



Lodge of the Nine Muses No 235 visit to
The Corsican British Lodge No 1902
23rd-26th May 2024

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THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER DAN WELS AND HIS SECRETARY BRO. MICHAEL WELLINGTON WERE HONOURED to be received by their Corsican friends of 1902 Lodge with much enthusiasm and genuine friendship including many bear hugs and three cheek kisses! All was a bit overwhelming at first but we got used to it. Their generosity was embarrassingly boundless and we were not allowed to contribute to the cost of food or drink the whole time we were there! The one exception was at a gorgeous alpine auberge when Bro. Secretary managed, on behalf of our WM, to instruct our hosts that our pride would be mortally offended if we couldn't treat them, to lunch, at least. As they were six we felt the balance had been redressed a little.

The WM and I travelled with hand luggage only (as we had to quickly change planes in Geneva) containing not only our normal clothes but masonic kit too. I had to wear my dark suit on the plane and was sorely tempted to include my gloves and SLGR apron which surely should have earned me a Speedy Bording pass?

We landed on an island, approximately 100 by 40 kilometres, that was verdant, fertile and dominated by several mountains, some of which were snow-capped. We arrived on Thursday and soon after booking into our very pleasant boutique hotel we were feted by our hosts to a dinner, in a wooden barrel-vaulted room, which being typically Corsican was very enjoyable indeed. The next day they drove us on the only road, being extremely circuitous, that centrally connected the South of the island to the North to view Pascal Paoli's birthplace. This was followed in the evening in Ajaccio by their Lodge meeting with numbers swelled to double the normal size as 60 brethren enjoyed a flawless description of the 1st Degree Tracing Board in both French and English by seven of the 1902's brethren. I enquired in a speech afterwards, that perhaps on our next visit we could look forward to it being described in three languages to include the Corse

version? However, if that was asking too much they could drop the French! That seemed to go down very well fuelling much patriotic fervour, especially when one remembers Paoli was driven out by the French to London in 1769 after losing the island's independence and prior to joining the Nine Muses in 1778 and later the Prince of Wales's Lodge. (No disrespect intended at all to Bros. Messrs. Miche or Philip!) A lavish festive board followed where both of us paid homage to The Corsican British Lodge, our WM's eloquent delivery in French (honed after 3 years of schooling) being especially impressive whence our friends remarked that his accent was impeccable and most unusual for an Englishman! He presented a large-framed montage of the Nine Muses and Pascal Paoli's connection with it to Worshipful Master Pierre Hermain who graciously received it on behalf of their Lodge.

Next morning we attended a Provincial Grand meeting of Corsica with over 300 attendees under the G.L.D.F (Grande Loge de France, founded in 1728 and centred on the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.) Bro. Secretary was rather self-consciously escorted in first and alone, representing the (London) Metropolitan Grand Lodge amid a gloved round of applause. Later I conveyed greetings to the assembly from our Lodge, MetGL in particular and UGLE in general. Three hours later after the formal meeting had subsided we were feted to late lunch and then in the evening with a lavish dinner held at a prestigious restaurant overlooking Ajaccio bay with 70 senior Corse and French Masons at the pleasure of the Provincial Grand Master of Corsica, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Jean-Pierre Rollet. More friends were made and many promises of their intention to visit the Nine Muses were respectfully lodged. (literally!)

The next day, in the presence of six of our friends to see us off, we offered our profuse thanks (especially to the organiser, Jean Martin Bonetti) and departed Corsica after what was truly a most memorable and enjoyable visit.



CORSICAN BRITISH LODGE N°1902
 Consecrated 26th October 2019
 Emulation Working



I.T.N.O.T.G.A.O.T.U.
 Under the Constitution of the



Grande Loge Nationale Française
Grand Maître
MOST: Wor: Bro: Jean-Pierre ROLLET
Grand Master

Province de Corse
Grand Maître Provincial
RIGHT: Wor: Bro: Jean CANARELLI
Provincial Grand Master



