PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD MEDIEVAL WORKSHOP IN RIJEKA

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Croatian Glagolitic notary service of Krk and Third notarial protocol of Jure Sormilić (1726-1734). How we have edited this edition?

The Croatian Glagolitic notary service is special because, unlike the Latin or Italian notary service, it penetrated into villages and its protagonists were often historically irrelevant and illiterate people.1 In Croatian Glagolitic documents, the needs and wishes of the rural mentalities are reflected, traces of folk culture can be glimpsed, unprecedented customs are observed, onomastic particularities are provided, and insights into the Croatian language are enriched.

It is important to stress that the Croatian Glagolitic notary was created by appropriately educated people well-versed in all the notary regulations and formulations. Croatian Glagolitic notaries were people with good scribal skills who were building a special administrative language in the Chakavian dialect for centuries. Despite the centuries-long presence in north Adriatic area, the Croatian Glagolitic notary service only developed and lasted on the island of Krk. Over four centuries, the residents of Krk have had the option of obtaining a Glagolitic certificate of a legal act written in the Croatian language.

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1 This text is a part of introductory study, in: Hrvatskoglagoljski notarijat otoka Krka. Notari Dubašnice, sv. 1. Treći notarski protokol Jure Sormilića (1726. – 1734.) / Croatian Glagolitic Notary Service of Krk. Notaries of Dubašnica, vol. 1. Third Notarial Protocol of Jure Sormilić (1726–1734), editing, introductory study, creation of the glossary and index by Tomislava Bošnjak Botica, Ivan Botica and Tomislav Galović (Zagreb: Hrvatski državni arhiv – Staroslovanski institut – Filozofski fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu – FF-press – Povijesno društvo otoka Krka, 2016), 44-56, 69-70. This research was supported by the Croatian Science Foundation under the projects Sources, Manuals and Studies for Croatian History from the Middle Ages to the End of the Long Nineteenth Century (IP-2014-09-6547) and by the Scientific Centre of Excellence for Croatian Glagolitism (Zagreb).

The Croatian Glagolitic notary service of Krk

Due to the Glagolitic alphabet and Glagolitism, the island of Krk occupies an important place in Croatian history. It is sufficient to recall the words of Vatroslav Jagić, also known as the patriarch of Slavic studies, who said that Krk was the *vagina rerum glagoliticarum* (the cradle of Glagolitism). The largest number of bibliographic titles of Glagolitic sources originates from Krk. Of course, among them are sources of Croatian Glagolitic notary service, preserved in large numbers due to the fact that, as the most prominent Glagolitic palaeographer Vjekoslav Štefanić nicely put it, there were “loads and loads of them.”

The stable continuance of the Croatian Glagolitic notary service on Krk is attributed to the fact that it was built on a good foundation. Its beginnings are in the bispriacal (Latin and Glagolitic) and bilingual (Latin and Croatian) office of the counts of Krk, later the Frankpans, who were the only real lords of Krk until 1480. Because of that, the population of Krk had the legal option of obtaining Glagolitic private legal documents in the Croatian language very early on. This option was used until the establishment of the Austrian notarial order in the nineteenth century.

The oldest materials of the Croatian Glagolitic notary service of Krk are individually issued documents. On the other hand, notarial books, mostly protocols or books of imprecisions are of somewhat later origin – or rather those from the medieval period have not been preserved. The Croatian Glagolitic notaries of Krk occasionally engaged in other practices as well. As in the Dalmatian communes, where notaries also managed the affairs of archdioceses as credible places (*loca credibilis*), they additionally worked on writing formulations and documents in the registries of clergies, brotherhoods and private owners.

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5. Ivan Botica – Tomislav Galović, Croatian Glagolitic notary service of Krk...

In the long-term project *The Croatian Glagolitic Notary Service of Krk. Notaries of Dubašnica*, the entire notarial material of Dubašnica with firmly defined principles of editing is aimed to be processed and published. The justification of that endeavour – publishing the entire notarial material of Krk – is also reinforced by the fact that there is a special archival unit entitled *The Croatian Glagolitic Notary Service of Dubašnica and Vrbnik* in the Croatian state archive in Zagreb (today managed under the signature HR-HDA-60, *Notary Service of Dubašnica*).

