen servants in gala attire; IX. Two huntsmen; X. The late Excellency's stable master, Mr. Sittig, dressed in heavy mourning attire, accompanied by six horses covered with long black woolen cloths; XI. The late Excellency's Palace Minister, followed by six Household Servants, all in black attire; XII. The Three Translators of the Embassy; XIII. The Embassy Chaplain and the Lutheran chaplain of the Swedish Palace; XIV. The funeral, carried by sixteen servants dressed in local-style black clothes. The funeral covering was adorned with the late Excellency's coat of arms. On the left side of the coffin, a sword, on the right side, a staff, and a pair of white gloves. The tails of the funeral cloth were carried by two Dutch, two English, and two French merchants; XV. The late Excellency's nobleman responsible for his affairs, Lord de Weiler, following the funeral in deep mourning; XVI. The Chancellor of the Embassy, Mr. Tor, in black attire; XVII. The Secretary of the Embassy, Mr. Chevrier, in mourning attire; XVIII. Several armed soldiers stationed at the entrance of Beyoğlu (the French cemetery). Additionally, various merchants from all nations and those under protection, along with all officers from the foreign lords' palaces, were also following. However, the British, Danish, Prussian,

and Neapolitan ambassadors did not attend this and other ceremonies due to rank disputes among them...

(Source: *De Maandelykse Nederlandse Mercurius*, Volumes 24-27, 1768)



An engraving showing the funeral procession of Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel (1768)  
(Source: *De Maandelykse Nederlandse Mercurius*, Volumes 24-27, 1768)





*Detail: The three interpreters of the embassy, dressed in European attire, are shown with number 12 in the funeral procession of Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel. The one walking at the front must be First Dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti...*

### ***Rodolfo Braggiotti is preparing his will (1775)***

After the death of Ambassador Willem Gerrit Dedel in 1768, Friedrich Johan Robert von Weiler, who would later become ambassador, will take care of the embassy affairs until 1776. During this period, Rodolfo Braggiotti will prepare his first will. His first handwritten will is dated January 12, 1775. Later, on April 13, 1787, an addition will be made to this will, and another addition will be made at an undated time. From these documents, it is understood that Rodolfo Braggiotti had a house in Pera inherited from his father and a summer house in Büyükdere...

*In Nomine Domini, Mon présent olographe écrit sert pour déclarer que quand il plaira au Seigneur de me rappeler à Soi, mon épouse Marie Dané aura entièrement à disposer sur la déposition et sépulture de mon corps à l'endroit ou lui plaira, et cela d'une manière descente et sans aucune pompe extraordinaire recommandant à la même pour l'affection et l'attention qu'elle me doit, à ne devoir faire aucune dépense en catafalque et autres semblables comparutions et voulant me secourir pour le spirituel, qu'elle le fasse avec des messes...*

In his will, which begins with these lines, Rodolfo Braggiotti gives instructions regarding his funeral and expresses his wishes for the division of his estate.

However, in his will and its additions, he does not mention any children of his own, only referring to his siblings and his nephews, the children of his brothers. Additionally, no record of Rodolfo Braggiotti having any children is found in the Istanbul church archives. Therefore, it is likely that those sources that refer to Rodolfo Braggiotti's son as Francesco are actually referring to his brother, Francesco Braggiotti (1728)...

Could it be that Francesco Braggiotti (circa 1690), who was a dragoman, is the reason why some sources mention that the profession passed from father to son within the Braggiotti family, and why the Braggiotti family was studied among the dragoman dynasties?

Here's a summary of the main points of the three documents written by Rodolfo Braggiotti:

**First Document (January 12, 1775):**

- Rodolfo Braggiotti grants his wife, Marie Dané, full authority to make funeral arrangements and decide on the burial location in the event of his death.
- He gives his wife full ownership of all his belongings, including jewelry, gold and silver items, clothing, and the furniture in the rooms in Pera.
- He suggests that the funeral be modest, conducted with simple prayers and worship.

**Second Document (April 13, 1787):**

- Rodolfo Braggiotti confirms the previous will, ensuring that Marie Dané will receive the income from their properties in Pera and Büyükdere until her death.
- After her passing, he wishes for the properties to pass to his siblings or, in their absence, to his nephews.
- He specifies that the leased house in Büyükdere should remain under the control of his brother and sister.

**Third Document (Undated):**

- Rodolfo Braggiotti reaffirms his previous arrangements and states that after Marie Dané's death, she will have the right to use one-third of the properties. After that, they should go to his brother and sister or, in their absence, to his nephews.
- He encourages his wife, brother, and sister to fear God and show love and respect to one another.
- Rodolfo Braggiotti appoints his brother-in-law, Antoine Dané, to act as an advisor to his three heirs (his wife, brother, and sister).

These documents reflect Rodolfo Braggiotti's intentions to ensure Marie Dané's financial security and comfort after his death. They also establish how his inheritance should be distributed upon his wife's passing...

Traduction. In Nomine Domini.

Mon présent Olographe étant tout pour déclarer que  
 quand il plaira au Seigneur de me rappeler à soi,  
 mon épouse Marie Danc' aura entièrement à dispo-  
 ser sur la déposition & lequel tiers de mon corps à  
 l'endroit où lui plaira, sans d'une manière décente  
 & sans aucune pompe extraordinaire, non man-  
 dant à la même pour l'affection & l'attention quelle  
 me doit, à me devoir faire aucune dépense en catafal-  
 que, & autre semblable, comparatives, & voulant me  
 souvenir pour l'époux, quelle le fasse avec des  
 Mises courtoises & non pompeuses, & avec  
 d'autres doctes particulières, les seules parissies,  
 sont suffisantes pour l'accompagnement &  
 rien de plus.

Ma dite épouse Marie Danc' aura à jouir  
 entièrement, & sans aucun empêchement,  
 comme son propre, de tout ce qui se trouve en sa pos-  
 session, & que je lui ai cédée en mon vivant, & est  
 à dire tous les bijoux que je lui ai fait, & celles qu'elle  
 se fera, effet de or & en argent, deniers, ses habits & les  
 autres, en général tous les meubles de ma chambre  
 où je dormois à l'éra, comme aussi en campagne,  
 bureaux, tables, orloges, lits, rideaux, draps de lit &  
 toutes les autres choses qui se trouvent en elle,  
 & dans ses propres maisons, sans aucune exception,  
 dont elle devra jouir selon son plein & entière propriété &  
 entière possession.

Quant à la dotte elle se trouve placée à l'église de St.  
 Marie & l'obligation en sa main laquelle pousse  
 de 3300: pi de br. elle retirera quand elle lui plaira  
 les 3000: & tant de la dotte & les 300. de ma donation.

Quant à ce qui lui fut donné en effet, conforme la  
 note que la m<sup>re</sup> & converse, signée de ma propre  
 main, & doit se trouver entre ses mains.

Le présent écrit devra donc servir savoir la inten-  
 tion contre qui que ce soit & devant chaque tri-  
 bunal qu'on le contraire s'il étoit fait & légalisé  
 par un notaire public, me restera & s'il plaira  
 à Dieu de me donner de bons avant l'écrit, à

faire

The French translation of Rodolfo Braggiotti's will dated January 12, 1775...  
 (Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

## Francesco Braggiotti Jr. is getting married (1777)

In the years 1776-1778, Joost Frederik Tor will manage the embassy as chargé d'affaires...

During this period, on January 19, 1777, Francesco Braggiotti will marry Marianne Bonifacy at the Santa Maria Draperis Church. Marianne Bonifacy was the daughter of Dr. Jean Paul Bonifacy (c. 1722-1810) and Victoria Testa (c. 1739-1789).

Their daughter, Maria Braggiotti (1784-1851), will marry Luigi Bichi (c. 1780-1857), who was a doctor.

One source related to this matter also mentions Francesco Braggiotti as a doctor...

*Luigi Bichi (c. 1780 -1857) sposa Maria del dottor Francesco Braggiotti. Loro figlio Costantino Bichi (1812-1889), dottore in medicina, fu direttore dell'Ospedale italiano di Costantinopoli.*

Luigi Bichi and Maria Braggiotti's son, Costantino Bichi (1812-1889), will also serve as the director of the Italian Hospital in Constantinople...

*(Source: Italiani di Istanbul, figure, comunità e istituzioni dalle riforme alla Repubblica, 1839-1923, Attilio De Gasperis, Roberta Ferrazza, 2007)*

**Francesco BRAGGIOTTI**  
(1728-1805)

**Son of Francesco BRAGGIOTTI and Smaragda Marini**  
**Dragoman at the Dutch Embassy in Constantinople**

**marries Marianne Bonifacy (1761-1789),**  
**daughter of Dr. Jean Paul Bonifacy (c. 1722-1810) and Victoria Testa (c. 1739-1789)**  
**in Constantinople;**

***They have five children;;***

**Maria Catarina BRAGGIOTTI (1778)**

**Giovanni BRAGGIOTTI (1780-1854)**

**Antonio BRAGGIOTTI (1782)**  
*He marries Ripsima Dervisoglu*

**Maria BRAGGIOTTI (1784-1851)**  
*She marries Dr. Luigi Bichi*

**Rodolphe Joseph BRAGGIOTTI (1786)**

***Reinier van Haaften is appointed ambassador (1778)***

In 1778, Reinier van Haaften was appointed as ambassador to Constantinople (1778-1784)... During this period, the Dutch National Archives contain the following documents related to Rodolfo Braggiotti:

(749) *Record of letters sent to Thessaloniki and other ports, 1778–1784*

*Includes a letter written by R. Braggiotti.*

(751) *Record of letters sent to Izmir, 1778–1784*

*Includes a letter written by R. Braggiotti.*

(752) *Record of letters sent to Aleppo, 1778–1784*

*Includes a letter written by R. Braggiotti.*

The first of these is a letter sent by Rodolfo Braggiotti on April 26, 1780, to the Consul of Aleppo, van Maseyck. The letter reports that he departed with the fleet of the Kapudan Pasha and touches upon various matters...

*C. Maseyck par Braggiotti l aînée...*

The second letter was sent by Rodolfo Braggiotti on January 30, 1781, to the Consul of Thessaloniki, Delon. The letter reports the declaration of war between England and the Netherlands and emphasizes the need for immediate action to protect and assist national ships in the region.

The third letter was sent to the Consul of Izmir, De Hochepped, on December 23, 1782. It concerns an individual named Petraki who was residing in Scala Nova.

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

### ***The memorandum on maritime trade translated by Rodolfo Braggiotti (1780)***

During this period, the Dutch Ambassador Reinier Van Haaften submitted a memorandum to the *Reîsü'l-küttâb* (Chief of the Ottoman Chancery), expressing his concerns particularly regarding allegations that the French privateer St. Pierre was preparing to attack Dutch merchant ships. He requested that the Ottoman Empire instruct its naval commanders to prevent such attacks and to ensure the safety of Dutch ships in accordance with existing agreements.

The *Reîsü'l-küttâb* assured that the Ottoman Empire intended to address these complaints effectively. Following this, on February 12, 1780, the Ottoman Empire issued a declaration to the French and British ambassadors, reaffirming its commitment to neutrality and the protection of maritime trade. The declaration emphasized that both powers must adhere to maritime laws and Ottoman regulations.

This declaration was to be translated from Turkish into French by the dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti...

