

Medical and Social Care in Rovinj from the Mid 15th to the Mid 19th Century

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ABSTRACT

By using published and unpublished sources from various archival series kept in the Rovinj Heritage Museum, Chapter Archives of Rovinj and the Diocesan Archives of Poreč the authors shed new light and present the health and social care system in the city of Rovinj covering the period which goes from the mid 15th to the mid 19th century. Altruistic mentality of individual citizens, lay and ecclesiastical institutions as well as the need to prevent diseases urged the foundation of medical-social-religious-charitable institutions. In the researched period Rovinj flourished demographically and economically, so that health and social institutions included offices in charge of prevention. When it came to various aspects of social activities, decisions were made by the foreign political authorities – Venetian, French and Austrian administration, although the first initiative would always come from the Rovinj Commune or individual citizens.

Key words: *Rovinj Hospital, early modern age, medical and social care, prevention, hygiene regulations*

Introduction

Medical and social care have always been closely connected throughout human history. Both state and local institutions often carried those two headings in their titles. For example, the modern Republic of Croatia has Ministry of Health and Welfare. Medical and social care are important in the modern world and books, magazines, scientific articles about health and caring for people in general, and for the poor in particular, are printed daily. By investing into the medical care, state and individuals create conditions for economic and cultural progress. The most important document a state could issue would be the state budget which is expected to respect and satisfy high social standards.

Rovinj has been under the Venetian rule since 1283. By the 15th century legislative-normative regulation of medical staff in the Venetian Republic depended on the central government. Local and municipal governments were allowed to supervise the expertise of the medical staff. The Commune issued work licences. It was not until the 15th century that the Venetian government decided to supervise medical activities and thus the medical system was centralised. Education and medical expertise were supervised by the Venetian Major Council and Medical Board. Supervision of medical activities was in the

hands of the Senate (Consiglio dei Pregadi). Laws, rules and regulations had to be in accordance with Venetian laws¹.

The most comprehensive article of the health care in Istra was written by Bernardo Schiavuzzi². Unlike Pula, the health and social care in Rovinj was not researched. Slaven Bertoša done the only systematic research and featuring archival materials associated with health and social issues in Pula³. Noteworthy is the work about hospitals in Istra⁴. The first hospital in Istra was founded in Piran on 1222⁵.

Important information on the burial regulations is preserved in the Chapter Archives of Rovinj (Arhiv Kap-tola u Rovinju). It proves the existence of obligation for obeying the laws and rules promulgated by the Venetian government. Provost Oliviero Constantini spoke before the doge and the Council of Ten on the 16th February 1745, seeking an explanation of burial rights. On the 8th March, doge Pietro Grimani sent a memo to Francesco Minotti, mayor and captain of Koper, with the answer to the provost advising him to apply the instruction given by The Medical Official (Magistrato alla Sanità) on the 20th November 1744⁶.

In the 16th century, Venetian government dedicated more attention to the medical care. The goal was to protect trade routes, and Rovinj was a very important spot on Venetian maps as a trading harbour on the route connecting Orient to Venice. Moreover, Venetian government held in high regard the navigators (peoti) of Rovinj who steered the trading ships through the northern parts of the Adriatic Sea. There were two ports in the town: the major was situated in the South, the secondary was in the northern part of the town. On the 6th July 1703 the City Council decided to create a new unit to help sanative unit Medical Rakes (Rastelli di Sanità) who were helping the sailors. They were located in the less important northern harbour Valdibora. Infantryman (Fante straordinario) was a position created especially for providing all the possible help with the ships and sailors in the northern harbour, unlike the Saint Catherine harbour where two employees held the position. Besides, it was even considered useful for the sailors' health care to create an extra sanative office. The Castle of Medical Official (Castello filiale di Sanità) was supposed to be the location of the office. The sailors could make harbour there in the bad weather conditions, thus avoiding having to sail all the way around the Saint Euphemia hill to the Saint Catherine harbour. The office was supposed to take the initiative to solve the problems⁷. This is an example of how much consideration was given to the most important branch of the Rovinj's economy. The Commune had not only in mind how to protect the city from the enemy's invasion, but it was important to protect the city from all the different diseases or epidemics, as well.

