

# **THE HISTORY OF CORSICA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9781760571634

The History of Corsica by L. H. Caird

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**L. H. CAIRD**

**THE HISTORY  
OF CORSICA**



THE  
HISTORY OF CORSICA

BY  
L. H. CAIRD



LONDON  
T. FISHER UNWIN  
PATERNOSTER SQUARE  
1899

Ital 5403.14 ✓



[All rights reserved.]

## PREFACE

THE mere fact that Corsica was the birthplace of the great Napoleon affords a reason for some curiosity as to its history; but apart from a natural interest in the country and nation of a great emperor, the story of this beautiful island deserves more attention than it has hitherto received.

Of English writers few have had much to tell of Corsica, fewer still have attempted any detailed history of her sufferings and heroic struggles for liberty. The war against Genoa, practically resulting in the independence of the island under the rule of Pascal Paoli, excited some interest in England, and led to many pamphlets on 'the brave Corsicans,' and notably to Boswell's visit and his 'Account of Corsica.'

Various authors have described episodes in Corsican

## PREFACE

history, but to most English readers this page in the story of mankind is unknown, and the island is regarded mainly as the home of Napoleon and Vendetta. In the following pages an attempt has been made to tell the story, in the hope that it may arouse some interest in the fate of a country whose population, although not numerous, may yet once more lay claim to nationality and independence.



## AUTHORITIES

- ANNUAL REGISTER (1758-1770 and Index 1758-80).
- BENSON, 'Sketches of Corsica, or a Journal of a Visit to that Island in 1823,' etc.
- BOSWELL, 'An Account of Corsica, with the Journal of a Tour to that Island, and Memoirs of Pascal Paoli' (London, 1769).
- CAMBIAGI, 'Istoria del Regno di Corsica.'
- CELESIA, 'The Conspiracy of Gianluigi Fieschi, or Genoa in the XVI. Century.' Trans. by Wheeler.
- DE THOU (THUENUS), 'Histoire Universelle.' Trans., London, 1734.
- DUMOURIÈRE, 'La Vie et Memoires du Général.'
- FITZGERALD, 'Kings and Queens of an Hour.'
- GERGOROVICUS, 'Wanderings in Corsica.' Trans. by A. Muir. (There is another translation by Martineau, but my references are to Muir's. The two are arranged somewhat differently. I regret that I have not been able to get the original.)
- MALLESON, 'Studies from Genoese History.'
- MAS LATRE, 'Relations et Commerce de l'Afrique Septentrionale on Magret, etc., au Moyen Age.'
- MÉRIVALE, 'History of the Romans under the Empire.'
- PELHAM, 'Outlines of Roman History.'
- SIMONDI, 'Histoire des Français' (vols. xix. and xx).
- " 'Histoire des Républiques Italiennes' (vols. iii. and iv.).

## AUTHORITIES

THE MODERN PART OF AN UNIVERSAL HISTORY, vol. xxv. (London, 1782).

VALERY, 'Voyage en Corse, à l'Île d'Elbe et en Sardaigne.'

VINCENS, 'Histoire de la République de Gènes.'

I have not been able to see the works of Filippini or Peter of Corsica, but rely on Gregorovius for such extracts from both as are necessary in a work of this kind. Boswell, De Thou, Dumouriez, Gregorovius and Vincens are the authors I have mainly followed. In the names of individuals I have, as a rule, adopted the one under which the particular person can most readily be recognised, without adhering to any regular system or language.

## CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I.—EARLY HISTORY, . . . . .	1
II.—THE 'TERRA DEL COMUNE,' . . . . .	11
III.—THE PIRAN PROTECTORATE, . . . . .	16
IV.—ANNEXATION TO GENOA, . . . . .	26
V.—THE BANK OF ST GEORGE, . . . . .	39
VI.—SAMPIERO DA BASTELICA, . . . . .	51
VII.—SUBJECTION, . . . . .	74
VIII.—REVOLT, . . . . .	80
IX.—THE KINGDOM OF CORSICA, . . . . .	88
X.—FRENCH INTERVENTION, . . . . .	102
XI.—CONFUSION, . . . . .	110
XII.—PAOLI, . . . . .	123
XIII.—GENOA LOSES CORSICA, . . . . .	146
XIV.—DESPAIR, . . . . .	160