

L'Orsolina Bolognese was a *meretrice* (prostitute), living with another female on the Via Palazzuoli in the Florentine district of Santa Maria Novella. Her first name, L'Orsolina, means "the little she-bear," which implies notoriety in her field. Her last name suggests that she was from Bologna, a city 111 km. north of Florence.

Tonina Bolognese was another of the sixteen *meretrice* living on the Via Palazzuoli. Like L'Orsolina, she was also from Bologna. Tonina lived alone and rented a space for 52.5 lire from Bartolo di Piero Gieni, who held the property for the owner, which was the Convento d'Ognisanti.

L'Orsolina rented rooms from Camilla Pistolese, widow of Stefano Genovese, for 101.25 lire. Camilla had entered the Convertite, a local charitable home for converted prostitutes. The fact that her landlady was a former prostitute suggests the existence of a network amongst these businesswomen.

Mona Mariette, widow of Filippo di Betti, was the owner of the local *osteria* (tavern) on the Via Palazzuoli. Although it was uninhabited during the time of the census, at the local tavern both L'Orsolina and Tonina might socialize and increase their clientele.

Mona Catarina was the nearest *allevatrice* (midwife). As a prostitute L'Orsolina might have consulted a midwife about contraception. Mona Catarina rented a space on the Via Nuova da S. Paulo for 52.5 lire. Her household included four *bocche* (mouths): one male and three females.

Maestro Giovanni di Giovanni dei Rossi was a *medico fisico* (physician) on the Via della Scala, a few streets away from Via Palazzuoli. He both owned and resided in this house with five other *bocche* in the home, two males and three females. L'Orsolina might have consulted a physician for advice about venereal disease.

Lastly, Ser Jacopo Colonnelli was the *confessore* that lived closest to L'Orsolina. He paid nothing in rent to the building's owner, the Monastery of S. Martino. There were two other households in the building – an *ortolano* (gardener) and a *mulattiere*, (muleteer) – for a total of five *bocche*, three males and 2 females. As a *confessore*, Ser Jacopo is arguably the most important member of L'Orsolina's network because he could shepherd her immortal soul.

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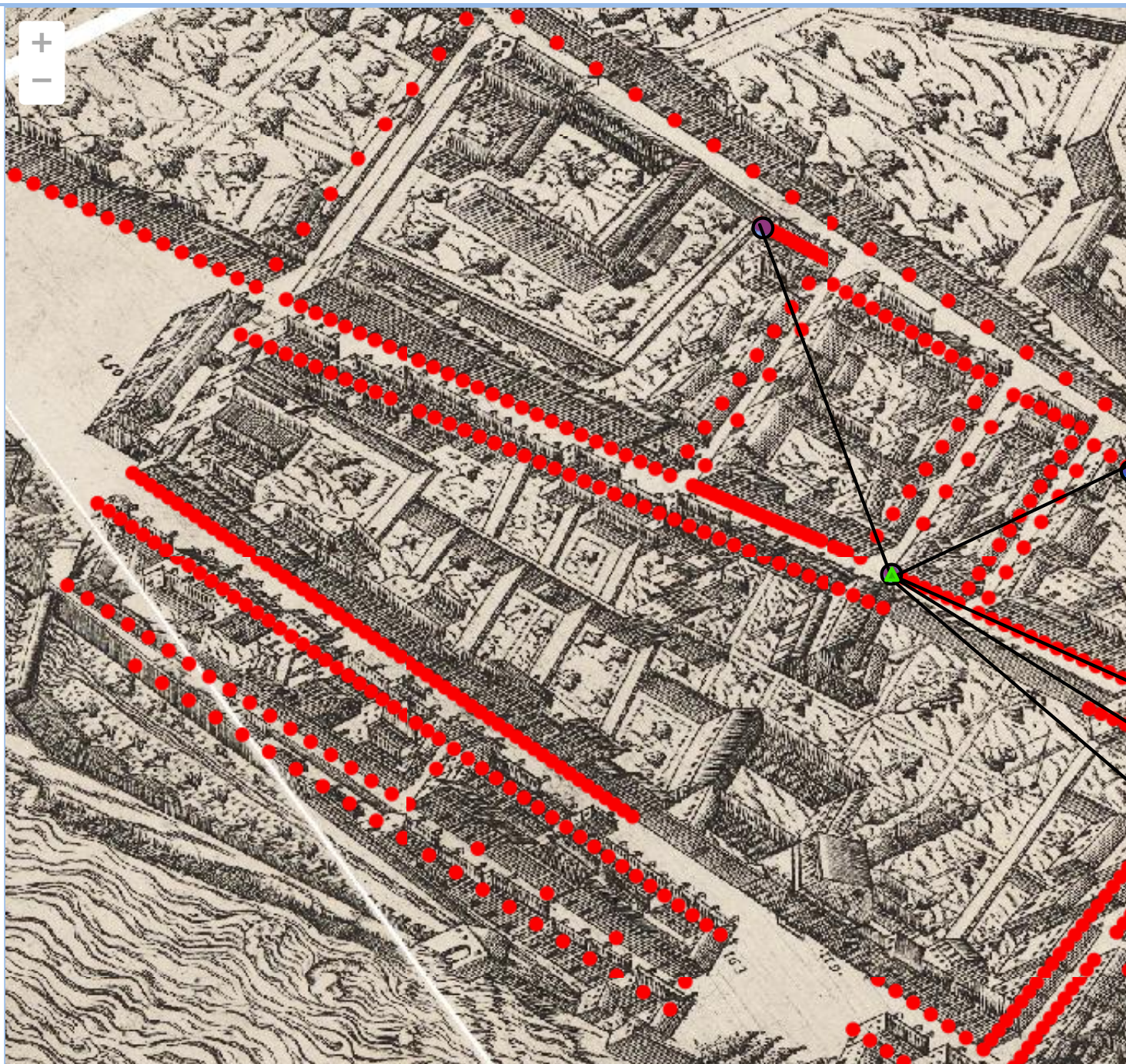
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