The offices of Health Supervision and anti-epidemic measures, on which the Rovinj Commune depended, acquired characteristics of a sanative office. Health Office (Uffico di Sanità), the institution with the purpose to attend to the medical care, was founded in 1485. As mentioned before, from the 16th century Venetian Government intensified the health care supervision in the areas of its dominion, created the Supreme Medical Institution (Supremo Magistrato di Sanità) and appointed three supreme medical supervisors.

On the local level it meant that the Health Office and a supervisor had to be established. Supervisors reported to the central institution of climate and economy circumstances, water supply, medical staff, health care and anti-epidemic supervision.

At the centre of this research is medical and social care in Rovinj as it has not been researched enough due to the lack of historical sources. Documents to illustrate the period before 16th century are lost. Regretfully, original documents and the City Archives of Rovinj, taken care of by the city chancellor, disappeared during the World War I. However, some of the papers about the institution which attended to the medical care and the poor were discovered in the Rovinj Heritage Museum. This helps us to trace the steps the Rovinj Commune's took in the care for sick individuals. The database was collected by Antonio Angelini (1798 – 1863), son of Stefan, historian and writer⁸. Original documents and copies of vari-

ous acts used in this research have been collected by the Angelini family members. Apart from the documents kept in the Chapter Archives of Rovinj modern researchers have at their disposal only documents and copies in the funds of Antonio Angelini. Numerous manuscripts have been lost. Some documents used in this research have survived only because they had been walled in. Due to the bad state of conservation of documents, we found numerous useful data published in the *Atti del Centro di Ricerche Storiche* (Acts of the Centre for Historical Research in Rovinj). Valuable data were found published in *Storia documentata di Rovigno*, the book written by Bernardo Benussi, one of the members of the charitable-social-health institution active in Rovinj at the beginning of the 19th century. Data offered to specialists in medicine, sociology, anthropology and history indicate to the great care for the health and socially disabled inhabitants.

Communal Health and Welfare Institutions

Mayor (Podestà) and the Commune (made of the city council, judges, commissioner, treasurer and the chancellor) were the major authorities in Rovinj during the Venetian government⁹.

The most important official in Rovinj during the Venetian rule was the mayor who had several duties, and was also in charge of the Health Office. Along with the mayor, a City Council with the help of the City Chancellor had the supreme supervision until 1712. After the Venetian government had taken over the supreme supervision of health regulations, medical care was placed under the Health Office. At first the office in Rovinj had two Stewards, but later their number increased to three. They received help from two other Additional Stewards (Aggiunti Provveditori) in times of plague¹⁰. The plague hardly affected Istra and Rovinj in intervals. In order to protect the spread of infectious diseases, on 26th December 1757 Rovinj added in Statute special decision of the need to issue health cards¹¹. The Health Office had its own chancellor. At the beginning of the Austrian rule in the 19th century, the office still had the chancellor, the Harbour Master and two sailors. Similar arrangement of Health Office was kept during Illyrian Provinces apart from having mayor and captain, two secretaries and a sailor along with the Harbour Master. The division of Health Office from other harbour activities occurred after 1815 and at that time Rovinj got Health Office Deputation (Deputazione di Sanità).

Each chancellor of the Health Office held the position for three months. From 1712 his office term was prolonged to a year, but afterwards, in order to prevent misuses, it was limited to three months. The salary amounted to the sum of 12 ducats. Chancellor of the Health Office was elected by the City Council. From 1739 his mandate was prolonged to three years and the salary amounted to 22 ducats. He was allowed to find an assistant, a coadjutor. From 1763 the mandate decreased from three to only two years.

The City chancellor, elected among city notaries, had a very important role in the medical care in the Rovinj area. In order to avoid misuses, he was elected for a year. Duties connected to the medical care were given to him in 1643 when Rovinj became bigger and the Chancellor was relieved of some duties, but had to issue medical permits¹². While in office, he had to keep a special register of cases he had dealt with; the registers were kept in the City Archives, but, a lot of them have not been preserved¹³.

Apart from the explicitly involved Chancellor of the most inner circle of the Commune, institutions created solely for the purpose of looking after the medical care, also attended to the citizens' health. Two Health Office stewards held the position for three months. In 1712 they were paid 7 liras for their service. The Rovinj Commune soon saw the need for increasing the number of the medical supervisors so they assumed another steward. The length of office changed too, and from 1713 medical stewards stayed in office for six months. The Commune changed its regulations about medical supervisors again in 1733 and decreased the number of stewards to two, but the term remained the same. Their salary was raised to 30 ducats in 1722, and was provided by the City Treasury. For every temporary permit they also received a fee of three liras and two soldas. Medical officials were elected among the members of the City Council.

