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**THE OLDEST NOTARIAL DOCUMENTS  
OF VICENZA DISTRICT, 1380–1465,  
WITH THE REGESTAE OF THE  
DOCUMENTS, FROM THE  
COLLECTION OF NIKOLAI  
LIKHACHEV**

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## **THE OLDEST NOTARIAL DOCUMENTS OF VICENZA DISTRICT, 1380–1465, WITH THE *REGESTAE* OF THE DOCUMENTS, FROM THE COLLECTION OF NIKOLAI LIKHACHEV**<sup>8</sup>

The collection of Western European manuscripts gathered by Nikolai Petrovich Likhachev (1862–1936) and currently stored in the Scientific and Historical archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences (the Archive) contains, among other documents, a number of those coming from the Latin West. The vast majority of this array comes from Italy (about 5,000 documents), of which about a third are original notarial deeds. There are over 10,000 storage units related to the history of Italy in the collection of the Western European section of the Archive. The collection is divided into fonds, and the focus of this research is on the 6<sup>th</sup> collection, “Venice and its possessions”, containing notarial deeds analysed by a team of scholars. These manuscripts provide information about economic and social aspects of life in the rural communes of Val d’Astico, located in Northern Vicentino. Here we describe the geographical and historical peculiarities of the region in order to place the documents in their particular context and to better understand it. All of these documents are *instrumenta* rather than *imbreviaturae*, and, at least when it comes to the deeds drawn up by Pietro di Zennaro, we can treat this set as having a certain unity. Within this study, one of our main objectives was preparation of these documents for critical publication. The source material studied here still has to be contextualized and researched in a more profound manner; however, we can clearly see now that the investigation of the deeds stored here are more than promising.

Key words: History of Italy, 14–16<sup>th</sup> centuries, Venetian Republic, Vicenza, notaries, notarial deeds, diplomatic, Latin palaeography.

JEL Classification: Z

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The collection of the Western European manuscripts gathered by Nikolai Petrovich Likhachev (1862–1936) and currently stored in the Scientific and Historical archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences (the Archive) is the largest collection of medieval documents of the 10–15<sup>th</sup> centuries in Russia. The vast majority come from Italy (about 5,000 documents), of which about a third are original notarial deeds.

### **The significance of private notarial deeds and their use as a historical source**

Private notarial deeds are the main source for the present study. There are multiple approaches to the study of this type of historical source. Deeds can be researched in different ways, answering many questions, seemingly not intended in the main task of the drafters of the document, i.e. giving a picture of reality independent of the subjective intentions of the notary and the parties to the transaction. Further, notarial deeds can be studied with the use of quantitative and statistical methods as a serial source<sup>9</sup>. In the 10–11<sup>th</sup> century, historians have especially appreciated this type of document and each new generation of researchers discovers new facets in these seemingly inexhaustible resources. The advantages of notarial deeds for writing social history are well known: notaries described real life in a way different from that of authors of narrative sources, and notaries sought to formalize and standardize the diversity of individual cases, which greatly facilitates the processing of notarial deeds. Notarial practice shows the original intention (rather than just the intention of the researcher) to formalize and to streamline social reality, assigning to individual names certain descriptors, calling someone "nobilis", "dominus" etc. The form of the document, which by default required the identification of the subjects of the transaction and, consequently, an indication of their social status, forced the notary to do this, and the role of this "notarial coercion" is very significant. In other words, notarial deeds contain information about the social structure, social values and individual characteristics of a person. Notary practice, however, does not always mean that it bears the imprint of the "objective" social hierarchy or that it creates this hierarchy itself, but the relationship of these phenomena is obvious. While our documents cannot be considered representative, the most valuable information for us can be found not in statistical generalizations, rather in particular case studies, which, as source data, can shed light on the usually hidden side of social practice and individual life experiences. Case studies can serve as the basis for the creation of the descriptions of society as a whole<sup>10</sup>. The research of the notarial deeds also makes possible prosopographic studies, relating them to broader social history. In the case of the documents of Pietro di Zennaro, studied here, we have a limited and unrepresentative sample. However, there are few documents on this region and the period as a whole, and this set of documents is therefore important. For the socio-historical reconstruction of the Middle Ages, notarial deeds are generally one of the key sources.

