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CHEVALIER BARTHOLOMEW RUSPINI

1728 - 1813

SURGEON PHILANTHROPIST
SURGEON-DENTIST

A CONTRIBUTION TO DENTAL HISTORY

BY

J. MENZIES CAMPBELL, D.D.S., L.D.S., F.I.C.D., F.R.S.E.

*Hon. Member, La Société Française de l'Histoire de l'Art Dentaire, and
The Pierre Fauchard Academy*

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HECKETHORN¹ sagely stated that, although the writer of a novel may indulge in as much romancing and inventing as his genius enables him to do, the historian has no such licence. Black,² adhering to a similar view, stressed that writings will survive and be of intrinsic value, *only* if adequately documented: otherwise, they tend to present, and give credit to, the ideas of one person.

If the dental historian earnestly desires his work to bear the imprint of *nuda veritas*, he must never, for one moment, relax the role of an Allan Pinkerton. Every clue, however flimsy, should be meticulously investigated. Experience proves that success lurks in the outer, as well as the inner, courts! Conversely, he should hesitate to accept as reliable even the most plausible premise, until it has been duly authenticated.

Bartholomew Ruspini is a man about whom many erroneous and unsubstantiated statements have been circulated. Not infrequently, writers have been supercilious and careless enough to perpetuate earlier opinions, which have often been floated down to the present time on the vague stream of tradition,

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collecting *en route* the usual mass of jetsam and flotsam. The outcome of such a policy may well be a most unsatisfactory legacy, and a perplexing problem for dental historians of the future.

A son of Andreas Ruspini of Grumello, Bartholomew was descended from an ancient, noble and honourable Italian family. He was born at Romacoto,³ near Bergamo (ancient name Bergomum, 39 miles north-east of Milan), in 1728, not 1738 as stated by Weinberger.⁴

Having resolved to study surgery, he attended the hospital at Bergamo. On completing the training there (duration unascertainable), Ruspini presented himself for examination by the College of Physical Sciences of that city, seeking permission to practise the whole art of surgery. On June 18, 1758, he (then *at. 30*) was, by secret ballot, unanimously admitted to membership of the profession of surgery. His certificate (*Fig. 1*) bears indisputable evidence of his having acquitted himself with outstanding knowledge, ability and skill. A translation reads:

"In the name of Christ, Amen

"To all and singular who shall in the future inspect these our letters-patent, we—ANDREAS PASTA, Venerable Prior of the goodly College of Physical

Sciences at Bergomum, and our illustrious colleague JOANNE DE ALEXANDRIS summoned in lieu of another of our number to admit members to the surgical faculty according to the statutes of the said College—hereby attest and declare that today D. Bartholomeus Ruspini, son of D. Andreas of Grumellum in the territory of the Zanci, has presented himself to us and humbly sought admittance to the practice of the whole art of surgery and has presented himself for examination, producing evidence of his baptism confirmed by the Reverend Priest of the aforesaid place, and also a testimonial of his good character and frequent attendance at the Sacraments administered by the Venerable High Priest of the greater Hospital at Bergomum, in which the said Ruspini passed his novitiate and received thence a great increase in skill. In the said art of Surgery—his worthiness being admitted—he has been carefully examined by us on the matters appertaining to the practice of Surgery, and since he has acquitted himself ably both in replying to the cases propounded and in solving the problems we brought forward, he has been unanimously admitted by secret ballot to membership of the profession of surgery. Wherefore, since he has taken the oath from the hands of the undermentioned Chancellor, swearing not to contravene the ordinance of His Holiness Pope Pius V of 2nd March 1566, nor the other statutes of this College in which he has been licensed to practise by an Edict of the said Chancellor, and has been assured that he will eventually receive a fitting reward for his toil and virtue, we pronounce that to the aforesaid D. Bartholomeus these our letters-patent should be granted—this privilege being sealed under our hand and confirmed by edict of the Chancellor by the seal of our goodly College.

“Dated at Bergomum in the precincts of our goodly College on the 18th. day of the month of June in the year 1758.

“ANDREAS PASTA—Prior
JOANNE DE ALEXANDRIS.
ZUCCINIAREY DE LUCCATELLIS
Chancellor of the College, etc.”

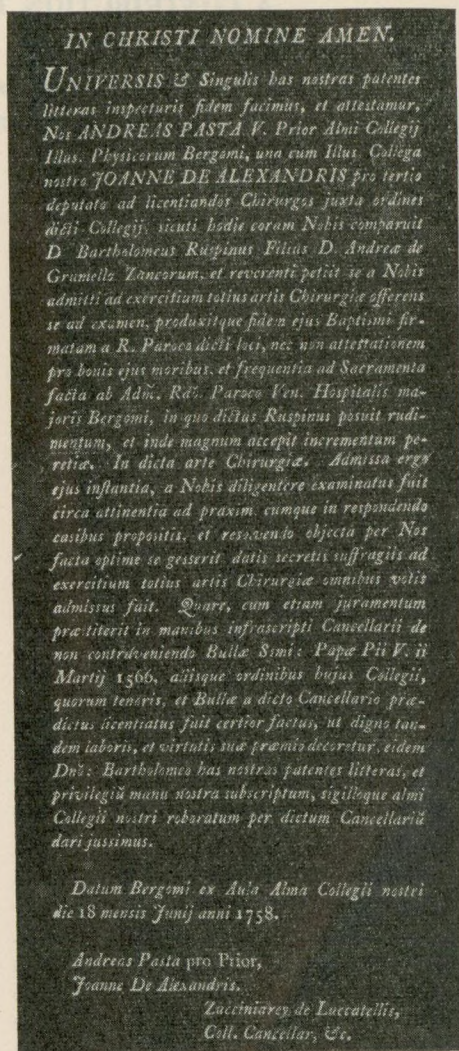


FIG. 1

A copy of Bartholomeus Ruspini's surgical diploma conferred in 1758 by the College of Physical Sciences at Bergamo. [Courtesy, Wellcome Historical Medical Library]

Ruspini, nevertheless, decided to specialise in dentistry as a branch of surgery. With this object in view, he straightway proceeded to Paris, then the recognised centre for such training, due, doubtless, to the influence of Pierre Fauchard (1678-1761), whose fame even today remains undimmed. His preceptor was the celebrated, enlightened Jean-François Capperon⁵ (sometimes spelt Capron), who, from 1722 until his death in 1763, held the official appointment of dentist to Louis XV⁶; and who resolutely advocated that proper care of the teeth was essential to army efficiency.

It is evident that Ruspini proved himself to be an apt and eager pupil, gaining a marked degree of skill in the science and practice of his chosen speciality. Imbued with innate culture and ambition, it is not surprising to learn that later he (a scholar-dentist) became eminent in several directions.