The Commune of Rovinj attended to the prevention of diseases not only in the harbour and during funerals, but also in some typically old Rovinj places. In the Early Modern Period existed the institution of Canal Steward (*Provveditore alla Fossa*). It was created in 1720 by the City Council in order to supervise and clean the canal which separated the island of Rovinj from the mainland. Two supervisors were in charge of the office. The canal was thoroughly cleaned once a year, and inspected every day to prevent that inhabitants polluted it by throwing their garbage. As the canal connected two harbours, their duty consisted in monitoring that the garbage did not arrive to the harbour. The supervisors stayed in office for a year and were not paid for their services.

One of the most important modern period documents of Rovinj, the Agreement between the Chapter of St Euphemia and the Commune dated into 1714, regulated burials within the church. The deceased were buried into tombs 15 hours after their death. Exception was made with women who died at childbirth. They were buried 24 hours after death. There were no exceptions to the rule¹⁴. Rovinj had communal hygiene regulations concerning food quality (meat and fish), wine selling and cattle in general. While preventing epidemics or examining materials that could be of great threat to the Rovinj citizen, Health services were supported by officials who were specialized for certain parts of supervision. In Saint Catherine harbour, the duty to supervise sailors was given to Health Servants (*Fanti di Sanità*). There were two of them and each received two solidi a day. Their salary increased in 1713 to 4 solidi, and later to 12 ducats a year. The Commune changed it again and so the Servants

would receive 49 liras and 12 solidi. They remained in service for 5 years. It is obvious by this example that expenses were not spared for prevention of diseases.

People's commissioners Gabriele Piccoli and Iseppo Facchinetti organized Benefit confraternity (*Sovvegno*) or Suffrage Charity (*Suffragio della Carità*) in their efforts to help the sick and poor. Rules were approved by the Venetian Senate on 1st September 1763. Lay Persons Fraternity (*Fraternità dei poveri infermi*) was taken over by the Congregation of Oratory; however, with the French occupation all the confraternities active in the town were abolished. In the very introductory article the Confraternity stressed that pious persons intended to offer food and medicines for the poor and persons in need, who could not remain in the hospital. Co-founder of it was the provost authorized by the potestate. Three were the basic duties. The organization had to act by the pious fraternity and to convene regularly. Differently from other fraternities financed from the memberships and revenues collected during processions and holy masses, they collected their funds from all citizens in the streets of Rovinj. The money was to be paid on monthly basis, because the needs were enormous. It is worth noting that other fraternities of Rovinj paid for their membership only once a year¹⁵. The third duty of the organization was the appointment of the governor, two assistants, a chancellor, a treasurer, eight visitors for the sick, and a servant. Services were intended for a determined period of time. Governor was the leading figure, he signed and sealed the medical records given to the visitors who paid visits to the needy in their own districts. Visitors would make note of the necessities on daily basis, and would add weekly allowances into the medical records. The treasurer would receive them and pay for the expenses. So that order be imposed into the health and social care in Rovinj, it was supposed that such kind of help would be offered to the sick, widows and abandoned women, as well as to women whose husbands could not earn enough for decent living, if that was ordered by the visitor¹⁶.

Funds gathered from the confraternity and from various benefactors passed to the Charitable Commission (*Commissione di Beneficenza*); resources of the Patrimony of the Poor (*Patrimonio dei Poveri*) were also added to the newly acquired funds. The Charity Congregation (*Congregazione di Carità*) was in charge of the Mount of Mercy (*Monte di Pietà*). The hospital was supervised by the Congregation, which attended to the activities of the Fraternity of the poor for a few years only, as it would soon be abolished. The Charity Congregation worked according to the rules given on 25th November 1808, while Rovinj was still part of Illyrian provinces, ruled under Napoleon. The Congregation was organized from the successors of the previously abolished Madonna of Field Fraternity (*Fraternità Madonna del Campo*).

