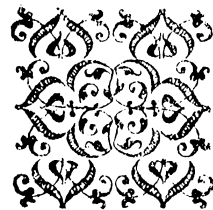


THE
Worthy tract of
Paulus Iovius, contayning a
Discourse of rare inventions, both
Militarie and Amorous
called Imprese

*Wherunto is added a Preface contay-
ning the Arte of composing them, with
many other notable deuises.*

*By Samuell Daniell late Student
in Oxenforde.*



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A Discourse

nyards, hauing bene before eightene yeres in exile. His *Impresa* was a yoke, which Oxen vse to beare, and the mot *Suauē*, signifying thereby that he was not returned to tyrānise ouer his country, nor to reuenge the iniuries done him of his enemies, and factious citizens: But rather to shewe that his gouernment shoulde be gentle with al clemencie, with the mot out of the scripture answerable to his Priestly habit, taken out of this place: *Iugum meum suauē est, & onus meum leue*. And truely it was very congruent to his nature, and proceeded from the sharpnes of his own learned wit: although it seemed that the yoke came first from the great *Cosimo*, who whē he was recalled to his country from exile, figured the cittie *Florence* sitting on a Chayre, with a yoke vnder her feete: to shew thereby as it were that saying of *Cicero*, *Roma patrem patrię Cicronem libera dixit*, and for the excellencie hereof, it continued to be worne vnto the time of Pope *Leo*, and merited to be instamped in the coyne of *Florence*.

Dom. This *Impresa* doth greatly delite me, and in my iudgement is very notable: but of fauour I pray you, let it please you to recount others of the most famous house of *Medicis*, & in thē to touch diffusedly, both the deuise and also the Historie, which shall notably expiane them, and bring great delight to this your discourse.

you,

of Impreses.

Iou. I cānot go beyond the three Diamāts which the great *Cosimo* did beare, which you see engrauen in the chamber wherein I lye. But to tell you the trueth, although with all diligēce I haue searched, yet cānot I find precisely what they signifie, & thereof also doubted Pope *Clemēt*, who in his meaner fortune, lay also in the selfe same chamber.

And trueth it is that he sayd, the *Magnifico Lorenzo* vsed one of them with greate brauerie, inserting it betweene three feathers of three sundrie colours, greene, white, and red: which betokened three vertues, Faith, Hope, and Charitie, appropriate to those three colours: Hope, greene: Faith, white: Charitie, red, with this worde, *Semper*, belowe it. Which *Impresa* hath bene vsed of all the successors of his house, yea, and of the Pope: who did beare it imbrodered on the vpper garments of the horsmen of his garde, vnder that of the yoke.

The *Magnifico Pietro*, Sonne of *Cosimo*, did beare a Faulcō with a Diamond in her talent, And the same was vsed also of Pope *Leo*, and Pope *Clement* likewise, with this mot *Semper*, applied to the title of religiō, which the Popes professe, although it bee, as is aboue sayde, a foolish thing to compose mots of sillables, or single words. The *Magnifico* woulde haue to bee vnderstoode hereby, that euery thing ought to be done to the will and pleasure of God, and the better doth it fit this purpose.

for

for that the Diamant is of so inuincible fortitude both against the fire and stroke of the Hammer : as was most miraculously this *Magnifico*, against the conspiracies and trecheries of *M. Luca Pitti*.

The *Magnifico Pietro*, Sonne of *Lorenzo*, as a youth and inamored, vsed to beare for his *Impresa*, great Billets of greene wood, set one vpon the other, which seemed to cast forth flames and smoke from the fire within; signifying that his enflamed affection, was the more vehement, for that the wood wherewith it burned, was yet greene. And this was the inuention of that learned man *Angelus Politianus*, who made thereunto a mot containing this latin verse:

In viridi teneras exurit flamma medullas.

The *Magnifico Iulian* his brother, a man of good nature and excellent witte, who was afterward Duke of *Nemors*, hauing taken to wife the Neece of the King of France; Sister to the Duke of *Sauoi*; to shewe that fortune which was so many yeres aduerse vnto him; now began to turne her fauour towards him; he caused to bee set in a shield of triangular forme, this word of sixe letters, *GLORIS*: which turning backward; you may read *SILVOLG*. And because it was iudged obscure and vayne in sence, many of his affectioned seruantes; interpreted euery letter feuerally by it selfe, whereby arose as many diuersities

of

of opinions, as did among them in the Coucell of *Basile*, who interpreted the name of *Pope Felix*: saying, *Felix id est falsus eremita ludificator*.

