

From a somewhat narrower, more specialised perspective of the Dubrovnik studies, one should emphasise that this publication is a significant contribution to the otherwise relatively understudied ecclesiastical history of Dubrovnik in the early modern period. Molnár provides a fresh insight into a host of topics relevant to the history of Dubrovnik, such as the role of the Dubrovnik Church in the Rome's missionary projects in the Balkans, the relationship of the Jesuits and Dubrovnik, the nature of the Ragusan privileges in the Ottoman Empire, and, generally, the history of the Ragusan merchant colonies. In sum, this publication, without doubt, is not only a valuable but also an indispensable contribution to the history of the region and Dubrovnik in the early modern era.

Lovro Kunčević

*Pesca e patrimonio industriale: Tecniche, strutture e organizzazione (Sicilia, Puglia, Malta e Dalmazia tra XIX e XX secolo)*, ed. Maurizio Gangemi. Bari: Cacucci editore, 2007. ISBN 978-88-8422-681-5. Pages 479.

Maurizio Gangemi, Department of Economic History at the University of Bari, has taken upon himself a laborious task of editing this collection of essays devoted to fishing and industrial heritage of nineteenth- and twentieth-century southern Adriatic (Puglia, Dalmatia), Sicily and Malta. Italian and Maltese scientists and scholars from various fields of research—from biologists, ichthyologists to the historians of economy—have made their contribution to this impressive volume (Raimondo Sara, Rosario Lentini, Ninni Ravazza, Ezio Ritrovato, Potito Quercia, Antonio Monte, Anna Maria Stagira, Simon Mercieca). Written by Đivo Bašić and Ivan Dabelić, the last two essays bring a useful bibliographic survey of Dalmatia and Dubrovnik, in addition to the basic indicators which provide insight into the historical processes that affected fishing on the Croatian coast. Recurrently mentioned in the papers

is yet another Dubrovnik-born scholar, Petar (Pietro) Doderlain (1809-1895), eminent ichthyologist and Professor of Zoology at the University of Palermo, who not only studied the fishes of the Mediterranean but seriously considered their cultivation in the Sicilian waters.

The volume covers a broad scope of topics which may be divided into two main groups: the history of fishing and shellfish cultivation over the last two centuries on one hand, and material evidence related to these activities (*tonnare, trabucchi*) as well as the problem of their preservation and protection on the other. In addition to the quantitative analyses of the official data and other conventional sources, observable is a tendency towards until now less exploited visual material (old plans, photographs and drawings).

The reader will undoubtedly be drawn by the detailed and expert descriptions of the fishing technology, e.g. the use of *tonnara*, a complex system of fishing nets with which a shoal of tunas is surrounded with a curtain or wall of netting, at a width of up to several miles from the shore. Equally appealing are the marine curiosities, such as the production of thread from a strong byssus spun by the huge pinna shell, once used in weaving expensive cloth.

A number of scholars address the inter-relatedness of fishing and other economic branches, and not only in the literate sense, as with salt pans, but in the sense of heading towards quicker, easier and safer profit-making: at one point in the past, wine growing brought improvement to southern Italy's stagnant economy based on fishing, yet soon showed the risk of having opted for a monoculture (similar to tourism nowadays).

Considerations on the cultural and broader historical influence upon this economic activity underlie much of the volume, e.g. the influence of Lent on the eating habits and consumption of fish in the Roman Catholic Europe, and hence the demand for the regular market supply. Shortage of fish in the Mediterranean waters was compensated by an import of fish from northern Europe and North America (cod),

whereas the innovations in the conservation technology tended to change the consumers' habits and taste (tuna was no longer exclusively regarded as meagre diet, ice also became available to the lower strata). Although periods of war hindered more intensive fishing and thus contributed to the regeneration of the fish population, wide usage of dynamite nearly exterminated the sea life. Examples abound, some of which provide the reader with interesting historical verticals: while fishing guaranteed food for the inhabitants of the Dubrovnik region under recent occupation, in the more distant past, however, it was a valuable food resource for the invading armies who, otherwise, would have had to transport the food rations from afar (e.g. during the Turkish siege of Malta in 1565).

This volume should primarily be credited for boldly dispelling the myth on the until recently rich fish resources of the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, allegedly threatened by overfishing of a relatively recent date, the fishing being done by 'the others'. By contrast, evidence on the problems and controversies related to fishing date from as early as the nineteenth century: demand exceeding supply on the local market contributes to its constant imbalance, state politics between stimulation and protectionism (fixed prices, concessions, bans), fishing as a part-time job. The nets trawling the sea bottoms are no news, and neither is the conflict between the old and new technology—large scale deep sea vessels have long been viewed as competition to smaller fishing boats, while the advent of acetylene lamps (today rarities and nostalgic items) had caused quite a stir among the fishermen who fished in a more traditional way.

Today the delicate balance between man and the aquatic environment is principally viewed through ecological threats, from oil pollution to excessive use of medicaments in aquaculture and negative impact on the biodiversity. This volume on the history of fishing reminds us of the huge *cultural* heritage, which we (in Croatia) seem to care little about. Sardine factories and fish markets, lighthouses, buoys or parts of the

old port facilities are monuments of the past, not ignored but increasingly studied by foreign experts of industrial archaeology. *Tunere* of the northern Adriatic are rare colourful examples of more systematic Croatian concern, while many other monuments simply disappear before our eyes, especially the non-material cultural heritage of the fishing customs.

A wide range of topics in the volume *Fishing and Industrial Heritage* points to the value and diversity of the fishing heritage. Authoritative and insightful, it represents a departure from the nostalgic myth of the Mediterranean that never was.

Nella Lonza

Sonia Wild Bičanić, *British Travellers in Dalmatia 1757-1935 Plus a Little Bit More About Dalmatia Today*, Zaprešić: Fraktura, 2006. Pages 171.

The book provides the accounts of several British travellers to Dalmatia from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, the author's personal insights into the history of Dalmatia and her comparison with the history of Great Britain. One chapter is devoted to the impressions of Dalmatia viewed by Ann Bridge in her novel *Illyrian Spring*. The last chapter recounts the island of Vis and its connections with Great Britain. The author's comments on all the accounts derive from her own travel experience of an Englishwoman born in Kenley, Surrey in 1920. After leaving school she gained an exchange scholarship for a year in an American college. She returned to Britain in 1939, the year the Second World War broke out. In 1941 she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) and from 1942 to the end of the war worked in the Army education service. In London she met Rudolf Bičanić, a Croatian economist, and in 1945 she married him and went with him to Croatia, where she has lived ever since. After graduating from the Zagreb Faculty of