*Traduit sur l'original turc, ce 14 Février 1780, par R. Braggiotti, dragoman.*

(Source: *Journal historique et littéraire*, 1780)

Rodolfo Braggiotti's translation will clearly convey the Ottoman Empire's commitment to adhering to international law and regulations to the Dutch embassy and other diplomatic missions.

Translations such as this one highlight Dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti's significant role in translating the Ottoman Empire's diplomatic correspondence on behalf of the Dutch Embassy, as well as his contributions to international diplomacy.

### ***R. Braggiotti accompanies Ambassador van Haaften, returning to the Netherlands, during his visit to the Grand Vizier (1784)***

On March 29, 1784, Rodolfo Braggiotti accompanies Dutch Ambassador Reinier van Haaften, who is about to return to the Netherlands, during a farewell visit to the Grand Vizier. On this occasion, the interpreter Mr. Braggiotti is also rewarded, along with the ambassador, with a very valuable ermine fur.

*Il Barone di Haaften Ambasciatore delli Stati Generali presso la Sublime Porta, in occasione, che prese congedo da S. A. per ritornare in Olanda, ricevè in dono una superba pelliccia di martora zibellina. In simil congiuntura anche il Sig. Krooll Incaricato degli Stati Generali, e il Sig. Braggiotti Dragomanno, furono decorati d'una pelliccia d'ermellino.*

*The Baron of Haaften, Ambassador of the States General to the Sublime Porte, on the occasion of taking leave of His Highness to return to the Netherlands, received as a gift a magnificent sable fur. On this same occasion, Mr. Krooll, chargé d'affaires of the States General, and Mr. Braggiotti, dragoman, were also honored with an ermine fur.*

(Source: *Gazzetta universale*, Volume 11, 1784)

*Expresan las últimas cartas de Constantinopla que el Baron de Haaften Embaxador de SS. AA. PP. cerca de la Puerta Otomana, habia tenido su audiencia de despedida del Gran Visir, en cuya ocasion recibió una peliza de martas cibelinas. En la misma presentó al Ministro á Mr. Kroll en calidad de Encargado de Negocios de la República. Así este sugeto como el Sr. Braggiotti su Dragoman ó intérprete fueron tambien regalados con otras pelizas de arminio.*

*The latest letters from Constantinople report that the Baron of Haaften, Ambassador of Their High Mightinesses to the Ottoman Porte, had his farewell audience with the Grand Vizier, on which occasion he received a sable fur. At the same time, he presented Mr. Kroll to the Minister as Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic. Both this gentleman and Mr. Braggiotti, his dragoman or interpreter, were also presented with ermine furs.*

(Source: *Gaceta de Madrid*, Issues 7-51, 1784)

Look how Dominique Séraphin-Vincent explains the importance of fur in Ottoman protocol...

*Les fourrures jouent un role essentiel dans le protocole impériale et ont, de ce fais, acquis un grand prestige dans la société ottomane. Suivant son importance et les possibilités, le drogman porte des fourrures de plus ou moins grand prix: kalpak orné de mouton noir (astrakan) voire de mouton zibeline qui est la fourrure la plus appréciée ou simplement petit gris...*



*Furs play an essential role in imperial protocol and have, as a result, acquired great prestige in Ottoman society. Depending on his rank and means, the dragoman wears furs of varying value: a cap (kalpak) adorned with black lamb (astrakhan), or even sable lamb, which is the most highly prized fur, or simply squirrel (petit-gris)...*

*(Source: Istanbul et les langues orientales, 1997)*

## ***R. Braggiotti accompanies the newly arrived Dutch Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert van Dedem on his introductory visits (1785)***

In 1785, Frederik Gijsbert van Dedem arrives in Constantinople as ambassador...

*Nous avons jeté l'ancre devant Top Hané; M. Tor nous montra le palais des ambassadeurs de Hollande situé sur le haut des collines de Péra et de Galata. MM. les interprètes, le chargé d'affaires (M. Crol), le comte de Hochepied, consul général de Hollande dans l'Asie Mineure, vinrent, à la tête de tous les nationaux hollandais, complimenter leur ambassadeur et le conduisirent à terre...*

*(Source: Mémoires Du Général Baron De Dedem De Gelder, A. Boudewijn Gijsbert, 1900)*

Among the delegation welcoming the ambassador were also the embassy's interpreters – most likely including Rodolfo Braggiotti.

Some time after his arrival in Constantinople, van Dedem was received by the Grand Vizier and by Sultan Abdulhamid I.

Two paintings were made of the meeting at the Grand Vizier's residence, and two more of the audience in the Imperial Hall (*Arz Odası*) the following day, on 28 November 1785. Two of these works are more rudimentary, while the other two are more refined. The ambassador's 11-year-old son, Anthony Boldewijn Gijsbert van Dedem, took part in these audiences. He appears in some of the paintings, but is absent in others.

*(Source: ...Lale ile başladı, ...It began with the tulip, Zeki Çelikkol, Alexander De Groot, Ben J. Slot, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara, 2000)*

Van Dedem's audiences with both the Sultan and the Grand Vizier are depicted in several paintings now held by the Edwina van Heek Foundation, tucked away in an inconspicuous corner of Singraven Castle in Denekamp. The paintings are attributed to an Armenian or Greek workshop that had, by that time, mastered the art of recording official occasions in the style of Jean-Baptiste Vanmour...

*(Source: <https://www.historischnieuwsblad.nl/onze-man-in-constantinopel>)*

According to another source, however, one of these paintings was executed by the German artist Lohrmann.

*Ambassadeur Van Dedem met zijn 11 jarige zoon Anthony 28 november 1785 op audiëntie bij sultan Abdulhamid I (1725-1789) (door Duitser Friedrich Anton Lohrmann, 1787 (Universiteitsbibliotheek Warschau / Edwina van Heek Stichting in Huize Singraven Denekamp)*

*(Source: <https://ilibrariana.wordpress.com/2022/11/21/reisjournaal-van-gaspard-testa-uit-1793-van-de-bosporus-naar-de-zuiderzee-in-boekvorm-uitgegeven/>)*

Muhtemelen, Rodolfo Braggiotti, who was likely the chief dragoman of the embassy at the time, is probably one of the figures depicted alongside the ambassador in this oil painting.

An interesting detail related to this visit is that Rodolfo Braggiotti fell into the water from the boat he had boarded to cross the Golden Horn, and was rescued by bystanders...

*Only one detail was added to the report: at the time serving as third (?) dragoman, Rudolph Braggiotti had fallen into the water at dawn, in the early twilight hours, just as the boat carrying him from Pera (then the European side of the city, today known as Beyoğlu) was about to dock on its way to the palace. Fortunately, he was rescued by those nearby and emerged entirely unharmed.*

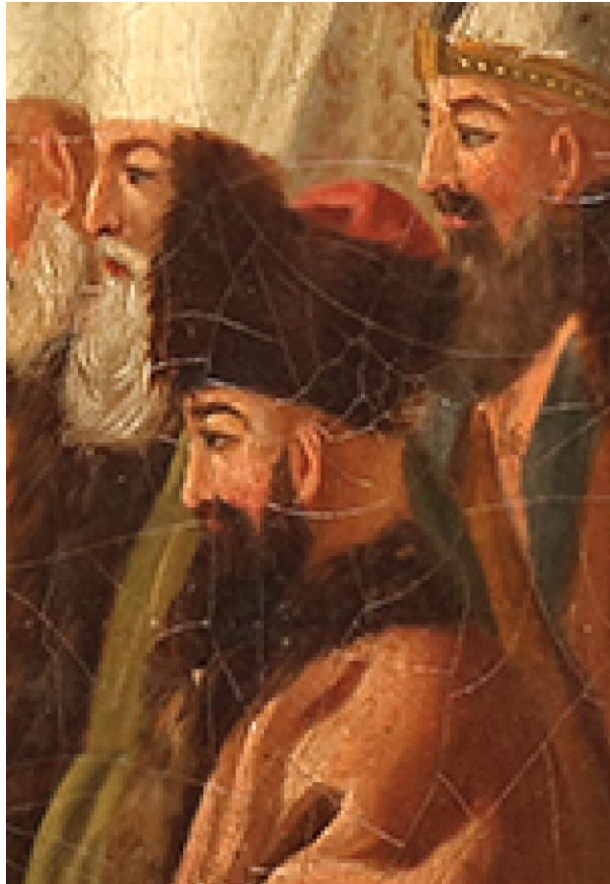
*(Source: <https://www.historischnieuwsblad.nl/onze-man-in-constantinopel>)*

Indeed, in the 1780s, there was no bridge over the Golden Horn, and one had to travel by boat from Pera to the palace. The first Galata Bridge over the Golden Horn was to be built in 1845 during the reign of Sultan Abdülmejid. This bridge would become the first large and permanent bridge built over the Golden Horn. Prior to that, boats and small vessels were used to cross the water.



*The reception of Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert van Dedem and his 11-year-old son Anthony by Grand Vizier Şahin Ali Paşa on November 27, 1785. Most likely, Rodolfo Braggiotti, who was the chief dragoman of the embassy at the time, is also one of the figures depicted alongside the ambassador in this oil painting. (Source: <https://www.orientalartauctions.com>)*





*Detail: During Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert van Dedem's visit to Grand Vizier Şahin Ali Paşa, Rodolfo Braggiotti, who is depicted in dragoman attire (and most likely the chief dragoman of the embassy at the time), appears alongside the ambassador in the painting...*



*The reception of Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert van Dedem and his 11-year-old son Anthony by Sultan Abdulhamid I on November 28, 1785 (Friedrich Anton Lohrmann, 1787). Most likely, Rodolfo Braggiotti, who was the chief dragoman of the embassy at the time, is also one of the figures depicted alongside the ambassador in this oil painting.*



*Detail: During Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert van Dedem's visit to Sultan Abdulhamid I, Rodolfo Braggiotti, depicted in dragoman attire (and most likely the chief dragoman of the embassy at the time), appears alongside the ambassador in the painting.*

## *Rodolfo Braggiotti's debate partners*

Ambassador van Dedem's son, Anthony Boldewijn Gijsbert van Dedem, would later write in his memoirs about Rodolfo Braggiotti...

*...M. Braggiotti, qui pendant de longues années fut premier interprète de l'ambassade de Hollande et en qui mon père avait trouvé un serviteur aussi fidele qu'un ami sûr et dévoué, s'était beaucoup occupé de la littérature orientale et Rachid-Effendi trouvait un grand charme à s'entretenir avec lui. Il avait traduit le fameux canon du sultan Suleiman, qui est un ouvrage très instructif, et je l'ai lu avec lui, ce qui me valut des renseignements et des anecdotes particulières; il me fit part notamment de ses discussions religieuses avec le mufti d'alors, Fétutali-Effendi, et un cadî de Roumélîe, tous deux aimant la controverse. Leur sagesse, leur modération et leurs jugements auraient fait honte à bien des prélats et docteurs chrétiens...*

*...M. Braggiotti, who for many years was the first interpreter of the Dutch embassy and in whom my father had found a servant as faithful as a sure and devoted friend, was very much engaged with Oriental literature. Rachid-Effendi found great charm in conversing with him. He had translated the famous canon of Sultan Suleiman, which is a very instructive work, and I read it with him, which earned me particular information and anecdotes. He shared with me, notably, his religious discussions with the then mufti, Fétutali-Effendi, and a cadî from Rumelia, both of whom enjoyed controversy. Their wisdom, moderation, and judgments would have shamed many Christian prelates and doctors...*

*(Source: Mémoires Du Général Baron De Dedem De Gelder, A. Boudewijn Gijsbert, 1900)*

*Van Dedem writes of soirées where genuinely enlightened debates took place between the dragoman of the Dutch embassy, the scholar Rudolphe Braggiotti, and the chancellor of the Porte.*

*...the "debating friends" of Rudolphe Braggiotti, Mehmed Raşid Efendi, a Reis iil-kuttâb, between 1787 and 1797, and his colleague Halil Hamid Efendi, later to become Grand Vizier and pasha...*

*(Source: The Netherlands and Turkey, Alexander H. De Groot, 2010)*

But These sources convey that Rodolfo Braggiotti was an intellectual, wise, progressive, and multifaceted personality. He engaged in conversations with Fetutali Efendi, the mufti of the time, known for their wisdom and moderation; and also participated in discussions on Eastern literature with figures like Mehmed Raşid Efendi and Halil Hamid Efendi.