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<sup>9</sup> It is widely known that for the period of the XIV – XV centuries only one notarial office of the city of Pisa produced more documents than they the whole Medieval Russia in the same period.

<sup>10</sup> Is there, for example, a certain stylistic unity in the manner of behavior inherent in different documents or actions of these persons; is there a personal or situational originality behind some of the notarial deeds? What biographical picture can be built based on the sources?

The identification and publication of the oldest Latin deeds in the series founded in 1954 by Bruckner and Marichal “*Chartae latinae antiquiores*”<sup>11</sup> made the researchers face the problem of criteria for the authenticity of notarial deeds. A systematic study of the documents drawn from the largest chanceries of medieval Europe (documents of the German emperors<sup>12</sup> and the papal documents<sup>13</sup>), showed the need for a detailed study of the isolated traditions of documentary writing, expressed in the stages of the development of the texts, the methods of the certification of the deed, the graphic features and the coexistence of different writing styles among the drafters of the documents. For private notarial deeds, the investigation of certain notarial traditions includes not only criteria for the authenticity of a written document, but also a study of other (non-written) ways of bilateral agreement, of the various rituals recorded in the text denoting the transition and ensuring the reliability of the transaction. The collection of Likhachev comprises samples of many notarial traditions of medieval Italy, sometimes distinguishable at a glance by the location and method of execution of the individual notarial sign. In this respect the St. Petersburg collection differs favourably from the collections of the Italian archives, where normally just one (namely the local) notarial tradition is represented<sup>14</sup>.

### **The history of the study of the notarial deeds from the collection of Likhachev**

The study of the Italian notarial deeds from the collection started in the 1920s, during Likhachev’s lifetime, due to the need to systematize the material, which was caused by the transfer of this initially private collection called the Palaeographic Cabinet to state educational institutions (first to the Archaeological Institute, later to Petrograd University) and the subsequent transformation of the collection into an independent academic institution (The Museum of Palaeography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, inaugurated in 1925). From the minutes of the meeting of the experts invited by Likhachev on November 8, 1924 for a discussion of the issues of the Palaeographic Cabinet we know that during this period scholars like Dobiash-Rozhdestvenskaya (1874-1939), Bakhtin (1901-1951), Ushakov (1904-1938), Lublinskiy (1903-1968), Khomentovskaya (1881-1942) and Shamonina (1863-?)<sup>15</sup> were engaged in the preparation of a systematic description of the Italian documents. Khomentovskaya published a description of the Venetian notarial deed dated 1385 – a bill of sale of a Tatar female slave<sup>16</sup>. Bakhtin published the so-called “surety from Piacenza”<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> See list of volumes: [http://www.urs-graf-verlag.com/index.php?funktion=cla\\_uebersicht](http://www.urs-graf-verlag.com/index.php?funktion=cla_uebersicht)

<sup>12</sup> Series *Diplomata* of the research project “*Monumenta Germaniae Historica*”, founded in 1824 and brought to the present moment to the initial period of the reign of Frederick II (1220-1250) <http://www.mgh.de/publikationen/diplomata/>

<sup>13</sup> Project Pius Stiftung, founded in 1896 to identify and publish documents of the papal Chancery before 1198 on ecclesiastical provinces: <https://adw-goe.de/forschung/forschungsprojekte-akademienprogramm/papsturkunden-des-fruehen-und-hohen-mittelalters/pius-stiftung-fuer-papsturkundenforschung/>

<sup>14</sup> See: Rutenburg V. I. Funds and collections on the economic history of Italy // Manuscript sources on the history of Western Europe in the archive of the Leningrad Branch Of the Institute of history of the USSR. L.: Nauka, 1982. Pp. 5-16; Sredinskaya N. B. Documents on the history of Italy in the Western European section of the Archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of history of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Vol. 5: Italian archives in Russia — Russian archives in Italy. Moscow: RSUH, 2013.

