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The Profession as a Surname in a Franco-Provençal Valley in the 14th Century

Zawód jako nazwisko w dolinie franko-prowansalskiej w XIV wieku

“L'indicatore di mestiere si presenta piuttosto tardi come possibile componente della catena onomastica e diventa particolarmente insistente a partire dalla seconda metà del sec. XII”.¹ Moreover, it is not a nickname made of an individual characteristic but of the role effectively played by the individual in medieval society (a society which encouraged the inheritance of trades).

In an ancient document, it is not always easy or possible to distinguish the real professional determination from the byname which in the future will be extended to the whole family and become the surname; sometimes the context allows disambiguation, for example, through another professional or surname determination.²

Usually the byname is made up of a noun + the suffix *-arius* (in Piedmont more often *-erius*) or the goods produced or traded without the addition of a suffix (for metonymy). In general, in Piedmont, the first professions which became part of the onomastic chain are *barberius* and *ferrarius*³ and this is not surprising:

¹ The trade indicator appears rather late as a possible component of the onomastic chain and it becomes particularly present from the second half of the 12th century (Rossebastiano, 2009b, p. 59; all translations from Italian are by the author).

² The first mention of the profession as an anthroponym in Piedmont concerns a Novarese notary and dates back to the 8th century (cf. Rossebastiano, 2009a, p. 3).

³ Cf. Rossebastiano (2009a, p. 6).

The professions that are placed first within the formula are the most popular, while those of the upper social ranks, and especially those of the “intellectual” type, show greater difficulty in taking root. The reasons are probably to be found both in the character of greater distinctiveness present in the “higher-class” professions than in the popular ones and in the unusual inheritance of the “intellectual” professions (Rossebastiano, 2009a, p. 11).⁴

Furthermore, the perspective of the name of the profession can be extended to the whole family, considering that the diffusion of bynames linked to a specific activity is closely related to the life and work of the communities. In the valley considered in this study, the Valley of Lanzo⁵, the most represented professions⁶ that enter into anthroponymic determination are those related to agricultural and pastoral life: *boverio*⁷, *becario/becherio*⁸, *mulaterio*⁹, *margarot*¹⁰. Considering also

⁴ Original text: “Le professioni che per prime si collocano all’interno della formula sono quelle più popolari, mentre quelle proprie dei ranghi sociali superiori, e soprattutto quelle di tipo «intellettuale», mostrano maggiore difficoltà a radicarsi. Le ragioni di tutto ciò sono probabilmente da ricercarsi sia nel carattere di maggiore distintività presente nelle professioni «superiori» rispetto a quelle popolari, sia nella non abituale ereditarietà delle professioni «intellettuali»”.

⁵ The reference *corpus* of this research is a collection of 14th-century administrative accounts (rolls) related to the Franco-Provençal Valley of Lanzo (North-West of Italy) stored in the State Archives of Turin (ASTO, Sezioni Riunite, *Camera dei Conti, Piemonte, Articolo 41–Lanzo, §1 Conti*. Then quoted as ASTO, *Art. 41*).

⁶ In general, with respect to the *corpus*, most of the second names are, p. lexical-nicknames (45%), toponymic (30%) or can be made up of a personal name (25%). The proportion of the various lexico-nickname component is, p. professional (29%), generic vocabulary (20%), moral (18%), physical (15%), the 18% left are zoonyms, phytodes, charges, and familiar names. The high percentage of professional attestations of our *corpus* depends also on the type of source; the document of tax nature, in fact, is closely linked to economic transactions and consequently should provide a privileged space for trade and transactions deriving from the exercise of professions.

⁷ Samples, p. “Receptit a **oliveto boverij** pro rebus [sic] emptis a reynaud de castro precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. VI); “Receptit a johanneta conyeri pro rebus emptis a **johanneta et jaquemeta de boveriis** precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. VII).

⁸ Samples, p. “Receptit a **johanne becherio** pro rixa habita cum paglaçoto in qua traxit cutellum [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 1 (1306–1307), p. V); “Receptit a **guigone becario** quia gladium evaginavit contra iohannem drocti” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. X).

⁹ “Receptit a Bertino selvo pro verbo iniurioso dicto **Bastardo mulaterio** et quia [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XVII); “Receptit ab uxore Jacobi de bonavia pro rebus emptis a **peroneta uxore Johannis mullaterij** precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. VIII).