Other than that, as part of a special project, the archive has microfilmed almost all the Glagolitic documents and manuscripts, including the *Croatian Glagolitic Notary Service of Dubašnica and Vrbnik*.

The documents of the *Croatian Glagolitic Notary Service of Dubašnica and Vrbnik* have been divided in an archival manner into three groups: 1) Notarial (banded) protocols written in the Glagolitic script, 2) Concepts of notarial protocols and separately issued documents and 3) Parts of the Croatian Glagolitic notary service in Vrbnik. The last also contains documents written in Italian. Those constitute almost unknown and insufficiently investigated material of Croatian historiography used to uncover a historical perspective of the ordinary people, their everyday life, legal and social status, a genealogical, demographical, social and economic picture and the historic environment.

Dubašnica

The north-western part of Krk, bounded by capes of Pelova and Čuf on the coast and with border contact with the Omišalj, Dobrinj, and štoventski counties on the land has been called Dubašnica since the fifteenth century.

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The history of Dubašnica is only continuously tracked since the mid-fifteenth century. However, the oldest traces were recorded back in prehistoric and ancient times when the Liburnians inhabited this area. Their ruins, one not far from Porto and other on the Cuf cape, as well as the ancient residential building (villa rustica) in Zaharija bay, testify that people have been leaving their tracks in Dubašnica since time immemorial. Even more numerous is evidence of written testimonies from the Middle Ages, especially about religious buildings. One that stands out among them is the chapel from Dubašnica field, near which a monastery of St. Apollinaire was built by the Benedictines. The church of St. Martin was later attached to it, not far from Punta Pelova, which, according to the testimony of the oldest sources, was once superior to the first-mentioned. Those buildings were the oldest religious objects in this area.

With the disappearance of the Benedictines, who are so far mentioned in ten Latin documents between 1153 and 1300, the walls of their church and monastery became the location of an old parish or pastoral church of St. Apollinaire. This occurred after a mass immigration of Croatian and a smaller part of the Vlach population from the continental area during the reign of count John VII (Jr.) Frankap. The beginnings of the populations between 1451 and 1463 coincide with the reinforcement of his reign on the island, as well as with the first wave of Croatian refugees fleeing before the Ottomans. The newly arrived population settled in the wider area around the original church of St. Apollinaire where a central, now extinct settlement of Dubašnica was formed. The Church of St. Apollinaire in the Dubašnica field, the original destination of the immigrants, became a parish church near the end of the fifteenth century. It was expanded and upgraded in the following centuries, notably in 1576 after it was burnt down. It also had a bell tower built in reduced Gothic shapes in 1618. Near the end of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth centuries in the village of Porat, the former Venetian harbour for wood export, the present church of St. Mary Magdalene and monastery of the third order Glagolitic Franciscans with the same name was added. Due to malaria, the early modern Dubašnica was slowly disappearing between the end of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth centuries, its population emigrating to nearby, more suitable areas.

Today, Dubašnica is a historical and territorial term that combines around twenty villages under its name.

Notaries of Dubašnica

The Dubašnica Glagolitic notaries, i.e. their documents are a precious, interesting and poorly researched topic. They have basically operated in Dubašnica since its foundation. In all probability, the first Dubašnica vicar known by name was Petar. Recorded in a judicial procedure from 1508 when a verdict was titled “to the honourable priest Petar, vicar and administrator of the parish church of St. Apollinaire in Dubašnica, Krk diocese” (venerabili presbitero Petro plebano et rectori ecclesiae parochialis S. Apollinaris de Dubasnizza Veglensis dioecesis). The said person probably appears earlier, between 1487 and 1495 when a certain domin (priest) Petar is found in the documents signing his name with the title of nodarii cesarski pupili. It is presumed that the