Furthermore, his translation of the *Kanunname of Suleiman* highlights Rodolfo Braggiotti's linguistic abilities, his deep knowledge of Ottoman law, and his interest in Ottoman culture and history.

The *Kanunname of Sultan Suleiman*, one of the most important legal regulations of the Ottoman Empire, was prepared during the reign of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566). This code was a comprehensive legal text that determined the governance, justice system, tax regulations, and social structure of the Ottoman state...

***Frederik Gijsbert baron van Dedem van de Gelder leaves Constantinople (1793)***



On September 5, 1793, Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert baron van Dedem van de Gelder will embark on a long journey towards the Netherlands, departing from Constantinople with a group of nine people.

One of the nine individuals accompanying the Ambassador is Gaspard Testa, who, at the time, was the embassy's translator and secretary. Gaspard Testa will keep a journal throughout the journey, recording the events of each day...

During the period when the Ambassador left Constantinople on leave (1793-1796), dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti, along with Treasurer Jean Pierre Panchaud, will jointly be responsible for the administration of embassy affairs in the role of chargé d'affaires.

From Gaspard Testa's diary, we learn that Panchaud and Braggiotti accompanied the Ambassador and his group all the way to Göksu Creek (Les Eaux-Douces d'Asie)...

*September 5, 1793*

*The two chargé d'affaires at the head of the Dutch community, Mr. Panchaud and Mr. Braggiotti, accompanied His Excellency all the way to the sweet waters...*

*(Source: Boğaziçi'nden Güney Denizi'ne, Mehmet Tütüncü, 2023)*

Before departing, the Ambassador left a nine-page letter written in Dutch, containing detailed instructions for Panchaud and Braggiotti to follow. These instructions can be examined under the following main headings...

*(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*

### **Job description and authorities:**

- Jean Pierre Panchaud and Rodolfo Braggiotti will be responsible for protecting and defending the Netherlands' interests in the Ottoman Empire.
- They will represent the Netherlands' commercial and diplomatic interests by cooperating with Ottoman authorities and the British Consulate.

### **Diplomatic relations and cooperation:**

- They must adhere to protocols and rules of courtesy in diplomatic relations with Ottoman authorities and other consulates.
- They are expected to continuously share information and provide reports while safeguarding the state's interests.

### **Protection of commercial interests:**

- They will take necessary measures to preserve and enhance the Netherlands' commercial position.
- They are expected to be careful and meticulous in commercial agreements and relations.

### **Reporting and information sharing:**

- They must regularly submit reports to Dutch authorities and provide updates on developments.
- They should ensure a constant flow of information to prevent any disruptions.

### **Representation of state interests:**

- They must be diligent in diplomatic correspondence and negotiations to represent the Netherlands' interests in the best possible manner.
- They should defend the Netherlands' interests in the Ottoman Empire and other diplomatic circles.

### **Courtesy and protocol:**

- They must observe proper rules of courtesy and protocols in diplomatic relations.
- They should maintain diplomatic courtesy in official correspondence and meetings.

### **Information Security:**

- They must ensure the security and confidentiality of information related to the state's interests.
- They should be cautious with information sharing and share it only with the necessary authorities.

### **Cooperation and Coordination:**

- They must cooperate with Ottoman authorities and other consulates to ensure coordination.
- They should work in harmony with other diplomatic representatives to protect the state's interests.

These instructions were given to ensure that Jean Pierre Panchaud and Rodolfo Braggiotti effectively represent and protect the Netherlands' interests in the Ottoman Empire.

The responsibilities and matters they need to pay attention to during their tasks have been detailed.

*(Source: This analysis was produced by the GPT model developed by OpenAI.)*

1793

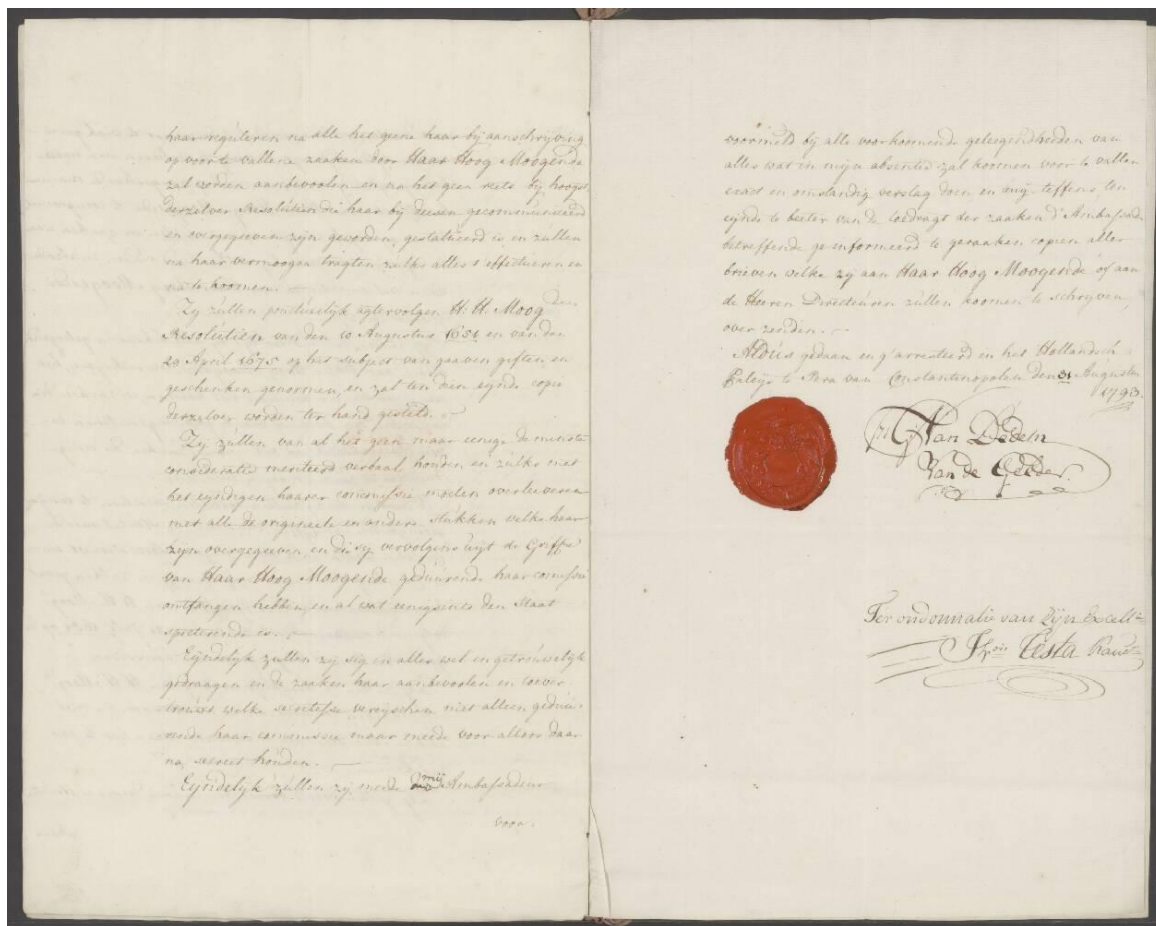
Instructions de M<sup>r</sup> Panchaud  
et Braggiotti.

Instructie van mij  
Frederik Gysbert Baron  
van Dedem heer van de  
Gelden en Hachmeulen, Ordinaris  
Gedeputeerde ten Vergadering van  
Haar Hoog- Moogende en  
Hoogstverzuiver Ambassadeur  
aan het Ottomaansch Hof, voor  
de Heeren J. B. Panchaud  
Thecaurier en R. Braggiotti  
eerste Dragoman der Hollandsche  
Ambassade beyde te saamen door  
mij Ambassadeur g'elikeerd, gequo-  
lificeerd en aangesteld om in mijn  
absentie, terwijl ik een keer na de  
Republiek zal doen met de waar-  
neeming der zaken en belangen  
van den Staat deen Ambassade  
betreffende gechargeerd te weesen  
en desweegens zo aan H. H. Moog.  
als aan mij Ambassadeur  
verantwoordelyk te zyn.

Gedeede

The first page of the instructions prepared by Ambassador van Dedem  
for Panchaud and Braggiotti... (1793)

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)



*The last page of the instructions prepared by Ambassador van Dedem  
for Panchaud and Braggiotti... (1793)  
(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*

## ***The period of Jean Pierre Panchaud and R. Braggiotti (1793-1796)***

As mentioned, during the period when the ambassador was on leave (1793-1796), dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti, together with Treasurer Jean Pierre Panchaud, was jointly responsible for the management of the embassy's affairs in the capacity of chargé d'affaires.

A chargé d'affaires is a diplomatic title that refers to the person who temporarily takes the place of a high-ranking diplomat, such as an ambassador. When there is no ambassador or head of mission, the chargé d'affaires is responsible for running the embassy or consulate. In most cases, this person is the first secretary or another senior diplomat.

During their diplomatic tenure, Braggiotti and Panchaud communicated with various officials in the Netherlands and the Mediterranean region and handled commercial relations.

Regarding what can be considered the peak of Rodolfo Braggiotti's career during this period, the following documents are available in the National Archives of the Netherlands. These documents generally contain diplomatic correspondence and official instructions from that time.