All the institutions were united into one by the French administration for easier management and supervision. In this way it was easier to control institutions in charge of the health and social care. It was administered from

one centre, and was headed by a mayor. The capital they possessed was united and continued to be used for the benefit of the sick and disabled persons. The Congregation was presided by a commissioner, and disposed of substantial resources. According to its Statute, the Congregation provided for the weak, sick, poor and people in serious need. The Charity Congregation was composed of six persons: five were called members (*membri*), while the presiding commissioner was headmaster (*preside*). The name of one headmaster was preserved in the extant documents: Angelo Rismondo. A treasurer and the secretary, who kept the registers, were also members of the administration. Antonio Angelini, whose manuscripts are one of the principal sources for medical and social history of Rovinj in the Modern age, was one of the secretaries we know of. Every year the Congregation submitted a financial report to the captain of Koper, later on to the French management; and finally, to both the Austrian and the local government. Supervision passed to the local government only on 17th March 1849¹⁷.

Mount of Mercy was founded by the Commune. The permission was given by the Venetian Senate on 12th March 1772. Initially, it was connected to the resources of the Fonticco, and had their headquarters on the waterfront. The initial capital of the Mount of Mercy amounted to 77775.9 liras. The premises were inaugurated on 1 October 1772. Later on the headquarters was divided between three locations: Main Square (*Piazza grande*), the building of the *Centro di ricerche storiche* of Rovinj and the former Fabris palace, today the headquarters of the Italian Community (*Comunità degli Italiani*). Under the Venetian rule, Mount of Mercy was presided by the president and three judges; their service was only temporary and without retribution. On the other hand, the treasurer and the person in charge of penalty payments were elected for a year and their salary amounted to 60 ducats. Other employees were the chancellor (*cancelliere*) and the estimator (*stimatore*). If summoned, the two had to respond: servants and the deputy-commander. Under Austrian administration the structure remained the same except for the three judges replaced by three mayors. The Mount of Mercy lent money with the 6% interest rate. Known from the times of the emperor Justinian, the interest rate had never increased so that money would not be earned at the expenses of the poor. At the beginning the *Mont-de-Piété* was opened only twice a week¹⁶.

During the French administration, Charity Commission (*Commissione di Carità*) attended to the hospital, Charity Fraternity (later called Fraternity of Poor) and the Mount of Mercy. The Mount of Mercy took over the charge of the hospital and the social care. There was a lack of money for social care, as the *Comune* of Rovinj had to face huge expenses for military armament. The committee was divided into three sections, initially presided by the commissioner, later on by the vice-prefect and a sub-delegate. Employees received salary for their services. During the second Austrian government administrative structure remained the same except for the

name, which changed into The Charity Congregation, the institution to be in charge of the health and social care in Rovinj during the second half of the 19th century.

Hospital in Rovinj

Antonio Angelini used the book entitled *Congregazioni and Constitutions pious of Hospital in Rovinj (Congregationes et Constitutiones pii hospitalis Rubini)* to write the history of the Rovinj hospital. It is believed that the hospital was built on the 20th May 1475, by Mattio, son of *gastald* Andrea. To testify it is the engraved sign on the facade of the Oratorio's church. Mattio was the *gastald* of Madonna of Field Fraternity (*Madonna del Campo*). As the first hospital was located between the streets of Madonna of Mercy (*Madonna di Pietà*) and Behind Castle (*Dietro Castella*), we believe that it was founded by the Madonna of Field Fraternity. The hospital did not dispose of a lot of money, and the funds were used to pay for the food and provided help in case of death. Poor, sick people, men and women both, lived in one undivided space. There were two separate rooms in the first hospital. One for foreign priests and one for the head nurse. The Madonna of Field Fraternity, other than its religious nature, helped not only the hospital but also accompanied the deceased to their resting place, prayed for their soul, helped the sick either recovered in the hospital or not. Once a year, on St. Martin's feast, the hospital offered a *convivio* i.e. bread, wine, meat and pasta⁹. Meanwhile the fraternity stopped its activity and was succeeded by Patrimony of the Poor in administration. In time, donations and income increased so a committee, the *Carità* was founded. At its head was Steward (*gastaldo*). In the documents researched the Madonna of Field Fraternity is called Blessed Virgin of Mercy (*Beata Virgine di Pietà*). The bishop of Poreč had jurisdiction only over the Oratorio and its chaplain. Members of the fraternity provided for the chaplain's income. He had to celebrate mass every day and was authorised to hear confessions. Unlike other priests in Rovinj who got their posts through application, the chaplain was appointed by the bishop¹⁸. During the pastoral visits the parish priest had to answer the questionnaire that analysed if he treats the health and socially disabled inhabitants with love and special attention¹⁹.

