

# Topography of Power: Social Topography of Ragusan Urban Elite in the Late Middle Ages

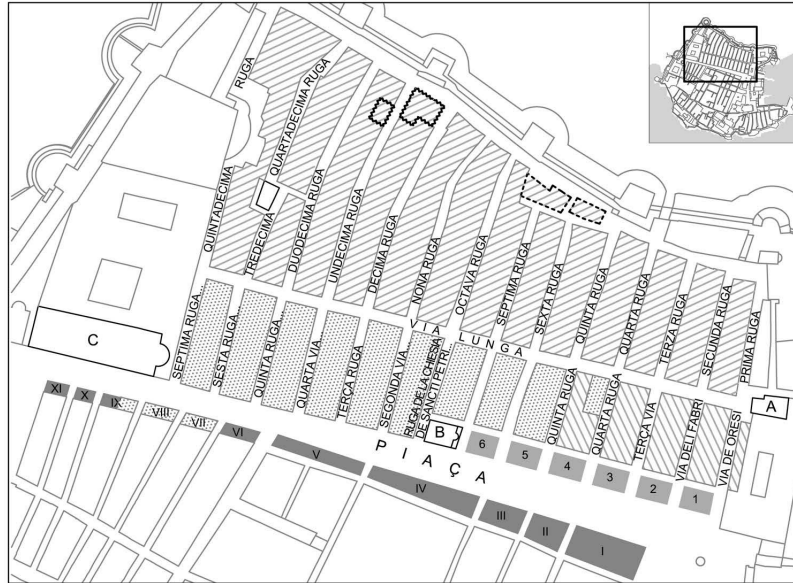
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
## Benyovsky Latin and Zelić, *Libri domorum*, p. 84








### COMMUNAL REAL PROPERTY IN DUBROVNIK - SCHEMATIC OVERVIEW, MID-15TH CENTURY

#### COMMUNAL BUILDING PLOTS WITH PRIVATE HOUSES

[chase di spital persone ... che pagano al comun per lo teren]

-  Building plots in fifteen streets above Prijeki street  
[de ladi de San Nicholo disopra de via lunga]
-  Building plots in Slavčića street, previously owned by S. di Benesca [li tereni nela ruga di Slavçe  
li quali forno di S. di Benesca... li quali fo tolti ...in MCCCCXX]
-  Building plots at the top of Tenth and Eleventh Street, previously owned by Nicholas de Marino  
de Goçe [li tereni tolti per lo comun da ser Nichola de ser Marino de Goçe in 1424]

#### COMMUNAL HOUSES [chase del chomun de Ragusa dentro la čita]

-  Houses with shops on the southern street front of Placa  
[in Piaça per meço la logia; primo scoglio (I) - undecimo scoglio (XI)]
-  Houses with shops on the northern street front of Placa [l'altro ladi dila Piaça, di ladi di monte,  
caxe e staçon guardano inverso pellago; primo scoglio (1) - sexto scoglio (6)]
-  Houses and shops west of Sponza [case e staçon del comun in la via de orexi, in la prima via  
driedo li oresi/via deli fabri, in terça via, in la quarta ruga, in la quinta ruga]
-  ZONES / BLOCKS PARTLY OWNED BY INDIVIDUALS, PARTLY BY THE COMMUNE
-  CHURCHES - POINTS OF REFERENCE:  
A - San Nicholo, B - Chiesa de sancti Petri, Laurenti et Andree, C - San Francescho

## Dubrovnik before the earthquake in 1667



Ragusan government on communal houses:

*Ordo super stationibus platearum*

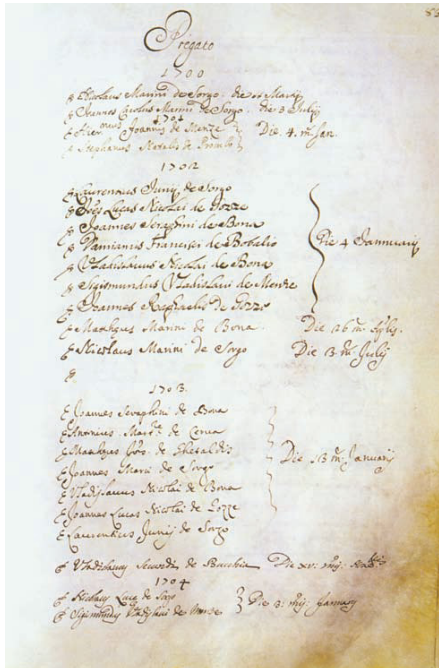
(they were built)...