<sup>15</sup> Minutes of the meeting of specialists invited by N. p. Likhachev for a meeting on the situation of the Paleographic office. SPF ARAN. F. 217. Op. 1. D. 3. L.61–64, see reproduction on the site, URL: <http://ranar.spb.ru/rus/vystavki/id/655/> (last accessed: 9.10.2019).

<sup>16</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll. 6. box 194, № 18: Homentovskaja A. I. Lukka vremen kupecheskoj dinastii Guinigi // *Srednevekovyj byt*. L., 1925. S. 98, prim. 1.

The participants of the seminar of Dobiash-Rozhdestvenskaya drafted transcriptions and descriptions of oldest documents from the archives of the Cathedral Chapter of Cremona. The archival document preserved some of the working records bearing the character of the very first stages of the study of this sources material.

Active engagement with the Italian deeds continued after the dissolution of the Museum of Palaeography in the 1930s and with the transfer of the manuscript collection (more than 40,000 units of storage, i.e. documents) to the Institute of the Document, Book, and Writing of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which was united in 1936 with the Historical-Archival Institute (formerly the Archaeographic Commission) into the Leningrad branch of the Institute of History of the USSR (now St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences). Anninsky (1891-1942), Keeper of the Western European documents at the Institute of the Document, Book, and Writing and of the Archive of the Leningrad Division of the Institute of History (ЛОИИ, today the Institute of the History of the Russian Academy of Sciences) prepared an edition of the Cremona documents of the 10–13<sup>th</sup> centuries: he proofread his students' transcriptions, developed uniform criteria for publication, identified previous publications on public deeds, composed critical apparatus, wrote a detailed archaeological introductory description of the methods of the notaries in Cremona. Dobiash-Rozhdestvenskaya wrote a preface summarizing the historical content of the published documents and introducing them in a wider context. The publication was supplemented by several reproductions of the deeds and facsimile images of samples of notarial verifications with individual notarial signs<sup>18</sup>. The same approach was implemented in the publication of the Cremona documents of the 13–16<sup>th</sup> centuries by Rutenburg (1911-1988) and Skrzhinskaya (1894-1981), which included part of the material of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, prepared by Anninsky<sup>19</sup>. "The documents of Cremona of the 10–13<sup>th</sup> centuries" was the first major publication of the LOII, and despite the highest level of academic performance, the editions were publicly condemned by one of the members of the Academic Council of the Institute of History of the USSR Academy of Sciences for having a scope alien to the Soviet people, and for being elitist<sup>20</sup>. Thanks to the reproductions of the notary verifications and the full-text publication of the *instrumenta*, this edition was one of the first examples of the study and representation of local notarial tradition in the world, which is why it was used for training students at European universities (oral testimony of an employee of the project *Regesta Imperii*, Katrin Baaken).

The next major publication of notarial deeds from the collection of Likhachev was the publication of 90 documents dated from the late 13–14<sup>th</sup> centuries, drawn up in Padua and, because of the inclusion of this city in the possessions of the Venetian Republic, now stored in collection 6 ("Venice and her possessions"), box 205<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll. 4. box 162, № 1: Bahtin V.V. Severoital'janskaja gramota X v. v Muzeje paleografii // Izvestija AN SSSR. Otd. gumanit. nauk. 1928. № 2. S. 141–146; also: Kononenko A. M. Poruchitel'stvo iz P'jachency (chastnyj akt 938 g.) // Arheograficheskiy ezhegodnik za 1970 g. M., 1971. S. 350–365.

<sup>18</sup> Akty Kremony X–XIII vekov v sobranii Akademii nauk SSSR / Podg. k izd. S. A. Anninskogo, pod red. O. A. Dobiash-Rozhdestvenskoj. M.; L.: Izd-vo AN SSSR, 1937.

<sup>19</sup> Akty Kremony XIII–XVI vekov v sobranii Akademii nauk SSSR / Pod red. V.I. Rutenburga i E.Ch. Skrzhinskoj. M.; L.: Izdatel'stvo Akademii nauk SSSR, 1961.

