CHAPTER V

FROM THE EARLY FOURTEENTH CENTURY
TO THE END OF THE ORDER

1. The eve of the trial

Documentary evidence of Templar houses in North-west Italy becomes more readily available from the beginning of the fourteenth century onwards. Unfortunately, many of the deeds simply list the Templars amongst the owners of land adjacent to plots being sold, exchanged or rented, or make references to the areas they occupy.1 Some of the documents from this period have already been considered in analyses of the Temple’s land and property ownership policies.2 Several of these concerned the house of Brescia, and it was in this area that two disputes involving the Order were documented at the beginning of the fourteenth century. In April 1300 Pagano, preceptor of the local Templar mansio, handed a letter to Dodono de Rubeiis, consul of the commune of Torbole. The letter bore the seal of the bishop of Brescia, Berardo Maggi, and in it the bishop’s vicar, Guthotus (Guidotto) de Arcellis of Piacenza, stated that the Templars were entitled to two plots of land in Torbole. The commune’s magistrates were obliged, under pain of excommunication, to allocate two plots of land within their territory to the Templars. The consul, Dodono, had to choose four men to carry out the task.3 A year later, on the basis of these instructions, the commune consul Giacomo de Carzapanis of Torbole, known as Nero, handed over a plot of land in the village area to Pagano.4

---

1 Cartario dell’abazia di S. Solutore, doc. 65, p. 88; Le carte medievali, doc. 188, p. 313, doc. 189, p. 315, doc. 190, p. 317; Codice diplomatico cremonese, II, doc. 15, p. 4.
2 See above, Chapter II, pp. 74–81.
3 Brescia, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Civico Bresciano, Codice diplomatico bresciano, busta 8, cartella 2, no. 70; Bellomo, “Da mansione templare”, doc. 4, p. 372.
4 Brescia, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Civico Bresciano, Codice diplomatico bresciano, busta 8, cartella 2, no. 81; Bellomo, “Da mansione templare”, doc. 8, p. 373.
Also in 1300 another dispute was judged by Guidotto de Arcellis of Piacenza in his capacity as subdelegate of Giacomo, archdeacon of Cremona and papal delegate for matters concerning the Templars. He established that Algisio de Aliprandis, *sindicus* of the commune of Pontevico, had to pay the Templars forty imperial *lire* and the commune was to bear all the expenses of this case and pay all related damages. The following year Guidotto was compelled to threaten the authorities of Pontevico with excommunication, as they still had not complied with his instructions. The nature of the dispute in this case is not known to us. The Templars managed to keep their positions of power and retain their rights and possessions, however, successfully opposing the claims of the rural communes, who, in all probability, had tried to claim property and rights they were not entitled to.

Precisely during this period, in contrast to this successful action in Brescia, the Temple willingly relinquished Santa Maria del Tempio in Piacenza, the focal point of its local establishment, to the Dominicans. As noted previously, the Piacenza brethren were very probably involved in internal struggles in the city and must have been affected by the end of the dominion of Alberto Scotti. They decided to relinquish this church in 1304, and this probably allowed them to consolidate relations with the Dominican pope Benedict XI and the upper echelons of the Dominican Order, which at this time was led by Americo Ziani, who was from Piacenza. And so, the Templar presence in Piacenza was reconfigured, but not eliminated, given that the Order still had the hospital of Sant’Egidio della Misericordia.

Despite having been drawn up during the inquisitorial administration, when the Templar trial had already begun, the inventories of the Order’s possessions provide us with further help in reconstructing the size and nature of the estates of some of the Templar houses at the beginning of the fourteenth century. Unfortunately, in some cases we only have partial or very general accounts, providing little more than

---

5 Brescia, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Civico Bresciano, Codice diplomatico bresciano, busta 8, cartella 2, no. 82; Bellomo, “Da mansione templare”, doc. 5, p. 373.
6 Brescia, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Civico Bresciano, Codice diplomatico bresciano, busta 8, cartella 2, no. 78; Bellomo, “Da mansione templare”, doc. 9, p. 374.