As a result of diligent research extending over a period of years, the writer is convinced that Bartholomeus Ruspini arrived in England early in 1759, not 1750 as has been stated by Boggis.⁷

From the standpoint of the dental historian, it is indeed supremely fortunate that, very soon, he allied himself with, and continued to play an enduring role in, Freemasonry. Consequently, invaluable information (not available through any other channel), relating particularly to his early activities, is extant in the minutes of masonic lodges. These have proved inestimable pathfinders in the quest for clues and knowledge.

At this stage, it ought to be emphasised that it was customary in England in the mid-eighteenth century for dentistry to be practised, as a sideline, by blacksmiths, hairdressers, corn-doctors, cuppers and innumerable empirics. Despite such conditions, Ruspini styled himself a surgeon-dentist.

His earliest known advertisement appeared in *Boddely's Bath Journal*, April 16, 1759. Doubtless he chose the city of Bath because it was then at its zenith, due mainly to Richard [Beau] Nash (1674-1762), whose activities were responsible for attracting royalty and outstanding leaders of society. Ruspini was, however, resident there for the season only, occupying rooms hired from Mrs. Badham, who, according to contemporary rate-books, had two houses corresponding to Nos. 2 and 3 Queen Square. This particular advertisement reads:

“Signior RUSPINI, Operator for the Teeth, Gums &c. is now settled in Bath, and begs Leave to acquaint the Nobility and Gentry that he cures the Scurvy in the Gums, first cleans the Teeth from that corrosive tartarous graty Substance that hinders the Gums from growing, infects the Breath, and is one of the principal Causes of the Scurvy. His Dentifrice (which is free from any corrosive Preparation) will restore the Gums to their Pristine State, will preserve the Teeth, and render them perfectly white; will fasten those that are loose, and prevent them from further Decay: He fills up with Lead or Gold those that are hollow, so as to render them useful, and prevents the Air from getting into them, which generally aggravates the Pain. He makes and fixes in Artificial Teeth, which cannot possibly be distinguished from natural ones, with the greatest Ease and Elegance.

“He will wait upon Gentlemen or Ladies in Town or Country, by directing a line for him at his lodgings at Mrs. Badham's in the Square, or at the Coffee House, Bath.

“N.B. His Dentifrice, with proper Directions and Brushes, may be had of Mrs. Broderip, Millener, near the Parade Coffee House and of Mr. White.

Hair-Cutter in Bath; and at Miss Loggan's, at the Ladies Tea-Room, near the Hot-Wells, Bristol, at 3s. each pot: Likewise at George's Coffee-House, in Coventry Street, Hay-market, St. James's, London."

In connection with his Bath associations, an interesting item has emerged from the original minutes of the *Bear Lodge*, Bath (now the *Royal Cumberland Lodge*, No. 41). Here is an excerpt from November 20, 1759: "Mr. Bartholomew Ruspini was ballotted for in a full Lodge and three Balls being found in the Negative Drawer, therefore he is handsomely prorogued for Three Months." In other words, he was rejected as a candidate for initiation. It is, nevertheless, clear that this was not attributable to dubiety as to his integrity.

As far as can be ascertained, he, at regular intervals, visited Bath and Bristol (with their opulent residents and Georgian mansions), besides other cities of Great Britain and Ireland.

On April 7, 1762, Ruspini was initiated in the *Bush Lodge*, No. 116, Bristol.⁸ Evidence is available that he was not then permanently resident in this city. On June 24 and November 2, 1762, his quarterages to that Lodge were paid through another hand. He must, however, have been in Bristol on *St. John The Evangelist's Day* of the following year, because he then paid his quarterage direct. His advertisements continued to appear regularly in both Bristol and Bath newspapers. Here is one from the *Bristol Journal*, July 12, 1766:

"Mr. Ruspini, Surgeon-Dentist, takes this Method to acquaint the Nobility and Gentry, that he is just returned from Dublin to his House in Westgate Street, Bath; and on receiving their Commands, he will wait on them. Mr. Ruspini is extremely sorry that many Ladies and

Gentlemen have been disappointed of his Dentifrice, occasioned by his long unexpected Stay in Dublin. Now they can be supplied with it at his House aforesaid, and at Miss Loggan's at the Hotwells, Bristol, where any Messages will be taken for him. Mr. Ruspini fixes Natural Teeth, which never change Colour, with the greatest Ease and Dexterity."

It seems highly probable that, besides being a skilful dentist, Ruspini had the further advantage of letters of introduction and commendation from influential Italian and French families to leaders of society throughout Britain. These would ensure his *entrée* to the highest social circles. Further, news of his success in Bath, Bristol, Ireland and other places, as well as of his integrity and repute in Freemasonry, preceded him to London. According to Fenn,⁹ he settled there in 1766 under the patronage of the Dowager Princess of Wales (mother of George III) and several distinguished personages. He practised in his leasehold house, 32 St. Albans Street—then a short road extending from St. James's Market to Pall Mall and intersected by Charles Street. Incidentally, Pall Mall was, on January 28, 1807, the first street in London to be lighted by gas.

Ruspini's house was opposite Carlton House, which had been acquired in 1732 by the father of George III: and was in 1783 the residence of the Prince of Wales, later George IV. Located on the west side of St. Albans Street on the south side of a small court, it was demolished (certainly *pre*-1819) when new approaches were constructed to Carlton House. It occupied a site roughly about the middle of what is now Waterloo Place,¹⁰ and not that of the Reform Club, as has been stated by Oakley Coles.¹¹

It is probable that his home would be

elegantly furnished in the manner fashionable at that time with a damask covered drawing-room suite, a piano (the invention of an Italian), mahogany dining and Pembroke tables, beautiful needlework carpets, four-post bedsteads with silk covers and fine goose-feather beds.

This interesting announcement appeared in *Pope's Bath Chronicle*, April 16, 1767:

"On Monday last was married at St. James's Church* [Westminster] London by the Rev. Dr. Swinney, Mr. Ruspini, Surgeon-Dentist, to Miss Elizabeth Ord, daughter of Francis Ord, Esqre., of Longridge Hall, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, and a near relative of Edwin Lascelles, Esqre., Member for the County of York."

Undernoted is an excerpt from the actual Marriage Register:

"In the Parish of St. James's Westminster, Bartholomew Ruspini of this Parish and Elizabeth Ord, of Hendon in the County of Middlesex a minor, were married in this Church by and with the consent of Francis Ord Esqre., the natural and lawful father of the said minor, by Licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury, this sixth day of April in the year 1767 by me, Sidney Swinney, D.D. This Marriage was solemnized between us Barth. Ruspini, Elizabeth Ord—In the presence of J. Haden Swinney, Geo. Blount."

(Elizabeth Ord was then aged twenty, and Bartholomew Ruspini thirty-nine.)

