the cortex, maintaining the harmony of the body as a whole. Inspired by Harvey's discovery of the nature of the circulation of blood, Baglivi envisaged a similar model of the nervous system. According to him, the solid cerebral cortex relays impulses from the brain to the peripheral nervous structure, witnessing simultaneously the feedback mechanisms. Baglivi's definition of *stimulus* anticipated Albrecht von Haller's studies on sensibility and irritability as specific properties common to all living structures. Baglivi also points out the autonomous function of certain structures in the "energy" of vital motions. Each fiber is under the control of the central stimulators, but is also characterized by its own innate vital autonomy.

The motion of the heart and the role of the blood and other bodily fluids are essential for the vital functions but, like all the other vital functions, are dependent on the centrifugal and centripetal fibrillation of membraneous tissue. This is the basis of Baglivi's interpretation of pathological disorders. The vital properties of the *fibra* determine the harmony among the complex processes within the body. If the tone and the balance of the constant activities of the fibers is disrupted, the body is exposed to disorder and eventual death. "Inadequate tone, elasticity, or structure of the body's solid parts in the balance disorder between different solid parts or between the solid and fluid parts of the body" are where Baglivi seeks the origins of pathological processes.

The development of all the disciplines based on the application of scientific results has been characterized by trial and error; medicine, therefore, is no exception. Although medical progress has shown that *De fibra motrice et morbosa*, the fruit of Baglivi's observations, contained a number of errors and misleading assumptions, it still represents an outstanding contribution to the understanding of the human body.

Stjepan Ćosić

Stijepo Obad, **Serđo Dokoza** and **Suzana Martinović**, *Južne granice Dalmacije od XV. st. do danas* (The Southern Borders of Dalmatia from the Fifteenth Century to the Present). Zadar: Državni arhiv u Zadru, 1999. Pages 104.

The most recent political situation regarding the definition of the border of the Republic of Croatia and the two of its neighbours—Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro—stirred the general public interest for the origin, historical development, and shifts of the Croatian borderline in the south. Based mainly on the written and cartographic evidence from the State Archives of Zadar, this book represents a considerable contribution to the aforementioned topic.

The book contains three sections: an introductory study, a presentation of the southern borders of Dalmatia, illustrated with the reproductions of historical maps and documents, and a detailed analysis of the borderland between the former Republic of Dubrovnik and the Bay of Kotor, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Montenegro as shown on the Austrian specialized maps from the 19th century. The introduction was written by Stijepo Obad, while the documents and maps were analyzed by Serđo Dokoza and Suzana Martinović.

Obad's historical perspective provides insight into the origin and frequent shifts of the political but also administrative boundaries in Dalmatia from the 15th century to the present day. As the historical, territorial, and

political meaning of the notion of Dalmatia has, over the centuries, been understood differently, it should always be examined and defined in the time context. In the Middle Ages, the ancient notion of Dalmatia became a synonym for the Croatian Kingdom, that is, primarily for its coastal area with well-developed cities. Although the region stretching between the Rivers Zrmanja and Cetina represented the heart of the Early medieval Croatian state, the political centre of Croatia in the 16th C. moved to the north. Due to their ethnical and political attributes, the territories of Dalmatia, later occupied by the Venetians and the Ottomans, were to gain pure virtual importance in the Croatian national ideology. Despite the historical and ethnical arguments, it took Croatia almost five hundred years to achieve sovereign jurisdiction over its entire territory at the moment when Europe was witnessing the redefinition and changes of the framework and meaning of the notions of state boundaries and sovereignty.

