



## ANNA MARIA LUISA DE' MEDICI 18 February



ELETTRICE PALATINA  
18 FEBBRAIO

After the death of her brother Gian Gastone, Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici (1667-1743), daughter of the Grand-duke Cosimo III, was faced with the difficult task of handing over the government of the Grand-duchy of Tuscany to the Franco-Austrian Lorraine dynasty. The Great Princess, also known following her marriage in 1691 to the Elector Palatine Johann Wilhelm von der Pfalz-Neuburg by the title of Electress Palatine, decided on 31 October 1737, to draw up an agreement with Francesco Stefano of Lorraine. By this agreement, known as the "Family Pact", the Medici art collections were handed over to the new Grand-duke on condition that they should remain "forever" bound to the city of Florence and the Tuscan State "as an ornament to the State, for the benefit of the people and to attract the curiosity of foreigners". The settlement of the inheritance came into force on the death of the Electress on 18 February 1743, thus saving from certain dispersal the artistic heritage of Florence which still makes this city unique in the world. The Florence City Council has decided to pay homage to the memory of this

generous and far-sighted lady on 18 February, the anniversary of her death. After a commemorative service in Palazzo Vecchio, the Historic Procession of the Florentine Republic parades through the city to the tomb of the Electress, in the Medici Chapels in the Basilica of San Lorenzo. To further mark the occasion, some of the major city museums will be opened free of charge and may be visited with the assistance of tour guides offered by the Municipal authorities.