Today, it may seem surprising, in view of the marked insularity of the period, that a prominent member of the aristocracy should have consented to the marriage of his daughter (a minor) to an Italian, who had recently renounced Roman Catholicism, accepted the XXXIX Articles and become an Angli-

*Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1683.

can. The Ords were a noble, wealthy Northumberland family of ancient lineage: one of its five branches being traceable to A.D. 1166.¹² Francis Ord (Ruspini's father-in-law) was born in 1724 and died in 1792 at Longridge Hall, 3½ miles south-west of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Edwin Lascelles and Francis Ord were cousins,^{12, 13, 14} being grandsons of Daniel Lascelles of Stank, Northallerton. Edwin Lascelles of Harewood House (which he built) was created Baron Harewood in 1790; and died without issue in 1795. The barony then became extinct and the estates passed to his cousin Edward, who, in 1796, was also created Baron Harewood: and in 1812 became Viscount Lascelles and Earl of Harewood. His great-great-great-grandson, the 6th Earl of Harewood, married King George V's only daughter, Princess Mary, who is now the Princess Royal.

The historian must, at all times, be vigilant, lest he unwittingly present hypothesis for fact, with the result that a faulty foundation may lead to a still more faulty superstructure. Weinberger,⁴ in the absence of accurate knowledge, stated that a painting of Ruspini and family, reproduced by Guerini,¹⁵ "must have been painted in France prior to leaving Paris." Actually, it indisputably portrays his wife, *née* Ord, whom he married in 1767, himself and four of their children. As an outcome of perusing family papers, the writer is definitely able to state that, in 1865, this picture was still hanging in the house, where Bartholomew Ruspini was born, having been gifted by him to his brother, Francesco, shortly after it was painted *c.* 1780. *Fig. 2* is an earlier painting.

In 1768, Bartholomew published *A Treatise on the teeth . . .*, which passed through thirteen editions. Briefly, his



FIG. 2

Family-piece in oils comprising Bartholomew Ruspini, his wife, James, George and Elizabeth. Painted c. 1775 [J. Menzies Campbell collection]

fundamental reasons for writing this were: to obviate the sequelæ of ignorant, unskilful treatment: to explain the causes and prevention of dental diseases: and to rivet attention on the importance of preserving the natural teeth. His description of the anatomy of the dental organs and their surrounding parts was, more or less, in accord with enlightened contemporary opinion. For instance, in the 1797 edition, he

emphatically stated that the loss of enamel was irreparable; and cited the views of Antonj van Leeuwenhoek (1632-1723), Frederik Ruysch (1638-1731), Alexander Monro (1697-1767) and John Hunter (1728-1793).

In discussing disorders arising from teething and their treatment, he stressed the importance of prevention in order to avert serious constitutional disturbances. From this chapter alone, there is

overwhelming evidence of an inherent love of children; twenty years later, this was exemplified in a strikingly practical form, which persists to the present day.

When discoursing on the diseases to which teeth are subject, Ruspini stated that these might arise from either external or internal causes. He noted that women, when *enceinte*, were much more susceptible to dental disease than at any other time. It is strange for readers of today to learn that Ruspini cited, among the external causes, an uncovered head exposed to the air and sleeping bare-headed. Nevertheless, he was well aware of the deleterious effects of the immoderate use of sugar and mercury: and of caustics, then popular for cleaning the teeth.

He urged the prompt removal of salivary calculus (the formation of which he ascribed to neglect), before the oral tissues were destroyed and scurvy of the gums supervened. In advanced cases, he, unhesitatingly, recommended immediate extraction of the affected teeth in order to prevent loosening of the adjacent ones.

Unfortunately, success too often engenders jealousy. It is, nevertheless, regrettable that anyone of Berdmore's status should have expressed himself in such a churlish and ignorant manner, as he did in the Preface to his work published in 1768.¹⁶

Therein, he stated "... I could only have quoted a few French authors, who have written *to make their names known* [italics his] and one or two English, who have translated very injudiciously." Apparently, the publications of Bourdet, Bunon, Fauchard, Gerouldy, Hoffman, Hurlock, Jourdain, Lecluse, Mouton, Pfaff and Tolver were closed books to him! Berdmore continued: "Soon after this work was delivered to the printer, an advertisement appeared in the daily papers, promising a speedy

publication of a treatise on the same subject, by a foreigner [Ruspini] at the west-end of the town. Expecting to be instructed and informed by a careful perusal of it, I suppressed the publication of these sheets for a considerable time. Now, I am sorry to acknowledge that I am disappointed — perhaps through my want of comprehension and discernment." How markedly times have changed! What a fortunate band of pilgrims dentists now are, no longer indulging in reviling one another; instead they march unitedly towards a dentureless land!

Bartholomew Ruspini's eldest son, James Bladen, was born on April 14, 1768, and baptised on May 10 by the Reverend W. Parker, Rector of St. James's, Piccadilly. Such irrefutable evidence flatly contradicts Weinberger's statement⁴ that the eldest son was Bartholomew Ruspini, Junior. In 1787, James was assumed a partner in his father's practice in Pall Mall; and, from then onwards shared with him the honour of being surgeon-dentist to the Prince of Wales. In 1790 (married by then), his home was opposite East India House, often termed India House, Leadenhall Street. Why Bladen should have formed part of his name is problematical. Rightly or wrongly, the Ruspinis of subsequent date believed that a relationship existed between the Bladen and Ord families. As a matter of passing interest, Thomas Bladen (*ob.* 1780, *æt.* 82), son of William Bladen of York, was M.P. for Steyning, 1727-1734; and for Ashburton, 1734-1741.

On February 2, 1769, George Bartholomew Holwell Ruspini was born, and baptised on March 1 of the same year. He, too, later, assisted his father in the dental practice at Pall Mall.

The only other of Bartholomew Ruspini's sons to practise dentistry was William, who was born on August 15,

1780, baptised November 28, 1780, and died June 2, 1812. Instead of joining his father and brothers, James and George, at Pall Mall, he, when aged 20, embarked on practice on his own behalf as a dentist (not styling himself surgeon-dentist) at St. Paul's Churchyard.

That Ruspini was a well-known figure in these days is evident from a letter, written on November 21, 1771, by the Honourable Mrs. Boscawen (who moved in Court circles) to Mrs. Delany,¹⁷ a prime favourite of King George III and Queen Charlotte. An excerpt reads: "I have no other news, but that Ruspini, the dentist, said he had cleaned Her Royal Highness's [Dowager Princess of Wales] teeth yesterday, and that he was sure nothing ailed her mouth, at least *qui prouve trop ne prouve rien.*"

An interesting phase of contemporary dental practice is that one of the fashion leaders, D. Ritchie, a hairdresser and dentist, introduced preposterously high hair-dressing for ladies (Hannah More described this as disfiguring as the small-pox!). He was located in Rupert Street, two doors from Coventry Street, and about seven minutes' walk from Ruspini's house. Ritchie stated¹⁸ that he had studied anatomy under Dr. [William] Hunter; also, that he scaled and cleaned teeth by safe and gentle methods, thereby eradicating the causes of tainted breath.

