

TOWNS AND CITIES OF THE CROATIAN MIDDLE AGES

The City and the Newcomers

Edited by
Irena Benyovsky Latin and Zrinka Pešorda Vardić



Hrvatski institut za povijest / Croatian Institute of History
Zagreb, 2020

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Table of Contents

<i>Irena Benyovsky Latin</i>	Towns and Cities of the Croatian Middle Ages: The Newcomers and the City (An Introductory Study)....11
<i>Marija Karbić</i>	<i>Forenses, aduene, and novi concives nostri</i> in the Medieval Urban Settlements of the Sava-Drava <i>Interamnium</i>35
<i>Bruno Škreblin</i>	From Newcomer to Town Judge: The Role of Newcomers in the Formation of Urban Elite in Zagreb's Gradec.....45
<i>Janez Mlinar</i>	Newcomers in Ljubljana: Possible Comparisons61
<i>Darja Mihelič</i>	Economic Newcomers in Medieval Piran and Their Inclusion in the Urban Setting (Before the Mid-14 th Century)77
<i>Zrinka Nikolić Jakus</i>	Integration of Immigrants among the Dalmatian Nobility before the Mid-14 th Century99
<i>Ivan Majnarić</i>	Personal Social and Legal Statutes in Eastern Adriatic Cities: Norms and Practices of Zadar in the Mid-14 th Century127
<i>Tonija Andrić</i>	The Role of Newcomers in the Economy of Late Medieval Split.....147
<i>Neven Isailović</i>	Newcomers as Office Holders: The <i>familiares</i> of Hrvoje Vukčić in Central Dalmatian Cities171
<i>Meri Kunčič</i>	The Role of Foreign Intellectual Elites in the Everyday Life of Late Medieval Rab183
<i>Fabian Kümmeler</i>	The World in a Village: Foreigners and Newcomers in Late Medieval Korčula195
<i>Paola Pinelli</i>	“ <i>Me pare essere in uno lanbarinto e parme essere legato a non me sapere voltare a nulla banda</i> ”: Ragusa and the Italian Merchants in the First Half of the 15 th Century213

<i>Zrinka Pešorda Vardić</i>	For the Benefit of the Family and the City: Marital Networking of the New Citizens in Late Medieval Dubrovnik.....233
<i>Danijela Doblanović Šuran</i> <i>Marija Mogorović Crljenko</i>	Newcomers to Rovinj in the Late 16 th Century.....255
<i>Ermano Orlando</i>	Dalmatians and Slavs in Venice during the Late Middle Ages: Between Integration and Assimilation283

About the volume

This volume is a result of the Third Triennial of scholarly conference on the *Towns and Cities of the Croatian Middle Ages*, a traditional convention of scholars involved in research on medieval urban history held at the Croatian Institute of History in Zagreb. The two previous conferences, which took place in 2010 on the topic *Authority and Property* and in 2013 on the *Image of the Town in the Narrative Sources: Reality and/or Fiction?* proved very inspiring and triggered an international comparative debate on urban history in the Croatian lands (and beyond) during the medieval period. We hoped to achieve similar results with the conference of 2016, when we chose the important and topical historiographical issue *The City and the Newcomers* as its specific title.

Migration of newcomers to the cities is crucial for understanding urban history. However, it is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon specific to the period and geographic area in question. Newcomers shaped the medieval urban societies of Europe – sometimes functioning as a vital element in their survival and often causing crucial social transformations. By focusing on the newcomers, we have recognized the importance of migration and mobility for the urban development of cities and towns in the Croatian Middle Ages. This question is by no means a new one in Croatian historiography. However, the aim of this volume has been to improve the terminological classification and the theoretical understanding of this complex phenomenon in the Croatian lands, as well as to encourage new discussions.

The goal has been to expand the existing insights on the newcomers in Croatian medieval cities (and beyond) and to analyse the changes that these cities went through owing to the influx of new populations. The authors were particularly encouraged to focus on the following issues: How should we define the newcomers or new populations in Croatian medieval cities? What lens should we use when assessing the complex transformations of these urban settings with regard to the newcomers? Within what (broader) geopolitical and demographic circumstances did migrations to the cities happen? How did individuals and groups travel and migrate to the cities? Who promoted and who controlled these migrations? How did the urban communities define, encourage, assimilate, tolerate, integrate, or exclude the newcomers? How did the newcomers, in turn, adapt and define themselves within the urban landscape? How were these problems solved and how did the newcomers manage in their new environment, or how did physical mobility turn into a social one? How did the urban fabric change in correlation with the demographic influx? Authors who are involved in research on Croatian medieval urban history were invited to contribute with their papers – but comparative examples were welcomed as well, especially from the neighbouring countries.

Editors