

***Croatian Diplomatic Maritime Codex / Codex Diplomaticus Maritimus Croatiae / Codice Diplomatico Marittimo Croato / Hrvatski diplomatski pomorski zbornik***

The project of the *Croatian Diplomatic Maritime Codex / Codex Diplomaticus Maritimus Croatiae* comprises a total of 100,000 documents mapping the Croatian presence on the Adriatic and the Mediterranean. It was initiated in 1956 by professor Nikola Čolak<sup>1</sup> in Zadar, who continued it over the next 40 years, researching all the Adriatic archives relevant to Croatia. The aim of the project is to publish systematically primary sources on the maritime history of Croatian lands in a total of 20 volumes of the *Croatian Maritime Regesta / Regesti Marittimi Croati* (RMC). Čolak chose to print the sources partly *in regesto* (in concise form) and partly *in extenso*, depending on the importance of the documents, and first started working on 18<sup>th</sup> century documents, deeming this period to have the largest extent of material. Hence he began printing 18<sup>th</sup> century material pertaining to navigation within the Adriatic and in the direction of the Levant. Next in line for printing should be the sources on the Ponent, and only then on the Atlantic for the said century. The subsequent part is supposed to focus on the earlier centuries, 17<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, which are better covered.

The first volume of the *Croatian Maritime Regesta* (RMC I) was issued in Padua in 1985 and provides 4,890 entries from *Archivio di Stato di Venezia* and *Archivio Comunale di Fano*. This volume contains diverse documents:

- Material from *Cinque Savi alla Mercanzia*, an institution in charge of commerce, divided into *Levante* and *Ponente*;
- Sources of Venetian consulates and letters by their consuls, provveditores and priors from Ancona, Alexandria, Durrës, Shkodër, Split, Fano;
- List of entries and exits from Ancona (central Adriatic port, entry and exit towards the whole Mediterranean);
- Material about shipwrecks, accidents and “*prove di fortuna*”;
- Documents, under *Levante* and *Ponente*, pertaining to the official affairs of the *Serenissima*.

The second volume of the *Croatian Maritime Regesta* (RMC II) was also printed in Padua, in 1993, and contains 6,891 entries from the *Archivio di Stato di Ancona* and *Archivio di Stato di Venezia* with the following documents:

- Records of entries and exits from the port of Ancona (*Entrate ed uscite*) and records from the Public Health Office (*Ufficio Sanità*) – related to lazarettos, quarantines, manpower, ship and

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Nikola Čolak (Janjevo, 14 April 1914 – Padua, 23 August 1996) was a Croatian political emigrant, philosopher, historian, classical and Romance philologist, writer. Information on his life can be found in the project COURAGE (“Cultural Opposition – Understanding the Cultural Heritage of Dissent in the Former Socialist Countries”):

<http://cultural-opposition.eu/registry/?uri=http://courage.btk.mta.hu/courage/individual/n16336&type=people> (27.05.2021).

See also: Nikola ČOLAK, *Iza bodljikave žice. Svjedočanstvo o životu Hrvatske u srbokomunističkoj Jugoslaviji [Behind a barbed wire: a testimony about the life of Croatia in Serbo-Communist Yugoslavia]*, La ciclografica, Padua, 1977; Lovorka ČORALIĆ, „In memoriam, Nikola Čolak (1914.–1996.)“, *Radovi Zavoda za hrvatsku povijest Filozofskoga fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu*, 29/1, 1996, Zagreb, pp. 412–413; Zrinka PODHRAŠKI ČIZMEK, “Analiza komunističkog ‘tretmana’ ideoloških neistomišljenika na primjeru dvaju hrvatskih katoličkih intelektualaca: Nikola Čolak i Mirko Vidović” [The analysis of communist ‘treatment’ of ideological non-sympathizers in the example of two Croatian Catholic intellectuals: Nikola Čolak and Mirko Vidović], *Crkva u svijetu*, 52/2, Split, 2017, pp. 266–303; Josip VRANDEČIĆ, “Pogovor” [Afterword], Nikola ČOLAK, *Regesti Marittimi Croati. Fonti documentarie. Navigazione nell’Adriatico / Hrvatski pomorski regesti. Dokumentarna vrela. Plovidba na Jadranu*, vol. III, ed. Zrinka PODHRAŠKI ČIZMEK, Odsjek za povijest Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Splitu, Split, 2017, pp. 675–678.

commodity costs during quarantine, and all the issues related to the various hotspots of the plague during the 18<sup>th</sup> century;

- Materials on the entries and exits of ships through the part of the port of Ancona called *Arco di Traiano*;
- Consular letters from the Venetian archive *Cinque Savi alla Mercanzia* that vividly depict the everyday of the Adriatic and the Mediterranean.