Obad focuses on the shifts of Dalmatian boundaries from the beginning of the Venetian domination. Having established its rule in the coastal cities, Venice tended to assign a new meaning to the notion of Dalmatia, emphasizing its roots in the antiquity and its dominant Romance culture. The *Serenissima* was to use Dalmatia as a buffer zone against the Croats, and later the Turks. However, such a concept was doomed to fail after Venice's territorial expansions in the Candian and Morean Wars (1671 and 1699) because of the ethnical structure of the population. It was then that the territory as well as the notion of the Venetian Dalmatia extended beyond the coastal area into the mainland, comprising Obrovac, Knin, Vrlika, Sinj, Zadvarje, Vrgorac, and Metković. In 1718 the Venetian Dalmatia extended even further, remaining within these borders until the end of the Venetian rule in 1797. The municipalities of the Bay of Kotor represented a separate unit of Dalmatia, also under Venetian domination. Experiencing but a few shifts of borders over the centuries, the Republic of Dubrovnik managed to survive between these two components of Dalmatia.

Following the first Austrian rule (1797-1805) and the short French rule (1805-1814), these three components—Dalmatia, Dubrovnik and the Bay of Kotor—consolidated into the Austrian province of Dalmatia in 1816, remaining an Austrian crownland until 1918. The author traces the political and administrative boundaries of the southern Croatian region in the inter-war period, at the time of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (1918-1929), the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929-1941), the Independent State of Croatia (1941-1945), as well as after the World War II, concluding his survey with the most recent Serbian and Montenegrin aggression and expansionism.

Amply illustrated and well-documented, the second and the third section of the book are concerned with the shifts of borders in the south of Dalmatia, i.e., the Neretva region, Dubrovnik Republic, and the Bay of Kotor in respect of the Venetian territorial expansion in the wars against the Turks in the 17th and 18th centuries. The second section starts with a description of the oldest and most stable border on the east Adriatic—that of the Republic of Dubrovnik. Facsimiles and partial translations of the charters from 1399, 1419, and 1426 have been presented, by which the Republic acquired Primorje and Konavle, exercising thus its jurisdiction from Klek to Sutorina. The reproduction of the map of the Republic of Dubrovnik, drawn by Nicolas Sanson in

1664, shows the shifting of the Venetian borderlines in Herzegovina and Boka in the course of the Morean War. The expansion of the Venetian Dalmatia following the Treaties of Karlowitz (1699) and Passarowitz (1718) has been presented by the copies and fragmentary translation of the agreements on the demarcation and the mapping performed afterwards. That was the time when two narrow Turkish corridors were defined in the vicinity of Klek and in Sutorina, and which separated the territory of the Dubrovnik Republic from the Venetian Dalmatia and the Bay of Kotor. These Ottoman corridors were accurately drawn on the Venetian maps by Lodovico Furlanetto in 1787 and Pietro Santini in 1804.

By the first half of the 19th century, numerous maps of the Dubrovnik region, the Bay of Kotor, and the bordering regions were drawn, surpassing the former ones in both quality and detail. The defined borders of the Austrian province of Dalmatia and the Bay of Kotor remained stable well after the Berlin Congress and the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1878. Dalmatia was to expand only in its southernmost part, from Budva to Spič, where it bordered Montenegro.

The maps of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (1918-1929) have been borrowed from Ljubo Boban's book *Hrvatske granice od 1918.-1993*. (*Croatian borders from 1918 to 1993*). That period saw the most fundamental changes of the Croatian south borders. Until 1922 Dalmatia had existed as a province in the exact territorial extent as in the Austro-Hungarian period, except for the town of Zadar and island of Lastovo which had been ceded to Italy. The 1922 administrative division of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes introduced a number of changes. The entire territory of the Bay of Kotor, from Sutorina to Spič, consolidated with the Zeta banate, so that the border of Dalmatia, that is, of the Dubrovnik region, coincided with the former south border of the Republic of Dubrovnik towards Sutorina. It is interesting to note that even then the two Turkish corridors, Klek and Sutorina, remained unaltered within the Mostar region. The frontiers of the Croatian Banovina dating from 1939 also extended as far as Sutorina, excluding Boka, but comprising the territory of Klek.

