

# Dubrovnik Research Trip

11<sup>th</sup> June – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016

My research looks at the lordship of Carlo II Tocco, who reigned as the Despot of Artá from the summer of 1429 until his death in September 1448. My thesis shall analyse his lordship through its economy, relations with foreign powers and the lordship's structure. One of the major aspects analysed in my thesis is the relationship between Carlo II and the authorities in the city of Ragusa, now known as Dubrovnik.

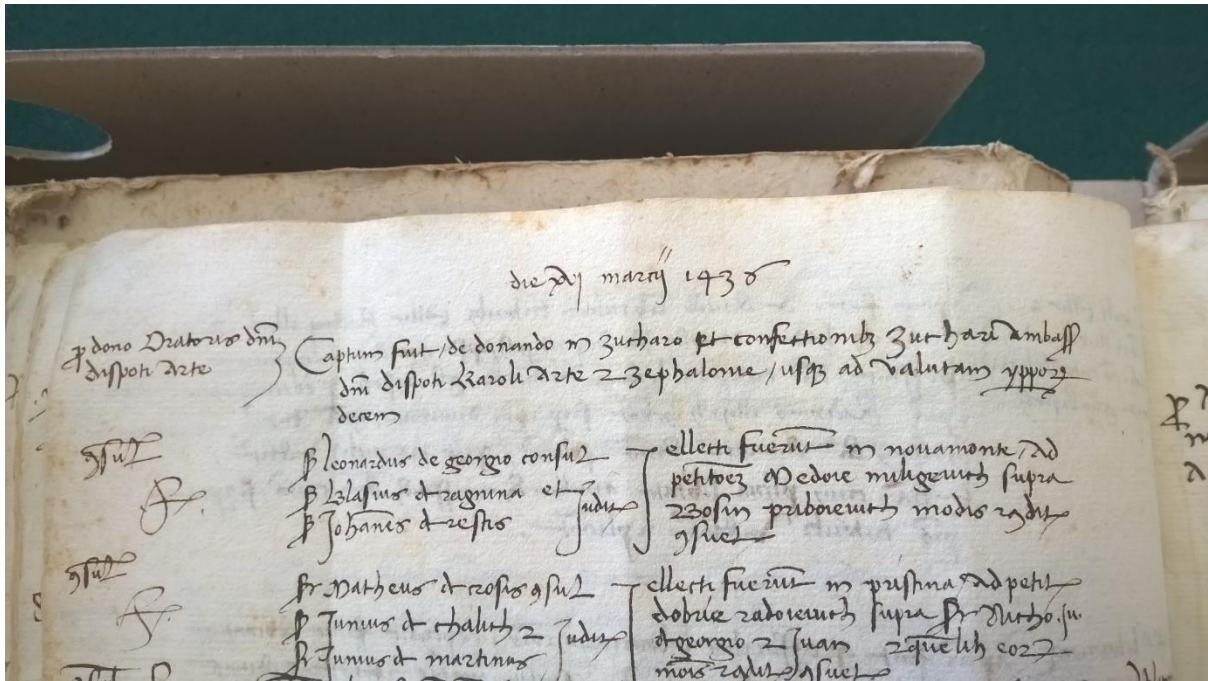
The Helen Cam and Santander Travel award allowed me to visit and stay in Dubrovnik for a week in order to use the archival materials in the *Državni Arhiv u Dubrovniku* located in the Sponza Palace. An entire chapter of my thesis shall focus on the relationship between Carlo II Tocco and the authorities of the Republic of Ragusa, so it was important for me to analyse the relevant government documents. My time spent there involved analysing and copying the following government documents: *Consilium Maius*, *Consilium Minus*, *Consilium Rogatorum*, *Diversa Cancellariae*, *Diversa Notariae*, *Lamenta de Foris*, *Lettere di Levante* and the *Sententiae Cancellariae*.



I arrived late on the Saturday and since the archive was closed on Sunday I spent my time visiting some of the museums and sights within the city, in particular the Rectors Palace, the Maritime Museum and the city walls. The most interesting of these was the Rectors Palace which contained a *Maškua* (*Masculo*), a small fifteenth century bombard, which was probably produced at the late medieval foundry within the walls of Dubrovnik near the *Minčeta* tower. We know from the archival documents that Carlo II Tocco had sent his representatives to the city in order to purchase and repair bombards from the city. It was therefore interesting to look at an example of one of these bombards.



Throughout the week I visited the *Državni Arhiv u Dubrovniku* located in the Sponza Palace. Since summaries of the documents found in the archive have been made by Krekić, I knew in advance which folios I needed to analyse. The staff at the archive were very helpful, in particular Professor Vesna Rimac, and I was allowed to take photos of the relevant folios. The majority of the documents relevant to my research were found in the *Consilium Minus* and the *Consilium Rogatorum*, records of the deliberations of the ‘minor council’ and the ‘senate’. One particular document of interest from the *Consilium Minus* was found in Volume VII, folio 34r which records the minor council granting the ambassador of Carlo II ten *Hyperpyrons* worth of sugar and confectionary (*zucharo et confectionibus zuchari*). Not only is ten *Hyperpyrons* a significant amount of money, but it also shows that Ragusa was part of the greater Mediterranean sugar trade.



One of the most significant documents I found in the archive came in volume XII in *Lettere di Levante*, folios 15 and 15r. This is a record of a letter written by the authorities in Ragusa to the King of Hungary, and Holy Roman Emperor, Sigismund of Luxembourg (1387-1437). It appears to suggest that Carlo II was acting as a source of information, from within the Ottoman domains. As an Ottoman vassal, Carlo would have been expected to visit the Sultan's *Porte* and therefore had access to such information. According to the letter, the secretary of Carlo II states that the Timurids were massing on the Ottoman border and the Ottoman Sultan Murad II (1421-1451) was preparing for war. We know from other sources that Menuo Tocco, Carlo II's illegitimate cousin and a fellow Latin lord in the Balkans, scouted the Ottoman domains in Asia Minor for a possible crusade, for which Pope Eugenius IV recompensed him. This helps to further illustrate the situation faced by many of the Latin rulers in the Balkans who, despite being Ottoman vassals, continued their relationships with the major western European powers.

