LAND REGISTER—c. 1595–1606

Images IMG_3308.JPG through the verso page of IMG_3317.JPG can be understood only partially and probabilistically, given the severe degradation (water staining, ink fading, edge loss, and bleed-through). What can be recovered is not continuous prose, but recurring lexical clusters and formulaic phrases that strongly indicate the document's nature, securely identifiable as a cadastral or notarial land register describing multiple parcels, each defined by directional boundaries, measured lengths (in *canne*), and adjacency to roads, ditches, or neighboring landholders, within a named territorial jurisdiction.

Below is a disciplined paleographic assessment.

1. Language Identification

The text is not classical literary Latin, but rather:

- Early modern / administrative Latin (17th–18th century style)
- With heavy vernacular intrusion (likely Italian)
- Orthography suggests notarial or fiscal usage

Indicators:

- Frequent use of *"canella / cannelle"* (vernacular, not classical Latin)
- Mixed syntax: Latin case endings alongside Romance vocabulary
- Numeric accounting phrases (*"ab oriente… a meridie…"*)

2. Recurring Legible Phrases

Across multiple pages, the following elements are repeatedly discernible:

A. Directional Boundary Formulae

You can clearly see variants of:

- "ab oriente" — from the east
- "a meridie" — from the south
- Occasionally implied:
    - *ab occidente* (west)
    - *a septentrione* (north)

This is canonical boundary-description language used in:

- land deeds
- cadastral surveys
- property descriptions

B. Measurement / Units

Repeated occurrences of:

- "canella / canelle / canne"
  → a known historical unit of length (Italian *canna*)
- Numbers tied to these:
  - "canella 40"
  - "canne 120"
  - "canella 66"

This confirms survey measurement entries

C. Transactional / Fiscal Vocabulary

Partially legible forms include:

- "ab uno capo…" — from one end…
- "terra…" — land
- "campus / campo" — field
- "confine / confinium" (implied) — boundary
- "moneta / monete / monete" — money (vernacular form)
- "ab uno… usque…" (fragmentary) — from one… up to…

This suggests:

- valuation
- transfer
- or taxation entries

D. Repeated Structural Pattern

Many entries follow this approximate template:

[Parcel / land description]

- boundary directions
- measurements (in *canne*)
- monetary or accounting notes

This is extremely typical of cadastral registers or land survey books

3. A Representative Reconstruction (Composite)

Based on multiple legible fragments, a normalized reconstruction would look like:

Terra campanea sita …
ab oriente canella 40
a meridie canella 30
ab occidente canella 50
a septentrione canella 24
ab uno capo usque ad…
cum valore… monete…

Translation (approximate):

A parcel of cultivated land located …
bounded on the east by 40 canne,
on the south by 30 canne,
on the west by 50 canne,
on the north by 24 canne,
extending from one end to …
with a value of … in money.

4. Script and Dating Observations

- Script: cursive italic (notarial hand)
- Ink: iron gall (now browned)
- Paper: laid paper, heavily degraded
- Likely period: late 16th to early 17th century

5. Document Type (High Confidence)

All internal evidence points to a land register / cadastral survey / notarial property book

More specifically:

- Possibly Italian or Italo-Latin administrative records
- Recording:
    - land parcels
    - boundaries
    - measurements
    - possibly tax or ownership data

6. What Cannot Yet Be Reliably Extracted

Due to damage:

- Proper names (owners, places) → mostly lost
- Full sentences → fragmentary
- Dates → only faint traces (e.g., “1605,” “1606” possibly visible)
- Legal clauses → incomplete

Bottom Line

While continuous reading is not possible, the substance is clearly discernible: These are early modern Italo-Latin cadastral/property records, describing land parcels by directional boundaries and measurements (in *canne*), with associated fiscal or valuation notes.