The federal territorial concept of the Yugoslavia after the World War II actually represented a partial restoration of the pre-Yugoslav borders. Dalmatia, within the National Republic of Croatia did not include the Bay of Kotor, for the latter became an integral part of Montenegro. In addition, the corridors in Klek and Sutorina were recognized at first, being integrated into Bosnia-Herzegovina (map on p. 66). For the reasons unknown, Sutorina was soon to be stitched to Montenegro, while the Neum area has remained part of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the day, separating thus the Croatian territory in Dalmatia.

The third section of the book includes the analysis of the borderland based on the Austrian specialized maps of the districts of Dubrovnik and Kotor from the first half of the 19th century. Accurately plotted to scale, these maps show the boundary with the Ottoman Empire, making it possible to establish its exact line from Dubrovačko primorje to the north part of Konavle, ending with Point Kobila. The Austrian territory was intersected by an Ottoman belt in Sutorina, but continue in the Bay of Kotor with Kaštel Magaza, up to Ostrovica hill and Point Dubovica at the southernmost end.

Topographic analysis of these specialized maps has, once again, brought to light the

old frontier of the Dubrovnik Republic, its value being even greater because of the detailed demarcation of the border with the Bay of Kotor and the Ottoman Empire, i.e., Montenegro.

Stjepan Ćosić

Željko Peković and **Ivica Žile**, *Ranosrednjovjekovna crkva Sigurata na Prijekome u Dubrovniku* (The Early Medieval Church of Sigurata at Prijeko in Dubrovnik). Katalozi i monografije, 6. Split: Muzej hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika Split, 1999. Pages 40 + ix tables.

Two conservators of Dubrovnik—Željko Peković and Ivica Žile—are the authors of this monograph on the early medieval church of Sigurata, situated in the northwest part of the old City. The popular and widespread name of the church is the derivation of *Transfiguratio Christi*, to which the church was consecrated; since the seventeenth century it has commonly been known as Our Lady of Sigurata because of the worshipped painting of the Madonna displayed in it.

In writing this volume the authors combined a series of archeological, historical, and artistic facts with the architectural research of Sigurata during its conservation. The result of their work is twofold: the restored church itself and this book, which undoubtedly represents an exemplary restoration study in terms of documentation and scientific methodology. Devoid of unnecessary digression, commonly found in literature of the kind, Peković and Žile have produced a comprehensive scientific "diary" of their conservation work on Sigurata carried out between 1992 and 1995. Commendable is the decision of the publisher—Museum of Croatian Archeological Monuments of Split—to present it as a bilingual edition (Croatian/English), and thus approach an international scientific audience.

Illuminating and highly readable, this study does not exhibit the laborious yet appealing nature of the research stage before reconstruction. Guided by his own finds and yet aware that the results of this type of work are generally unpredictable, a researcher paddles his way through in quest of the expected, hopefully, valuable discovery, or none at all. Viewed professionally, Sigurata has proved a significant, multilayered, and meaningful challenge to the authors.

The study is splendidly documented, including the essential archeological approach to the necessary reconstruction due to the aging of the building, as well as the damages the church suffered in the Serbian aggression on Dubrovnik at the end of 1991. In the chapters on the location, present state and previous research, Peković and Žile provide their own observations and sparse data on the church, its neighbourhood, and the urban development of the City to be found in the literature. One should point to the fact that the work of these two authors has contributed to the clearer understanding of the origin of the church and a series of reconstructions undertaken on it over the centuries. In addition, the results of the restoration of Sigurata offer reliable proof to the theses of both the authors, Žile in particular, concerning the beginnings of the early medieval Dubrovnik settlement.

Crucial phases of restoration, together with the results of the archeological and architectural research, which led the authors to the new conclusions about the pre-Romanesque Sigurata, have been given chronologically. By deconstructing a number of extensions on the church building and in the surrounding area, the authors were able to ex-