<sup>20</sup> Pjaskovskij A. Nenuzhnye i vrednye knigi // Gazeta "Pravda" ot 31 ijulja 1938. № 209 (7534). S. 4.

<sup>21</sup> Akty Padui konca XIII–XIV v. v sobranii Akademii nauk SSSR / Sost. E. Ch. Skrzhinskaja, A. M. Kononenko, V. I. Mazhuga. L., 1987.

In the preparation of this volume, the curator of the Western European section, Kononenko (1931–1984) published reviews of this compact collection<sup>22</sup>. She also prepared generalized works on the history of the Italian notariate, based on the source material from Padua and Lombardia<sup>23</sup>. Mazhuga (b. 1949) wrote a separate study on the language and pronunciation features, reflected in the writing of the Paduan documents<sup>24</sup>. One should add to these studies the publications of books of notarial *imbreviaturae* of the 15<sup>th</sup> century from Luni and Ferrara, comparable in volume to the individual deeds reflected in them. The editions of the documents prepared by Katushkina (b. 1929) and Bernadskaya (1918–2004) are supplemented by lengthy articles devoted, first of all, to the analysis of social and economic relations reflected in private legal contracts<sup>25</sup>.

Alongside the publications of the sets of deeds are numerous publications of individual documents. Skrzynskaya published the oldest authentic private deed concerning medieval Italy (a rare item even for Italian archives) with a thorough historical commentary<sup>26</sup>. Karpov (b. 1948)<sup>27</sup> and his student Bliznyuk<sup>28</sup> prepared studies and publications of individual documents related to Venice and its Black Sea possessions. The long-term study of the deeds of Ferrara and their separate groups, made by the current Senior Keeper of the Western European section Sredinskaya (b. 1951)<sup>29</sup> should have resulted in the publication of this set<sup>30</sup>. So far, a study of

<sup>22</sup> Kononenko A. M. Akty Padui XIII—XIV vekov. (V sobranii Zapadnoevropejskoj sekcii Arhiva LOII AN SSSR) // Sbornik trudov GVI LOII SSSR AN SSSR v chest' V.I.Rutenburga. L., 1971. S. 23—31; Kononenko A. M. Akty Padui XII—XIV vv. // Rukopisnye istochniki po istorii Zapadnoj Evropy v arhive Leningradskogo otdelenija Instituta Istorii SSSR. L., 1982. S. 26—36.

<sup>23</sup> Kononenko A.M. Neizdannye kremonskie akty XII v // Srednie veka. Vyp. 26. M.: Nauka, 1964. S. 181–184; Kononenko A.M. K voprosu o zapadnoevropejskom srednevekovom chastnom akte // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. III. L.: "Nauka", 1970. S. 350–360; Kononenko A.M. Rolandin Passagerij i ego traktat ob iskusstve notarijev. (K istorii srednevekovogo notariata) // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. V. L.: "Nauka", 1973. S. 279—310; Kononenko A.M. K istorii ital'janskogo notariata XI—XIII vv. // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. VI. L.: "Nauka", 1974. S. 318—330; Kononenko A.M. Problema klassifikacii zapadnoevropejskogo chastnogo akta // Problemy istochnikovedenija zapadnoevropejskogo srednevekov'ja. L., 1979. S. 109—123; Kononenko A.M. Dokumenty po istorii severoital'janskih gorodov XII—XIV vekov (Klassifikacija) // Rukopisnye istochniki po istorii Zapadnoj Evropy v arhive Leningradskogo Otdelenija Instituta istorii SSSR AN SSSR. L.: "Nauka", 1982. S. 17—25.

<sup>24</sup> Mazhuga V.I. Latinskaja orfografija dokumentov srednevekovoj Padui. (K izdaniju aktov Padui konca XIII— XIV v.) // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. XIX. L., 1987. S. 261–285.