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10 Perica Dujmović and Tomislav Galović, Plovanska crkva svetoga Apollinara (150 godina dubašniskih svetljek svete žice u Bogovincima) (Malinska: Župa sv. Apollinara b. m. – Dubašnica and Općina Malinska-Dubašnica, 2008).
cleric performing the notary service also performed pastoral care. By analogy, about a hundred years later, priest Juraj Sabljić was operating in Dubašnica. He first appears as a nodar pullik (1581), and soon as a Dubašnica vicar or pastor (1588-1600). Given that we do not have an exact list and order of Dubašnica vicars or pastors until the first half of the sixteenth century, it is possible that some Dubašnica vicar is hidden among the Dubašnica notaries — the pupil Martin (kancilir na Dubašnici, 1495), the priest Petar Kovač (sin Branka zu Dubašnice, nodar pullik, 1512), and the priest Matija Sabljic (nodar pullik, 1549-1571) — because the notaries of Krk were regularly coming from clerical circles until the second half of the sixteenth century.19

Thanks to maintaining Croatian Glagolitic literacy, a considerable number of Glagolitic documents and manuscripts from Dubašnica exist after the sixteenth century. Most of them are from the eighteenth century, when an awareness of Glagolitic script as something unique to Croatia appears. Given that Croatian Glagolitic notarial documents and manuscripts are part of pragmatic and current literacy, a pronounced sense of awareness for their permanent preservation did not exist. Therefore, there were not many Dubašnica families that preserved their own Glagolitic charters and documents exist.20

Luckily, the acts of the Croatian Glagolitic notary service were respected at the beginning of the Austrian reign,21 so they ended up in state archives and offices early on.22 That is also what has happened to the majority of documents of the Dubašnica notary service, which ended up in the archives of the Imperial royal district court in Krk during the nineteenth century.23 There, along with other documents, they were found by researchers like Ivan Mičetić, Rudolf Strohal and Vjekoslav Štefanić, who were warning about their value and recommended them as amendments to Croatian culture and heritage. Mičetić, a born resident of Dubašnica who personally owned some Dubašnica notarial documents, was the first to transcribe and publish them.24 Even though Strohal processed Dubašnica notarial material in some of his works, after criticism of his Glagolitic Notarial Books of Vrbnik Notary Ivan Stašić (1911), he did not dare publish a more complete Croatian Glagolitic notarial document. Finally, in Štefanić’s book-catalogue Glagolitic Manuscripts of Krk published in 1960 in Zagreb, he listed and described all the available Glagolitic manuscripts from Dubašnica, separating them into two groups: a) the Rectory in Bogovići and b) the Franciscan monastery in Porto. Alongside them, he added a separate list of manuscripts he verified as originating from Dubašnica while being located elsewhere. The largest quantity of these manuscripts can be found in Zagreb institutions such as the Archive of Croatian Academy of Science and Arts, the Croatian State Archives, the National and University Library, and the Zagreb City Library. He divided those manuscripts of various types and contents into ecclesiastical (civil registers, canonic books, registers of performed masses, various monastery books, missals, breviaries) and public (notarial concepts and protocols, various documents of public legal characters, etc.).25

Based on his own research and largely relying on Štefanić, a list of Glagolitic notaries born in Dubašnica was created by Mihovil Bolonć.26 The Dubašnica Glagolitic notary service was created throughout history in the everyday activity and mutual communication of Glagolitic priests, third order Glagolitic Franciscans, and more literate residents of Dubašnica.27 In 1931, his notarial documents ended up in Zagreb.28 They were stored at a District court among the documents of the former Imperial Royal district court in Krk. Therefore, all of them, apart from the Part of the Notarial Protocol (Concept) of Ivan Sormilić (1767-1768) ended up at a single location in the Croatian State Archives in Zagreb.29


22 Hrvatski spomenici – Acta Croatica, no. 220, 331-332.

23 Bolonci, Otok Krk količjaka glagoljice, 317.


25 Around ten years later, a part of the Dubašnica manuscripts stored in the Archive of the Croatian Academy of Science and Arts was described by Štefanić in his two-volume Glagoljski rukopisi Jugoslavenske akademije (Zagreb: Historijski institut IJAZU, 1969-1970).