*...tam pro commodo mercatorum quam etiam  
pro ornamento et fama civitatis nostre. (Liber  
viridis, cap. 405, p. 356 (8 August 1449))*

# The political elite

## The urban nobility (*nobiles*)

- closed since the 1330s;
- appropriated power in the councils
- closed according to the hereditary criteria



*Specchio* (The Mirror) – the list of the members of the Major Councils

## The Major Council

Elected all officials of the Dubrovnik administration; consisted of all adult male patricians; membership - hereditary, closed to all non-nobles after 1332; the average number of members during 15th century - approximately 270

**Rector**  
elected by the Major Council, term of office : 1 month

**Small Council**  
Executive body of government; 11 members

**The Senate**  
Yearly elections; 45 members, minimum age of members: 30

Large number of administrative offices



## The commoner's elite



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„too late” to enter the closed rank of the urban nobility; citizens (*cittadini*)

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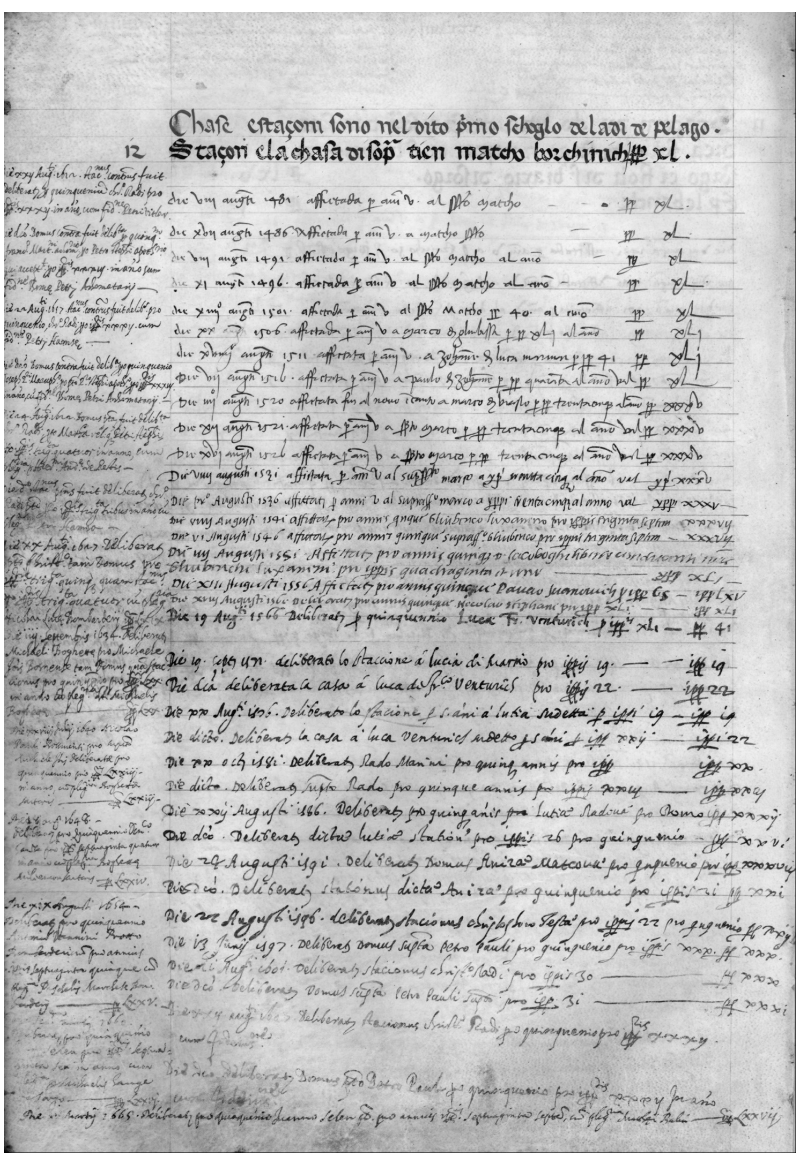
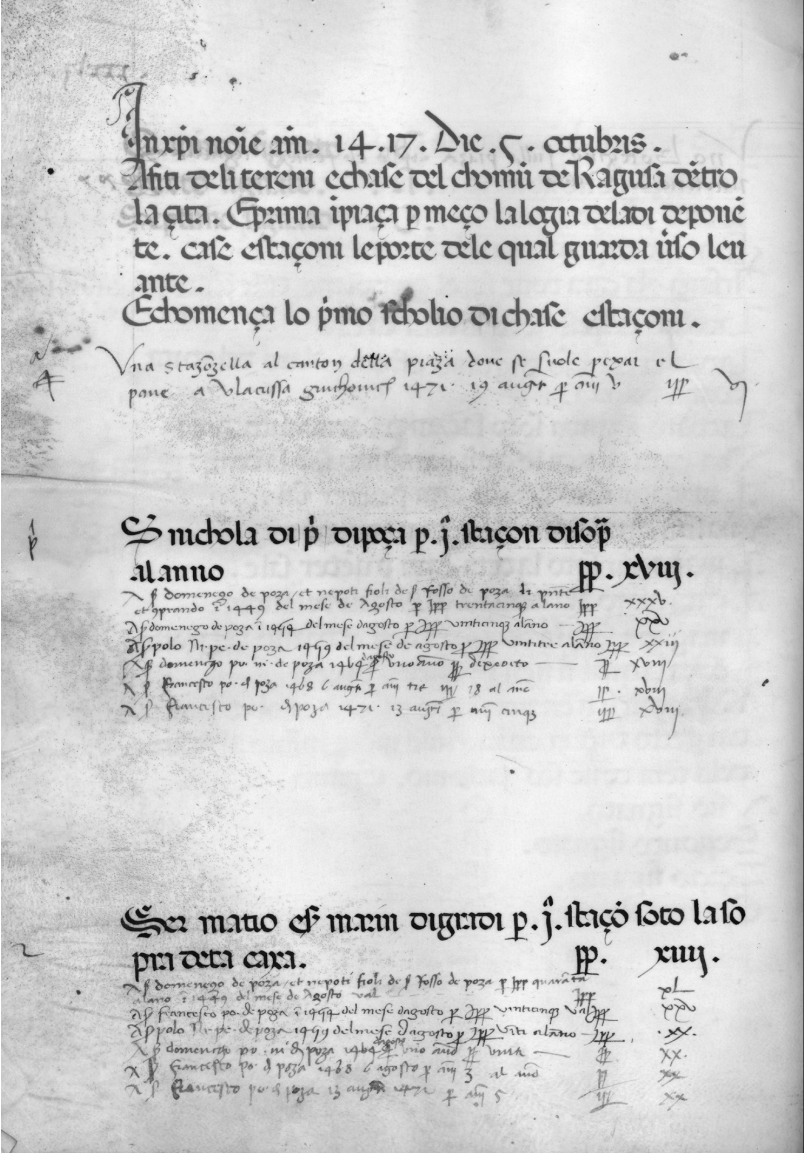
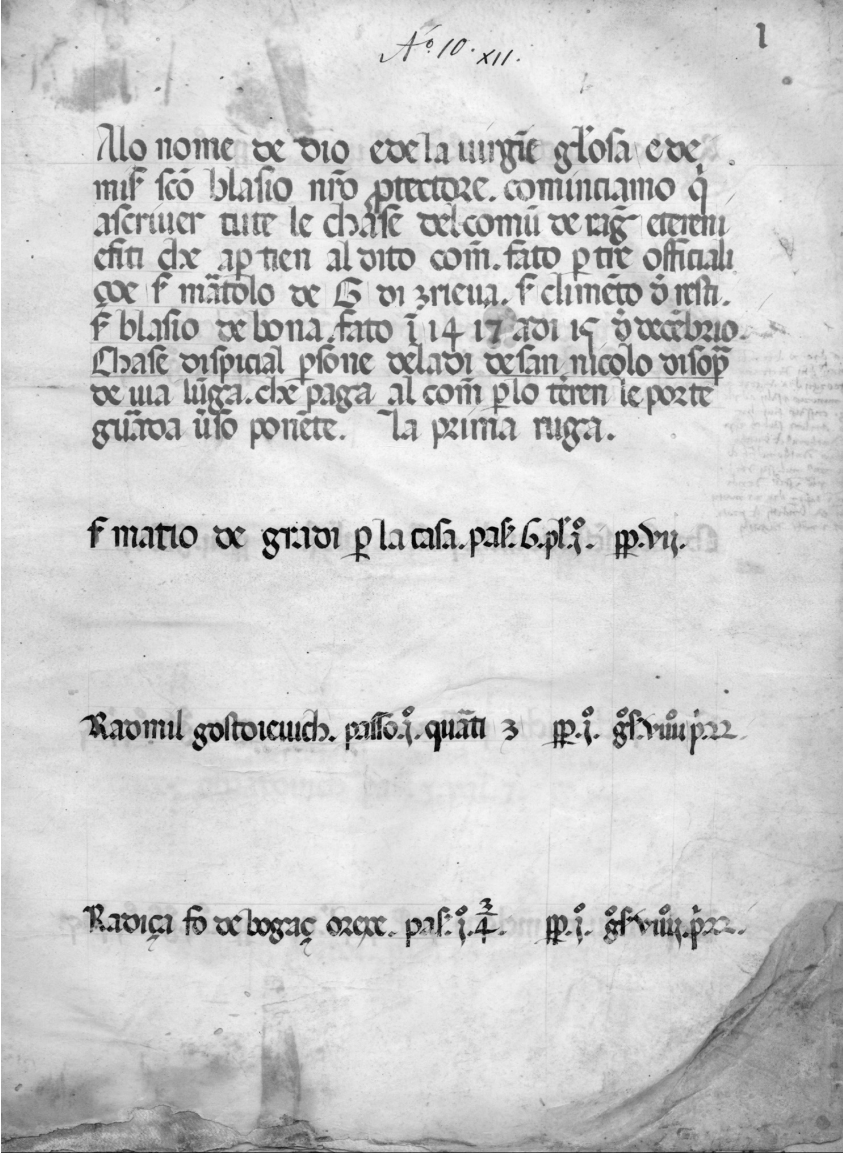
gathered in the confraternities of St. Anthony (since 1348) and St. Lazarus (since 1531)