Taylor,¹⁹ on the authority of H. S. Woodfall (1746-1803), has recorded a pathetic incident concerning a friend of Ruspini—the eminent preacher and man-of-letters, Dr. William Dodd (1729-1777), appointed in 1763 chaplain to the King. Ruspini had invited Dodd to dine with him at his home (incidentally, such a meal then lasted for about four hours; and a further two, when the cloth had been removed from the mahogany table

and wine and fruit placed on it—a repast sufficiently bulky to have sustained a boa-constrictor contented for six months!). He arrived earlier than the appointed time. Shortly, two "arms of the law" appeared and charged Dodd with the criminal offence of forgery. The doctor, having apologised to his host for the necessity of departing so abruptly, desired that he should not wait dinner for him. Later, another friend of Ruspini's called to inform the company that Dr. Dodd had been committed to Fleet Prison. In spite of 100,000 signatures to a petition for clemency, he was hanged at Tyburn amid widespread expressions of sympathy.

As an instance of the lawlessness prevailing in these days, it is perhaps interesting to mention that in the 1770's, robberies with violence were rife in every suburb of London; and late at night, mounted highwaymen and footpads were bold enough to molest persons even in Oxford Street.

Ruspini was, in 1777, a founder-member of the *Lodge of the Nine Muses*, No. 235.²⁰ Of unbounded benevolence, he was ever anxious to befriend foreigners and the numerous refugees, whom the distresses of Italy caused to seek asylum in England. This is clearly evident from the large Italian coterie among the early members of this particular Lodge. They include, to cite the names of an eminent few: General Paoli, Francis d'Agono, Marquis d'Arconati, Count Soderini and three Royal Academicians: Francesco Bartolozzi, Giovanni Cipriani and Agostino Carlino.

Important events occurred in the private life of the Ruspinis in 1779.

On January 20 of that year, James *æt.* 11) was admitted to Westminster School, and placed in the Petty (lowest) Form. School accounts record payments

for 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783 and 1784 to the midsummer term. He was, it has been stated,²¹ at school with Napoleon Bonaparte. If so, this must have been at Autun, prior to 1779, because, in that year, Napoleon entered the Military School at Brienne, remaining there until passing into the army in 1785. On June 2, 1779, George was likewise admitted to Westminster School and placed in the Petty. School accounts chronicle payments for 1780, 1781 and 1782; he left during, or at the end of, the third quarter of 1781. It may be mentioned that, although the date of the founding of Westminster School is uncertain, it was in existence in 1339. A cross-section of the records of Old Westminsters²² reveals the names of dukes, marquesses, earls, viscounts, barons, baronets, church dignitaries, legislators, and those eminent in literature, law and medicine.

In the 1780's, Bartholomew Ruspini presented to the Hospital at Bergamo a complete set of the most up-to-date surgical instruments.²³ Aimed at their being the best procurable, he commissioned his esteemed friend, William Bromfield (1712-1792), one of the surgeons at St. George's Hospital and surgeon to Her Majesty's household, to select them for him. The records of this Lombardy hospital expressed, in laudatory terms, the gratitude experienced for such a munificent gift.

It was reported in the *Morning Chronicle*, October 13, 1783, that Bartholomew Ruspini had been summoned, at the instance of a common informer, to appear at Bow Street Police Court, charged with contravention of the *Medicines Stamp Act* of that year. *i.e.*, vending his tincture and dentifrices without stamps.

The defendant attended, produced his diploma from the College of Bergamo, and pled that his preparations were outside the scope of this Act. Even

if they were not, he "being regularly bred to the profession of surgery" was "legally authorised to dispense them free from duty." The magistrates dismissed the complaint, incidentally the first prosecution under that Act. The newspaper report added that this decision afforded "great satisfaction to several gentlemen of the [medical] faculty and a number of respectable persons who were present." This particular Act of 1783 was the first of a series of post-war expedients for raising additional revenue.

Several of those then practising dentistry were very annoyed (always beware of the soot-bag!) with Ruspini for illuminating his house in both 1784 and 1789. The former occasion was in celebration of the coming-of-age of the Prince of Wales, and the latter a tribute of thanksgiving for the restoration of the reigning monarch's health. Not improbably, this displeasure was merely the reaction of a disgruntled caucus—actually more jealous of the luminary himself than of his illuminations!

Be this as it may, it is nevertheless interesting to recall that, in the 1789 celebrations, the eminent John Hunter also strikingly illuminated his house in Leicester Square. Here is an excerpt from a contemporary newspaper²⁴ graphically describing this: ". . . had G. R. with two neat transparencies—a sun shining on the city of London, the motto *Without a Cloud*; and the other a vessel riding at anchor, the motto *Safe in port.*"

In 1785, Bartholomew Ruspini published a pamphlet²⁵ of forty-four pages on a styptic, which he had recently discovered. This was evidently the result of experiments, which had been undertaken outside the purview of dentistry. It comprised a collection of letters from, among others, William Hammond (member of the Company of Surgeons),

John Obadiah Justamond (surgeon to Westminster Hospital), John Boys (surgeon, Berners Street), Hugh Alexander Kennedy (Physician-Extraordinary to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales), John Welbank (surgeon, 4 Earl Street), P. P. Walsh (Great Queen Street) and James Farmer (apothecary). All of them testified to the undoubted efficacy of the styptic, and recounted experiences. In one instance, the femoral artery of a four months' old calf, weighing twenty-two stones, was bared and an incision made through it to the bone. Profuse hæmorrhage ensued, and lint saturated with the styptic was placed on the wound for about two minutes. As the flow persisted, fresh lint and styptic were used, and the hæmorrhage apparently entirely ceased. Nevertheless, it was deemed desirable to apply a light bandage; and the animal was left tied down to the table. On examining the affected area three hours later, it was found that the calf had torn off the bandage. There was unmistakable coagulation but no trace of fresh hæmorrhage. Although the animal was placed under observation, there was no recurrence. Experiments on a hog, a gelding, a dog and a pig were also reported. It was only when success had been assured in all these cases that it was resolved to test Ruspini's styptic on two human beings. One involved an abnormally large temporal artery, which Mr. Justamond considered should be severed in order to remove a portion of the scalp prior to trephining. The other was a case of severe *epistaxis*, which had been active for nine and a half hours before Mr. Welbank was summoned. He plugged the nostrils with lint saturated in the styptic, and the hæmorrhage promptly ceased.

Several editions were published of Ruspini's styptic pamphlet. Suffice, however, to refer only to that of 1791,

which incidentally was dedicated to George III. By that date, the styptic was in widespread use by both the medical profession and the public. Striking testimonials were recorded by provincial surgeons as to its successful application in cases such as the following: a maid-servant, who had the misfortune to cut off the tip of her finger; hæmorrhage resulting from excision of an oral tumour; amputation of a finger at the second phalanx; and persistent hæmorrhage after the extraction of a tooth.