26 Bolonci, Otok Krk količjaka glagoljice, 317. As a curiosity, let us mention that data on some Dubašnica notaries can be found in the book-lexicon Znameniti i zaslužni Hrvati te pomena vredna lica u hrvatskoj povijesti od 925-1925., ed. by Emilij Lasowski (Zagreb: Odbor za izdanje knjige “Zaslužni i znameniti Hrvati 925-1925.”, 1925; reprint: Zagreb: August Cesarec, 1990).


Notarial Protocols of Jure Sormilić

It has already been stated that the first Dubašnica notary and pastor known by name was Petar and it has been determined that he was the son of Branko Kovač from Dubašnica. It is interesting that the Sormilić family gave two Croatian Glagolitic notaries, lived in Kovači in modern Sveti Anton. Jure and Ivan Sormilić, father and son, were Croatian Glagolitic notaries from 1715 to 1746, i.e. from 1744 to 1788. Left behind are countless of jointly written pages created during joint years of service, which lasted for at least 73 years.

For the first time ever, one of theirs and one complete Dubašnica notarial protocol in general have been published in edition we prepared. It was originally titled: Ovo je Protokol treti mene Jure Sormilića od oblasti benetačke, nodara puplika (This is the Third Protocol by Me, Jure Sormilić by Venetian Authority, Notary Public). From the lengthy notary service of Jure Sormilić, only the Third (1726-1734), Fourth (1734-1737), and Sixth notarial protocol (1739-1741) have been preserved, as well as part of a protocol from the period between 1744 and 1746.

Third Notarial Protocol

The Third Notarial Protocol of Jure Sormilić reveals everyday life of residents of Dubašnica, Dobrinjština, Omišalj villages and Šotovento during the second quarter of the eighteenth century. The protocol itself was written from March 10, 1726 until August 23, 1734 in Sormilić's house. Out of 297 in total, 166 legal acts were established here. The formula zneto i plačeno, which the notaries recorded on the margin, indicates that the parties of the Third Notarial Protocol of Jure Sormilić were issued 240 notarial documents. Other legal acts, records and certificates were drafted throughout the villages of Dubašnica (49), Dobrinjština (39), Šotovento (24), Omišalj (23) and in Krk itself (4), in houses, courts, workshops, churches, sacristies, under bars and in cemeteries. Legal business was possible wherever people were living and gathering (Fig. 1).

Jure Sormilić spent most of his time on business in Dubašnica. We find him, as he himself states, in Barušići (1), Bogović (4), Kovači (166), Kraljić (2), Krenčići (3), Malinska (1), Marković (1), Milčetić (4), Oštrobradići (1), on Poganke (3), in Porat (5), Radić (3), Rudine (1), Sablić (6), Stilići (1), Sveti Antun (2), Sveti Polinar (3), Turčić (1), Vlašići (1) and Zidarići (3). Outside of his locality, called "kaštel" by the coastal and island residents, he travelled throughout the former territory of Dobrinj (City, Gabonjin, Gržetić, Polje, Sveti Mandaljena), Glavotok (Brzaci, Pinezici, Sveti Fusa, Sveti Petar), Krk/Feja (Linardić, Mala plaža in Krk, Sveti Ivan), Omišalj (Miholjice, Senin, Sršen, Sveti Vid) and Poljica (Milohnić, Selo). Clients or parties from other Krk localities (Bajčić, Brusići, Hlapa, Kras, Lizer, Ljutić, Maršić, Milohnić, Milovčić, Nenadić, Njivice, Omišalj, Pinezici, Soline Sužana, Vantačić, Vrbnik, Vrh, Žgaljić, etc.) also came to him, including some from Cres (Merga Krušine). Some of the listed places no longer exist today, some merged with others, and the official forms recorded by Sormilić of most of the existing ones were officially changed half a century ago.