Although the Oratorio was a medical-religious-charitable institution, misuses/abuses were not registered. That is why statute was made. Members of the Madonna of Mercy Fraternity decided to make their affairs transparent, expand the hospital, separate men from women, provide help for the pious, and engage more employees under the chaplain priest¹⁰. The changes started by moving the head nurse's room and giving it to women. The head nurse moved to the foreign priests' room. The hospice expanded in 1726 thanks to Giovanni Antonio conte Califfi. The statute was drawn on the 30th November 1706. Venice with its representatives had the leading role in decision making, so the statute could be heaved on 8th April 1707, after the approval given by the captain of

Koper and the judge Giovanni Foscarini¹⁷. According to the latest research, the Leader Council of the hospital was founded on 17th February 1707 and four leaders were appointed and held the position for one year. Their duties included visiting the hospital, working in the interest of the hospital, representing it and offering material or financial charity. The income was received from commissioners for different purposes. To administer the hospital were a treasurer who handled the money transactions, and the secretary who kept the registers. One was also chosen to be the prior, responsible to the Superiors (Superiori), Hospital Administration.

He took care of the patients, both men and women, and had a special responsibility for the sick. He surveiled them so the men and women would not mix. Everything had to be neat and tidy in the hospital. He would lock the rooms and the main gates in the evening. Who came late, was not allowed to enter. The permission to enter after the main gate closure was given by the chaplain and the steward. The judge of Koper, Zan Domenico Loredan, increased the number of leaders of the hospital to six on 23rd November 1719. Steward of the Madonna of Mercy Fraternity was in charge, as a president, a priest, and probably the chaplain. According to the fraternity's book of rules, the steward was in office for a year. The other five remained in office for three years. To improve transparency of their affairs, two of them changed every year, one changed in the course of the third year. Organized in this way, with additions to the discipline in 1724–25, the hospital was easier to run especially when it came to admittance, religious care of the sick, assistance and providing for the sick. According to a special rule issued in 1724, the hospital was visited on a daily basis. The leader would visit it for a month and had a special title – Nurse (Infermiere). He would take care of emergencies as soon as they appeared. He was also in charge of misuse and disorder. He had to present an emergency report to the Leader Council. The emergencies report was needed in order to get the wisest and the most appropriate decisions from the entire council¹⁰. The most important regulations were: inmates are to obey the head nurse regardless of their sex, they were supposed to be good Christians and attend religious ceremonies every day. The rules did not change. It was also decided to admit: the sick and the needy, locals and foreigners alike.

Foreigners would be admitted to the hospital only in serious need, if they were very poor or had no children or relatives to take care of them. All had the right to medical care, a surgeon, and spiritual help. In this way professional obstetricians who had licence to work had to know the formulas to be pronounced during the baptism ceremony of the new-born babies in life-threat. Their knowledge was examined by the commission during the pastoral visits³. Except for the commission, the rector too, had to examine their knowledge of the baptism formulas¹⁹. If death occurred, the hospital provided for the funeral arrangements. Any valuables left by the deceased remained to the hospital. Foreigners who died in the hospital left their belongings to the hospital; their relatives inherited

nothing. Canon of Rovinj, Oliviero Costantini, left a house in Montalbano Street to the Fraternity, not far from Saint Euphemia's church.

When the captain of Koper Nicolò Beregan visited Rovinj on 28th May 1767, all members of the fraternity had his permission to receive a property of use to the sick that needed it most. Healthy people could stay in the hospital only for three days. That way the men who were separated got a new house while the women stayed in the old hospital. In 1825 one of the members of The Charity Congregation, Francesco Spongia, expanded the hospital. Angelo Rismondo brought everything to perfect order following the project of Bernardo Grego proposed in 1823. The women finally left the old, unhealthy and small hospital in 1852 and moved to the house in Montalbano Street. The rules remained the same in the transitory period. Only small changes were made from time to time due to politics or other factors¹⁰.

