

The next chapter entitled *From 1420 till 1672—Under the Standard of Saint Blaise* represents the core content of this study. This chapter is subdivided into several sections, each being devoted to one important aspect of the Castle's administration and management. Covering the period of over 250 years and based on rich archival material, the author meticulously reconstructs the rules and procedures regulating the military service in the Castle, weapons and equipment, number of officers and supporting staff, as well as the provisioning of the Castle with food and other necessary supplies. The chapter closes with two sections describing a wide range of non-military items that can be found in the Castle's inventory lists, or have been discovered during the recent archeological excavation on this site, such as construction tools, furniture, plates etc., giving a useful insight into the everyday life material culture of the Castle's inhabitants.

As such, *Under the Standard of St. Blaise* represents a worthy addition to a rather underrepresented aspect of the past of the Dubrovnik Republic, that of its military history.

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Paola Albini, *The Great 1667 Dalmatia Earthquake. An In-Depth Case Study*. Cham: Springer, 2015. Pages 96.

As suggested by the title, Paola Albini's book provides a comprehensive reconstruction of the 1667 Great Earthquake that struck Dubrovnik and the surrounding areas and its consequences. In this study Albini tackles the topic as both a seismologist and historian, since she investigates an event that had taken place 350 years ago. Given that the proportions of this past disaster could not have been measured by instruments as they are of more recent date, the research is therefore purely grounded on the written records and testimonies of the people who experienced and observed the mentioned phenomenon. The Great Earthquake of Lisbon in 1755 spurred the major advancement of seismology as a scientific discipline, which in its own way attracted the scholarly and political attention of the then Europe. In contrast to Lisbon, the Great Earthquake that destroyed Dubrovnik and much of its surrounds remained generally neglected until the end of the nineteenth century.

In her study of the Great 1667 Earthquake, Albini has developed and applied a specific methodology in order to find relevant seismological data on the quake as a historical event. She has therefore thoroughly researched all previous studies dealing with that past disaster in eastern Adriatic from the seismological point of view. The book is organised in three chapters, the first of which ("On the Eve of the Earthquake") aims to introduce the reader to the geographical and historical setting of this event based on two contemporary sources: travel account of the famous Ottoman Turkish traveller Evliya Çelebi, entitled *Book of Travels* from 1663, and an imposing unpublished travelogue of Christoff von Degenfeld, professional soldier, entitled *Beschreibung der reyse so ich Christoff Freyherr von Degenfeld, Im Jahr Christi 1661 Von Dürnau aus angefangen, Undt im Jahr 1670 vollendet habe, auch was auf solchen Vorgangen, Undt sonsten Marckwündiges zu sehen gewesen*. Her search for the sources was carried out in various European archives and libraries (such as State Archive in Dubrovnik, State Archive in Venice, National Library of Austria and General

Archive in Simancas), where she retrieved 114 documents. Arranged in chronological order, each document is a testimony of an observer who either for private or official reasons happened to witness this tragic event. Detailed description includes the document's date, author, place where it was written, addressee, and repository reference. A relevant quote of these records is available *in extenso* in original language and digital format in the *Electronic Supplementary Material* (<http://extras.springer.com>). The second chapter ("The Earthquake Observers") focuses on the authors of the written reports, whose brief or longer narratives vividly describe the experience of the disastrous event, and thus enable the modern reader to fully identify with them, to see, hear, feel and tread the area where the tragedy had taken place. Having pinpointed each of the observers and their accounts in time and space, she divided them into three groups: those who experienced the earthquake in the city of Ragusa, then fled from the place as soon as possible in order to find shelter elsewhere; those who travelled to-and-fro the affected area for reason of duty; those who had to remain in their places of residence, due either to necessity or making a virtue out of necessity. Therefore, amongst the observers in Ragusa were Archbishop Pedro de Torres and his fellow passengers aboard a ship in the Gruž harbour, a Dutch delegation including Jacob van Dam, newly appointed consul in Izmir, French gentleman Etoile Hardin, and two merchants, Titta de Blasi and Panzatosta. The second group includes observers who happened to find themselves travelling the Adriatic Sea in the days immediately after the earthquake. The third group of earthquake observers, listed under the title *Stuck in a Moment*, is comprised of eight people, starting with an anonymous Venetian citizen, to be followed by Giacomo Loredan, Provveditore Straordinario in Cattaro, Ragusan canon Vlaho Skvadri, Ragusan friar Vital Andrijašević, along with three Ragusan noblemen: Bernard Giorgi, Nikola Bona and Frano Bobali. The last eyewitness in this group is Andrija Zmajević, abbot and nobleman of Perast. In Albini's opinion, the warm letters that nobleman Bobali exchanged with his nephew in Venice by far eclipse all other documents. Written mostly in Italian, with Slavic patches, they are unique testimonies of the seismic effects that helped the author of this study reconstruct the destructive power of the earthquake. She closes this chapter by analysing the information channels through which the news of the earthquake reached various parts of Europe and the time needed for it: through diplomatic channels of the Dubrovnik Republic with Rome, Naples, Brindisi, Barletta, Florence, Turin and Lucca, Spain and France. Also, the news spread quickly in the Ottoman territory thanks to a developed network of Ragusan merchant colonies.

In the last chapter entitled "And the Earth Began to Quake", Albini aims to establish the exact time, part of the day and duration of the earthquake despite discrepancy in testimonies. As for the duration, according to some eyewitnesses it lasted as long as reciting the Lord's prayer, or Ave Maria, or a half of the Credo. Further, she circumnavigates the territory of the Dubrovnik Republic 'place by place', describing the structural damages caused by the earthquake, as well as parts of the territory under Venetian and Ottoman rule. In the sub-chapter "In Seismological Terms", the obtained information on the earthquake's effects has been processed in order to assign the microseismic intensity to each of the 37 observation points. According to these data, the maximum intensity of 9 EMS98 has been assigned to the city of Dubrovnik, Rijeka dubrovačka and Gruž.

In conclusion, Albini proposes that the earthquake of 6 April 1667 be no longer referred to as 'The Great Ragusa Earthquake' but as 'The Great 1667 Dalmatia Earthquake', considering that the number of microseismic intensities in the most severely affected areas have more than doubled in the northward and southward direction, providing the seismologists with a more detailed and comprehensive insight into the actual events of that fatal 6 April 1667 on a much broader scale.

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