Jure Sormilić was a notary public of the Republic of Venice. He and his contemporary Anton Petriš, notary public from Vrbnik, were authorized to compile public acts, issue public documents and certify private documents in the Croatian language as legally valid in the territory of the Republic of Venice. They were doing that in Glagolitic script. Like Andrej Bendata, Frančesko Pašari, Bernardin Duduž, Zan-Antonio Travižan and Jakom Kalerić – Krk notaries for the Italian language, which were recorded in Sormilić’s notarial protocol in specific acts – they had the right of safeguarding "depoziti" (deposits) of all valuable items (money, heirlooms, various books and documents) for the purposes of handing them over to other people or competent bodies. So, a notary of the Croatian language and Glagolitic script in the territory of the Republic of Venice did not legally differ from a notary of the Italian language and Latin script. Still, it is unclear why Jure Sormilić did not compile a single legal act between September 6, 1726

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30 Bolonić, Otok Krk kolijevka glagoljice, 317.
and April 12, 1731. Given that there is no interruption in the numbering of documents between these dates, we presume that he was outside the public notary service. Did the competent chamber from Krk forbid or limit his legal capacity? Was he unfit to duly perform the entrusted service due to some kind of physical or mental weakness? All of those and other questions will be left unanswered for now.

Beside Sormilić’s hand, another hand has written six shorter certifications in the Venetian idiom of the Italian language in the *Third Notarial Protocol* (June 16, 1726, December 10, 1731, June 8, 1732, December 5, 1732, June 7, 1733, December 9, 1733), as well as one longer certification (January 26, 1734). Among the papers, mostly without any specific order, there are around ten notes (bulletins). Sometimes, those are bulletins of Dubašnica, Dobrinj, Poljica, and Omišalj clerks (officials) on performed listings (calls), and sometimes they are actual links whose context is easier or harder to determine. Officials were local clerks who advertised legal businesses, most often purchases, in public places. For three published calls in front of two witnesses, they received compensation of 10-12 soldi. After publishing three calls, three Sundays in a row at a specific place and time in front of gathered folk, the official used a note or a bulletin to notify the notary of potential complaints regarding the concluded business. After that, the notary would record the published calls on a document’s margin and would, if needed, publish a charter or instrument on a performed piece of legal business. While analysing this type of contract, fr. Mavro Velinić noticed “that the Bodulija resident was certainly socially sensitive” because some of the contracts had to be subsequently “assessed” (evaluated), so “if a larger value was determined, the buyer will recoup the difference, and if a value was smaller, the seller will return the difference.”

According to the *Third Notarial Protocol of Jure Sormilić*, officials in Dubašnica were Pavel Kraljić, Jure Dijanović and Matij Dobrilović, officials in Dobrinj were Ivan Šamanić, Ivan Franković and Jure Pačković (Pačko), and the official in Omišalj was Matij Turčić. In a public place in Krk/Veja, purchases were disclosed by the “trumbita” (announcer) Jerolim Fefe. It is interesting that Sužan had his own official Matij Mavrović, unlike Poljica where Dubašnica notaries were performing calls at the parish church of St. Cosmas and Damian. We presume that the custom of the disclosure of public calls in Dubašnica was performed at the most important gathering place of Dubašnica residents, next to the old parish church of St. Apollinaire.

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Ivan Botica – Tomislav Galović, Croatian Glagolitic notary service of Krk...

The real estate appraisers, the so-called “štimaduri” called *rotunci publiki* and *meštri publiki*, definitely added to the dynamic of economical everyday life, as can be seen in the *Third Notarial Protocol of Jure Sormilić*. While establishing the market price of a specific object expressed in *libri*, the current Venetian denomination from the eighteenth century, each of the contracting parties had its own appraiser. Among the Dubašnica appraisers, judge Ivan Mišetić of the late Ivan especially stands out as a commonly seen name in contractual proceedings. Beside purchases and trades, appraisers also assessed the value of a bride’s dowry or *dota*. The assessment of the value of clothes, sheets and furniture itself was most often left to women. Around fifty purchase and dowry contracts were concluded with an agreement without an appraiser. In that way, the parties were able to save some money, though an appraiser’s job was paid in relatively modest amounts, most often expressed in *soldi*. The notary service was not compensated much better than that either.