And because we haue aboue spoken of the *Imprese* of *Lorenzo*, it shal not be amisse, to say somewhat of that of *Pope Clement*, which wee see depainted in euery place, and was inuented of *Dominico Boninsegni Florentine* his treasurer, who searched the secrets of nature, and found that the Sunne beames passing through a peece of Christall, beeing so strengthened through their vniting, according to the nature of the *Prospectiue*, that they burne euery object, sauing only things passing white. And *Pope Clement* willing to shewe to the worlde that the puritie of his minde, could not bee contaminated, by the malicious, neither by any force, vsed this *Imprese*: when his Enemies in the time of *Adrian*, sought to bereaue him both of life and dignitie, which conspiracie thei brought to no effect. The *Impresa* became very notable and renowned, because therein were all thinges which might make faire apparance to adorne it, which were these: a round peece of Christall, the Sunne with his beames passing through, the flame proued by them, all set in a white hood, with this mot, *Candor illesus*. Yet for all this, was it very obscure to those which knewe not the propertie aboue sayd. Wherefore it needed that wee his ser-

D.i.

uants

naunts should to each man desirous to know the same expounded, and make manifest what *Bonifegni* and the Pope ment thereby: which obscuritie ought to be shunned in an *Imprese*, as is before declared. And it was the more intricate for that the mot was deuised by syllables, as this, *Can dor ille sus*. One Master *Simon Schiauone* Chaplaine to the Pope, who had no more learning then would serue him to mumble vp a Masse, all meruelling at the Posie, demaunded of me, what the deuill, the Pope ment thereby, which as he thought serued to no purpose: For (quoth he) *ille sus* signifies, that Sowe: and repeting it oftentimes, *ille*, is that, & *sus*, is sure a Sowe, as I haue learned in the Grammer Schoole at *Sebenico*, and therefore must it needes be that Sowe. Vpon this arose great laughter, & the matter came to the Popes eare, who gaue aduertisement not to deride it by letters to auoyde the like errors of *Amphibologia*, committed by such foolish interpreters.

That also of *Hippolito* Cardinall of *Medicis*, although it was very goodly both in shew and substance, yet had it some defect: for that none could thoroughly vnderstand it saue onely the learned, & such as were very well seene in the Poems of *Horace*: for being desirous to signifie that the Ladie *Julia Gonzaga*, excelled in beautie all other women, (which is not vnkowne to our age, who for her chaste condi-

tions, and excellent vertues doth reuerence her) he figured a Comete, whereof saith *Plinie*, *Augustus* did write, that in the time of the *Feaites*, which he ordained to bee celebrated to *Venus*, a fewe daies after the death of *Iulius Caesar*, appeared in the Septentrionall parts of the heauens shining so bright the space of seuen daies to euery Region, that it began to appeare an howre before Sunne setting. The common people thought this Starre to signifie, that the soule of *Iulius Caesar* was receiued into the copanie of the immortall Gods: which was the occasion that *Augustus* placed the signe of this Comete on the top of the Statue, which he had erected in the *Forum* for his adopted Father. Wherupon, *Horace* vseth these wordes to the honour of *Iulius Caesar*.

Micat inter omnes Iulium sydus

Velut inter ignes luna minores.

So *Hippolito* taking out these verses onely *Inter omnes*, vouchsafed to vse it as a mot to honour this most vertuous and renowned Lady. And in the *Impresa* being the figure of a Comete, it seemeth that it was to prognosticate the dolefull death of the Cardinall, which peradventure the fearefull staire did threaten, who being constrained to passe fro *Gaeta* into *Affrica* to the Emperour, who lay then at *Tunis*, by the way to the great discomfiture and griefe of all his friends died at *Siré Castle*, which was then in the possession of the

Lady Julia Gonzaga.

He had also before, another *Impresa* of the Eclipse, figuring the Moone in the shadowe, which happeneth by reason of the interposition of the earth betweene the sunne and it, with this mot, *Hinc aliquando eluctabor*. Signifying thereby that he was placed in the darknes of certayne obscure and troublesome thoughts and imaginations, from which hee strived to issue forth, but in shewing what they were, because they seeme impure, and scarce honest, and because I will not doe prejudice to so worthy a man, neither to the worship of his house, I leaue to explicate the meaning of the *Impresa*, which shall notwithstanding be vnderstoode of many which remember the man.