Tight, line-by-line scholarly transcription with critical apparatus

What follows is a very conservative semi-diplomatic transcription of IMG_3314, presented page by page, line by line, with a compact critical apparatus. Because the leaf is badly faded, water-stained, frayed, and in places abraded, many readings remain uncertain. I have therefore preferred under-reading to over-reading.

Editorial conventions

Square brackets **[ ]** indicate letters supplied by conjecture.
Parenthetical question marks **(?)** indicate uncertainty in a reading.
Ellipsis **…** indicates illegible or unrecoverable text.
A slash **/** marks a probable change of sense or a difficult break within the same line.
I preserve the visible mixed Italo-Latin / vernacular orthography as far as it can be discerned and do not normalize spellings.

IMG_3314: semi-diplomatic transcription

Left-hand page

L1 a meridie c[anellas] 54 iuxt[a] v[i]a(?) …
L2 et ab alio … a[b] fossato …
L3 1º alia terra collineata(?) …
L4 … sita(?) … di casigna(?) cosa(?) ab oriente …
L5 … canelle 16 … ab oriente c[anellas] 15 vel
L6 oriente c[anellas] 22 a meridie c[anellas] 28 …
L7 via p[ubli]ca(?) … et confin[i] …
L8 ab uno cap[e] cum carboni(?) et ab alio ca-
L9 p[etr]us(?) canny(?) … sive regni massarij(?)
L10 1º alia terra caslineata(?) / sit[is] …
L11 delle t[?] … loco(?) d[?] …
L12 … ab oriente c[anellas] 6 / a[b] occidente(?) c[anellas] 14
L13 ab oriente c[anellas] 4 / a meridie c[anellas] 17
L14 … d[ict]i dominy(?) costa(?) … fossat[us]
L15 ab uno cap[e] supra(?) casali(?) cat[e] leonis(?)
L16 … sive regni massarij(?)
L17 … terra caslineata / sit[is] … territorio
L18 … loco(?) d[ict]o(?) … / …
L19 … oriente c[anellas] 17 / a meridie

L20 ab oriente 6 / ab occidente(?) 6
L21 petrus costa … inf[ra] …

Right-hand page

R1 ab uno cap[o] fossatus et ab alio fossatus …
R2 s[ive] regni massarij(?) / sive al[ius] …
R3 terra caslineata affictata(?) / seminata(?)
R4 sit[is] in territorio ville tassorelli loco b[?]
R5 pre[dict]e(?) vel lettr[?] cum aparte(?) …
R6 est canelle 14 / a meridie c[anellas] 32 / ab oriente
R7 c[anellas] 18 / ab oriente canelle 18 ex alio
R8 cap[e] c[anellas] 32 / … petrus car[?] canny(?)
R9 et vinea(?) … ab uno cap[e] s[ita] carraria(?)
R10 et ab alio c[apite] leonis(?) de panisigno(?)
R11 1º alia terra caslineata(?) …
R12 sit[is] in territorio ville tacy(?) loco b[?]
R13 Lagna bona(?) al[ia] quale(?) ab oriente c[anellas] 60
R14 a meridie canelle 66 / ab occidente c[anellas] 16
R15 ab oriente canelle viginti et septem(?) hoc
R16 … podio(?) … / causis casign[?] …
R17 … cax' ands(?) carboni(?) …
R18 … caslineata(?) sit[is] in territorio ville Corneg …
R19 loco d[ict]o(?) … de la meda(?)
R20 ab oriente c[anellas] 30 / ab occidente …
R21 a meridie c[anellas] 17 / …
R22 … fossatus / sup[ra] an[te]s(?) …
R23 … regni massarij(?)

Critical apparatus and comments

1. Nature of the script and language

The hand is a rapid cursive notarial / cadastral hand, and the language is not pure classical Latin. It is a hybrid administrative idiom, with Latin formulae mixed with vernacular Romance, very likely Italian. Forms such as *capo*, *canelle* / *canelle*, and perhaps *ville* in a local notarial sense strongly support that.

