

Joseph, as early as the age of four or five years, used to spend hours in gazing at them. He was educated at the Royal Academy of his native city, and his instructor was Oliva, one of the most distinguished of Italian teachers. At twelve years of age, a likeness he had taken in black crayons fell under the notice of the Queen Dowager of Naples; and, from that time until the day of her death in 1847, he had a generous and most kind patroness, who took, in the young artist, a mother's interest. At the age of thirteen he painted her portrait so well that he received for encouragement a pension from the king for five years. He was employed, soon after, to paint the portrait of the Archduchess Augusta, daughter of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. At the age of eighteen, he went to Rome, Vienna, Florence, and Milan, and had immediate and constant occupation at each and all of those cities. In 1840, he was commissioned by the royal family to go to Vienna, to paint the portrait of the Archduke Charles, for his daughter the Queen of Naples; and other orders kept him there for more than a year. He was sent to Paris, in 1842, in the employment of Queen Christine of Spain, daughter of the queen of Naples, until her recall to Spain in 1844, from which she had been exiled; and during his sojourn in Paris, he made three portraits of her from life, and was employed by her on pictures of her friends. The Prince of Capua, the famous Arab chief El Aboudi, and the Duke d' Aumale were among his sitters at this time, and the latter gave Mr. Fagnani a valuable diamond ring as a token of his satisfaction with the picture.

Fagnani followed his royal patroness, Queen Christine, to Spain, and remained there two years, constantly employed by the royal family and others. He was dispatched by Queen Christine to Naples to take her mother's portrait, which he successfully accomplished. At Madrid, he painted Queen Isabella, and her sister the Duchess of Montpensier; also the Duchess of Alba, sister of the present Empress of the French, and many others of the most distinguished nobles of that Court. Such was his success, that he was made a Chevalier of the Order