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

## *I. Outgoing Letters*

*To the Netherlands and Europe, the authorities of the United Netherlands (831), Chief Advisor Van de Spiegel (832), Secretary Fagel (833), Secretary Quarles (834), the National Assembly of the Batavian People (835), the Levant Trade Directorate (836), Ambassador F. G. van Dedem van de Gelder (837), Ambassador R. van Haeften in Vienna (838).*

*To the Mediterranean region, reports from Constantinople, the Sublime Porte (839), Thessaloniki, Consul D. Coidan (840), Patras, Consul G. Paul (841), Smyrna, Consul D. J. de Hochepped (842), J. A. Cohen (843), Aleppo, Consul J. van Maseyck (844), Alexandria, Consul J. J. H. de Vaslin (845), Algiers, Consul A. Praissinet, and a copy of a letter from Praissinet to Van Dedem (846).*

## *II. Incoming Letters*

*From the Netherlands and Europe (excluding the Mediterranean region), from the Levant Trade Directorate (847), from Ambassador F. G. van Dedem van de Gelder in Vollenhove (848), from Ambassador R. van Haeften in Vienna, and from Secretary J. R. Siliman in Vienna (849).*

*From the Mediterranean region, from Thessaloniki, D. Coidan (also to F. Testa) (850), from P. Chasseaud (851), from Patras, G. Paul, Consul (852), from Smyrna, D. J. de Hochepped, Consul (853), from Aleppo, J. van Maseyck, Consul (854), from Alexandria, J. J. H. Vaslin, Consul (855), from Tunis, A. H. Nijssen, Consul (856).*

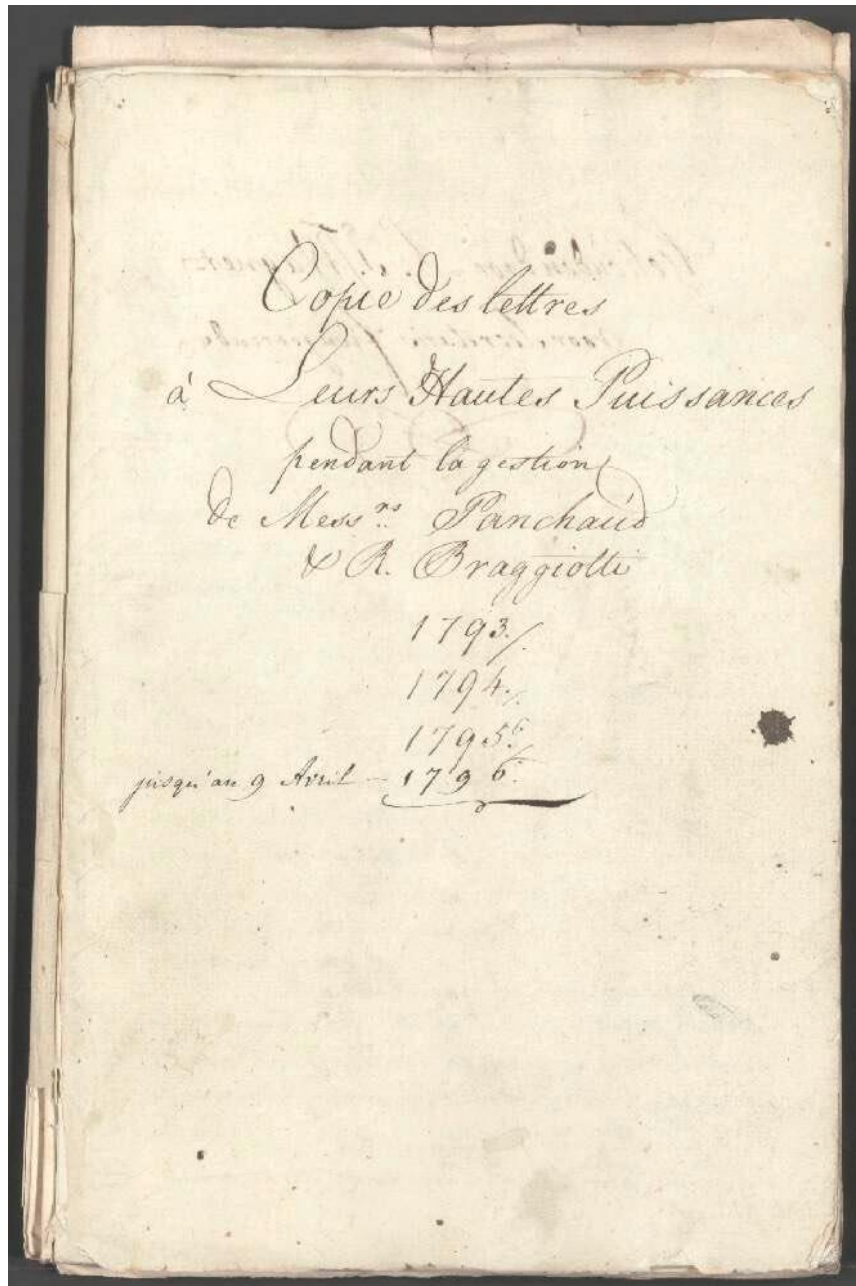
## *III. Miscellaneous Official Documents:*

*Instructions for Panchaud and Braggiotti as Chargé d'Affaires, prepared by Van Dedem (857), documents related to a dispute with the French royalist consul Amoureux in Smyrna concerning French Ambassador Verninac (858), correspondence with French Ambassador Verninac and Consul J. J. H. Vaslin in Alexandria (859), reports, notes, etc., sent to and received from the Sublime Porte and diplomats of other powers (860), travel orders for Stratti Iconomo traveling from Smyrna to Constantinople (861), documents related to the abolition of the stadtholder position (862).*

## *IV. Documents Concerning Panchaud and Braggiotti's Assumption of Danish Interests*

*Letter from Consul D. J. de Hochepped in Smyrna (863).*

*(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*



*Copies of the letters sent to the United Netherlands  
during the period of Panchaud and Braggiotti (1793-1796)  
(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*

## ***The Testa Family***

Rodolfo Braggiotti was connected to the Testa family through his father-in-law, Jean Baptiste Dané. His brother, Francesco Braggiotti, was also linked to the Testa family through his wife, Marianne Bonifacy...

Young men from Latin families like the Testa family began to be recruited into the embassy during Rodolfo Braggiotti's tenure...



*François Testa started as second dragoman under Rodolphe Braggiotti, alongside Van Dedem...*

*(Source: <https://ilibrariana.wordpress.com/2020/10/05/een-panorama-van-constantinopel-in-het-huis-te-heemstede/>)*

Gaspar Gaspar Testa was François Testa's younger brother; he took his oath as a dragoman in 1793. The Testa brothers, François and Gaspard, were also – albeit distantly – related to the Braggiotti family...

Gaspar Testa, who would later rise to the rank of diplomat, states that in 1793 he was a sworn translator at the Dutch embassy, and in that capacity, he accompanied the first dragoman, Rodolfo Braggiotti, who visited the departments of the Ottoman Porte (Bâb-ı Âli) daily.

*(Source: İstanbul'da Hollanda Sarayı, Marlies Hoenkamp-Mazgon, 2002)*

*...On February 22, 1793 “young Testa” took the oath as dragoman. Acting as a junior dragoman he was ordered to accompany the First Dragoman Rodolpho Braggiotti, on his daily morning visits to the Porte as an in-service training. The next day Braggiotti introduced him to Prince Mourouzi, who showed himself very friendly, and presented him, in his turn, to the Reis Efendi, Rachid Efendi and his personal staff...*

*(Source: The Netherlands and Turkey: Four Hundred Years of Political, Economical, Social and Cultural Relations, Alexander H. De Groot, 2007)*

Corc Moruzi, dragoman of the Ottoman Porte, 1792–1794 (1st term) and 1795–1796 (2nd term).

*(Source: [https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bâb-ı\\_Âli\\_tercümanı](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bâb-ı_Âli_tercümanı))*

Michel-Joseph Trullet confirms that Rodolfo Braggiotti – whom he had the chance to meet during his early years in Constantinople - was very close to the chief dragoman of the Ottoman Porte, Prince Mourouzi...

*...A Istanbul, résidait une branche des Braggiotti dont le plus connu, en tout cas de moi, car je l'avais rencontré au début de mon séjour en Turquie, était Rudolpho Braggiotti, qui avait été le premier drogman de l'ambassade de Hollande. Il était très lié avec le premier drogman de la Porte, le Prince Mourousi...*

*...In Istanbul resided a branch of the Braggiotti family, the most well-known – at least to me, since I had met him at the beginning of my stay in Turkey – was Rodolfo Braggiotti, who had been the first dragoman of the Dutch embassy. He was very close to the chief dragoman of the Porte, Prince Mourousi...*

*(Source: Saint-Tropez, porte de l'Orient, Guy Rachet, 2000)*

**Catharina TESTA (1670 c.)**

*She was the daughter of Antonio (Antonachi) Testa (1627–1667), dragoman of Austria and the Republic of Genoa. She married Jean Baptiste Dané (1667–1698). **Their son, Jean Baptiste Dané (1698), was the father-in-law of Rodolfo Braggiotti.***

#### **François TESTA (1764-1826)**

*He was the son of Jacob Testa (1725–1804), Dutch dragoman in Constantinople, and Maria De Negri, and the grandson of Francesco Draco Testa, the brother of Antonio (Antonachi) Testa (1627–1667), dragoman of Austria and the Republic of Genoa. **François Testa began working under Rodolphe Braggiotti as second dragoman alongside Van Dedem.** He held various positions at the Dutch embassy in the Ottoman Empire.*

#### **Gaspar TESTA (1770-1847)**

*Gaspar Testa was the younger brother of François Testa and took his oath as a dragoman in 1793. **He later rose to the rank of diplomat and accompanied Chief Dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti during his visits to the departments of the Ottoman Porte (Bâb-ı Âli).** He entered into the following marriages.*

- 1) Catherine de Marini, fille de Jacques, chargé d'affaires des Deux Siciles à Constantinople et de Thérèse Mille, qui veuve devient comtesse de Ludolf*
- 2) Caroline Dantan, fille de Michel-Ange, drogman de France, et de Marie-Lucie Beneveni*

*(Source: Istanbul et les langues orientales, 1997)*

#### **Victoria TESTA (1739 c. -1789)**

*She was the daughter of Georgio Tomaso Testa (1694–1755), grandson of Antonio (Antonachi) Testa (1627–1667), dragoman of Austria and the Republic of Genoa, and Anna Sperco. She married Dr. Jean Paul Bonifacy and was the mother of Marianne Bonifacy. **Marianne Bonifacy married Francesco Braggiotti, the brother of Rodolfo Braggiotti.***