<sup>25</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Koll. 46. Kart. 607, № 3: Katushkina L. G. Lunidzhana i ee agrarnye porjadki v XV v. (po notarial'noj knige Antonio Bonici). Kniga kontraktov notarija Antonio Bonici 1417–1425 gg. Fivicciano // Ital'janske kommuny XIV–XV vekov: Sbornik dokumentov iz Arhiva LOII AN SSSR / Pod red. V. I. Rutenburga. M.; L., 1965. S. 71–236; NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Koll. 4. Kart. 263, № 1: Bernadskaja E. V. Ferrara i ee sel'skij okrug (Po knige notarija Bellino Pregostini). Kniga-protokol notarija Bellino Pregostini 1484–1486 gg. Ferrara // Ital'janske kommuny XIV–XV vekov. S. 237–350.

<sup>26</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Koll. 4. Kart. 141, № 1: Skrzinskaja E. Ch. "Darenie Agel'trudy" (chastnyj akt 907 g. iz Italii) // Arheograficheskij zhegodnik za 1970 god. M., 1971. S. 338—348.

<sup>27</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll. 6. box 194, № 18; box. 195, № : Karpov S.P. Trade and crime in Venetian Crete (According to an unknown document of 1382) // Η Καθημερινή ζωή στο Βυζάντιο. Αθήνα, 1989. Σ.311–323; Karpov S. P. Dokumenty po istorii venecianskoj faktorii Tana vo vtoroj polovine XIV v. // Prichernomor'e v srednie veka. M., 1991 S. 191–216 (Ispr. pereizdanie v: Karpov S.P. Srednevekovyj Pont. New York: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2001 (Rossijskie issledovanija po mirovoj istorii i kul'ture, 15). S. 397–426); Karpov S. P. From Syria to Modon and Venice: a difficult voyage of 1443 described in an unknown document // Η Επικοινωνία στο Βυζάντιο. Αθήνα, 1993. Σ.543–549; Karpov S. P. Delo ob ubijstve na Krite v 1382 g. // Fenomeny istorii. K 70-letiju V. L. Kerova. M., 1996. S.90–96; Karpov S. P. Venecianskij dokument XV v. o torgovoj navigacii v Vostochnom Sredizemnomor'e // Vizantijskij vremennik. T. 52 (77). 1991. S. 255–260; Karpov S. P. Dokumenty po istorii Venecianskoj Romanii iz Arhiva Sankt-Peterburgskogo filiala Instituta istorii Rossijskoj Akademii nauk // Bulgaria Pontica medii aeui, IV–V, 2. Sofija, 2006. S. 71–74.

<sup>28</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll. 6. box 193, № 38: Bliznyuk S. V. Neizvestnyj venecianskij dokument 1346 g. po istorii kipro-venecianskih odnoszenij. Vstupitel'naja stat'ja i publikacija // Srednie veka. 1990. Vyp. 53. S. 191–203.

<sup>29</sup> Sredinskaja N. B. Dogovor ob arende rabocheho skota (zoatika) iz arhiva grafov Sakrati // Srednie veka. M. 1994. Vyp. 57. S. 274–278; Sredinskaja N. B. Rannie dokumenty iz arhiva grafov Sakrati // Srednie veka. 1995. Vyp. 58. S. 274–278; Sredinskaja N. B. Dokumenty roda d'Jeste v sobranii N. P. Lihacheva // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. SPb, 2000. Vyp. 27. C. 294–302; Sredinskaja N. B. Usus kak specificheskaja forma zemel'nogo derzhanija v Ferrare XIV—XV vv. // Ius antiquum (Drevnee pravo). M.: Spark, 2000, № 2 (7). S. 183–194; Sredinskaja N. B. Aktovyj material zapadnoevropejskogo sobranija N. P. Lihacheva (po materialam famil'nogo arhiva Sakrati XII—XV vv.) // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. XXIX. SPb., 2005. S. 131–142; Sredinskaja N. Acquisito dei diritti di propriet  immobiliare negli atti notarili dell'Italia Settentrionale dei secoli XII–XIV // Diritto@Storia. Rivista internazionale di scienze giuridiche e tradiyione romana. N 13. 2015. On line dal 15 Febbraio 2016 (<http://www.dirittoestoria.it/13/rassegne/Sredinskaja-Diritti-propriet-immobiliare-atti-notarili-Italia-Settentrionale-sec-XII-XIV.htm>); Sredinskaja N.B. Nobilis vir, dominus, ser v aktah Ferrary XIV v. (po materialam arhivov Rossii i Italii) // Universitas historiae. Sbornik v chest'