After the death of the Cardinall the Duke Alexander, hauing married Margherit of Africa, daughter to the Emperour, and governing Florence with equale iustice agreeable to the citizens: seeing himselfe gallant and able of person, was desirous to make himselfe renowned by the warres, saying, that to get glory and in taking the Emperours part, hee would couragiously enter into euery difficult and dangerous enterprize: resolute in this, either to win honour with praise, or lose his life in perill. And hereupon on a day earnestly requested mee to deuise him some notable *Impresa* to weare on his cote Armor. And I chose him

him out the wild beast *Rhinoceros*, the deadly enemy of the *Elephant*, which being sent to Rome by Emanuel King of Portugals, who fought with it, coming by *Prourin* where it was seen being arriued on the land, and afterward drowned by hard fortune, amongst the rocks a litle about *Porto Venere*, (for it was not possible that such a beatt could haue it self being chayned, albeit it swam miraculously among the sharp rocks, which are all along that coste) yet notwithstanding there was brought to Rome, his true portraiture, and greatnes in February 1515 with information of his nature: the which as *Plinie* saith, and the *Portugals* affirme, is to goe and finde the *Elephant*, and assaulting him, striketh him vnder the panch with a hard and sharpe horne which it hath growing on his snout, neither doth hee euer depart from his enemy, nor from fight, til he hath weried and slaine him, which most often falleth out: vnles the *Elephant* with his long snout doe take him by the throte, and in closing doe strangle him. The forme of this beatt in goodly embroidery serued for the couerture of his *Barbaria* horses: which ran in Rome for the price or masterie, with this mot in the Spanigh tongue: *No buello sin uincer*: I I warre not but I win. according to this verse, *Rhinoceros nunquam vitus ab hoste cedit*. This deuise pleased him so that he caused it to be engrauen in his breast plate.

A Discourse

Dom. Sith you haue rehearsed the *Impresa* of the noble Princes of the house of *Medicis* which are dead, let it please you to say somewhat of those, which the worthy Duke *Cosimo* was wont to weare, of the which we haue seen so many in the Pallace of the forelayde *Medicis*.

Iou. In trueth I sawe many the day of his mariage, which seemed to issue from worthy wittes, Whereof one aboue all pleased me, for that it was fitly applyed to his highnes, who hauing *Capricornus* for his *Ascendant*, as also *Augustus Caesar*, as witnesseth *Suetonius*. And therefore caused the Image thereof to be stamped in his Coyne. This beast seem'd vnto me very congruent to the purpose, for that *Charles the fifth*, vnder whome the princely estate of this Noble Duke flourished, had likewise the same ascendēt. And it seemed a thing fatall, that the Duke *Cosimo* the same day of the *Calends* of August, wherein *Augustus Caesar* obtayned the victory ouer *Antonius* and *Cleopatra* at the promontory *Atticum*, the same day he discomfited and tooke his eninyes on the mountayne *Murlo*. But this *Capricornus* hauing no *Posie*: I adioyned thereunto this mot: *Fidem fati virtute sequemur*. To this sence I wil strue with mine owne vertue, to archiue that, which the *Horoscopus* doth promise me. And so I figured the starres of that Constellation in the Chamber ordeyned for the honor of

of *Impresa*.

of the Duke. Which *Impresa* you haue seene in my Study, where is also the Eagle which signifieth *Jupiter* and the Emperour, who holdeth out in her beake a triumphant Crowne, with this mot: *Jupiter Merentibus offert*, signifying that his highnes deserued eche glorious reward for his worthy vertues.

He bare also another in the beginning of his gouernment, learnedly deuised by the reuerend Master *Piea Francesco da Rini*: and it was that which *Virgil* speaketh of in the *An.* of the golden Bowe, with this mot: *Vno annulsi non deficit alter*, signifying a bowe rent from the tree, in the place whereof suddenly succeeded another, meaning thereby, that the Duke *Alexander* was not so soone departed this life, but that there was another of the same golden lyne ready to succede him.

Dom. It seemeth vnto mee my Lord that you haue sufficiently touched those which appertayne to the house of *Medicis*: It therefore remayneth, that you nowe speake of other Princes and famous Captaynes, which you your selfe in your time haue knowen.

Iou. I will not faile herein, and now you haue pleasauntly pricked me forwardes, you make me call to minde many thinges pertinent to this purpose, which now I wil discharge to doe you pleasure and satisfie your desire: sith the number of so many *Impresa* are tedious vnto you.