

*Le commissioni ducali ai rettori d'Istria e Dalmazia (1289-1361)*, ed. Alessandra Rizzi. Roma: Viella, 2015. Pages 258.

By publishing the first volume of commissions and oaths that marked the beginning of the mandate of Venice-appointed governors in Istria and Dalmatia (State Archives of Venice, *Collegio Fond, Formulari di commissioni*), the scholarly public has become familiar with a source hitherto known to a very narrow circle of experts. A couple of texts pertaining to the Istrian cities were published by Bernardo Benussi some 140 years ago, yet the source was apparently unknown to Šime Ljubić as it is not included in his *Listine*. To my knowledge, this manuscript has remained uncited in Croatian historiography to date.

This edition will greatly enhance our knowledge of the Venetian administration in Istria and Dalmatia in the thirteenth and fourteenth century and the reasons for satisfaction are many. Regrettably, it fails to include the first half of the manuscript related to the narrow area around Venice (in administrative terms: *Dogado*), since the integral publishing of the manuscript would not only be logical but also essential for the correct interpretation and evaluation of certain entries. As grasped from the introduction, this decision may be ascribed to the Province of Veneto, which funded the project.

The register contains two main types of document which are functionally linked: the oath sworn by the Venetian governor (count, podestà etc.) chosen as head of a subjugated city prior to his assumption of office (*capitulare*), and the commission (*commissio*) he received there upon. Both sorts of document comprise the main guidelines of his future duty, along with the rules of conduct designed to strengthen his professionalism, objectivity and loyalty. The register contains formularies on the basis of which the documents *ad personam* were prepared, many of which survived and have been published, and already extensively used in Croatian historiography.

The register was compiled by transcribing the already extant copies (e.g. the commission of Vital Michieli, Count of Zadar, from 1313), and by doing so, they transformed from a specific document into an abstract normative material. New items containing relevant decisions of the highest Venetian institutions—Major Council, Senate, Council of the Forty and Minor Council—were added to the earlier entered formularies.

The twenty-five documents published here pertain to Dubrovnik, Split, Trogir, Šibenik, Zadar, Nin, Senj, Rab, Pula, Poreč, Rovinj, Novigrad, Umag, Izola, Piran, Kopar, Bale, Motovun, and Sveti Lovreč. Two documents were intended for Venetian consuls (in Senj and Pula), and the rest for the representatives of the Venetian government appointed to rule specific towns and regions.

In the introductory part, the editor Alessandra Rizzi has given a most thorough and illuminating insight into the content, typology, function and genesis of this source, accompanied by a host of examples from the material of the kind that was not included in this book. She approached the commissions and oaths not only as a legal source, but as an instrument of government, which could relatively easily be used to intervene in the legal systems of certain towns in order to adapt them to the new circumstances.

Umberto Cecchinato offers a description of the manuscript in its current state as well as the reconstruction of the original presentation. The contribution of Tiziana Aramonte explains how the oaths and commissions *ad personam* in the collection, apart from one exception, transformed into real formularies. Some entries are dated, while the rest can be dated by comparing the manuscripts or on the basis of content, so that it was possible to establish that the core of the collection was formulated in the period 1289-1339, yet the material was subject to later alterations (additions, corrections, crossed out passages). Gloria Zuccarello draws attention to a very intriguing

element of the collection—a system of signs which helped by-pass an integral transcription of the new material that was to be added to several oath and commission formulas: full text was entered only to the first formulary in the volume, while all other formularies were given signs referring to it.

The texts are impeccably transcribed, in conformity with the principles of documentary edition. Each document follows the explanation of dating and other information regarding its composition.

The fact that the oath formula sworn by the Count of Dubrovnik in 1293 (plus the additions until the end of the Venetian rule (1357) has been included in this volume on the pages 242-247 will certainly appeal to the readers of *Dubrovnik Annals*. Some correspondence may be established with the famous and published oaths *ad personam* of the counts Tiepolo (1237) and Doro (1254) and with the count's oath from the Statute (II, 1), yet the text from this edition is by far more extensive and elaborate. Hopefully, I shall soon devote myself to a deeper research into the Ragusan formulary, and I believe that the other parts of this valuable book will find their way to those whose scholarly focus rests on the history of Istria and Dalmatia in the thirteenth and fourteenth century.

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*PHILELFIANA Nuove prospettive di ricerca sulla figura di Francesco Filelfo [PHILELFIANA New research perspectives regarding Francesco Filelfo]*, ed. Silvia Fiaschi. Firenze: Leo S. Olschki Editore, 2015. Pages x + 173.

The proceedings of the conference held in Macerata from 6 to 7 November 2013 comprise six contributions representing the initial scientific step of the research project *East and West in the European Humanism: Francesco Filelfo's Library and Letters (1398 – 1481)* financed by the Basic Research Investment Fund (FIRB). The papers of Filippo Bognini, Salvatore Costanza, Nicoletta Marcelli, David Speranzi, Silvia Fiaschi and Stefania Fortuna emphasise multifacetedness as a very distinct and striking attribute of Humanism. The aforementioned scholars deal mainly with the general linguistic features of Humanism, and particularly with Filelfo's extraordinary linguistic erudition in terms of Greek and Latin, as well as his use of the vernacular. Also discussed are codicology and text editing, and a paper which tackles Filelfo's epistolary testimony about one of the crucial events in the Europe of that time.

Written by Filippo Bognini, the first article »Per l'edizione critica delle epistole latine di Francesco Filelfo: prime indagini sulla tradizione degli incunabuli« (*Contribution to the critical edition of Francesco Filelfo's Latin epistolary: initial researches of the tradition of incunabula*) addresses the editorial fate of Francesco Filelfo's epistolary opus. Filippo Bognini opens his paper by stating that no critical edition of Filelfo's *opus magnum* has been published to date. He mentions Vito Giustiniani's article from 1986, which put forward the state of research of that time. Consequently, the intention of the author of this contribution is to show the progress made over a thirty-year period.

The very first publication of Filelfo's epistolary is incunabulum H\*12926, published in Venice in 1473 by Vindelino da Spira (=V). This edition is to be considered a partial *editio princeps* because