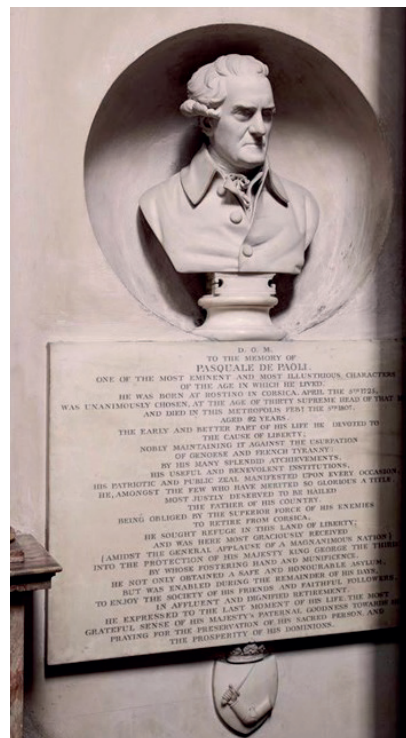
THE LODGE OF THE NINE MUSES

Nº 235

Warrant dated 25th March, 1777.

OLIO
EUROPE
ITALIA
ME DORIN
TROPICUM
FRAT
POLYNIA
VALLORE
GRANIA

DATE	NAMES
1778 June 15	I. BACH, John Chris., Esq. Spelt in the register "Back". Youngest son of J.S. Bach; b. Leipzig '53. After some years in Italy came to England in '62. In '64 began C.F. Abel a famous series of concertos which went on for 17 years. At one of these concerts appeared a wonderful boy performer on the harpsichord - the young Mozart, in due time to become himself a Mason, and to write noble Masonic Occasional music. J.C.B. wrote many successful operas, and much church music; also symphonies, concertos, and chamber music, some of which has been broadcast. Carlini made a medallion portrait which Bartolotti engraved. d. London, '82
1778 June 15	J. ROFFEY, - Esq. Hall Medall
1778 June 15	J. FERRERS, Right Honbl. Earl. ? Robert Shirley, 6th Earl Ferrers; b. '23, d. '87. Succeeded Oct. 78. S.G.W. 1747-1753.
1778 June 15	J. TAMWORTH, Right Honbl. Viscount. ? Robert, son of the above; Viscount Tamworth, Oct. 78; 7th Earl Ferrers, 87. E.S.A. b. '56, d. 1827. There is a little doubt as to the identity of these. In June '78 the 5th Earl Ferrers was still living, but he had no son and no one bore the 2nd title of Viscount Tamworth. He died in Oct. 1778; it seems likely therefore that the returns to G.L. were made after his death, when his brother had succeeded as the 6th Earl, whose son would then become Viscount Tamworth. The <i>Freemason's Magazine</i> , Feb. '96, gives the dates as Viscount Tamworth, 1.8.12.78; Earl Ferrers, June, '79; if these are right it settles the matter. The 5th Earl Ferrers was distinguished as a man and as a Mason; b. '22; entered Navy at early age; 2nd Lieut. '41; Postcapt. '46; Rear Adm. of the White, 31.3.75; Vice Adm. of the Blue, 7.12.75; Vice-Adm. (White) '78. F.R.S. '61, for observations on transit of Venus and "other useful discoveries tending to the improvement of mathematical knowledge". G.M. (Moderns) '62-'66. Just possibly the Earl Ferrers in list, but almost certainly must reluctantly be written off. S.G.W. 1779, Hall Medall.



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twenty-two; after this the numbers fell again, with certain fluctuations, to twelve in 1850; by 1854 the number was twenty and then, with a temporary spurt up to eighteen in 1861, it fell to eight in 1868 and 1870. This was the lowest limit; from 1870 the numbers mounted steadily to thirty-five in 1888, thirty-four in 1889, and thirty-five again in 1890. In 1891 the numbers dropped suddenly to twenty-five, and they have since varied between twenty and thirty.

Over the whole period from 1837 to 1938 the average has been from twenty-one to twenty-two.

The small membership round about 1870 caused incidentally some difficulties in the Lodge. Visitors were impressed to make up the roll of officers and on one occasion the Tyler was called in to act as J.W. The subject is referred to again in Chapter Seven.

The question of limiting the number of members was raised in 1897, when the membership was twenty-eight. On 14 December notice was given of a motion "That a Committee be appointed to consider and report to the Lodge as to the expediency of fixing any and what limit to the number of Members of the Lodge". The Committee reported on 14 February 1899:

"That the By-laws of the Lodge do not prescribe any limit to the number of members After careful consideration ... your Committee is of opinion that it is neither necessary nor expedient to propose any new by-law limiting the number of your members. They however suggest that whenever the number of home members reaches 30 no addition should be made beyond that number without the approval of the members which should be practically unanimous.