Health Care in Rovinj and the Role of Medical Doctors

Rich and developed cities in the Venetian part of Istria invested into the quality of medical services and the professional preparation of doctor-surgeons. Well known surgeon (ceroico) Pietro Venier lived and worked in Rovinj already in 1418^{20,21}. In Rovinj, with the status of terra, there was a Medical Board (Collegio di sanità) with two stewards, a chancellor and a servant (fante)⁹. The commune regulated the prevention of misuses, abuse of power, illegal privileges and doctor's negligence but the members of the Council of Rovinj could not agree²². With the ducale dated 27th April 1662 the decision of the Council of Rovinj was confirmed; a resident of Rovinj could not be suggested or voted for the doctor's position. If that was the case the decision would be considered null. Ten years later, because of that very rule, doctor Iseppe Sponza was refused. However, Sponza appealed to the Venetian senate which revoked the Council's decision with another ducale, Sponza kept his position and the salary. However, the advocates of the Council protested, the Senate had to revoke its decision, Sponza was given time until his contract (condotta) expired, i.e. the contract between the doctor and the local government²³.

Until 1680 there was only one doctor and a surgeon in Rovinj. Afterwards, residents insisted on hiring two doctors with the annual salary which amounted to 300 ducats, two surgeons with the same salary. Later a third surgeon was hired and in 1769 the Commune hired a third doctor with the annual salary of 500 ducats. The money was acquired from the grain storage and the community treasury. Both local and foreign doctors could be elected. In 1688 consul Noveau arrived to Rovinj. He was a surgeon, exiled from France for having committed a murder and various other crimes, and was appointed surgeon²⁴. In 1801 there was some discontent about the doctors when Gaetano and Giovanni Borghi left their patients and spent a lot of time out of town. But these cases happened only rarely. Donna Bortoli, a doctor who died in

1582, was considered kind and friendly with the poor. Giuseppe Sponza was honored for his fine work and awarded with a memorial in Saint Euphemia church²⁵. According to art. VI of the 1714 Treaty between the Comune of Rovinj and the Saint Euphemia's Chapter a memorial could be dedicated to the most deserving persons only²⁶. The Holy Sacrament Fraternity was the richest and most influential organization in Rovinj. Only the most deserving persons were their members, and one of them was a surgeon Domenego Ferarese, mentioned on meeting held on 18. June 1579²⁷.

In order to avoid misuses, and to secure that the poor and sick persons receive their necessities regularly, every person in need received the card issued by the medical doctor or the surgeon. The card would be issued only to those disabled and sick not residing in the hospital. Only the patients who were given the licence from the medical doctors or surgeons were allowed to receive help from citizens and pious organizations who collected the money in the streets of Rovinj.

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MEDICINSKA I DRUŠTVENA SKRB U ROVINJU OD SREDINE XV. DO SREDINE XIX. STOLJEĆA

SAŽETAK

U XVII. i XVIII. st. Rovinj doživljava najveći rast među svim gradovima na zapadnoj obali Istre. Dok ostali gradovi i mjesta stagniraju Rovinj napreduje zahvaljujući skrbi Komune i dobročinstvima građana. Tako je godine 1687. u Rovinju je živjelo 4.008 stanovnika, a 1850. već 11.191. O ugledu Rovinja svjedoči i podatak da su 1638. bolesnici iz Pule dolazili u Rovinj na liječenje. Ovim istraživanjem došlo se do podataka o djelovanju glavne zdravstvene institucije hospitala koji je u Rovinju aktivan neprekidno pola tisućljeća. Reformiranjem zdravstveno socijalnih institucija željela se unaprijediti skrb za bolesne i nemoćne. Mijenjale su se političke okolnosti i nazivi institucija. Na jednom mjestu objedinjeni su izvori o institucijama i liječnicima važnim za zdravstvo i socijalnu skrb novovjekovnog Rovinja. Osim institucija navedeni su poticaji individualaca koji su za svoja dobročinstva dobivali priznanje od cijele Komune pa Elisabetti Angelini-Califfi (+1762) na nadgrobnoj ploči stoji natpis majka siromaha. U ovom istraživanju osvijetljena je i uloga Crkve u zdravstvenoj i socijalnoj skrbi Rovinja koja je poticala domicilno stanovništvo da jednaku pažnju i zdravstvenu skrb pruža kako svojim sugrađanima tako i svim došljacima. Zahvaljujući mnogim sanitetskim službama koji su nadgledali pomorstvo, higijenu, namirnice i postupke prilikom ukapanja grad Rovinj se sačuvala i preživio, za razliku od obližnjih kaštela Moncastela i Parentina koji su desetkovani bolestima te napušteni.