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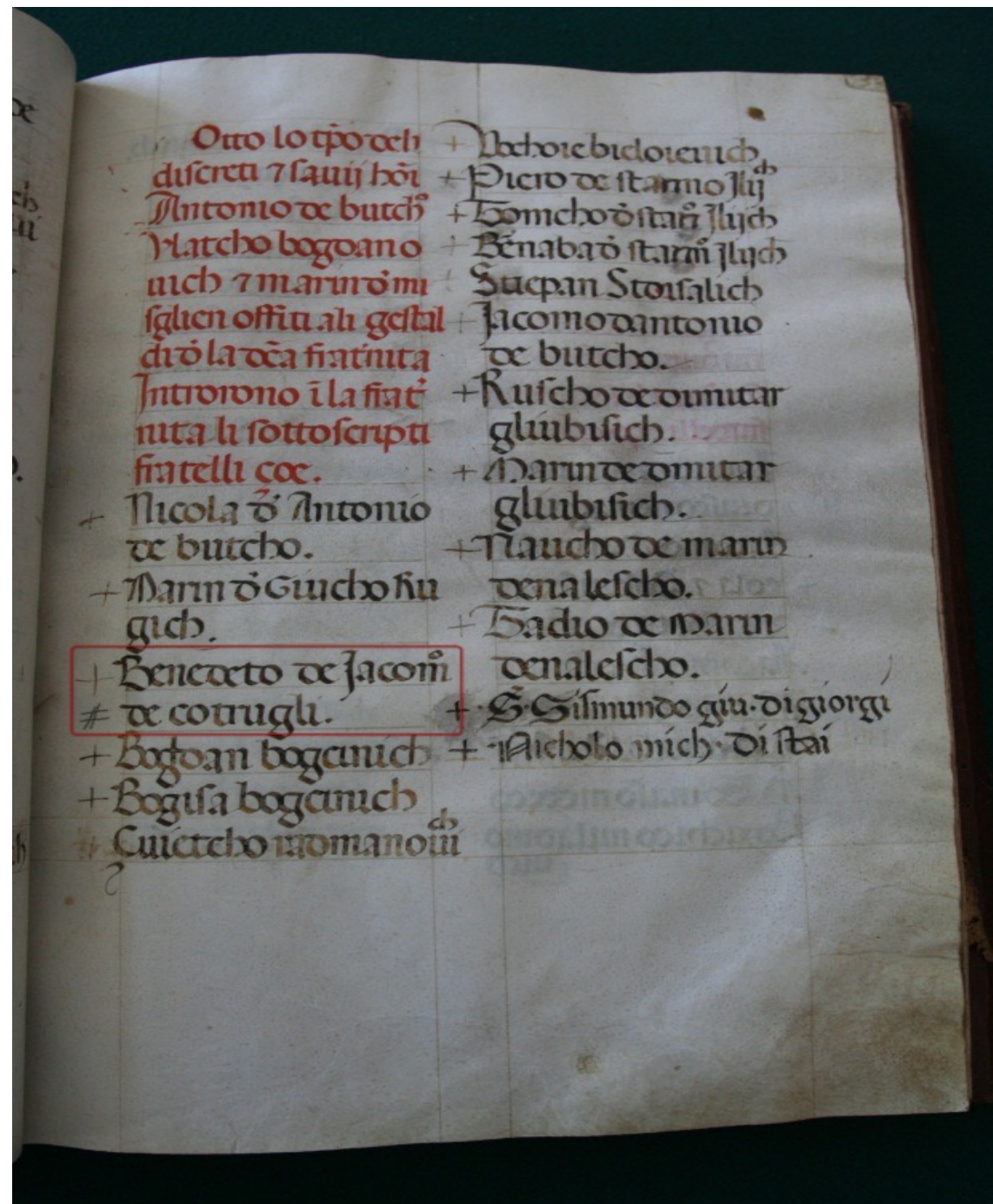
merchants, public servants, illegitimate offspring of the urban nobility