It is doubtful whether a By-Law limiting the number would have been sanctioned in any case by the Grand Lodge, but since the report of this Committee the membership has been limited to a maximum of thirty by a tacit understanding, and indeed, since 1890, has never actually reached that number; it is now (1939) twenty-six,²² with one Honorary Member in addition.

The Lodge is justly proud of the number of distinguished men whose names figure on its membership list. Twenty-six are to be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. One, probably the best known to history, achieved a tomb still to be seen in Westminster Abbey - General Paoli, the Corsican hero - though

DATE	NAMES
1778 June 15	I. PAOLI, His Excellency, Genl. The Corsican hero; b. '25, d. 1807. Expelled the Genoese from Corsica, but defeated by French, to whom the Genoese ceded Corsica in '99. Escaped to England on British frigate and reached London '99. A man of personal charm and distinguished manners, he was lionised and granted civil list pension of £1200 p.a. It may be recalled that Dr Johnson after his first meeting with him told Boswell, who had introduced them to each other, that "General Paoli had the loftiest port of any man he had ever met." After outbreak of the revolution went to Paris in '90, and was appointed by Louis XVI military Commandant of Corsica. Quarrelled with revolutionaries on execution of King; expelled all Bonaparte family from the island, and offered Kingdom of Corsica to George III, '94, who occupied it with British troops, but the occupation was not successful, and Corsica was abandoned to the French in '96. Paoli returned to London in '99 and settled there and had large and distinguished circle of friends. Coronation in Westminster Abbey with bust by Flaxman Paoli's body was returned to Corsica, 1899.
1778 June 15	J. POLI, Count Gino
1778 June 15	J. GENTILE, Count Aubanic. Shared Paoli's exile here.
1778 June 15	J. CAMBIAGI, Count. No Count Cambiagi can be traced; ? Joachim Cambiagi, Florentine historian, living at end of 18th century. Shared Paoli's exile here.
1778 June 15	J. TAYLOR, William Esq.
1779 Feb. 15	J. CASELLI, His Excellency, Venetian Ambassador. Really CAVALLI, Venetian Resident in London, '79. Letters from Cavalli to Lord Hillsborough, Colonial Secretary, are preserved at Record Office; perceptive, complaining, and of no great interest.
1779 Feb. 15	J. BOTTOMLEY, James. G.S.W.B. '78, "for many years" (Sodler). On original Committee of Institution for Girls, '88, d. 90, Hall Medall

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as a Roman Catholic he was actually buried elsewhere, and now lies at Ajaccio, whither his body was removed in 1889 at the request of the Corsican people.

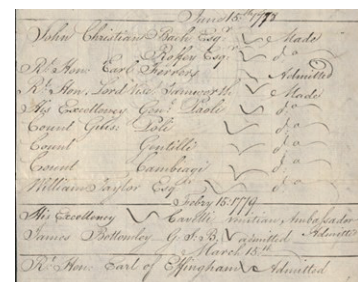
Brief notes will be found in the appendices after the names of those who have won fame in the arts, the services, or the professions, or have laid the Lodge under special obligations, while in some cases fuller treatment is accorded in the text.

We have seen that in the early days of its life the Lodge had a considerable connection with the arts, and a large foreign element, especially Italian. By 1814 both these features had disappeared, and when we take up the consecutive written history the membership is found to consist in the main of professional and business men with a sprinkling of the titled, of the leisured, and of the services. Such it has remained to the present day though a sparse succession of minor painters, musicians, poets, and architects has maintained down the years a frail liaison with the Muses. The law and medicine in particular have always been represented. The absence of the clergy has already been remarked; can the pitiable shade of the Rev. Dr Dodd have exerted a repelling influence?

Of the members bearing Italian titles of nobility, or in the diplomatic service of the several once-existing Italian states, none seems to have been a man of great importance.

The Count de Oeiras (1783) was son and heir to the Marquis de Pombal, and succeeded to the title, one of the most illustrious in Portugal. He was Chamberlain to the unhappy Queen Maria I of that country, and apparently followed her in her banishment to Brazil, for he died at Rio de Janeiro in 1812. Of the one Polish member, Count Seillecki (1778), nothing seems to be known, except that he had assumed, or was credited with, a title which was not his. He is described as Chamberlain to the King of Poland; but as no complete list of Chamberlains exists it cannot be said whether his claim to this distinction was better founded.