### ***The takrir document prepared by Jean Pierre Panchaud and Rodolfo Braggiotti (1795)***

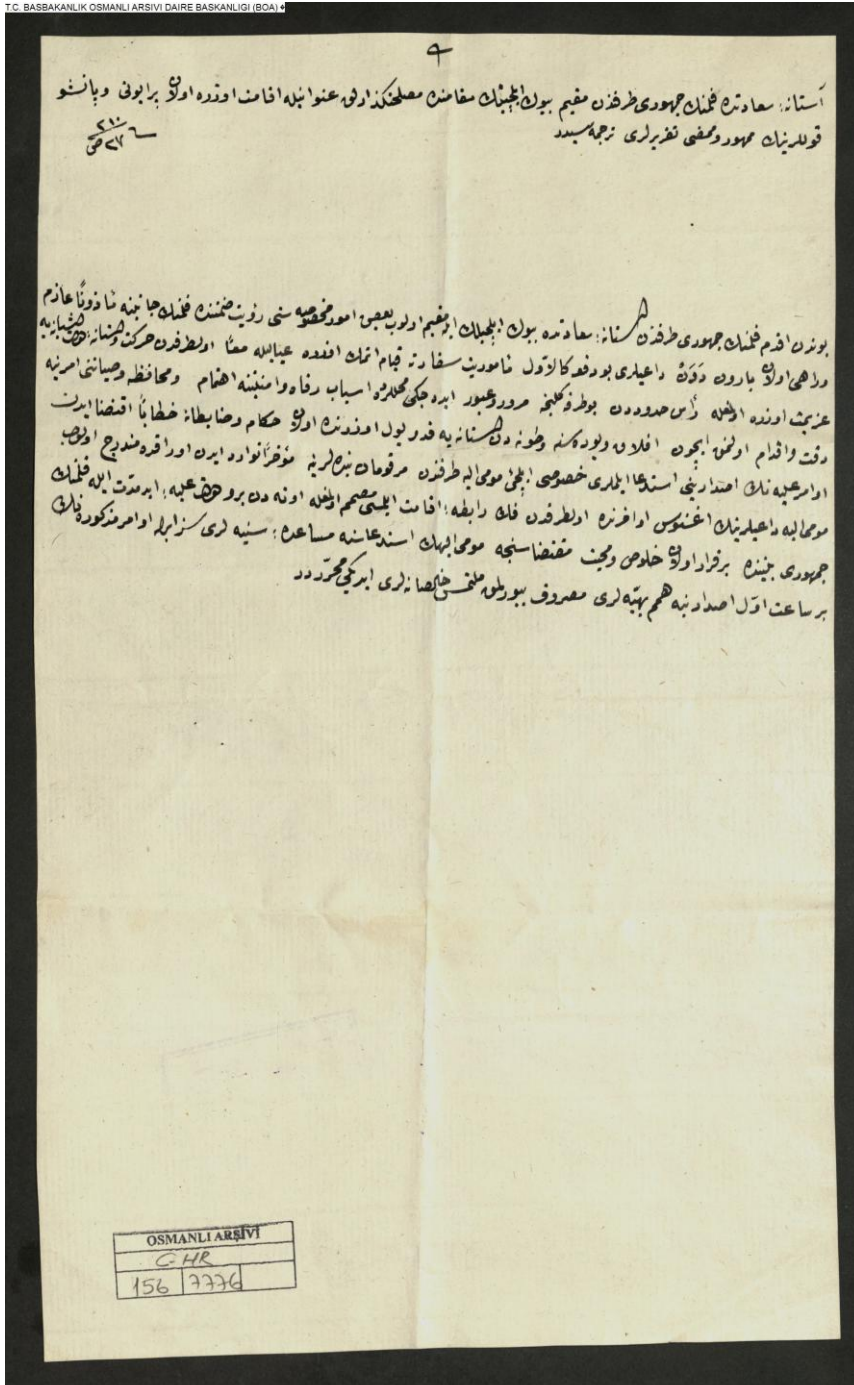
On January 19, 1795, the Batavian Republic, considered a continuation of the Dutch Republic, was proclaimed. That same year, on November 27, 1795, the chargés d'affaires managing the Batavian Republic Embassy in Constantinople submitted a petition to the relevant authorities to ensure the safety and comfort of the Ambassador – who was preparing to return to his post in Constantinople from his homeland – during his journey.

*Umur-ı mahsusasını rüyet için memleketine azimet edip bu kerre merkez-i memuriyeti olan İstanbul'a ıyalile hareket etmek üzere olan Nederland sefirinin geçeceği yerlerde esbab-ı refah ve emniyetine ihtimam ile siyanetine dikkat olunmasına dair Eflak voyvodası ile Tuna'dan İstanbul'a kadar yol üzerindeki hükkam ve zabıtana hitaben evamir ısdarı hakkında Felemenk maslahatgüzarları Pirayoti ve Panayot taraflarından takrir. H-27-02-1210*

(Source: T. C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Devlet Arşivleri Başkanlığı Osmanlı Arşivi)

Here is the detailed explanation of the text...

- **Umur-ı mahsusasını rüyet için memleketine azimet edip:** Having gone to his homeland to attend to personal matters...
- **bu kerre merkez-i memuriyeti olan İstanbul'a ıyalile hareket etmek üzere olan:** This time preparing to depart with his family for his post in Constantinople...
- **Nederland sefirinin geçeceği yerlerde esbab-ı refah ve emniyetine ihtimam ile siyanetine dikkat olunmasına dair:** Regarding the need to ensure the comfort and safety of the Dutch Ambassador along the route he will travel...
- **Eflak voyvodası ile Tuna'dan İstanbul'a kadar yol üzerindeki hükkam ve zabıtana hitaben:** Addressed to the Voivode of Flak and to the other authorities and security forces along the route from the Danube River to Constantinople...
- **evamir ısdarı hakkında:** Regarding the issuance of orders...
- **Felemenk maslahatgüzarları Pirayoti ve Panayot taraflarından tahrir:** The report (or recommendation) submitted by the Dutch chargés d'affaires (acting ambassadors) Pirayoti and Panayot...



C.HR.00156.07776.001

*A document regarding the Takrir prepared by Jean Pierre Panchaud and Rodolfo Braggiotti (1795)*  
 (Source: T. C. Cumhurbakanlığı Devlet Arşivleri Başkanlığı Osmanlı Arşivi)

### *Rodolfo Braggiotti passes away (1796)*

The following year, on April 28, 1796, Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert Baron van Dedem van de Gelder, who had been in the Netherlands since 1793, returns to Constantinople. Thus, the period during which Jean Pierre Panchaud and Rodolfo Braggiotti managed the embassy as chargés d'affaires comes to an end.

On December 2, 1796, Rodolfo Braggiotti, who had served the Netherlands for more than fifty years, passes away at his home in Constantinople. According to the death records of the Santa Maria Draperis Church (III/389), Rodolfo Braggiotti was 76 years old at the time of his death.

*First drogman, died in Constantinople December 2, 1796, after having served at the embassy for 50 years.*

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

*Rodolfo Braggiotti served as a chargé d'affaires until his death at the age of eighty in 1796. Ambassador Frederik Gijsbert Dedem van den Gelder wrote that his death was a great loss, as a European ambassador cannot directly negotiate with the Ottoman government "but must conduct and manage everything through his dragoman, and the skill of the dragoman and the manner in which he executes the orders can entirely affect whether the matter ends well or badly.*

*After Rodolfo Braggiotti's death, his son, François Braggiotti, became the third dragoman.*

(Source: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/78076486.pdf>)

Francesco Braggiotti would continue to serve as a translator at the Dutch embassy until 1799, the year the family received protection from Prussia.

(Source: *Eastward Bound: Dutch Ventures and Adventures in the Middle East*, G. J. H. van Gelder, Ed de Moor, 1994, s. 138)

## ***Rodolfo Braggiotti s disputed inheritance (1797)***

Following the death of Rodolfo Braggiotti, the inheritance he left to his family became the source of a serious dispute between his widow, Marie Dané, and his siblings, Francesco and Lucie Braggiotti.

On the very day Rodolfo Braggiotti passed away - before his lifeless body had even left the house - his final wishes had already been read. His widow Marie, his siblings Francesco and Lucie, his brother-in-law Antoine Dané, and embassy officials had all gathered, and an official read aloud Rodolfo Braggiotti's will and its appendices, which had been kept in a portfolio. A deep and respectful silence filled the room...

At the first reading of the will, everyone appeared to approach the matter in good faith. Francesco Braggiotti even suggested that they all continue living together in the large family house. However, the widow, Marie Braggiotti, objected, explaining that aside from the annual income provided by her dowry, she had no other means, and therefore it would not be possible for her to live "in such a large house."

It was quite uncommon in the 1700s for a woman to receive income from her dowry. At that time, a dowry was typically understood as the goods, money, or property a woman brought into her marriage. It was intended to contribute to the new household and to provide some form of financial security.

Thus, the dowry was generally not under the woman's control and was instead considered part of the marital property, to be spent or used within the marriage. However, in some cases – especially among wealthy or noble families – part of the dowry could be reserved for the woman's personal use, providing her with a form of income.

In any case, no agreement was reached regarding the terms of the will, and three days later, a second meeting was held. This time, present among the attendees was Padre Egidio of the Santa Maria Draperis Church – the very priest with whom the late Rodolfo Braggiotti had regularly confessed during his lifetime. A second reading of the will was carried out, but once again no resolution was achieved. Eventually, Antoine Dané's proposal to bring in one or two mediators was accepted, and the second session was concluded.

This was how the conflict began. Francesco and Lucie Braggiotti would go on to contest the validity of their brother Rodolfo Braggiotti's will.

A file of 75 pages related to this process – which would last nearly two years – can be found in the Dutch National Archives.

*(1309) Objection to the validity of R. Braggiotti's will, 1797*

*(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*

While the main source of the dispute appeared to be the houses in Pera and Büyükdere, the furnishings and belongings within those houses would also become a separate point of contention between the parties...

The list of items delivered to me in Büyükdere is as follows:

*4 dozen small plates of English origin, 6 large plates, 11 teacups, 9 saucers, 4 porcelain coffee saucers, 20 porcelain coffee cups, 1 English sugar bowl, 1 teapot and a bowl or vase, slightly chipped, 2 glass plates and a lid, 2 glasses or glass vases for water, with lids, 3 glass bottles for table use, 2 glass salt shakers, 9 water glasses, 1 milk jug, 4 room vases or chamber pots, 1 spool of silk thread, 1 large table, 1 small table, 6 wicker chairs, 1 chest, 1 mirror, 2 paintings – one of the Virgin Mary and one of Saint Anthony, 1 mosquito net or fly swatter, 4 wicker cushions, 11 wicker pillows, 1 wool mattress, 2 bedsteads, 2 cotton mattresses, 3 pillowcases, 3 feather pillows, 3 bedspreads, 3 table legs.*

*Marie Braggiotti nata Dané*

*(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*



*Note des hardes qui m'ont été consignées à Büyükdere*

4. Doppine di Piatti piccoli d'Inghilterra
6. Piatti grandi
11. Tappe per il Tho'
9. Piattini per il Tho'
4. Piattelli da Caffè di porcellana
20. Tappe di porcellana da Caffè
1. Zuccheriera d'Inghilterra
1. Theiera, ed un Kiassé o sia vaso, un pozzetto
1. Copome da Caffè
2. Piatti di vetro ed un Coporchio
2. Bardak, o sia Vasi di Vetro per acqua, con un Coporchio
3. Bottiglie di vetro per la Tavola
2. Salieri di Vetro
9. Bicchieri per acqua
1. Filtre per il latte
4. Vasi per la Camera
1. Molinello per cavar la Seta
1. gran tavola
1. Piccola idem
6. Sedie di paglia
1. Sengro
1. Specchio
2. Quadri, uno della B.V. e l'altro di S. Aut.
1. Sineklik, o sia Scania Moschea
4. Mindes di paglia
11. Cuscini di paglia
1. Mindes di lana
2. Letti
2. Sulte, o sia Matetappi di Cottone per letto.
3. Cappermate

**Inventory of items from the Braggiotti House in Büyükdere  
received by Marie Dané Braggiotti... (1797)  
(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)**

An excerpt from the report written by chancellor François Testa on January 11, 1797, concerning the reading of Rodolfo Braggiotti's will...

...le deux de Décembre de l'année dernière, à la réquisition de Madame Marie Braggiotti, et de François et Lucie Braggiotti, nous fûmes présents à la lecture des dispositions et dernières volontés de feu R. Braggiotti qui venait d'expirer et dont le corps n'était pas encore exporté, et entendîmes que les parties intéressées déclaraient en notre présence et en celles du Sieur Dané, qu'ils reconnaissaient parfaitement les deux écrits pour Olographe de la main

du défunt et pour ces dernières dispositions et volontés qu'il les acceptaient et se soumettait de les observer ponctuellement. Après quoi, le Sieur François Braggiotti s'adressa à sa belle-sœur et lui proposa de loger tous ensemble dans leur maison paternelle, de vivre en bonne harmonie, et de leur côté on aurait tous les égards et attention pour elle. Sur quoi Madame répondit fort poliment en disant que ses facultés ne lui permettaient pas de loger dans cette grande maison, que son seul revenu annuel ne consistait qu'à cent vingt piastres, qui sont les intérêts de sa dote, elle ne pouvait pas absolument vivre avec cette petite somme par an et que son âge et son état de veuvage la mettaient dans le cas de devoir vivre tranquillement et en repos, ce qui serait impossible quand ils logeraient tous ensemble...

