

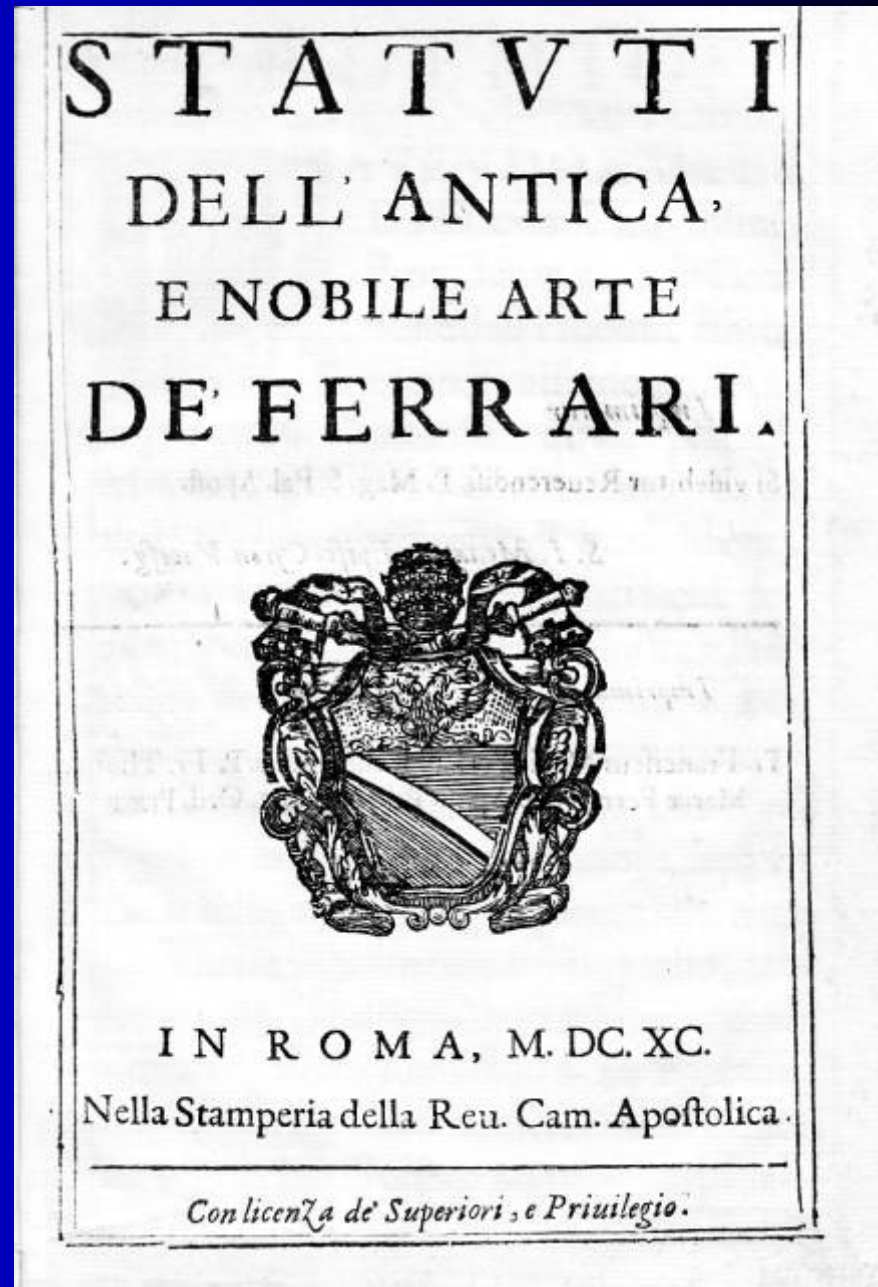
Do we all remember that the
locksmith trade is many
centuries old?

Roman locksmiths were as skilled, as respected



- Due to the security related activities of the locksmiths, the Authorities have always kept locksmiths under strict control
- On the other side, locksmiths have always been quite jealous of the their trade and rules and regulations to become a fully recognized master locksmith have always been strictly enforced

- No better proof is available, than the reading of the Statute of the locksmiths and related trade, printed in Rome 1690 AC
- The book belongs to my rich library on locks related books



The Papal Rome was quite attentive
to locksmith trade and the Statute
mixes

rules pertaining to the trade with

rules pertaining to the behaviour of a
devoted Christian

- The most important rule is the affiliation to the Brotherhood of St. Eligius, since 10 centuries patron of locksmiths
- Regular attendance to church services was compulsory



Some technical rules

No one may become master locksmith and open shop, unless trained for 2 years as apprentice and only after successful examination

No one shall open shop unless at least 200 metres away the nearest locksmith shop

No one shall quote for a job, if such a job has been already quoted from a master locksmith

No one shall accept used locks or tools, as such locks may come from a theft

Some religious rules

Holy Mass attendance is compulsory

Alimony is compulsory

Dead locksmiths shall be buried in the
Brotherhood tomb, still existing in Rome
main cemetery

A good locksmith shall donate to the church
his skill and/or his money

- The St. Eligius church in Rome is, even today, a masterpiece , worth a visit
- only on Sundays, at 11 AM Mass, or during the last week of June, when St. Eligius is celebrated
- The remembrance day of St. Eligius is the 25th of June

- And now, I will guide you in a visit to St. Eligius Church





The ceiling is a
symphony of
gold and blue



Each locksmith trade has an altar



- You may like the sacristy door, with a self locking leaf, thanks to falling bolt



- You will certainly appreciate the vault door, in oak plates, reinforced with iron bands and locked with three keys



- The keys are entrusted to Monsignor Venier, chaplain of the brotherhood, to the Governor in charge and to the Camerlengus – chief financial officer



- Inside the vault are the books of the brotherhood, dating back to 13th century



- And now, may St. Eligius bless you all, belonging to the locksmith trade



I hope you will enjoy the reading of the Statute, in two languages and anastatic reproduction