In the arts list is more impressive, though of the Nine Muses themselves one only, Euterpe, divinity of music, can show much of a following. Clio has had devotees it is true, but neither can be claimed as a Gibbon or a Trevelyan; we have had no tragedian, no dancer, no astronomer, nor any orator or singer of more than domestic reputation; our handful of poets are all forgotten; and our one known actor, Charles Bonner (1805), forsook the boards to become Deputy Comptroller of the Post Office.



Paoli's name on the 1782 membership return of the Lodge of the Nine Muses



Extract from the minutes of the Prince of Wales's Lodge 1800

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his substantial accuracy. This account is of such interest as to warrant its being reproduced in full:

On 14 January 1777, a Meeting was held at the "Thatched House Tavern", St James's Street, by the following:

BRETHREN:
John Hull, Esq., as R.W.M.
Raphael Franco, Esq., as S.W.
The Rev. Dr. William Dodd, 's J.W.
Robert Biggin, Esq., as Treasurer and
The Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspin.

VISITORS:
Richard Barker, Esq.
William Porter, Esq.
Jean Baptiste Cipriani, Esq.
- Borghi, Esq.

On the 23rd following, having obtained permission of the Grand Master to assemble as Masons, and to make and raise Masons, till a constitution could be made out, Brother Cipriani was raised to the degree of a Master Mason.

At this Meeting Brother Biggin very generously offered to furnish a Bible and Jewels at the same time Brother Cipriani engaged to suggest suitable and proper designs.

An engraving from the elegant painting of the Right Worshipful Master's Jewel is given in this number, executed by Leney, of whose abilities as an engraver we consider it as no inconsiderable specimen. Brother Raphael Franco, not willing to be outdone in liberality, engaged to supply the Lodge with three candlesticks, of which peculiarly elegant furniture we shall give a particular description at a future opportunity. Among those who have been made Masons, and admitted Members in this respectable Lodge at different periods since its institution, we find the

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following distinguished characters, and have considered it not unimportant to annex the dates respectively of their initiations or admissions:

Francis Bartolotti, Esq., made February 13th, 1777.
Augustus Carlini, Esq., and Charles Frederick Abell, Esq., admitted December 11th, 1777.
- Cramer, Esq., admitted January 8th, 1778.
Felici Giardini, admitted March 12th, 1778.
Count Siedlecki, Chamberlain to the King of Poland, admitted June 11th, 1778.
Lord Viscount Tamworth, made December 8th, 1778.
His Excellency General Paoli, Count Giuseppe Poli, Count Aubanic Gentilli, and Count Cambiagi, made January 14th, 1779.
Earl Ferrers, admitted June, 1779.
His Excellency Count Cavelli, Venetian Ambassador, admitted February 15th, 1779.
Earl of Effingham, admitted March 15th, 1779.
His Excellency Francis D'Agono, Minister from the Court of Genoa, made April 19th, 1779.
Right Hon. Lord Cransdown, made December 10th, 1779.
John Zoffani, Esq., and Right Hon. Earl Kelly, admitted December 20th.
Sir Robert Salsbury Cotton, Bart., admitted April 17th, 1780.
The Hon. Washington Shirley, made April 4th, 1782.
Hon. Wm. Ward, made January 9th, 1783.
Marquis Paul de Arconati, Viscount of Milan, made February 13th, 1783.
Lord Macdonald, admitted ditto.
Count de Ceyras, made November 7th, 1783.
Count Soderini, Venetian Ambassador, made February 2nd, 1787.
Count Gaetano Tosi, of Venice, and Count Barizza, made February 13th, 1787.
Marquis Trotti, admitted ditto.
Count Andrea Bonelli, made March 2nd, 1787.
Count Saveria, admitted ditto.



QVI RIPOSANO
REDVCI DA INGHILTERRA
LE OSSA
DI
PH. ANT. PASQVALE
DE PAOLI
PADRE DELLA PATRIA

III SETTEMBRE MDCCCLXXIX





Maria Cosway

1760-1838

L'itinéraire

Dès son enfance en Toscane, le d...
Florence et à Rome, les artistes ang...
d'histoire. À Londres, où sa carrière...
Arts, le succès est immédiat et e...
prince de Galles, elle mène une...
dans ses salons musicaux. Amie...
peintre Jacques Louis David o...
d'influence à travers le monde. S...
attire tous les regards mais cont...
Maria Cosway trouvera finalém...
jeunes filles. C'est l'itinéraire sing...

A strada ec...

