

another and shared the same economic fate. The author emphasises here the marked contribution of fairs to an elaborate economic landscape of the entire region.

An almost absolute monopoly of Dubrovnik on the import into the port of Ancona prompted Venice towards the revitalisation of the Split port at the end of the sixteenth century. Unfortunately, difficult circumstances which marked the end of the sixteenth century—crop failure and insecure sea passage due to frequent corsair attacks and wars with the Ottomans, the outbreaks of epidemics in the northern Italy which also spread to the region of Ancona—greatly undermined the holding of fairs. However, there is evidence that the Ragusan merchants regularly visited the fair in Senigallia in the eighteenth century, whose sudden rise the author compared with the development of Trieste which from 1719 enjoyed the most favourable status as a free port under the Habsburg protection.

The Adriatic being a “sea of towns” is a justifiable observation. On average, the number of their inhabitants did not exceed 10,000—the size of Dubrovnik, with the exception of Venice (c. 100,000), Ferrara (up to 30,000 by the start of the sixteenth century), probably Bari (in the early modern period increased from 6,000 to 14,000) and Ancona. Well-documented and extensively described are the problems of the Rimini port, exposed to high tides and sand deposits from the inland. At the close of the sixteenth century, upon the prompting of the pope this problem was seriously attended to and engineers from Rome, Ferrara and Ancona were engaged on the project, but the changes in climate coupled with other problems made the port “almost unusable” in the 1630s. Among the experts who contributed to the solution of navigation along the channel constantly obstructed by sand deposits was Ruder Bošković.

The mosaic of Pesaro is complemented by an insight into the beginnings of manufacture in that city, and the production of glass, crystal and tiles in the second half of the eighteenth century. Although these and similar manufactures came to an end by the start of the nineteenth century, and thus had nothing do with the city’s

further development, their very existence pointed to the favourable economic climate which served as basis for later development. Or, paraphrasing the author, they pointed to the maritime potential of the Third Italy.

Today there is virtually no challenge in writing about the Adriatic as a meeting point of Roman and Slavic component, and the area of the coexistence of the three dominant monotheistic religions. This volume, therefore, offers a fresh view of the current moment and proposes the path towards future social and economic development by probing into the past. A result of long-time experience and devoted work in both teaching and research, this historiographic contribution of Professor Moroni is primarily an important step in the discourse on the Adriatic’s common future.

Relja Seferović

Филипп де Диверсис, *Описание славного города Дубровника*, перевод с сербскохорватского языка [Philip de Diversis, *Description of the Famous City of Dubrovnik*], комментарии Н. П. Мананчиковой, Воронежский государственный университет, Издательско-полиграфический центр Воронежского государственного университета, 2012. Pages 160.

Philip Diversi, Italian humanist who taught in Dubrovnik in the middle of the fifteenth century, wrote a small yet valuable book *Situs Aedificiorum, Politiae et Laudabilium Consuetudinum Inclytae Civitatis Ragusii (Description of the Buildings, Polity and Commendable Customs of the Famous City of Dubrovnik)*. Following faithfully the canons of the medieval literary genre known as *laudes civitatum*, in the prologue the author explains the content, purpose and goal of his work, and then in four sections divided into 49 chapters describes the city’s location, its buildings, political system and the customs of its citizens.

The original was written in Latin and has survived in several transcriptions. It was first published in 1882 by Vitaliano Brunelli according to a copy kept in Zadar, the latter being translated into Croatian by Ivan Božić and published in Dubrovnik in 1973. The State Archives in Dubrovnik houses the oldest transcription of Diversi's *Description*, which was transcribed, translated into Croatian and published in a bilingual edition by the historian Zdenka Janeković Römer in 2004.

Diversi and his work can also be traced in Russian historiography. The first to introduce this Italian humanist to Russian historians, though in fragments, was V. V. Makushev in the second half of the nineteenth century. As a secretary to the Russian consul, Makushev spent almost four years in Dubrovnik, where in the Franciscan library and the private collection of Medo Pucić he found the manuscripts of Diversi's *Description of Dubrovnik*, wrote about them and published excerpts from the original work. Thanks to Makushev, many Russian historians such as I. N. Golenischchev-Kutuzov, I. G. Vorobjova, M. M. Frejdenberg, N. N. Podoprigorova and others studied and cited Diversi's work.

N. P. Mananchikova, lecturer in historical sciences at the State University in Voronezh, focuses her scholarly attention on the history of Dubrovnik and has written a number of studies and books about its social and political development. By leaning on Božić's Croatian translation from 1973, she has translated Diversi's *Description* into flawless and refined Russian language. In the preface she elucidates Diversi's work as a valuable historical source, the translation itself being supplemented with most detailed interpretations and commentaries. Mananchikova is to be commended for taking upon herself the challenging task of translating this book into Russian and thus further contributing to the study of Dubrovnik's past.

Mihaela Vekarić

Niko Kapetanić, *Mlinovi na rijeci Ljutoju Konavlima* [The Mills on the Ljuta River in Konavle]. Gruda: Društvo prijatelja dubrovačke starine i Matica hrvatska Konavle, 2012. Pages 192.

Until recently, a traveller through Konavle had no chance of experiencing the watermills as one of the traditional landmarks of this region. Apart from the earlier renovated mill housing the *Konavoski dvori* restaurant, scarcely anything reminded of the once lively activity of the fifteen mills on the Ljuta River, and the whole infrastructure surrounding them. Today, the fact that the basic phase of their renovation has been completed (funded by the Society of Friends of Dubrovnik Antiquities and private investors) and with the publication of Niko Kapetanić's monograph, we have reason to believe that this unique heritage complex has been saved from dilapidation and that it has mainly managed to restore its original function. Hopefully, the mills will find their way to the all-year-round cultural tourism, and will appeal to travellers seeking authentic places, solitary paths, close contacts with the local inhabitants and their daily lives and activities, including the tasting of home baked bread made of flour ground in these old mills, that is, the tourism targeted at visitors who will take their time midst this tranquil retreat and will not be tempted by low-cost holiday destinations. That, however, is another story, hopefully, with a happy ending.

Niko Kapetanić's monograph *Mlinovi na rijeci Ljutoju Konavlima* (The Mills of the Ljuta River in Konavle) is a serious scientific work whose content will equally appeal to a broader readership. A mere glance at the book reveals that it is the fruit of the author's long-time interest, his 'field' research and his own evolution in understanding the complex water system and the technology of its operation. Medieval archival documents as well as those from the later periods provide fairly scanty and scattered evidence on this topic, which the author clearly collected as an outgrowth of his other studies of Konavle, bit by bit. The material includes photographs from private collections, records and oral accounts,