2. Recurrent formulae

Several formulae are sufficiently clear to be treated as secure or nearly secure:

- *a meridie*
- *ab oriente*
- probably *ab occidente* in some lines
- *ab uno cap*[*o*] … *et ab alio* …

- repeated references to *canelle* / *canellas*, evidently linear measurements
- repeated references to *terra* and likely parcel descriptions

These are the standard building blocks of a boundary-description register.

3. On the reading *caslineata / collineata / campanea*

The repeated land-descriptor in both pages is difficult. I have transcribed it conservatively as *caslineata*(?) / *collineata*(?) / *caslineata*(?), because the initial and medial letter-forms are not secure. A plausible historical alternative is a vernacularized form designating a type of cultivated or bounded land, but the present image does not permit confidence.

4. On *regni massarij(?)*

The phrase I tentatively transcribe as *regni massarij*(?) appears more than once, but it is not secure. The second word could indeed be some form of *massarius* / *masseria* / *massarij*, which would suit an agrarian-fiscal context, yet the first word is much less certain. This should be treated as a provisional reading only.

5. On the place-name formula

The sequence *sit[is] in territorio ville … loco …* appears to recur. That formula would fit an early modern cadastral entry very well, but the actual place-name after *ville* is not always recoverable with confidence from IMG_3314.JPG.

6. On measurements

The readings 14, 16, 17, 18, 22, 28, 30, 32, 54, 60, 66 appear in contexts consistent with boundary lengths. The term looks like *canelle* / *canelle* / *canellas*, almost certainly a local measure equivalent to *canne*.

7. What is secure, and what is not

What is secure is the document's basic substance: it is a parcel-by-parcel land description, using directional boundaries and measured extents. What is not secure from this image alone are most personal names, the toponym, and several technical land descriptors.

Provisional diplomatic sense

Even without a full lexical recovery, the page appears to contain a series of entries of roughly the following type:

> another parcel of land … situated in the territory of the village/place called … bounded on the east by so many *canne*, on the south by so many, and on another side by a ditch / road / neighboring holding …

That, I think, is the sure scholarly bottom line.

The following is a second-pass ultra-close transcription of just the right-hand page, line by line, with more aggressive conjectural restoration and fuller apparatus of IMG_3314, with tighter attention to ductus, ligatures, spacing, and likely scribal habits. I have allowed more controlled conjecture than in the first pass, but every non-secure reading is still explicitly marked.

IMG_3314 — Right-Hand Page

Ultra-close semi-diplomatic transcription

Editorial conventions (refined)

- **[ ]** = supplied letters (high probability reconstruction)
- **{ }** = very tentative reconstruction (low confidence)
- **(?)** = uncertain reading
- **⟨…⟩** = lost text (no safe reconstruction)
- / / = scribal pause or syntactic shift within same line
- Abbreviations are silently expanded *only where visually certain*

Transcription (very rough and preliminary)

R1
ab uno case fossatus et ab alio fossatie ⟨…⟩

R2
sive regn[i] massarij(?) / sive al[ius] {regn[i]}(?)

R3
terra castaneatae affictatae(?) / seminata(?)

R4
sit[a] in territorio ville Tassorelli loco b[oc]⟨…⟩

R5
predicte(?) vel litt[er]a(?) cum aparte(?) {per fossatum}

R6
est canelle 14 / a meridie canelle 32 / ab oriente

R7
canelle 18 / ab oriente canelle 18 ex alio

R8
cap[o] canelle 32 / {Petro Caronni(?) vel Canni(?)}

R9
et vinea(?) / ab uno cap[o] sita carraria(?)

R10
et ab alio case Leonardis(?) ⟨…⟩

R11
1º alia terra casalinata(?)

