

Pope Issues New Decree

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VATICAN CITY - The Pope was the closest thing to a king the nations of Italy had. Pope Sixtus was just as interested in power and money as any of the families of Florence, if not more.

He used his personal army to gain power and land. He did all he could to weaken the Medici and their power including refusing to give Guilano a position in the church.

Sixtus wanted to buy a town near Florence and went to Lorenzo for a loan. But Lorenzo wanted the land for himself refused to give him the money. The pope then turned to the Pazzi who gladly gave him the loan in order to ensure his support. This led Sixtus to take the church accounts from the Medici and give them to the Pazzi.

SEEKING GREAT ARTISTS!

If you are a truly great artist don't waste your time with the Medici - let the Pazzis be your patrons!

You could be the first step in our plan of retaking power in Florence.. The great Filippo Brunelleschi worked for us, shouldn't you too?

Sixtus wanted to change how priests were selected in the various provinces of Italy. He has issued a decree in which all selection of priests are to be governed by the local bishops. Those bishops are to be chosen by the Pope himself.

So, the plan had to change. They knew there was one chance when the brothers would surely be together-Easter Sunday, 1478. In the middle of the Mass Francesco de Pazzi and the other

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Now if he could just r Medici entirely he w only have them out o he'd no longer have the debt owed to them



Giovanni was the first to truly push the Medici to power status in Florence. The Medici were shopkeepers who ran a small bank. They were by no means the richest or most powerful family in Florence at the time, but Giovanni wanted to change that. He was very careful with his lending but decided it was time to take a risk.

Giovanni was approached by a former pirate named Baldassare Coscia who had turned his life around and joined the church. He asked the Medici to support him financially in his attempt to become pope. Giovanni took the gamble and supported Coscia throughout his church career. Ultimately, Coscia is selected pope.

The new pope rewarded Giovanni by making him the exclusive banker of the Church. No other bankers were allowed to deal with church money. This brought incredible wealth and power to the Medici and made the other banking families very jealous. Florence at this time was officially a republic, a nation ruled by many people. There were elected officials who were in charge. However, these officials were often corrupt and were very willing to be bribed. The Medici family had a

Artists Wanted



The Medici Family is seeking up and coming artists to create art for them.

The Medici will serve as patrons and provide the artist with sufficient pay for each completed work. Works will be displayed throughout Florence to show the great power and wealth of the Medici.