...On the second of December of last year, at the request of Madame Marie Braggiotti, and of François and Lucie Braggiotti, we were present at the reading of the provisions and last wishes of the late R. Braggiotti, who had just passed away and whose body had not yet been removed. We heard that the interested parties declared in our presence, and in that of Monsieur Dané, that they fully recognized the two documents as being in the handwriting of the deceased and as his final dispositions and wishes, and that they accepted them and undertook to observe them faithfully. After this, Monsieur François Braggiotti addressed his sister-in-law and proposed that they all live together in their paternal house, in harmony, assuring her that they would show her all possible respect and attention. To this, Madame replied very politely, saying that her means did not allow her to live in such a large house; that her only annual income amounted to one hundred and twenty piastres, which were the interests from her dowry; that she absolutely could not live on such a small amount per year; and that her age and widowhood required her to live quietly and in peace – something that would be impossible if they were all to live together..."

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

Some documents available in the file located at the Dutch National Archives on the subject...

Letters from François and Lucie Braggiotti to the ambassador, January 2, 1797  
Letter from Marie Dané Braggiotti to the ambassador, January 10, 1797  
Statement by Chancellor Fr. Testa and protocol regarding the reading of the will, January 11, 1797  
Letters from François and Lucie Braggiotti to the ambassador, January 19, 1797  
Memorandum of opinion on the will, signed by Fonton, Panchaud, Testa, and Brutti, February 1, 1797  
Statement on inheritance matters by N. Dragalizza, Consul of Ragusa in Izmir, February 25, 1797  
A statement regarding inheritance matters, February 13, 1797  
Statement by G. Franchini, Venetian Consul in Izmir, March 1, 1797  
Statement by F. Werry, British Consul in Izmir, March 3, 1797  
Statement by A. Cramer, Austrian Consul in Izmir, March 3, 1797  
Statement by P. Egidio, priest of Santa Maria Draperis, March 24, 1797  
Letter from Marie Dané Braggiotti to the ambassador, April 4, 1797  
Rental agreement between Venetian Bailo Francesco Vendramin and the Braggiotti family, April 20, 1797  
Letter from Chancellor Testa to the chanceries of Austria, Russia, Prussia, and Naples, April 29, 1797  
Statement by the ambassador regarding the wills, June 26, 1797  
Statements by François and Lucie Braggiotti regarding the correct distribution of all goods and belongings as specified in Rodolfo Braggiotti's will, July 24, 1797  
Letters from François and Lucie Braggiotti to the ambassador, August 10, 1797  
Statements by François and Lucie Braggiotti, August 11, 1797  
Rental agreement between Venetian Bailo Francesco Vendramin and the Braggiotti family, September 15, 1797  
Decision of the mediators, May 21, 1798

*Letter from Marie Dané Braggiotti to the ambassador, July 9, 1798*

*Statement by the Chancery of the Batavian Republic regarding the house in Büyükdere, July 22, 1798*

*Letter from Marie Dané Braggiotti to the ambassador, July 26, 1798*

*Petitions by François and Lucie Braggiotti to the ambassador, August 7, 1798*

*Letter from Marie Dané Braggiotti to the ambassador, August 27, 1798*

*Letters from François and Lucie Braggiotti to the ambassador, September 9, 1798*

*Letter from Marie Dané Braggiotti to the ambassador, October 13, 1798*

## ***The Braggiotti House in Büyükdere (1797)***

Although the disputes among members of the Braggiotti family arising from the death and will of Rodolfo Braggiotti had not been fully resolved, the house located in Büyükdere was rented to the Venetian Bailo Francesco Vendramin, who had arrived in Constantinople in November 1796.

In those final days of the Venetian Republic, on exactly April 20, 1797, a rental agreement was signed between Francesco Braggiotti, Lucie Braggiotti, Marie Dané, and Bailo Vendramin. The house in question was located right next to the residence of Madame Giuliani, which was already in use by the Bailo. The agreed annual rent was 500 kuruş...

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

By the late 1700s, Büyükdere was known as a prominent district on the European shore of the Bosphorus in Constantinople. During that time, it was a particularly popular residential area for foreign embassies and trading colonies. The district was renowned for its natural beauty, clean air, and proximity to the sea, and it had a distinctly cosmopolitan character with residents from various nationalities. Along Büyükdere's shoreline stood large waterfront mansions (yalis), pavilions, and expansive gardens.

*Büyükdere, with its location along the Bosphorus and its pleasant countryside filled with gardens, was considered a remarkably beautiful place. Among these gardens, those of the Russian ambassador and the official representing Saxon interests (Baron Hubbs) were especially notable. Their residences, too, were built with the highest taste and refinement...*

(Source: *Idea del Imperio Otomano*, Josef Solano Ortiz De Rozas, 1793)

Dutch embassy officials also resided in the Büyükdere area following a fire that had damaged their original premises. Similarly, by the late 18th century, the French embassy maintained a summer residence in Büyükdere. French ambassadors and their diplomatic missions would stay at this residence during the summer months. The property was also used for diplomatic functions and social gatherings, making it an important venue for both official and cultural interactions....



*A Glimpse of the district of Büyükdere...*

*Johan Raye's Travel Notes (1764–1769)*

*(Source: İstanbul'da Hollanda Sarayı, Marlies Hoenkamp-Mazgon, 2002)*

San Mil. sept cent quatre vingt dix sept  
le vingt du mois d'Avril à l'ère de Constantinople.

Le sieur François Braggiotti & Mademoiselle sa  
sœur Lucie Braggiotti de concert avec leur belle  
sœur Mademoiselle Marie veuve Braggiotti & le  
consentement de son Excellence Monsieur  
l'Ambassadeur de la République Batave,  
par l'intercession de Monsieur Souverain  
Chancelier de la dite Ambassade, ont aujourd'hui  
loué à son Excellence Monsieur François  
Vendramin Bail de Venise, leur maison  
située à Burjur de ré attenant à celle de  
Madame Giuliani qui est habitée actuellement  
par M. le Bail, & ce aux conditions suivantes:

Son Excellence le Bail s'engage de payer chaque  
année par anticipation la somme de cinq  
cents cinquante livres qui serviront pour le loyer  
annuel de la dite maison.

Les propriétaires s'obligent de faire en cas de besoin  
toutes les réparations fondamentales qui sont  
nécessaires dans la dite maison, & de la laisser  
habitable, avec toutes les fenêtres & vitres en  
bon état, de manière que toutes les fermures  
seurs &c.

Toutes les augmentations, divisions et  
améliorations que son Excellence le Bail  
voudrait faire dans la dite maison, seront  
à ses propres frais & dépens sans aucun  
de la maison, à condition pourtant que  
tous

The rental agreement between the Braggiotti Family  
and Venetian Bailo Francesco Vendramin (April 20, 1797)  
(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

## The Braggiotti family comes under Prussian protection (1799)

In 1799, Napoleon besieged Egypt, and diplomatic relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Batavian Republic, a French ally, were suspended. During this period, Francesco Braggiotti and other members of the family residing in Constantinople came under Prussian protection...



*The ambassador, Frederik Gysbert Baron van Dedem (in function 1785-1808), was permitted to go and reside in Bucharest within the borders of the empire but inside the tributary principality of Walachia. He lived there till his return to Constantinople in 1802 when, after the conclusion of peace, he was once more recognized as ambassador of the Netherlands. During this time, the Dutch Testas, as well as the dragoman family Braggiotti and the other Dutch nationals and protégés, were admitted to enjoy the protection of Prussia...*

(Source: *The Netherlands and Turkey*, Alexander H. De Groot, 2010)

Francesco Braggiotti would continue to work as a translator at the Dutch embassy until 1799, the year the family came under Prussian protection...

(Source: *Eastward Bound: Dutch Ventures and Adventures in the Middle East*, G. J. H. van Gelder, Ed de Moor, 1994, s. 138)

## ***The Braggiotti candle factory is shut down by order of the Sublime Porte (1802)***

During this period, Francesco and Lucie Braggiotti, siblings of Dragoman Rodolfo Braggiotti who had passed away in 1797, were living in Constantinople under Prussian protection (*Protetti prussiani*).

On February 11, 1801, Francesco and Lucie Braggiotti signed a four-year lease contract at the Prussian Consulate in Pera with two individuals named Teodolo Seraphino and Emanuel "Manoli" Zigala. According to this contract, the Braggiotti siblings leased part of their property in Pera (*un terreno con casa nella gran strada di Pera, specifically un terrain situé dans l'enclos ou l'enceinte de leur propre maison à Péra*) to these individuals.

Teodolo Seraphino and Manoli Zigala attempted to establish a candle factory (*mumhane, şemhane*) on the Braggiotti property, and the factory was opened by a firman issued by the Sublime Porte.

Candle factories were common in the Ottoman Empire, as candles were frequently used for lighting and religious ceremonies. At the time, candle production was one of the important commercial activities integral to daily life.

From subsequent correspondence following the contract, it is understood that Teodolo Seraphino withdrew from the partnership a few months later, and that Lucie Braggiotti then held a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) share while Zigala held a one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) share.

However, the Russian and Swedish Embassy Palaces neighboring the enterprise in Pera were disturbed by its presence, considering the candle workshop dangerous and capable of setting the entire neighborhood ablaze...

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

Wooden buildings, which were common in the Pera district at the time, were highly vulnerable to fire, and candle factories were considered high-risk enterprises. The use of beeswax and other flammable substances in candle making further increased the danger of fire. For this reason, the neighboring embassies feared that the entire neighborhood could be destroyed in a blaze.

The Braggiotti candle factory would prove to be a short-lived venture and was eventually shut down by an order from the Sublime Porte.

On this matter, a 16-page file is held in the Dutch National Archives under the title *Affaire de la fabrique de cire des Braggiotti supprimée par ordre de la Porte* ("Case of the Braggiotti candle factory, shut down by order of the Porte").

(1134) Documents relating to the closure of a candle factory belonging to the Braggiotti siblings by order of the Sublime Porte, 1801–1802.

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

## ***Francesco Jr. Braggiotti passes away (1805)***

Following the death of Rodolfo Braggiotti, his brother Francesco Braggiotti died on March 25, 1805, as recorded in the registers of Santa Maria Draperis.

Francesco Braggiotti's son, Antoine Braggiotti, wrote a letter to his aunt Lucie Braggiotti on June 16, 1807, stating that he had left Constantinople nearly three years earlier and had now returned to claim his share of his late father's inheritance, who had died in 1805. He expressed his intent to use his portion of the estate - including houses in Büyükdere and Pera - to establish a business for himself on an Aegean island...

The letter opens as follows...