It is, of course, easy at the present day for one, so disposed, to scoff at this evidence. The writer would remind any such that, in every instance, the surgeon's name and address were published. Further, following the example of Pierre Fauchard, in practically all cases, the sufferers' names and addresses were likewise revealed. Consequently, it is not unreasonable to accept their authenticity.

The styptic gained considerable publicity in 1786, when its application successfully arrested a severe hæmorrhage which attacked the Prince Regent while returning from Newmarket.²⁶

Ruspini was particularly concerned lest the necessitous poor (to whom at Pall Mall he gratuitously dispensed his styptic), who lived in the east-end, should be disadvantageously placed in an emergency. He therefore arranged with Dr. Francis de Valangin to distribute it gratis at his house in Fore Street, Moorfields, to all in need.

In the *Morning Post*, March 1, 1794, Lorenzo Garavani accused Ruspini of altering the principal ingredient (with which he had been supplying him) of his styptic. Ruspini could not be expected to ignore such a grave challenge. Consequently, in a widely circulated announcement (e.g., *The Glasgow Mercury*, March 18, 1794), he explained that his connection with Garavani had

ceased when he ascertained that he could purchase this particular ingredient cheaper through another channel. This had enabled him to reduce the selling price. He added that Garavani had been urging him to enter into a partnership for marketing the styptic in order to avert a dispute, which might prove injurious to both parties. As Ruspini had spurned such overtures, this publicity was the outcome.

Under the Regency and in the reign of George IV, Ruspini's styptic was supplied, by Royal Warrant, to ships and stations of the British Navy. Not at all surprising that it was regarded as being almost miraculous, because, until the shuttering of the eighteenth century, a red-hot iron was accepted as being the *sine qua non* for arresting severe hæmorrhage.

The subsequent history of Ruspini's styptic is both illuminating and intriguing. Among those who advocated its use was the eminent chief surgeon to St. George's Hospital and first chairman of the General Medical Council, Sir Benjamin C. Brodie (1783-1862).²¹ As late as the 1880's, its efficacy was praised by such medical writers as Harrison,²⁷ and Whitehead and Pollard.²⁸ Further, its use was recommended in editorial notes.^{21, 26} The formula was then in the possession of a great grandson of Bartholomew Ruspini. In 1925, this entry appeared in Martindale and Westcott²⁹: "Ruspini's Styptic—a strong solution of gallic acid and spirit of roses, with perhaps a little zinc sulphate—Murrell."

Interesting points emerge from Ruspini's advertisement in *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, January 22, 1787. Therein, he stated that his dentifrice was sold only in block-tin containers, the lids being stamped with his coat-of-arms; also, that his various preparations were procurable from certain firms

in Birmingham, Coventry and Barnett. He had arranged for each purchaser to be presented with a copy of his *Treatise on the Teeth*. As a further precaution against spurious products, the accompanying instructions were signed in his own calligraphy. With the same end in view, he opened, at Easter, 1794, a depot near his house in Pall Mall for the wholesale and retail distribution of his remedies.

Canton³⁰ stated that the ingredients of Ruspini's Toothpowder were: powdered orris root 4 oz., Armenian bole 2 oz., powdered crabs' eyes 1 oz., pimento powder 1 oz., and rose pink 1 oz. All mixed together with great care. Also, that his tincture for the gums was prepared thus: rectified spirit of wine 1 pint, essence of scurvy grass $\frac{1}{2}$ pint, distilled water $\frac{1}{2}$ pint, powdered orris root 1 oz., cloves, ambergris and alum of each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and sage 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Digested together in a glass bottle for ten days, occasionally shaken and afterwards filtered through blotting-paper.

The years 1787, 1788 and 1789 were singularly auspicious in the career of Bartholomew Ruspini. Throughout the preceding twenty, he had honourably filled several high offices in various masonic lodges. His continued advancement in the Craft, although due fundamentally to his own sterling character, may have been at least partially an outcome of his undoubted influence in Court circles.

From records,^{9, 31} it has been learned that, in 1787, on Ruspini's suggestion, His Royal Highness, George, Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV) instituted the *Prince of Wales's Lodge No. 259*; and they were its first two members. This particular Lodge consisted exclusively of those who had been honoured with appointments under His Royal Highness or were closely attached to his person and interests. Ruspini was

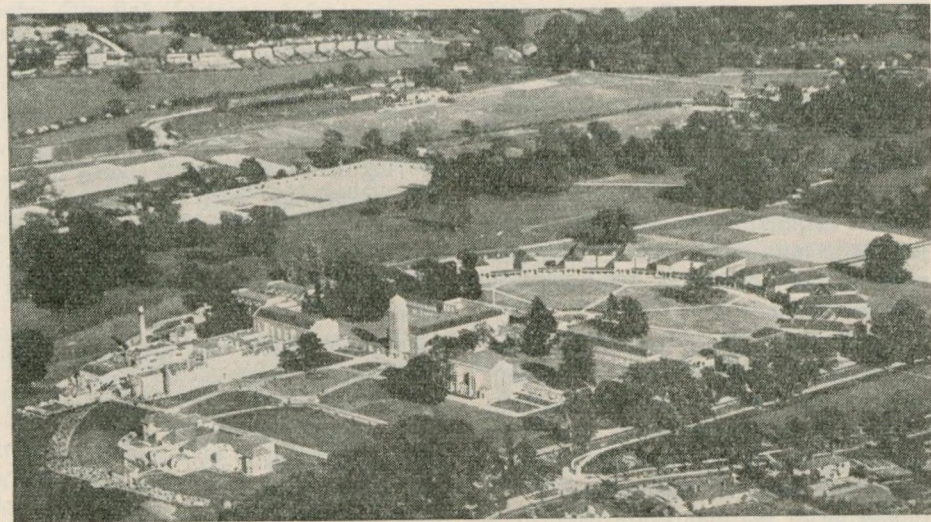


FIG. 3

An aerial view of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, Rickmansworth Park, Hertfordshire. Opened in 1934 by the late Queen Mary. [Courtesy, Royal Masonic Institution for Girls]

elected the first Treasurer, and, in 1791, Grand Sword-Bearer. He held both positions (re-elected annually) until his death.

On March 25, 1788, his renowned benevolence and influential opportunities crystallised in the founding of an outstanding charity, the Royal Cumberland Freemason School, which exists and flourishes today as the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. Cohen³² unjustly stigmatised this benefactor's memory by stating that "Ruspini, however, tried to make things safe for himself in the hereafter by endowing the Royal Masonic Orphanage." Such an idea was utterly foreign to his nature; compassion for suffering children alone inspired him. Besides, he did *not* endow this institution; the necessary funds were subscribed by Freemasons and the public throughout the world.³

Although a particularly ambitious undertaking, the attainment of Ruspini's

lofty ideal was rendered easier by the practical and liberal help which he received from the Duchess of Cumberland who became Patroness. The Prince of Wales and the Dukes of Cumberland, Gloucester and York afforded the project their enthusiastic support: so did the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. From 1788 to 1790, Ruspini was the Orphanage's first treasurer. On relinquishing this office he proposed as his successor Viscount Dudley, who was duly elected; at the same meeting Ruspini was appointed a life governor.