Da zittella in Toscana, parla scritto...
Firenze cum è in Roma, artisti inglesi chi...
di pittrice di storia. In Londra, indovella...
Academy of Arts; à soli 22 anni, scontra...
ufficiale di u Principe di Galles, campala in u...
musicali. Amica di Thomas Jefferson, di L...
Louis David o di u scultore Antonio Can...
influenza sparta attraverso u mondo, e...
simplice Pasquale Paoli, all'epoca era a...







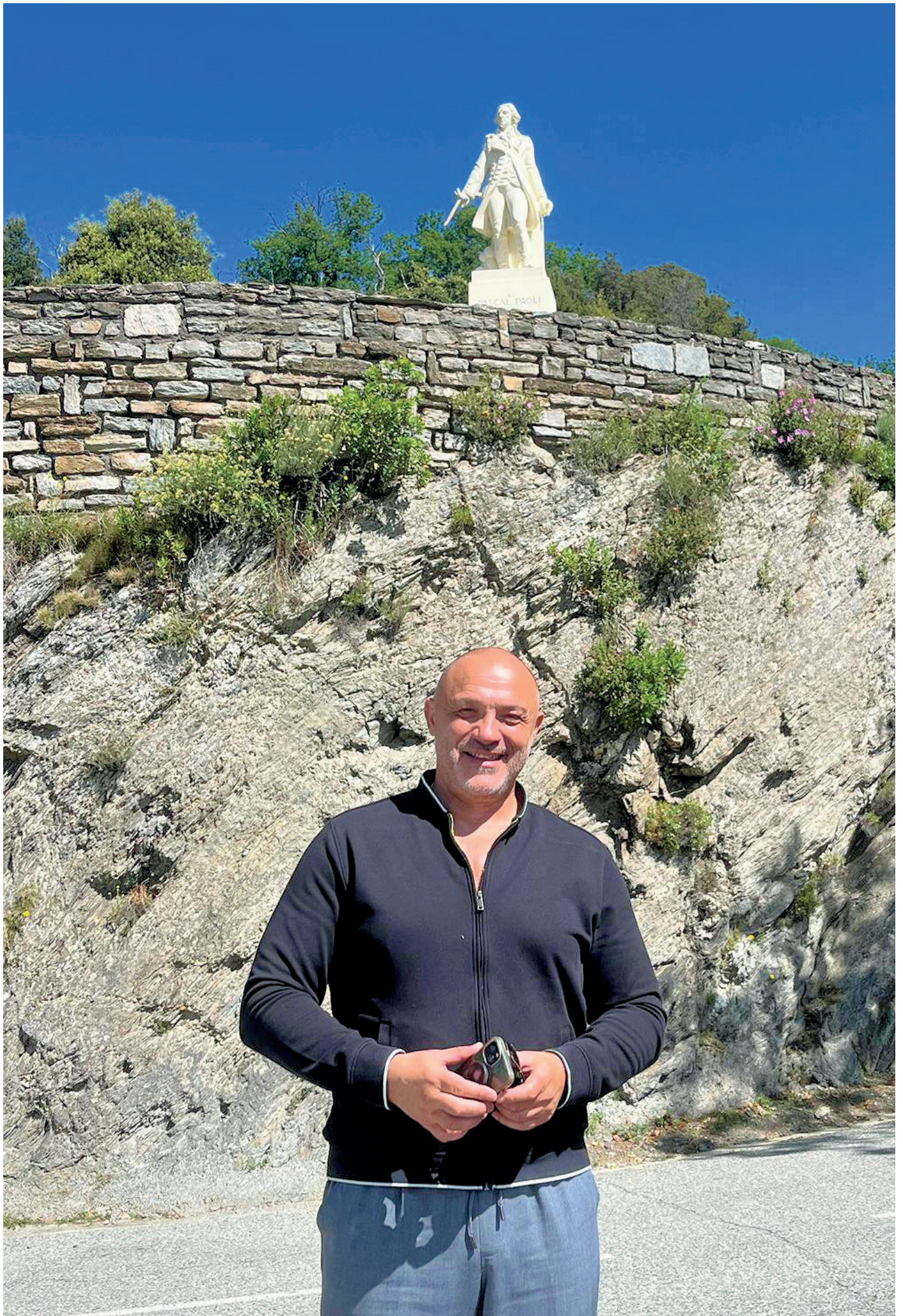














PASQUALE PAOLI

BABBU DI A PATRIA

AGLIA 06.04.1725

1807

