*Ma très chère tante, des étourderies et des écarts de jeunesse m'ont fait perdre votre amitié et m'ont éloigné pendant trois ans environ de la maison paternelle. J'ai pendant ce temps pourvu seul à mes besoins et je n'ai en aucune manière été à charge à ma famille. La mort de mon père étant survenue, je suis retourné ici. A mon arrivée, j'ai trouvé tout ce qui était relatif aux intérêts de la famille fixés et déterminés par les soins des tuteurs-curateurs nommés à cet effet. J'ai vu avec plaisir et reconnaissance que tout avait été réglé de manière à éviter tout procès, toute distension dans l'intervalle qui s'est écoulé depuis la mort de mon père. J'ai presque continuellement résidé ici, quoique ma conduite fut bien différente de ce quelle avait été avant mon premier départ...*

*My dearest aunt, follies and youthful indiscretions made me lose your affection and led me to stay away from the family home for about three years. During that time, I provided for myself and was in no way a burden to my family. After the death of my father, I returned here. Upon my arrival, I found that all matters concerning the family's interests had been settled and decided by the guardians and curators appointed for that purpose. I was pleased and grateful to see that everything had been arranged in such a way as to avoid any lawsuits or disputes*

*in the time since my father's death. I have resided here almost continuously, although my conduct has been very different from what it was before I first left...*

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

He also requests, in the same letter, that his sister Maritza be held accountable regarding their father's valuable belongings.

*...En prenant conscience de l'acte qui a été dressé lors de la levée de scellés après la mort de mon père, j'ai vu avec une bien grande surprise que suivant cet acte, l'argenterie et tous les effets précieux se trouvaient réduits à une soucoupe d'argent, 6 zarfs et 6 cuillères à café, tandis que lors de mon départ, 3 ans environ avant sa mort, il existait en ses mains les objets suivants...*

*...Upon reviewing the official inventory drawn up when the seals were broken after my father's death, I was greatly surprised to find that, according to that document, the silverware and all valuable items had been reduced to a single silver saucer, six cup holders, and six coffee spoons – whereas, at the time of my departure, about three years before his death, he was in possession of the following items...*

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

Antoine Braggiotti continues his letter in this manner, proceeding to list the silverware, jewelry, and valuable table linens that had belonged to his father. It appears that Francesco Braggiotti had lost his mental faculties toward the end of his life, and the items listed by his son Antoine had been placed under safekeeping in a chest at the Church of Santa Maria.

He closes and signs his letter with the words: *your most humble and most obedient nephew."*

Three days later, on June 19, 1807, his sister Maritza responded with an itemized list, noting what she knew about each object. This list was written in Greek, using Latin script...

*Luludi pos ihe i sihoremeni i mama to thimame omos dhiamanti i brillanti itane dthen to thimame...*

*I remember our late mother's flower, but whether it was a diamond or a brilliant, I can't recall...*

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

The list of valuable items belonging to Francesco Braggiotti, written in French by his son Antoine Braggiotti on June 16, 1807, is as follows...

*For your information*

*Silverware*

*1 rosewater sprinkler and censer, silver*

*1 large soup ladle, silver*

*1 large fish serving spoon, silver*

*4 saltcellars, silver*

*1 sugar bowl, with 6 spoons, silver*

*1 jam jar, silver*

*2 large plates, silver*

*2 large pitchers (cafetières)*

*1 pair of candlesticks (chandeliers), 2 extinguishers (éteignoirs), 2 candle wick trimmers (mouchettes)*

#### *Jewels*

*1 flower-shaped jewel set with diamonds (une fleur montée en brillants)*

*1 pair of earrings (pendants d oreilles)*

*1 large diamond ring*

*1 pair of pearl bracelets, with diamond ends*

*1 pair of gold bracelets*

*1 small crescent-shaped jewel set with diamonds*

*1 silver case or holder*

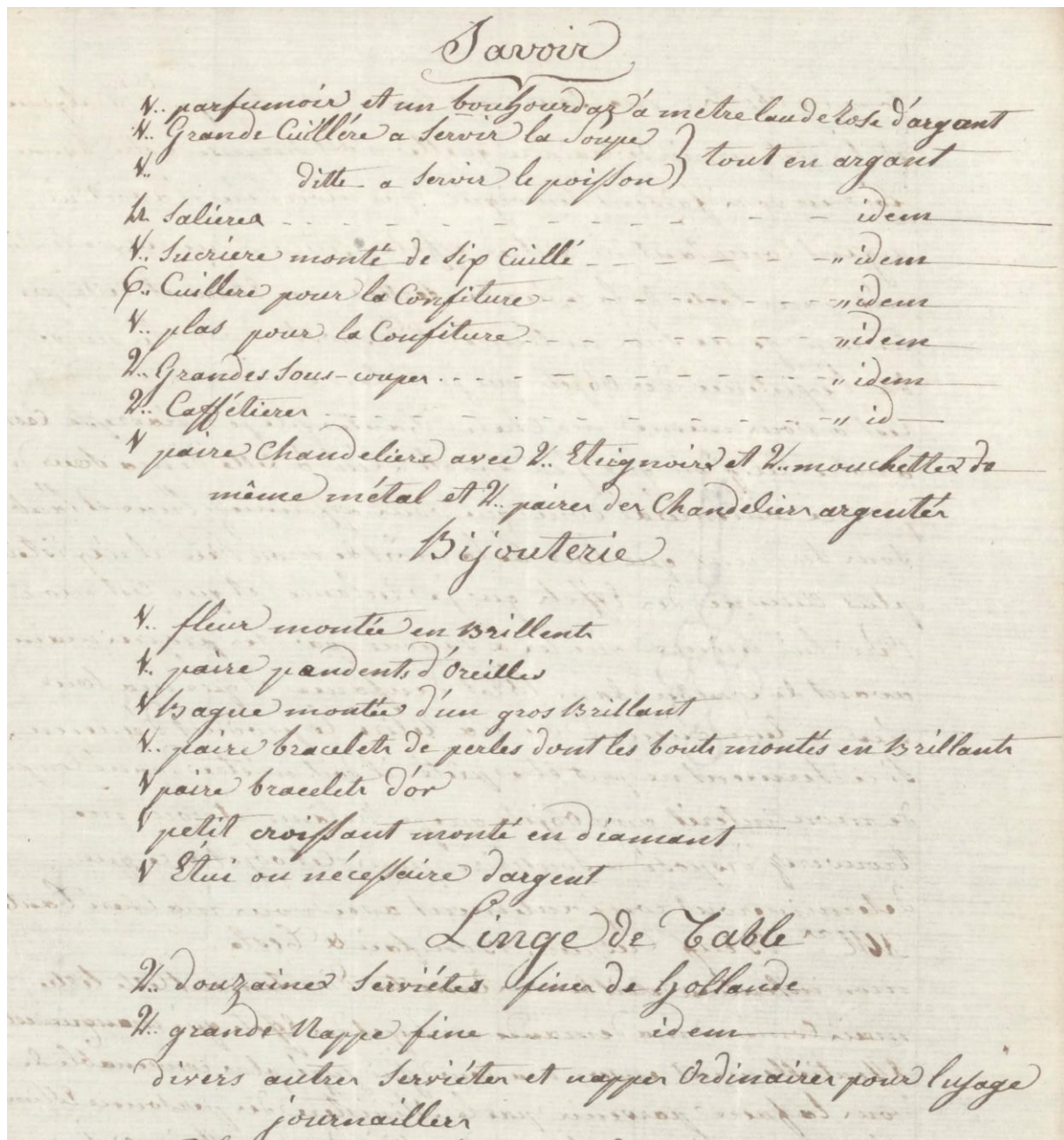
#### *Table Linens*

*2 dozen fine Dutch-origin napkins*

*2 fine Dutch-origin tablecloths*

*Various tablecloths and napkins for daily use*

*(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*



The list of valuable items belonging to Francesco Braggiotti (1807)  
 (Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

## Lucie Braggiotti passes away (1809)

The Batavian Republic came to an end on June 5, 1806, with the ascension of Louis Bonaparte to the throne of the Kingdom of Holland.

On July 3, 1809, Lucie Braggiotti, the sister of the late Rodolfo and Francesco Braggiotti, passed away in Constantinople (Santa Maria Draperis records). History, of course, repeats itself, and this time a dispute over inheritance arises among her nieces and nephews.

Although Lucie Braggiotti had prepared her will much earlier, on May 5, 1808, "under God's guidance", she created an additional will.



With this document, Lucie Braggiotti bequeathed her house in Büyükdere and the house they were currently living in to her niece Maritza, along with all the furniture and silverware in the house. She made this decision due to the great devotion and services that Maritza had shown her. To her other two nephews, Giovanaki and Antonaki, she requested that 600 kuruş be paid to each. Lastly, she confirmed that all other details mentioned in her will remained valid and signed the document.

Giovanni and Antonio Braggiotti, in relation to this matter, would take legal action against their sister Maria. A 43-page file regarding this case is available in the Dutch National Archives.

*(1339) J. and A. Braggiotti against Marie Braggiotti (1809)*

*(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)*

Among the documents in the file, there is also a dowry list whose ownership is not clearly identified.

Pera Costantopoli. 5 Maggio 1808.

Con la presente si dichiara la Sig.<sup>ra</sup> Lucia Braggiotti che quantunque, aveva fatto per il passato il suo Testamento dove ordinò, secondo che Dio la ispirò. Ora però si trova obbligata di fare il presente Codicillo, dove dà e liberamente concede, doppo la sua morte, a suo nipote Mariza le due case, tanto quella di Bajactere, come quella dove presentemente abitano come si trovano, con tutte le lor ragioni, senza che nessuno dei due suoi Nipoti Giovanardi, ed Antonardi, la possa molestare in nessuna cosa: ma che essa sia padrona di vendere, alienare, far come gli piace, come pare gli lascia la sua Argenteria con tutti i mobili di casa costituendola Erede di tutto il suo; e ciò lo fa per il grand obbligo che ha verso di lei, perchè la ha servita sempre, ed ha conosciuto molte obbligazioni da essa. Con obbligo però di pagare ai suoi due Nipoti cioè a Giovanardi, e Antonardi 500 piastre a ciascheduno, ed di supplire per l'anima sua tutto ciò che ha lasciato al suo Testamento. ed in fede di ciò si sottoscrive di proprio pugno.

Lucia Braggiotti *co. p.*  
come dep.

The additional will written by Lucie Braggiotti (1808)  
(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

#### Note about the dowry

Cash	1400 Kuruş
6 camises, each 20 kuruş	120
1 embroidered muslin kaftan	290
1 embroidered other kaftan	60
3 embroidered handkerchiefs, each 10 kuruş	30
1 diamond ring	300
1 crescent (half moon)	200
2 embroidered other handkerchiefs, each 50 kuruş	100
	-----
	2500 Kuruş

*Room furniture*

*1 bed with all necessary items*

*3 wool mattresses*

*3 Cyprus cloths*

*10 pillows*

*Kitchen items*

*3 copper pots*

*1 copper pan*

*1 copper tray*

*1 large copper sahan*

*Clothing*

*1 mink fur*

*1 other fur*

*1 squirrel fur*

*5 gowns*

*1 Stamboul gown*

*4 camises*

*4 headscarves*

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

Note de la dotte		
En argent comptant . . . . .	P.	1400.
6. chemise a p. <sup>te</sup> 20. l'un . . . . .	"	120.
1. Capstan de la baliste brodé . . . . .	"	290.
1. autre de ghesie . idem . . . . .	"	60.
3. mouchoir brodé a p. 10. l'un . . . . .	"	30
1. Bague montée en diamant . . . . .	"	300
1. Demie lune . . . dit . . . . .	"	200.
2. autres mouchoir brodé a p. 50 l'un . . . . .	"	100
Meubles de la chambre	P.	2500
Un lit avec tous les accessoires		
3. Matelas remplis de laine		
3. Matras toile de chypre		
10. Couffin dit idem rempli de l'Etoupe		
Pour la Cuisine		
3. Marmettes en cuivre		
1. Poêle . . . idem		
1. Tepsi . . . idem		
1. Pignacite.		
1. Patelle		
Sous-habillemens		
1. Petite de Caquem		
1. autre de Boghas		
1. dit de Siurap.		
5. Anteri de Citari		
1. dit. de Hambol Solife		
4. chemise		
3. Calote		
4. mouchoir pour la tête.		