The original purposes of the founder were to safeguard the daughters of indigent Freemasons from dangers and misfortunes; and to qualify them to fill useful—not menial—stations in life. To date, these aims have been scrupulously observed, subject of course to such material changes and modifications as time, opportunity and the influx of additional funds have permitted or justified.³

Incidentally, at the end of the eighteenth century, the post of governess was the paid *Hobson's Choice* confronting an educated Englishwoman.

The School was originally located in Somers Place East. In 1934 Her late Majesty, Queen Mary, opened the magnificently appointed buildings in Rickmansworth Park, Hertfordshire (Fig. 3). Of this undertaking, it may be remarked:

*As mighty things from small beginnings rise,
So Glotta's flood at first a brook supplies.*

The early management of this Charity deserves special mention. Ladies, whose duties included inspection of the premises and supervision of education and employment, were elected overseers. The medical staff consisted of two physicians, Hugh Alexander Kennedy (Physician to the Prince of Wales) and Francis de Valangin (an erudite successful practitioner of Fore Street); three surgeons, John Boys (of Berners Street), Thomas Ogle (surgeon to the Middlesex Dispensary) and John Phillips (of St. James's Place); an apothecary, James Farmer, and a surgeon-dentist Bartholomew Ruspini. All served in entirely voluntary capacities, gratuitously giving advice, attendance and medicines. Further, they were responsible for framing certain rules, e.g., it was obligatory on all children, who, prior to admission, had escaped smallpox, to be inoculated (later superseded by vaccination). No tuberculous subjects were admitted. Every morning, the faces and hands of all children were washed and hair combed. Heads and feet were kept clean. It is enlightening to learn of such stringent health measures being enforced in Georgian England.

The centenary of the foundation of this Orphanage was celebrated on June

7, 1888, in the Royal Albert Hall, London. The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) presided. Other members of the royal family present included the Princesses Louise, Victoria and Maud, also King Oscar of Sweden, with his eldest son, Prince Albert Victor. Donations and subscriptions received that evening exceeded £50,000. The Orphanage has, since its inception to the present day, been under royal patronage, e.g., Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, King George V and Queen Mary, King Edward VIII, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Elizabeth II.

The fact that Ruspini's silver snuff-box (Fig. 4) bears the 1788 London hallmark makes it not unlikely to have been a gift (maybe from one of his several royal admirers!) on the occasion of the founding of the Orphanage. The maker's initials, C.M., signify Charles March, who was in business at 18 Giltspur Street.

This particular article is both larger and heavier than those usually fashioned at that period, being 2¼ inches in diameter and 2 ounces in weight. The lid, revealing fine *repoussé* work, bears his arms impaling those of his wife; and in plain lettering, Ruspini Pall Mall. Besides, there is a crest—a dove with an olive branch—and the motto, *Deo et Amicis*, aptly befitting the man.

On April 22, 1789 (confirmed by documents in the writer's possession), Bartholomew Ruspini became the Chevalier Ruspini, due to the "Honourable Order of Knighthood and Dignity of Count of the Sacred Palace of the Lateran" having been, without solicitation from any quarter, conferred on him by Francis, Duke Sfortia. In this connection, it is interesting to record that, in May, 1539, Pope Paul III granted to this Duke's ancestor of that date and his descendants, the privilege

of bestowing this particular honour. The emblem consisted of a gold cross (similar to the Maltese) and a spur suspended from the buttonhole by a red ribbon.

Robson³³ stated that it was generally awarded as a mark of distinction to those in the service of the pontifical government; also to strangers who professed the Roman Catholic faith. It was, however, conferred on Ruspini (an Anglican) in recognition of his renowned benevolence and generous hospitality to foreigners, distinguished and impecunious alike. In fact, he is the only Freemason ever to have received this papal distinction.

That it was no frivolous honour may be gauged from the fact that Charles, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England, authorised the entry of Ruspini's diploma and title of Chevalier of the Golden Spur in the Register of Nobility at the Heralds' Office together with arms, bearings, motto and an additional escutcheon in the College of Arms. Incidentally, on his father's death, James Bladen automatically succeeded to the title which, however, became extinct in 1883 on the death of his son, Bladen.

It was, therefore, not only totally inaccurate, but also a travesty of justice, for Weinberger⁴ to state: "As for the title of Chevalier, there is no record of where and how he received it . . . he might have conferred it upon himself."

It is interesting now to refer briefly to Ruspini's book-plate and business-card. The former, engraved with his arms, although decidedly Chippendale in style, resembles Continental, rather than English, work. The latter (Fig. 5) depicts Venus escorting an unwilling Cupid (with jaw bandaged) to the Temple of Æsculapius, in front of which sits the god of health, holding an unfurled scroll inscribed Ruspini Pall



FIG. 4

Bartholomew Ruspini's snuff-box revealing fine repoussé work, with his arms, crest and motto. London hall-mark, 1778. Maker, Charles March. [Courtesy, The Connoisseur]

Mall. Its classical design is reminiscent of the work of Francesco Bartolozzi. Although it was certainly not the practice of this eminent artist to undertake a commission of this nature, it should, however, be borne in mind that he had for many years been an intimate friend of Bartholomew Ruspini. It is perhaps surprising that, as far as is known, he (Ruspini) adhered to the same type of business-card throughout his professional career at Pall Mall. The only variation was that, on becoming Chevalier in 1789, the burin was re-applied to the plate, and "Ruspini, Pall Mall" captioned with his title.

Many eighteenth-century dentists

were prone to defame one another with impunity. To cite a few examples! Jealous contemporaries of Pierre Fauchard did not hesitate to circulate rumours that he had retired. Consequently, Fauchard denied these in *Le Chirurgien Dentiste*, 1746. Jeremiah Wallach, practising dentistry in Church Lane (near Whitechapel Church), London, was forced by the action of poltroons, who stated that he was dead, to reassure the public by announcements in the Press of 1749 that he was still alive. At a later date, T. M. Patence,³⁴ who practised at 36 Great Suffolk Street, Charing Cross, London, vituperated against Nicolas Dubois de Chémant. Doubtless the introduction of the latter's mineral paste teeth had proved injurious to the former's practice. Blatantly, he boasted of his own sound judgment, work and uprightness as a dentist, surgeon and physician; and of his sovereign contempt for de Chémant's teeth, describing them as resembling dried salmon: and the gums, bullock's blood.

In a footnote to this particular advertisement, Patence (viewing his hero through the reverse end of a telescope!) stated that "he [de Chémant] offered his teeth and service, gratis, to Mr. Ruspini, Pall Mall; but Mr. Ruspini had character to lose, and had more honour than to propose such ridiculous stuff to mankind." From this, readers might, not unnaturally, conclude that an alliance existed between Patence and Ruspini. Nevertheless, in spite of diligent search and much available data, the writer has failed to unearth any confirmatory evidence.