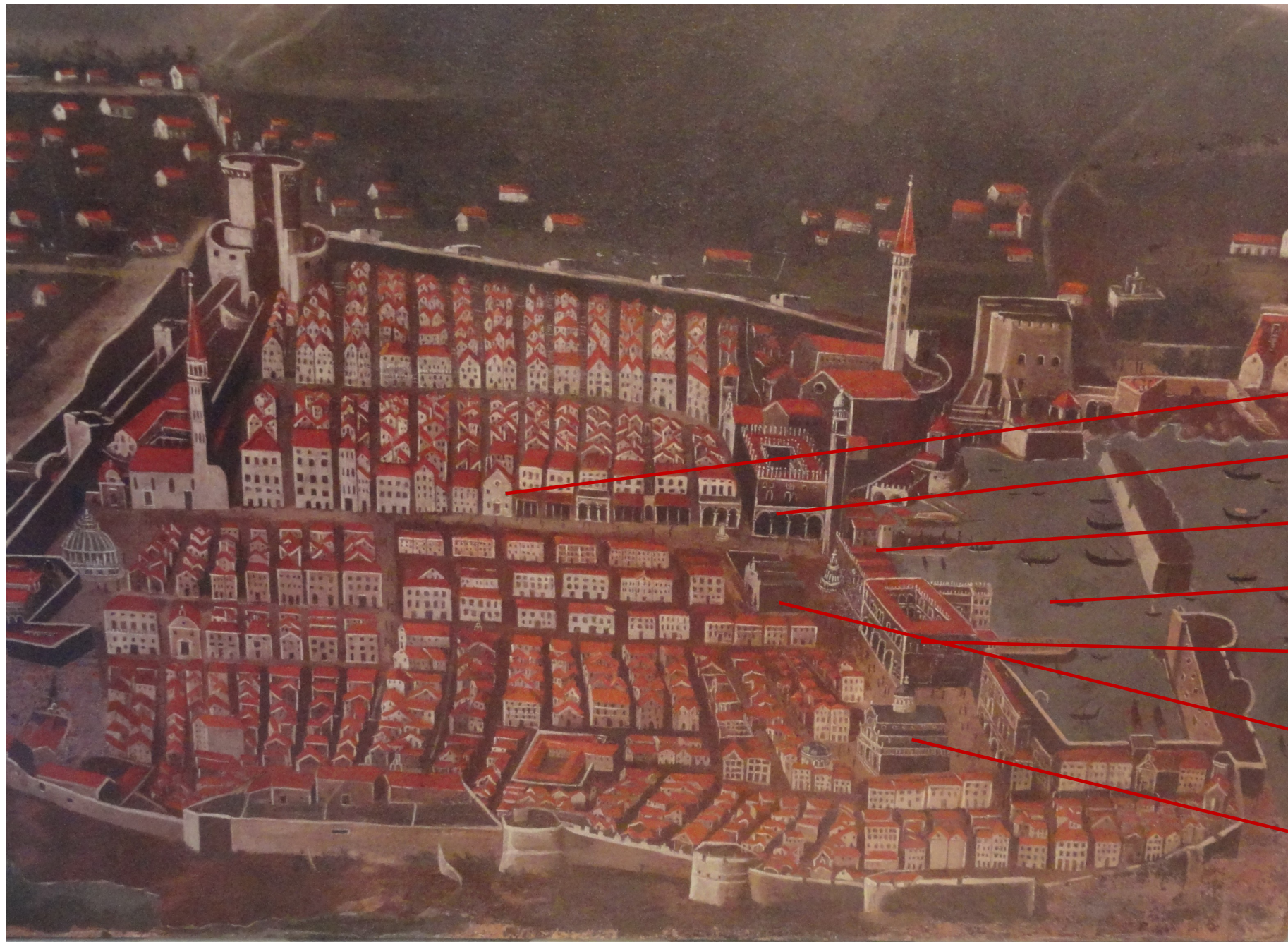
Irena Benyovsky Latin and Danko Zelić, *Knjige nekretnina dubrovačke općine (13.-18. st.) – Libri domorum et terrenorum communis Ragusii deliberatis ad afflictum (seac. XIII-XVIII)* vol. 1-2, Zagreb – Dubrovnik: Zavod za povijesne znanosti HAZU u Dubrovniku, 2007.