A diplomatic and historical analysis

A diplomatic analysis entails a critical study and evaluation of documents from an internal and external standpoint. Also, an essential part of a diplomatic analysis is a chronological analysis. Counted among the internal features of diplomatic material or a document are its integral parts: an introductory part or protocol, followed by a text or corpus, and then conclusion, i.e. eschatoc. In comparison with a public document and of course, in accordance with its function, a private document is simpler and comes without certain diplomatic formulae. Since this is about protocols, i.e. books of imbraviations, the document is devoid of external and certain internal features.

The structure of notarial documents is schematized. In Sormilić’s documents, that structure looks as follows: located in the beginning of the notarial instrument is a dating formula (*datatio*), which consists of *datum temporale*, while a *datum locale / geographicum* is located in the eschatoc. In Sormilić’s writings, the *datum temporale* regularly includes a designation of the day, month, and year, as well as a control element of date or indication. Following that is the listing of the names

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of the parties in a given legal business. The legal act itself is pronounced in a disposition formula (dispositio), the most important part of every document in which a material and/or moral object is located as a subject of a legal act. Next comes a narration formula (narratio) or exposition formula (expositio), which speaks of the circumstances or motives that preceded a legal act. A text or a corpus regularly also contains clause formulae (clausulae finales) used to protect an effect of a legal act stated in a document, from which we point out clausula obligativa. Followed by that is the part in which a request (rogatio) for drafting a document is directed at a notary. Found in a document’s corpus and specifically for testaments is the arenga.34 The final part of a document is the eschatocol, which consists of the datum locale / geographicum, a listing of witnesses (validatio) and a subscription formula (subscriptionio), i.e. a signature or a sign of a notary.

We have divided the documents of the Third Notarial Protocol of Jure Sormilić in accordance with the contents into following types: 1) deeds of donations, 2) purchases, 3) dowries, 4) compensations, 5) repurchases, 6) testaments, 7) agreements, 8) liens and 9) replacements (Fig. 2).

Figure 2. Quantity, type and percentage share of individual documents

The contents, type, quantity and percentage share of the individual documents speak of everyday life in Krk in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Given that most of the parties were coming from the countryside, it is entirely expected that the Dubašnica notaries were most often visited for real estate contracts. There are 216 such documents. Arable lands were most often traded, woods and vineyards were somewhat less popular, while small woods, olive groves, and orchards were the least traded. Most often traded was a smaller piece of land (kus), often with a repurchase option. A similar thing was also true for houses, but also taverns, attics, access roads, courts, pens, walls, threshing floors and even ponds.

Often covered through purchases was a debt to numerous Krk brotherhoods (brašćine), which were the closest public stage of an early modern person’s existence and activities.35 These brotherhoods are mentioned: St. Philip in Dobrinj; St. Anthony of Padua, St. George, St. Nicholas, St. Paul, St. Apollinaire, St. Rosary and St. Body in Dubašnica; St. John, St. Lucia, St. Matthias, St. Rosary, St. Salvatore and St. Anastasia in Krk/Ježa; St. Anthony and St. Cross in Mikolaje; St. Cosmas and Damian and St. Rosary in Poljica; St. Anthony of Padua and St. Mary in Omišalg; and brotherhood of St. Catherine in Vrbnik.

Next after purchase and replacement contracts in terms of quantity are dowries and bequest contracts (40). Future research of parish registers, could potentially offer valuable observations that could be used to determine which Krk localities were leading in the amount of concluded dowry contracts, how many brides (neveste) entered into marriage with them, from which and what kind of families testators came from, how long they lived after making a will, etc.

Despite the fact that replacement contracts are compatible with purchase contracts in terms of contents, there are only twenty of them. It is difficult to say why there were not more of them given that the influx and flow of currency was generally poor in villages. We have also observed that replacement contracts were more frequent the farther away a party was from the object getting replaced.