It must be borne in mind that Patence, a pachydermatous charlatan (earlier, also a teacher of dancing) would always be on the alert to avail himself of a subterfuge to infer that he was a friend of a colleague who held a royal appointment. Further, although Patence, for his

own aggrandisement, insinuated that Ruspini spurned de Chémant's mineral paste teeth, it should in fairness be emphasised that Bartholomew Ruspini, at all times, made it abundantly clear that he used human teeth only for his restorations. In the latter half of the eighteenth century, artificial teeth were fashioned from various substances such as the bones of oxen and calves (porous, and therefore readily disintegrated); the teeth of asses and goats (more stable—their enamel being a desirable factor), and hippopotamus ivory (very durable). Human teeth, however, possessed the most natural appearance, and with proper care remained satisfactory for a long time; unfortunately, they were very expensive.

The Chevalier, in a work published in 1795,⁵ riveted attention on the supreme role of teeth in beautifying or deforming the face. Also, their masticatory value in preparing food properly for digestion. He strenuously refuted the then prevalent belief that the temporary teeth were of minor consequence: instead, emphasising that their neglect resulted in irregular permanent ones. Should this misfortune arise, he counselled parents and guardians to consult a skilled dentist to have such defects rectified. He deprecated the reckless and unnecessary extraction of teeth. Citing cases of *odontalgia*, e.g., in pregnancy and nervous disorders, he controverted the absurdity of sacrificing a tooth solely on this account as comparable to a person with gout having a painful toe amputated: the supposition being that this alone would effect a cure.

In the late eighteenth century particularly, it was a frequent practice for dentists to visit patients at their homes. As the Chevalier learned that many persons were inconvenienced by his absence from Pall Mall on Saturdays, from 1795 onwards he restricted his outdoor ser-



FIG. 5

Bartholomew Ruspini's business card depicting Venus escorting an unwilling Cupid to the Temple of Æsculapius, in front of which sits the god of health. [Courtesy, The British Museum]

vices to Tuesdays and Thursdays, except to those in urgent need.

A person whom Ruspini most often met socially, if indeed she was not a patient of his, was Mrs. Cornelys—an extraordinarily fantastic figure in fashionable London society. Her mansion, Carlisle House (transformed into a veritable fairyland), was located at the east-end of Sutton Street, Soho Square. There, from 1763 to 1772, she organised brilliant balls, masquerades, assemblies and operas, all being freely patronised by the nobility, gentry, etc. In fact, a contemporary writer designated them as “unparalleled in the annals of public fashion.” For instance, at a masquerade held in 1770, a distinguished company included the Duke of Cumberland, the Duke of Gloucester, the Duchess of Bolton, Lord Carlisle, Lord Edge-

cumbe, the Countess of Waldegrave, the Countess of Pomfret, Lady Stanhope, Lady Augusta Stuart, Sir Joshua Reynolds, David Garrick, and most probably Lord Robert Spencer, Sir Charles Bunbury, Oliver Goldsmith and Topham Beauclerk.³⁵

Nevertheless, due to the opening of the Pantheon in Oxford Street (with its fourteen rooms accommodating 2,000 persons), the popularity of her Soho venture steadily declined. Consequently, Mrs. Cornelys became financially embarrassed and, some years later, was incarcerated for debt in Fleet Prison, where she died on August 19, 1797.

While there she (by then a singed butterfly) wrote to the Chevalier on March 29, 1797, acquainting him of her serious illness, which she was convinced his styptic could assuage, and

soliciting a supply. It is superfluous to add that this was promptly forthcoming. Another dejected debtor in the same prison experienced a severe hæmorrhage on February 10, 1798. He, too, approached the Chevalier for his styptic. In a subsequent letter, he stated that, although the remedy had proved most effective, a few days later there had been a slight recurrence. He, therefore, asked for a further supply, which permanently cured the condition. Innumerable other instances could be cited where help was readily and promptly rendered, without anticipation of fee or reward.

Guerini¹⁵ was inaccurate in stating that the Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini invented a very good mouth-mirror, which later came into general use. In fact, it was his eldest son, James Bladen Ruspini, who, between 1800 and 1802, introduced a mirror to enable laymen to examine their own teeth. The writer has studied this particular instrument; from its shape and size, it was obviously never intended for use by dentists.

A letter (London, August 17, 1808) from Mr. F. Hall³⁶ to Mr. John Vanderlyn (an artist) revealed one or two interesting sidelights. Mr. Hall recounted that he had recently been dining with the Chevalier Ruspini; and that one of the courses had consisted of “a fine haunch of roasted beef.” In the post-prandial conversation, Mr. Hall referred to the very popular artificial teeth, with which an Italian dentist was adorning the mouths of Parisians. Although no name was mentioned, this was obviously Giuseppangelo Fonzi, who, in 1808, introduced mineral (terro-metallic) teeth. The host, in spite of his 80 years, was so very interested as to ask his guest to endeavour to procure one or two such teeth for his inspection; remarking that, if satisfied with them, he would not hesitate to promote their use in England.

Mr. Hall, therefore, requested Mr. Vanderlyn to approach a mutual dentist-friend in Paris and ask him, without delay, to send specimens direct to the Chevalier.

It is not surprising that several well-known artists were anxious to immortalise Ruspini by brush, crayon and the burin. The first portrait which the celebrated Sir William Beechey (1753-1839) exhibited at the Royal Academy was of Ruspini. Angelo,³⁷ confirming this, added that Ruspini was his father's esteemed friend, and that he, himself (incidentally for upwards of half a century consorting with all classes of society) had often enjoyed “elegant hospitalities” at 32 St. Albans Street.

William M. Peters (1742-1814), another Royal Academician, executed in 1793 a portrait of the Chevalier. On presenting this, he wrote that “his [Ruspini's] life has been one continued series of kind and friendly actions.”

John Raphael Smith (1752-1812) exhibited the Ruspini family in crayons at the Royal Academy in 1784.³⁸

Thomas Stothard (1755-1834), R.A., painted in 1802 the Chevalier Ruspini leading the procession of Orphanage children before a distinguished company in the Freemasons' Hall. It was engraved by Francesco Bartolozzi (1727-1815), R.A. (Fig. 6). Rudolph Ackermann (1764-1834) reproduced in *The Microcosm of London* an aquatint of this (dated 1808) by Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827) and Augustus Pugin (1762-1832).

Isaac Jehner (or Jenner) (1750-1806) painted in 1800 an excellent portrait of Ruspini wearing the decoration which had been conferred on him in 1789 (Fig. 7). F. C. Stoute produced a mezzotint of it.

Theophilus Clarke (1776[?]-1831[?], A.R.A., painted in 1803 a full-length portrait of the Chevalier.



