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CARDINAL MARCO BARBO AND MOLDAVIA IN AUTUMN 1489  
(Summary)

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The correspondence between Cardinal Marco Barbo and his former secretary, Giovanni Lorenzi, who had become the secretary of Pope Innocent VIII, offers valuable insights into the circumstances in which the protection of Stephen III of Moldavia – “as a Pontifical vassal” – was transferred from Casimir IV Jagiello, king of Poland, to Matthias Corvinus, king of Hungary. The correspondence documents the efforts made by Casimir to prevent this transfer (this was not the only failed effort made by the king at the Papal Curia in the second half of 1489). Both Marco Barbo and Giovanni Lorenzi acted surprised and claimed to know nothing of the Moldavian matter, though they were fully aware of it, according to chiefly Barbo’s messages. Both Barbo and Lorenzi were Venetians and quite loyal to the Republic of Saint Mark. The republic, the Serenissima had been and was to be again (the latest after the summer of 1492) the protector of her Moldavian ‘captain’.

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