¹⁰ “Receptit a bertodo len pro laude rerum permutatarum cum **martino de margarot** et jaquemeto mineto extimatis [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. V). From the preromance **malga* “alpine economy” (REW 5264a), *dieses wort ist im galloromanischen nicht heimisch* (FEW 6/1, 95). A form **margarius* could be the base for the Piedmontese expression *marghé* “farmer” but also that of a professional who sells milk and butter directly to the customer (Cf. DSA, s.v. *Marghè*) with the addition of the diminutive suffix in *-ot<-ottus* (Rohlf, 1966–1969, §1143). The *marghé* is housed in the *margaria* i.e. the farmhouse (cf. Levi, 1927, p. *Marghè*; REW 5264a); it is a synonym of shepherd with attestations widespread in south-western Piedmont and western Liguria together with

that the Valley of Lanzo is a Franco-Provençal alpine valley bordering France, some determinations are linguistically rich with Franco-Provençal, Occitan and Piedmontese echoes such as *bergi*¹¹ *vitono*¹² “mountain dweller” or *cebrore*¹³.

In mountain areas the guardianship of pigs was essential: so, the byname *porchariis*.¹⁴

The indication of the craft exercised also allows to highlight the link between the individual and the territory, thus defining the characteristics of the latter. If we find, for example, that people were recognized through the reference to a vineyard, we must conclude that the cultivation of the vine was developed in a certain place in a significant way (Rossebastiano, 2009b, p. 54).¹⁵

bargé (cf. AIS, map 1198 *pastore* (shepherd), points 153 Giaveno, 155 Torino, 156 Castelnuovo d’Asti, 163 Pancalieri, 172 Villafalletto, 173 Cuneo, 181 Valdieri, 182 Limone).

¹¹ “Recepit a **petro de bergi** pro re empta a petro de bernardo” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 1 (1306–1307), p. IV); “Recepit a **petro bergi de canturia** quia verba Jniuriosa dixit Johanni girardi et uxore Jaqueti furni” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. XXI). From the Latin base **vĕrvĕcarius* o **bĕrbĕcarius* (REW 9267) o **ver(ve)garius* (Serra, 1954–1965, p. 165), *bergerius* is a shepherd. Among the oldest forms, *birbicarius* appears during the 7th century in *Lex Romana Burgundiorum* II and it is attested very soon in Occitan *bĕrdzi* (FEW 17, 336 and GPSR, II, p. *berger*) and then widespread to a very large area between France and Piedmont. We report some statements, p. Mossella *bĕrji*, Brusson *bĕrdži* (FEW 17, 334), Provençal *bergier* (REW 9267) and Piedmontese *bergé* (DSA, s.v. *Bergè*). About *bergi* ALLY stresses that this a form of wide extension derived *du nom de l’animal dont s’occupe ce domestique, ou bien ils sont les termes qui désignent le domestique en général* (ALLY, 5, p. 226). AIS (map 1073 *pecoraio* “goat keeper”) offers *berge*, *barge*, *brge* as North-Western forms with a single occurrence *lu berdzi* in Saint Marcel (point 122).

¹² “Recepit a Taurino de burghiglono russo et **stephano vitono** pro terra et prato emptis precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XIII); “[...] receptus apud chamberiaci per **guiffredum bethone de chamberiaci** clericum dominj” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. XX). From old German **wit* “creature” transformed in the alpine area into **witto*, *-onis* with a negative meaning relating to the miserable condition of the mountain dwellers. The female form has also a double meaning between “mountain dweller” and simply “woman” and the feminine adjective *vitona* in Piedmont is related to the cows, p. the *vitona* cow indicates the mountain cow (cf. Rossebastiano, 2006, pp. 75–79).

¹³ “Recepit a Jacobo balva pro ficto empto a **peroneto cebrore** precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XV). From Latin *CAPRA(M)* “goat” in the Franco-Provençal form *cevra* (cf. Levi, 1918, p. 58) with palatalization of the initial consonant and spirantization of the occlusive with the suffix *-oris* for “goatherd, keeper of goats”. Forms like *cebrore* with vocal *-o-* and sonorization of the occlusive, rather than the Italian *caprarius* > *capraro*, could be influenced by the Provençal form attested in Southern France *kabro* (REW 1647) a sort of normalized hybrid. It could also be related (even if not so probable) to the Piedmontese form *subber* “basket” so being connected to the person who makes baskets (cf. AIS, map 1523, points 135, 144, 147, 148, 153 and REP, s.v. *sĕbber*, from the old German *zwibar* or *zubar*; REW 9631).