FIG. 6

An engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi of the Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini presenting the children in Freemasons' Hall on the anniversary in 1802 of the founding of the Orphanage. Included in this group are the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, Earl of Moira, Lord Rancliffe, Sir William Addington and Sir John Eamer. [Courtesy, Royal Masonic Institution for Girls]

The well-known engraving [after Dighton], *The London Dentist*, is a striking delineation of Ruspini engaged in a dental operation. It was printed and sold c. 1784 by Carington Bowles, 69 St. Paul's Church Yard, London.

The Ruspini family numbered nine: James, George and William (already mentioned as having practised dentistry) and another son and five daughters. Intriguing as were their careers, they are, however, extraneous to the present article.

On December 14, 1813, the Chevalier Ruspini died³⁹ at the advanced age of 85 years at his home, 32 St. Albans Street, Pall Mall. He was interred in St. James's Churchyard, Piccadilly, on Dec-

ember 19 (Register Book of Burials, Parish of St. James's, Westminster), not on the following day as has been stated.³⁹ Profound regret was expressed by a very large assemblage of mourners. An affecting scene was the presence of all the Orphanage children wearing black cloaks in testimony of respect to the memory of the founder.

Incidentally, it is singular that, despite a diligent search of the records of monuments and tablets in St. James's Church and churchyard, no trace could be found of any relating to the Ruspini family.

Not unnaturally, readers may be curious as to the terms of the Chevalier's last will and testament. In it (executed December 10, 1810), three annuities

were specified: his wife £150, George £25 and William (*ob.* 1812) £25, besides legacies, etc., to other members of his family. In order to ensure their payment, the Chevalier's leasehold house in Pall Mall, with all his property and effects, were to be held as security by his trustees.

His son, James, was to be permitted to reside and continue uninterruptedly to practise dentistry in his father's house provided he paid, as goodwill for the business, the annuities and legacies. However, in the event of failure to implement these obligations within thirty days of the dates fixed for the quarterly payments, the trustees were empowered to assume possession of the house with contents, and sell or otherwise dispose of such as might be deemed necessary. On July 11, 1814, James, having been duly sworn, declared that the value of his father's "goods, effects and credit" did not total £450.

The writer now embarks on an attempt to delineate ingenuously the Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini.

Although he lived in a coarse age when hard drinking and amorous adventure were the rule rather than the exception, particularly in the circles in which he mingled, yet he is not known to have indulged in these diversions.

His talents, although unmistakable, sometimes excited jealousy among the less successful practitioners, who were prone to make him a target for their wit-bolts, to which he never succumbed. However, in striking contrast to these loquacious nonentities (long since forgotten), the Chevalier's name today remains evergreen. The writer is fortunate in having had access to evidence recorded by various persons (of unimpeachable repute), who knew him very intimately. Such opinions must, therefore, be accepted unequivocally in preference to present-day hearsay, because

it is not possible, after the lapse of upwards of one hundred and fifty years to represent adequately the potency of a character or the loadstone of a presence.

As a surgeon-dentist, his abilities were generally acknowledged as eclipsing the majority of his contemporaries—not at all surprising in view of his sojourns at Bergamo and Paris. Innate culture, hospitality, vivacity and a generous outlook on life proved enduring assets to one destined to move in the highest social circles.

It is interesting to realise that the medical faculty accepted him as one of themselves. Although his sound training so entitled him, nevertheless, in the eighteenth century, the reverse was often the case when a practitioner deserted a surgical career in order to devote himself to the then lowly vocation of dentist. The fact that he advertised extensively might tend to create among the uninitiated the impression that he was a mountebank. It should, however, be appreciated that such a policy was in conformity with the times in which he lived.

As to his connection with Freemasonry, it has been officially recorded that to the end he enjoyed the love and respect of his brother Masons; also, that he was one of the kindest characters of his age. His active membership of the Craft extended over a period of fifty-one years and included various Lodges; consequently, any serious personal shortcomings would quickly have resulted in his dethronement. That he rose to high offices substantially confirms what has been stated.

Not content merely to profit by the patronage which had brought him success and influence, he considered that these entailed responsibilities for undertaking further duties. The founding of the Orphanage School was but one of his innumerable public and private acts

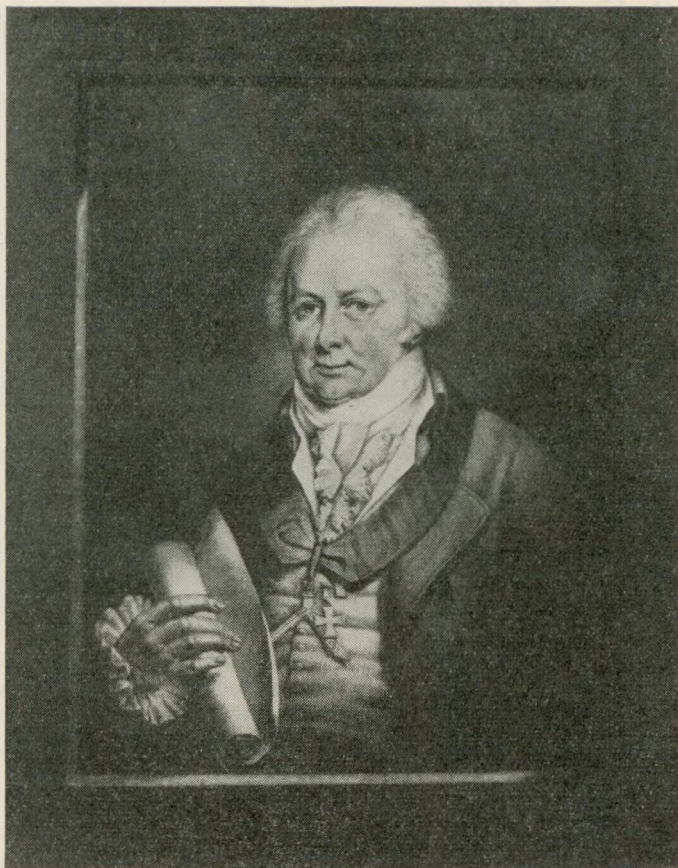


FIG. 7

The Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini (æ. 72) wearing the insignia of Chevalier conferred upon him in 1789. Painted and engraved by Isaac Jenner in 1800. [Courtesy, The British Museum]

of benevolence. Readers will now fully appreciate why a person in Ruspini's apparently affluent position left at his death less than £450.

Let me quote from an obituary, which appeared in the *European Magazine*³⁹: "... The memory of the Chevalier will long be revered by his family and friends; and his loss will be deeply deplored by the unfortunate, whom he was in the habit of consoling, and by the

indigent, whose wants he was ever ready to relieve . . ."

Contemporary opinion, confirmed by a study of his many portraits, consistently reveals Ruspini as a man of unblemished character, natural dignity, candour and outstanding benevolence. In fact, we, the dentists of this century, can bask in the sunshine of one who was an Italian by birth, an Englishman by choice, and a philanthropist at heart.

He passed as a gentleman among gentlemen, when that distinction meant considerably more than it does today!

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