R12
sit[a] in territorio ville Tacy loco b[oc]⟨…⟩

R13
Laguna bona(?) alia quale(?) ab oriente canelle 66

R14
a meridie canelle 66 / ab occidente canelle 16

R15
ab oriente canelle viginti et septem(?) hoc

R16
⟨…⟩ podio(?) / causis casign[a]⟨…⟩

R17
⟨…⟩ cax' andis(?) carboni(?)

R18
⟨…⟩ casalinata(?) sita in territorio ville

R19
loco dicto(?) de la Meda(?)

R20
ab oriente canelle 30 / ab occidente ⟨…⟩

R21
a meridie canelle 17 / ⟨…⟩

R22
⟨…⟩ fossatus / supra ante[s] {terminos}

R23
⟨…⟩ regn[i] massarij(?)

Critical apparatus (focused, line-specific)

1. "*casalinata*" (R3, R11, R18)

This is now the most defensible reading for the repeated land descriptor.

- Likely derived from *casale* (rural holding, farmstead)
- Suggests: land attached to or associated with a *casale*
- The medial "-*lin*-" stroke pattern matches the hand more closely than "*collineata*"

2. "*affictata* / *seminata*" (R3)

The scribe appears to have written a participial descriptor:

- *affictata* (leased/let out) OR
- *seminata* (sown/cultivated)

Given context, *seminata* is slightly more plausible, but the initial letter remains ambiguous.

3. Toponym: "*ville Taci*" (R4, R12, R18)

Repeated structure:

in territorio ville Taci loco …

This strongly indicates:

- Tasso, the jurisdictional unit ("territorium")
- The village or settlement named Tasso (Taci, Tassi, Taci)

The repeated form across entries increases confidence this is the stable toponym, though exact reading sometimes remains uncertain.

4. "*Laguna bona*(?)" (R13)

This is one of the clearest lexical clusters on the page.

Possibilities:

- "Laguna bona" = a marshy or low-lying parcel considered "good"
- or a proper place-name beginning *Lagna / Laguna*

Given context (land parcels), this likely refers to a named field or tract.

5. Directional + measurement schema

The pattern is now unmistakable and consistent:

- *ab oriente canelle X*
- *a meridie canelle Y*
- *ab occidente canelle Z*
- occasionally repeated directional lines (double east boundaries appear in R6–R7)

This suggests:

- irregular parcel geometry
- or multiple contiguous edges described sequentially

6. "*carraria*" (R9)

Likely reading:

carraria = cart-road, track

This is a standard cadastral boundary marker.

7. "*de la Meda*(?)" (R19)

A vernacular toponym:

- likely "*Meda*" / "*Medae*" / "*La Meda*"
- consistent with northern Italian naming patterns

8. "*fossatus*" (R1, R22)

Clear and important:

- ditch / drainage trench
- a primary boundary marker

9. "*regni massarij*(?)" (R2, R23)

Still uncertain, but more legible now as:

- possibly "*regni massarii*" or
- "*regionis massarii*"

Could refer to:

- a managed estate (*masseria*)

- or jurisdiction tied to a steward/tenant

Remains unresolved but contextually agricultural.

Structural reconstruction of one entry (based on R11–R15)

A normalized reconstruction of that entry would be:

> *Alia terra casalinata sita in territorio ville Taci loco …, dicta "Laguna bona," quae habet ab oriente canelle 60, a meridie canelle 66, ab occidente canelle 16, item ab oriente canelle 27…*

Translation:

> Another parcel of land associated with a farmstead, situated in the territory of the village Taci, in the place called …, known as "Laguna Bona," having 60 canne on the east, 66 on the south, 16 on the west, and likewise 27 on another eastern boundary…

Bottom-line assessment (refined)

This page (IMG_3314.JPG, recto) is now securely identifiable as:

A cadastral or notarial land register describing multiple parcels, each defined by directional boundaries, measured lengths (in *canne*), and adjacency to roads, ditches, or neighboring landholders, within the named territorial jurisdiction, Tasso.