¹⁴ “Recepit a **paulete de porcharijs** pro arboribus emptis a Martino sartore precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XVI). This byname is also attested as a nickname in some 15th-century Piedmontese consignments of Forno Canavese (cf. Papa, 2010, p. 104, *porcarius*).

¹⁵ Original text: “L’indicazione del mestiere esercitato consente di evidenziare anche il legame dell’individuo con il territorio, definendo di conseguenza le caratteristiche di quest’ultimo. Se tro-

The reference to the family group appears in the form *de* + plural ablative (eg.: *johanneta et jaquemeta de boveriis* and in *pauleto de porcharijs*). A crystallized reference may also appear in a form related to the father, e.g.: *jacopo bergi* or *petro de bergi*.

Another specific anthroponymic component is connected to the blacksmith's activity, typical of the Lanzo Valley, where there were many furnaces, mines and professionals for the baking of metals (iron and silver) and others working with clay (tiles, terracotta pots, etc.) or other peculiar activities such as a metal polisher (*brunerio*¹⁶). The other forms, showing the variety of different activities, are: *ferrero*¹⁷, *ferrando*¹⁸, *fornaxerio*¹⁹, *formerio*²⁰, *fornello*²¹, *fabro*²², *charbonelli*²³, *chiaterio*²⁴, *furbico*²⁵, *caudellerio*²⁶,

viamo, ad esempio, persone riconosciute attraverso il richiamo alla vigna, dobbiamo concludere che la coltivazione della vite era sviluppata in un determinato luogo in maniera significativa”.

¹⁶ “Receptit a **Jacometo brunerio** qui incessit de boscho peroti de masso” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XIX).

¹⁷ “Receptit a **petro ferrerij de brachello** pro tutela liberorum martinj ferrerij condam” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. II).

¹⁸ “Receptit a **Johanne ferrandj** pro rebus emptis a Johanneto buffa – precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. VIII).

¹⁹ “Receptit a Johanne filio Nicolini cruytalla pro verbo iniurioso dicto **leoneto fornaxerio**” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. X). From Latin **fornaxarius* synonym of **fornacius* “qui in fornace coquit, tegularius” (Du Cange, 1883–1887, s.v. **fornaxarius*, **fornacius*) is related to people making bricks but also dishes and cups.

²⁰ “Receptit a marabesio pro eo quod ipso evaginavit cutellum contra **stephanum fornerium**” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 19 (1350–1351), p. VIII).

²¹ “[...] pro donatione facta per **henricum fornelli** que non fuit [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 19 (1350–1351), p. X). From Latin *FURNUS* with suffix *-ellus*, in ancient French *fornel* (FEW 3, 903), for metonymy it became a professional nickname.

²² “Libravit magistro **oberto fabro** qui stetit in dicto castro [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 1 (1306–1307), p. VI).

²³ “Receptit ab eodem pro pecia una prati empta ab **Anthonia filia** condam **Martini charbonelli** precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XV). From Latin *CARBŌNE(M)* with suffix *-ellus* (cf. Rohlfs, 1966–1969, §1082) has been a proper name in France since 14th century (cf. Godefroy, 1881–1898, p. II, s.v. *charbonel*).

²⁴ “Receptit a martino furbico pro verbo iniurioso dicto **giroldo chiaterio**” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. VIII). From Latin *CLAVUS*, Italian *chiodo*, French *clou*, Provençal and Catalan *clau* (REW 1984); the base form could be **claterius* > *chiaterius*, as the French *cloutière* (REW 1984).

²⁵ “Receptit a **martino furbico** pro verbo iniurioso dicto giroldo chiaterio” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. VIII).

²⁶ “Receptit a **Jorcino caudellerio** pro rixa habita cum ferrerio de lanceo” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. IX). From Latin *CALDARIA* with velarization in *-au* before *-ld-*, typical of Piedmont and Liguria like French (cf. Rohlfs, 1966–1969, §17) we got *caudera* (DSA, s.v. *Caodera*). This form supposes a **caudella* (+ *-erio*) not far from the French *cauderlier*; *caudèrli* “chaudronnier ambulant” (FEW 2/1, 77), while Italian has been influenced by the medieval Latin *caldara(r)ius* “calderaio” (DEI, s.v. *calderaio*).

*caudrea*²⁷, *fornacio*²⁸, *perrer*²⁹.