*Register Book of the St. Anthony's  
Confraternity, (c. 1430, f. 30, ser.  
22.1/21, Dubrovnik State Archives)*







*Dubrovnik before the earthquake in 1667, author unknown, owner: Društvo prijatelja dubrovačke starine*

<http://www.k-r.hr/Dokumenti/dubrovnik.pdf>

St Peter, St Lawrence and St Andrew' Church

Sponza palace (The Customs House)

Town Hall

City harbour

Rector's palace

St. Blaise Church

The Cathedral





*Map of Dubrovnik, end of the 16th century (Torino, Archivio di Stato)*

Reference: Ilario Principe, „Tri neobjavljene karte Dubrovnika iz XVI.- XVII. st.” (Three unpublished maps of Dubrovnik from the 16-17th century), *Dubrovnik 1* (1991), 191-202

*Prijeko Street (The Athwart)*

*The Placa (Stradun)*

St Blaise Church

*Između Polača Street (The Street between the Palaces)*



Northern part of Placa, House  
nr. 1 – leases by auction



- The patriciate
- citadini* (citizens)
- Other



## *Prijeko (The Athwart)*





Nikola Božidarević (c. 1460.-1518), The Tryptich of the Bonda Family, St. Blasius holding the city in his hands, the collection of the Dominican monastery, Dubrovnik, before 1502