People visiting Sormilić were also not prone to contracts that we have classified as agreements, compensations, liens and repurchases. There are no contracts on financial transactions at all. For example, besides purchases (25.33%) and dowries (8.67%), the Zarat notary during the third quarter of the eighteenth century was most often visited for authorizations used in certain transactions and legal situations (36%), then for financial transactions (17.33%) and agreements (7.33%).36 Only one quarter of his contracts were direct purchases. While the city population uses a wider range of transactions and more varied agreements between parties, the village population is less prone to taking risks, particularly of a financial kind. That is also

where the significant difference between urban and rural mentality in terms of the demands of certain legal contracts stems from. Therefore, it is to be expected that further research of the Dubašnica notary service will provide a similar statistical image of the types of notarial documents.

**Ecdotic principles**

In edition Hrvatskoglagoljski notarijat otoka Krka. Notari Dubašnica, sv. 1. Treći notarski protokol Jura Sormilča (1726. – 1734.) / Croatian Glagolitic Notary Service of Krk. Notaries of Dubašnica, vol. 1. Third Notarial Protocol of Jure Sormilčić (1726–1734) (editing, introductory study, creation of the glossary and index by Tomislava Bošnjak Botica, Ivan Botica, Tomislav Galović), we have paid special attention to ecotics or archeography, an auxiliary historical science of theoretical and practical knowledge and proceedings for publishing diplomatic and narrative sources. As editors, we followed the principle of making the material available to as wide a circle of interested users as possible after publication, while the original text must not lose any authenticity through conveying words. Therefore, the critical-interpretative method was applied.

While editing the notarial protocol, we faced the following tasks and questions: how to present the original text of the source to a researcher; is it receptively more efficient to resort to transliteration, transcription or a combination of both; how to make the text clearer (e.g. capitalization, punctuation, etc.); how certain Glagolitic letters should be denoted; how to resolve abbreviations (suspensions, contractions, etc.); whether the original text structure has to be followed; what kind of critical apparatus the text should be equipped with; how to publish a facsimile, etc. The answers would be as follows: each document was issued in accordance to the rules of ecotics. Therefore, each document has a heading that contains: document numeration denotation with numerus currens, modern dating (datum temporale and datum locale), a Croatian and English abstract as a summary of the contents of the legal act, and certain notes (signature, pagination, etc.).

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While transposing the source, we followed a combination of transliteration and transcription. So, the original text was transliterated from Glagolitic into Latin script and additionally transcribed. Given how difficult it is to make a mistake by doing one letter at a time, those best informed about palaeography and language prefer to resort to such publishing of historical sources. By doing so, however, they make the access to the source significantly more difficult for those who are not as informed about palaeography and language. Therefore, we have decided to go the most difficult and risky way, and whether we have made a mistake is for the profession to assess after publication. Capital letters, punctuation, and other spelling issues were resolved based on orthographic rules. The text is faithfully presented, so all types of abbreviations are resolved, while additional interventions in the transcriptions are clearly and visibly marked using bold letters or italics. We have not followed the original structure of the text itself, but have separated only larger passages or segments for better transparency. Where necessary, we have equipped the text with critical apparatus. We decided against a printed facsimile and have instead chosen to publish a CD-ROM with a digitalized original.

**Conclusion**

Numerous pages written in the Croatian language and the Glagolitic script testify about a specific legal act or concluded business. As we saw from the preceding lines, all of them belong to the Croatian Glagolitic notary service, a legal institution of the Kvarner islands, Istria and the Croatian coast, already unique due to the fact that it enriched western European legal culture with the non-Latin Glagolitic script. The Third Notarial Protocol of Jure Sormilčić is immensely rich diplomatic material for historical, legal, economical, sociological, demographical, dialectological and onomastical research. It is a real treasury of people and places of the western part of the island of Krk from the second quarter of the eighteenth century. With this type of approach, we wanted to offer a framework for future publications of diplomatic material in the Croatian language and Glagolitic script. Whether we have made a mistake somewhere will be assessed by interested readers and the profession itself.