The dowry list found in the file related to Lucie Braggiotti's inheritance (1809)

(Source: <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>)

## Farewell...

What haven't I experienced in my life...

I opened my eyes to the world during the Tulip Era... Therefore, I lived a life of luxury... I met many Sultans... I encountered the reformist and innovative Mahmud I, the conservative and modest Osman III, the sailor Mustafa III, Abdulhamid I, who was tested by disasters, and Selim III, who leaned toward Westernization... I became friends with Grand Viziers, and I became acquainted with many Reis Efendi... Ambassadors, Consuls, and Dragomans came and went... There were schemes, there were tricks...

What haven't I experienced in this fleeting world...

*I witnessed the Ottoman-Russian wars, the French Revolution... I survived terrifying fires and destructive earthquakes...*

*I served Holland for more than fifty years... Since my youth, I worked personally to strengthen the political and commercial ties between the Netherlands and the Ottoman Empire...*

*I spent my life in the heart of Pera, in the center of trade... Amidst valuable fabrics and the magnificent scents of spices... Pera, Büyükdere, Bâb-ı Âli... I wove through the palaces, embassy buildings, and grand mansions... I wore kaftans, I wore furs... I wore kalpaks on my head, I carried responsibilities on my hunched shoulders...*

*But I remained, always humble and always obedient, your servant...*

*What have these poor eyes seen, what have my ears heard... Ottoman, Dutch, Greek... What have these lips translated, what have they spoken... And what could these lips not say, what, what...*

*Now I bid farewell to this mortal world, taking with me all that I could not say, all that I could not translate, to the grave... Please, pray for me and remember me... This is my spiritual inheritance to you...*

R. B.

## **Epilogue**

It was the 8th of January, 1808. Vincenzo Braggiotti, then residing in Smyrne, applied to the French Consulate General in Smyrna to have a document, drawn up on the island of Chios on the 2nd of October, 1807, officially recorded. Signed by Nicola Timoni, the Bishop of Chios, this document was of value and significance, as it established connections between the Braggiotti families of Chios, Smyrna, and Constantinople...

*...attestiamo che il fu colonnello Brajotti che con gloria servì la repubblica Veneta e morì in Corfù l'anno 1760 era consanguineo parente stretto del fu Francesco Braggiotti di Costantinopoli che con onore a servito la repubblica d'Olanda di cui tutti ora godono la protezione sono congiunti dello stesso Signor Vincenzo come discendente per linea retta del comune Bartolomeo Brajotti come si costa la propria scienza....*

*...we attest that the late Colonel Brajotti, who served the Republic of Venice with distinction and died in Corfu in the year 1760, was a close blood relative of the late Francesco Braggiotti of Constantinople, who served the Republic of Holland with honor, and whose descendants now all enjoy its protection. All are kin to the said Signor Vincenzo, as he is a direct descendant of their common ancestor, Bartolomeo Brajotti, as is known with certainty...*

This document contained many important details.

According to the document,

- *Francesco Braggiotti, who had served the Republic of Holland with honour;*



- Colonel Braggiotti, who served the Republic of Venice with distinction and passed away in Corfu in 1760;
- and Vincenzo Braggiotti, residing in Smyrna;

were all bound by ties of kinship, and all were descendants of Bartolomeo Braggiotti, the son of Costantino Braggiotti, who had settled on the island of Chios around the year 1630...

Therefore, Francesco Braggiotti, who was born around the year 1690, must have been a grandson of Bartolomeo Braggiotti.

However, according to the genealogy compiled in 1908 by Father Pietro Agius da Zante - who examined the archives of the Church of San Nicola, the Catholic cathedral of the island of Chios - Costantino Braggiotti had three children.

These were Caterina, Maria, and Domenico Braggiotti, who married Battistina Fitili in 1714. Francesco Braggiotti, born around 1690, must have been their sibling as well...

Although the baptismal records of Chios, currently held on the island of Tinos, begin in the year 1580, volumes II, III, and IV are missing and have not survived to the present day.

*Liber I. Baptizatorum (1580-1652) - Marriage records for the period between 1605 and 1770 have also been included in this volume.*

*Liber V. (1707-1727) - Pages 126 to 205 are missing from this volume.*

*Liber VI. (1736-1813)*

*Liber VII. (1814)*

*(Source: Chio, Rinaldo Marmara, 2005)*

Francesco Braggiotti, who was born around the year 1690, may have been recorded in one of these missing volumes; therefore, when Father Pietro Agius da Zante compiled the genealogy of Costantino Braggiotti in 1908, he would not have encountered any record of Francesco Braggiotti.

We may attempt to complete the genealogy of Costantino Braggiotti, as prepared by Father Pietro Agius da Zante, in the following manner...

***Costantino BRAGGIOTTI***  
***(c. 1610)***

***Settled on the island of Chios around the year 1630;***  
***Married Geronima;***  
***Had at least two children:***

***1 - Angela BRAGGIOTTI***  
***Married Francesco Reggio in 1663.***

**2- Bartolomeo BRAGGIOTTI**

*Married;*

*Had at least four children:*

**Francesco BRAGGIOTTI (ca. 1690)**

*Clerk to Ralph Pemberton, a merchant of the Levant Company; merchant; dragoman.*

*Married Smaragda Marini (1690–1755) in Constantinople.*

*They had at least eight children.*

**Caterina BRAGGIOTTI**

**Maria BRAGGIOTTI**

*Married Giacomo Grimaldi in 1707.*

**Domenico BRAGGIOTTI**

*Married Battistina Fitili in 1714.*

*They had at least six children.*

# Bibliography

## Printed sources

- Belin, François. Histoire de la latinité de Constantinople, 1894
- Bertelè, Tommaso. Il Palazzo degli ambasciatori di Venezia a Costantinopoli e le sue antiche memorie, 1932
- Boogert, Maurits H. van den. Kapitülasyonlar ve Osmanlı Hukuk Sistemi, çev. Ali Coşkun Tuncer, 2014
- Boogert, Maurits H. van den. The Capitulations and the Ottoman Legal System, 2020
- Curatola, Giovanni. Eredità dell'Islam – Arte Islamica in Italia, 1993
- Çelikkol, Zeki & Alexander De Groot, Ben J. Slot. ...Lale ile başladı, ...It began with the tulip, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Ankara, 2000
- Dalvimart, Octavien. The Costume of Turkey, 1802
- De Gasperis, Attilio & Roberta Ferrazza. Italiani di Istanbul, figure, comunità e istituzioni dalle riforme alla Repubblica, 1839-1923, 2007
- De Groot, Alexander H. The Netherlands and Turkey, 2009 and 2010
- De Groot, Alexander H. The Netherlands and Turkey: Four Hundred Years of Political..., 2007
- Gelder, G. J. H. van & Ed de Moor. Eastward Bound: Dutch Ventures and Adventures in the Middle East, 1994
- Gijsbert, A. Boudewijn. Mémoires Du Général Baron De Dedem De Gelder, 1900
- Hoenkamp-Mazgon, Marlies. İstanbul'da Hollanda Sarayı, 2002
- Marmara, Rinaldo. Chio, 2005
- Marmara, Rinaldo. Osmanlı Başkentinde Bir Levanten Semti Galata – Pera, 2020
- Marmara, Rinaldo & Saïh, César. *Deux documents d archives...*, 2004
- Pococke, Richard. A Description of the East, and Some Other Countries, 1745
- Rachet, Guy. Saint-Tropez, porte de l'Orient, 2000
- Sperco, Willy. Les anciennes familles Italiennes de Turquie, Lui Zelliç Matbaacılık, 1937
- Solano Ortiz De Rozas, Josef. Idea del Imperio Otomano, 1793
- Tütüncü, Mehmet. Boğaziçi'nden Güney Denizi'ne, 2023
- Webb, Nigel & Caroline. The Earl and His Butler in Constantinople, 2008
- Zwierlein, Cornel (Ed.). The Power of the Dispersed, 2022
- [Various]. De Maandelykse Nederlandische Mercurius, Volumes 24-27, 1768
- [Various]. Enfants de Langue et Drogmans / Dil Oğlanları ve Tercümanlar, 1995
- [Various]. Gaceta de Madrid, Issues 7-51, 1784
- [Various]. Gazzetta universale, Volume 11, 1784
- [Various]. Gazette, April 22, 1752
- [Various]. Istanbul et les langues orientales, 1997
- [Various]. Journal historique et littéraire, 1780
- [Various]. La Porta orientale, Volume 23, 1953
- [Various]. La Provincia, Giornale degli interessi civili, economici ed amministrativi dell'Istria, 1879
- [Various]. Libro di tutti Commi Lettere e Certi Memori..., 1744-1773
- [Various]. Mercurio storico, e politico, 1752
- [Various]. Notizie del mondo, 1785

- [Various]. Rapport sur le fait de l'inoculation de la petite vérole, 1765
- [Various]. Refutation de l'inoculation servant de réponse a deux pièces qui ont paru 1759, (dissertation de: De La Condamine et lettre de Tyssot), 1759
- [Various]. Revue de l'Orient, Société Orientale de France, 1864
- [Various]. Un général hollandais sous le premier empire. Mémoires du général Bon de Dedem de Gelder, 1774-1825, 1900)
- [Various]. Verzameling van Geheime Brieven van en aan de gezanten der Nederlandsche Republiek, April 1756 - April 1762

## Web sources

- Geneanet: <https://gw.geneanet.org/marmara2>
- Historisch Nieuwsblad: <https://www.historischnieuwsblad.nl/onze-man-in-constantinopel>
- İslam Araştırmaları Merkezi: [https://isamveri.org/pdfdrg/lnd01/028952\\_LANDAUJM.pdf](https://isamveri.org/pdfdrg/lnd01/028952_LANDAUJM.pdf)
- La Banque Kaptein: <https://labankaptein.com/pieter-van-woensel-index/>
- Larousse Online Dictionary: <https://www.larousse.fr>
- Legini Press: <https://leginipress.co.uk/samsdiary.htm>
- Levantine Heritage Foundation: <http://www.levantineheritage.com>
- Librariana Weblog: <https://ilibrariana.wordpress.com/2020/10/05/een-panorama-van-constantinopel-in-het-huis-te-heemstede>
- MikesPassingThoughts Blog: <https://mikespassingthoughts.wordpress.com>
- Nationaal Archief (Dutch National Archives): <https://www.nationaalarchief.nl>
- Open Access CORE (PDF): <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/78076486.pdf>
- Rijksmuseum Amsterdam: <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en>
- T. C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Devlet Arşivleri Başkanlığı: <https://katalog.devletarsivleri.gov.tr/>
- The National Archives: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
- Treccani Italian Dictionary: <https://www.treccani.it>
- Turkish Language Association Dictionary (TDK): <https://sozluk.gov.tr>
- Wikipedia: [https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bâb-ı\\_Âli\\_tercümanı](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bâb-ı_Âli_tercümanı)
- World4 Costume Culture History: <https://world4.eu/dragoman-vincenzo-belluti/>

*Turkish version / Türkçe versiyonu:*