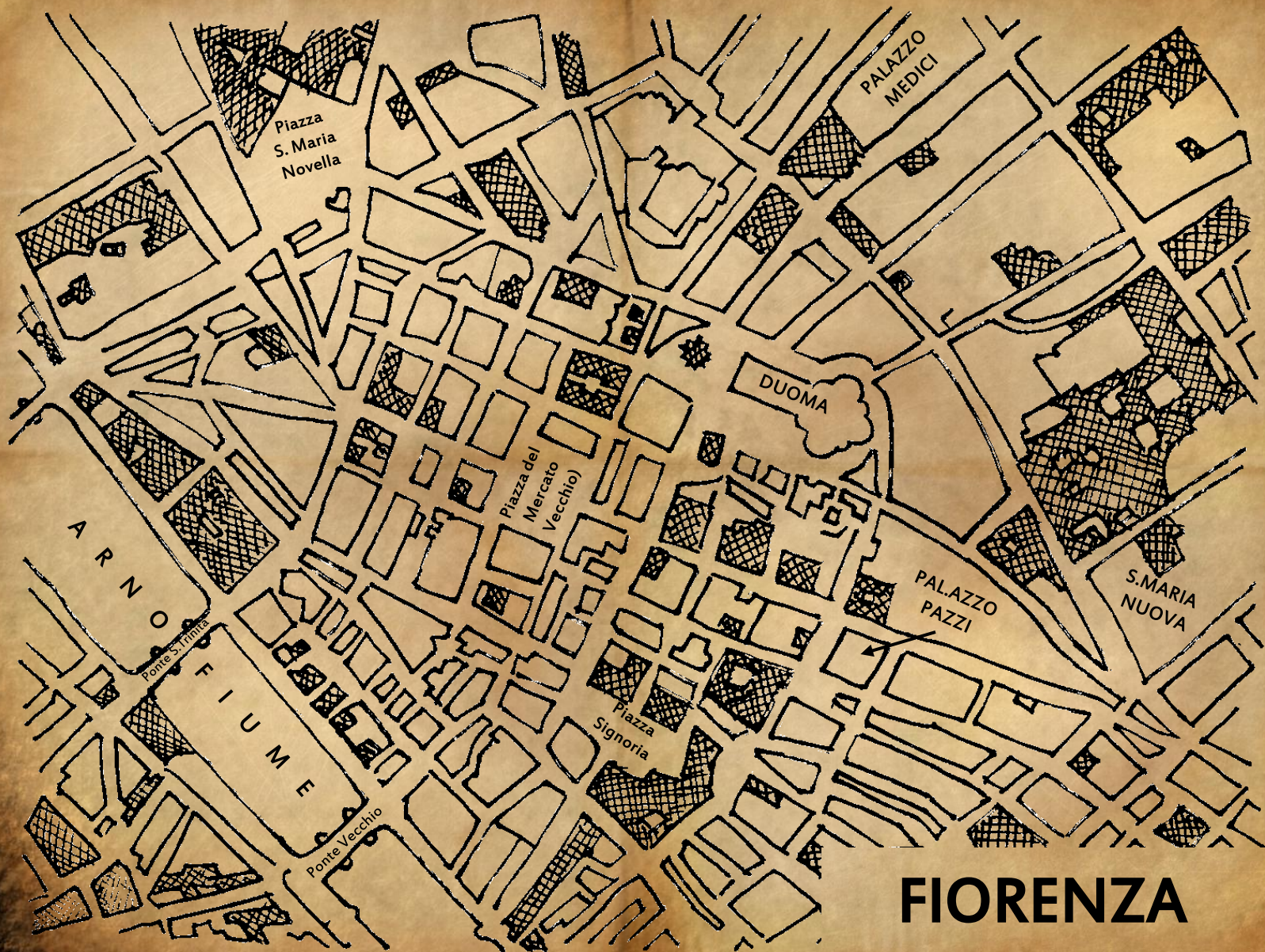
We already serve as patrons for some of world's greatest artists. Join Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and more as artists for the Medici family!

Seeking all types of artists; painters, sculptors, architects, etc.

Apply in person at the Palazzo de' Medici in Florence.

In reality however, Florence was controlled by the various wealthy families living there like the Medici. Each family had influence over their own part of the nation. They constantly fought for power. Many of them were You gain more all supporting them money. The influence you build the more k you would ha

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Life in Florence, 1478

Florence at this time was officially a republic, a nation ruled by many people. There were elected officials who were in charge, but they were often corrupt and were willing to take bribes. With no king or emperor, wealthy families like the Medici and the Pazzi constantly fought for power in Florence. The map below shows Florence as it looked in the 1400s.

Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore (Duoma)



The dome of Florence's cathedral not only dominates the city's skyline, it also shows the power and influence of the Catholic Church. This was also the site of the assassination of Giuliano and the attempted assassination of Lorenzo de' Medici in April of 1478.

Palazzo Medici



The Palazzo was the home of the Medici family for nearly 50 years. The Medici didn't want it to be too beautiful or extravagant because they were afraid the people of Florence might get jealous of their wealth and act out against them. Many of them wore armor when they went outside because they feared assassination.

Palazzo Pazzi



Banking families like the Pazzi and the Medici gained wealth and power by making loans and holding accounts for the people and, more importantly, the Catholic Church. The more influence they built, the more soldiers they had at their service.