Typical of the Piedmontese territory is *ferrando* where the use of the suffix *-andus* gains the meaning of a present participle as *nomina agentis*.³⁰ In our *corpus* other professional determinations of the same kind are: *charranderio*³¹, *clavanderio*³², *persanda*³³.

Moreover, the form in *-ando* can achieve further suffixation, e.g. a diminutive form *-andus* + *ottus*: es.: *marchiandoto*³⁴ or *belandoto*³⁵.

There were also traders on horseback between Italy and France, in addition to the mentioned *marchiandoto*: the French *marchant*³⁶, *mercerius*³⁷ and specialized merchants as *pollerius*³⁸ (also in the form coming from beyond the Alps *polterius*)³⁹.

²⁷ “Receptit a **droneto caudrea Nicolayo caudrea** et Guillelmo borello pro [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. X).

²⁸ “Receptit a **mataxino fornacio** quod de pugno percuxit petrum boneti in capite” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. X). From Latin FURNUS from whom we have *fornacem*, **fornacius* (with the suffix *-ius* of adjectives) “qui in fornace coquit, tegularius” (Du Cange, 1883–1887, s.v. **fornacius*).

²⁹ “Idem reddit computum quod receipt ab **anthonio de perrer** pro firma alpis de droseto [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 19 (1350–1351), p. IV). From Latin PĒTRA(M), the reference of *perrer* goes to the Piedmontese *pera* “stone” (DSA, s.v. *Pera*). It is worth observing the fall of the final desinence *-er* < *-erius* already neo-Latin.

³⁰ Cf. Rossebastiano (1994).

³¹ “Receptit ab **anthonio charranderio de canturia** quia non consignavit tempore debito” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. XIII).

³² “Receptit ab aymoneto filio stephanj drol de canturia pro rebus emptis ab **anthonio clavanderio** precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. VI).

³³ “Receptit a **Johanneto de persanda** pro rebus emptis a peroneta uxore ditti lonp precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. VI). We cannot exclude the possibility of a non-specific toponymic reference like *cava persanda*.

³⁴ “Receptit a **martino marchiandoto** quia carnaliter cognovit quamdam mulierem” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. IX).

³⁵ “Receptit a petro feroglo pro Juramento non servato **Anthonio belandoto** [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XVII). The form *-ot* < *-ottus* is typical of Northern Italy (cf. Rohlf, 1966–1969, §1143).

³⁶ “Et **bruneti marchiant** qui recolingunt ad medium fenum [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 19 (1350–1351), p. II). It could correspond to the ancient French *marchand*, *marchant* (FEW 6, 8) or *marcheant* and in ancient Provençal *merchan* (FEW 6, 8).

³⁷ “Receptit a **Johanne mercerio desancto Juliano** pro garda per annum usque ad decem annos [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XVI).

³⁸ “Receptit a Jacometa vuillelma pro rebus emptis a **filio conradj de pollerio** [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 32 (1364–1365), p. VIII).

³⁹ “Receptit ab heredibus Johannis desancto mauricio et **Raynaldi de polterio** pro firma alpis [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. X). Our hypothesis is a form *pullus* + *-ettus* + *-erius* for **pul(let)erius* > **pulerius* > *polterius*. We observe that in Central France it is attested *pouletière* “femme qui soigne les poules” (FEW 9, 539 from PŪLLUS); *pouletier* is ancient attested from the 12th century (cf. FEW 9, 544).

The activities related to a precious food resource of the past generated anthroponyms: the chestnut, a core food resource of Piedmont, produced *castagnerio*⁴⁰ and *maronero*⁴¹. We should also consider that in Piedmont the name of the fruit tree can be expressed by the suffix *-arius*⁴² so *castagnerio* can be synonym of *castanetum*⁴³ and the anthroponym can consequently come from a profession or a toponym.

The honorary titles or military roles are often designated to professions or charges, and at other times they are simply nicknames destined to become hereditary. They are several in our *corpus* but they deserve a separate treatment.