The third volume of the *Croatian Maritime Regesta* (RMC III) was printed in 2017 as a publication of the Department of History of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split, edited by Čolak's granddaughter, Zrinka Podhraški Čizmek, and provides 3,927 sources from the *Archivio di Stato di Venezia* and *Archivio di Stato di Ancona*:

- Sources from *Cinque Savi alla Mercanzia* with an added series of letters by Venetian consuls from Ancona;
- Group of documents from the *Scuole Piccole San Niccolò dei Marinari* – a confraternity which received membership fees for entry (*benintrada*) and regular membership fees (*luminarie*) – invaluable material for the study of Croatian, Italian, Greek, Albanian and other captains, *paroni* (small shipowners), *parcenevoli* (ship co-owners), and of course, ordinary sailors;
- Documents recording entries into Ancona through the *Arco di Traiano*.

The fourth volume of the *Croatian Maritime Regesta* (RMC IV) is in the final stages of preparation for print, co-authored by Nikola Čolak, Zrinka Podhraški Čizmek and Naida Michal Brandl.<sup>2</sup>

The publication of the first three volumes in digital format will provide researchers dealing with the Adriatic and the Mediterranean with insight into the already transcribed documents which can then be easily and quickly searched owing to contemporary programs that OCR documents in PDF format and make it possible to save search results by key words.<sup>3</sup>

The next step will be to include this project into other maritime Mediterranean and broader international projects that have for a number of years been consolidating the results of various research into the development of more comprehensive joint databases on the Mediterranean and other global navigations.<sup>4</sup>

In Zagreb, May 27, 2021

Zrinka Podhraški Čizmek

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<sup>2</sup> Naida Michal BRANDL, Zrinka PODHRAŠKI ČIZMEK, “Codex Diplomaticus Maritimus Croatiae/Croatian Diplomatic Maritime Codex and the Croatian Maritime Regesta, vol. 4: Emerging project”, *Pomorski zbornik – Journal of Maritime and Transportation Sciences*, 58/1, 2020, pp. 185-193, <https://hrcak.srce.hr/240875> (27.05.2021).

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Foxit PhantomPDF*, *Ashampoo PDF Pro*, *Adobe Acrobat Pro* and many other programs.

<sup>4</sup> Like *Seafaring Lives in Transition, Mediterranean Maritime Labour and Shipping, during Globalization, 1850s–1920s* (SeaLiT), a project of the Institute of Mediterranean Studies (IMS), a part of the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH) which has been joined by various universities and research centers such as Barcelona, Marseille, La Ciotat, Savona, Genova, Camogli, Trieste, Zadar, Galaxidi, Andros, Khania, Heraklion, Odessa and many others: <http://www.sealitproject.eu/> (27.05.2021). On the Croatian side, Mateo Bratanić from the University of Zadar is involved in the project.

Volumes attached:

Nikola Čolak, *Regesti Marittimi Croati. Fonti documentarie. Settecento / Hrvatski pomorski registi. Dokumentarna vrela. Osamnaesto stoljeće*, vol. I, Centro di Studi Storici Croati, Venezia-Padova, 1985.

Nikola Čolak, *Regesti Marittimi Croati. Fonti documentarie. Settecento / Hrvatski pomorski registi. Dokumentarna vrela. Osamnaesto stoljeće*, vol. II, Centro di Studi Storici Croati, Venezia-Padova, 1993.

Nikola Čolak, *Regesti Marittimi Croati. Fonti documentarie. Settecento / Hrvatski pomorski registi. Dokumentarna vrela. Osamnaesto stoljeće*, vol. III, Zrinka Podhraški Čizmek (ed.), Odsjek za povijest Filozofskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Splitu, Split, 2017.