In conclusion, a small Valley on the border between Italy and France offers some very stimulating suggestions about the medieval professions which became Italian (sometimes French) surnames and the different neo-Latin languages of the region offer a wider language perspective.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- AIS – *Atlante linguistico ed etnografico dell'Italia e della Svizzera meridionale* (Janerg, Karl, Jud, Jakob, Scheuermeier, Paul. (1928–1940). *Sprach- und Sachatlas Italiens und der Südschweiz*, Neuden: Ringier). Downloaded from <http://www3.pd.istc.cnr.it/navigais-web/> (access: 03.08.2018)
- ALLy – Gardette-Gardette, Pierre. (1970). *Atlas Linguistique et ethnographique du Lyonnais*. Vol. 1–5. Paris: CNRS. Downloaded from <https://www.ortolang.fr/market/corpora/ally?path=%2Fally> (access: 03.08.2018)
- ASTO, *Art. 41* – State Archives of Turin (ASTO, Sezioni Riunite, *Camera dei Conti, Piemonte, Articolo 41 – Lanzo, §1 Conti*)
- CI – Caffarelli, Enzo, Marcato, Carla. (2008). *I cognomi d'Italia. Dizionario storico ed etimologico*. Torino: UTET
- DSA – Di Sant'Albino, Vittorio. (1859). *Gran Dizionario Piemontese-Italiano*. Torino: L'Unione Tipografico-Editrice
- DTI – Gasca Queirazza, Giuliano, Marcato, Carla, Pellegrini, Giovan Battista, Petracco Sicardi, Giulia, Rossebastiano, Alda. (1990). *Dizionario di toponomastica. Storia e significato dei nomi geografici italiani*. Torino: UTET

⁴⁰ “Recepit a **Johanne castagnerio** et guillelmino eius fratre pro rebus emptis a jacobo filio Johannis de Martineto precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 15 (1343–1345), p. XI).

⁴¹ “Recepit a **iohanne maronero** pro re emptia a petro franchi precio [...]” (ASTO, *Art. 41*, r. 24 (1358–1359), p. V). We have to mention the fact that the *maronero* in those areas was also the alpine guide.

⁴² Cf. Rossebastiano (2007, p. 169).

⁴³ Cf. Du Cange 1883–1887, s.v. *Castagnerium*. It can indicate a generic toponym; this is related to forms of the Alps like the ancient French *chasteigniere* “lieu planté de châtaigniers”, provençal *castagnaredo*, ecc. (cf. FEW 2/1, 465). The added name can, therefore, have both the toponymic (generic from a phytonym) and the professional name.

- FEW – Wartburg (von), Walther. (1928 ss.). *Französisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*. Bonn: Klopp etc./Basel, Zbinden
- GPSR – Gauchat, Louis, Jeanjaquet, Jules, Tappolet, Ernest, Muret, Ernest. (1924–1933). *Glossaire des patois de la Suisse Romande*. Neuchatel–Paris: Editions Victor Attinger
- NPI – Rossebastiano, Alda, Papa, Elena. (2005). *I nomi di persona in Italia. Dizionario storico ed etimologico*. Torino: UTET
- REP – Cornagliotti, Anna. (2015). *Repertorio Etimologico Piemontese*. Torino: Centro Studi Piemontesi–Ca dè Studi Piemontèis
- REW – Meyer-Lübke, Wilhelm. (1935). *Romanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*. Heidelberg: Winters Universitätsbuchhandlung

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ABSTRACT

Professional determinations represent a classic naming strategy. Even today many surnames recall those that were medieval professions such as the *caligarius*. Moreover, this anthroponym is a nickname with special *status*; in fact, it indicates the role actually played by the individual within his community, rather than being a sort of individual characteristic appellation such as baldness or stature, until it becomes hereditary. The study aims to investigate the type of professional bynames related to the rural location, the type of source taken into consideration (a tax source) and the linguistic features involved.

Keywords: anthroponym, nickname, byname

ABSTRAKT

Określenia zawodowe reprezentują klasyczną strategię nazewniczą. Nawet dzisiaj wiele nazwisk przypomina nazwy, które określały średniowieczne zawody, np. *caligarius*. Co więcej, ten antroponim jest przydomkiem o szczególnym *statusie*; w rzeczywistości wskazuje on raczej na rolę odgrywaną rzeczywiście przez osobę w obrębie jej wspólnoty, a nie jest rodzajem indywidualnej, charakterystycznej apelacji, takiej jak łysina czy postawa, aż do momentu, gdy stanie się ona dziedziczna. Celem badania jest określenie typów nazw zawodowych (przezwoisk) związanych z obszarami wiejskimi, z wykorzystaniem jednego rodzaju źródła (źródło podatkowe) oraz cech językowych.

Słowa kluczowe: antroponim, przezwisko, przydomek

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