the legal relations of Ferrara has been published, based entirely on the analysis of the protocols of the notarial deeds of the 14<sup>th</sup> century from the collection of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the State Archive of Modena<sup>31</sup>. Thanks to the everyday details and the dramatic nature of their contexts, Italian notarial deeds were featured in exhibitions dedicated to the collection of Likhachev in the State Russian Museum in 1991 and in the State Hermitage Museum in 2012. The descriptions were prepared by the curator of the Western European section, Klimanov (1941–2015) and Sredinskaya<sup>32</sup>. Among the latest publications devoted to the notarial traditions of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries are the works of Travin and Maklakova<sup>33</sup>.

### **An overview of the collection and the place of our sources in it**

There are over 10,000 storage units (documents) related to the history of Italy in the collection of the Western European section of the Archive. The collection is divided into fonds and the fonds are divided into boxes. The focus of this research is on the 6<sup>th</sup> collection “Venice and its possessions” containing the notarial deeds we analysed here (box 207).

First of all, let us say a few words about the external features of the documents for better orientation. The first four boxes (186, 187, 187a and 188) contain *lettere ducali* (33, 27, 12 and 9 units in each box, respectively). The earliest document in these boxes dates back to the beginning of 1355, and the latest to the middle of 1648. The next four boxes (189, 190, 191, and 192) contain *lettere ducali*, written on parchment and paper (15, 25, 20, 17 units in each box, respectively). The earliest document dates back to 1631, and the latest to July 8, 1794.

These *lettere ducali* are followed by a set of eight boxes (193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, and 200). They contain public and private documents (39, 27, 40, 41, 33, 28, 17, 74 units in each box, respectively). In box 193 there is the earliest document dated August 1188, and in box 199 the latest, dated May 1812. In general, the set consists of copies of *lettere ducali* (1437-1554), a collection of official printed documents, codices (16–17<sup>th</sup> centuries, 74 units). Among other features, one can distinguish an engraved portrait of Paolo Mamizio from 1572 stored in box 199.

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Pavla Jur'evicha Uvarova / Otv. red. A.O. Chubar'jan. M., 2016. S. 49-56; Sredinskaja N.B. K voprosu o sostavlenii annotacij dlja izdaniya ital'janskij notarial'nyh aktov XIV v. // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. XXXVI. SPb., 2017. C. 189-198.

<sup>30</sup> See: Sredinckaja N.B. Akty rodovogo arhiva Sakrati XII - XV vv. kak istoricheskij istochnik: Klassifikacija, atribucija, komentarii. Avtoref. diss. ... kand. ist. nauk. SPb., 2006.

<sup>31</sup> Sredinckaja N.B. Ferrara XIV veka v otrazhenii aktov rodovogo arhiva Sakrati. M.: “Indrik”, 2017.

<sup>32</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Koll. 6. Kart. 194, № 18; Kart. 196, № 31: Iz kolekcij N. P. Lihacheva: Katalog vystavki v Gosudarstvennom Russkom muzee. SPb., 199. S. 214, 223, 229, №№ 541, 545, 584, 652; NIA SPbII RAN RAN, ZES. Koll. 4. kart. 141, № 1; Kart. 133, №№ 29, 30; Koll. 6. kart. 194, № 18: “Zvuchat lish' pis'mena... “ K 150-letiju s dnja rozhdenija akademika Nikolaja Petrovicha Lihacheva. Katalog vystavki S.-Peterburg, Gosudarstvennyj Jermitez, 2012. S. 272, 277-279, №№ 181, 185-187.

<sup>33</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Koll. 4. Kart. 143, № 1-3: Travin I.D. Drevnejšie dokumenty po istorii Milana v Nauchno-istoricheskom arhive SPbII RAN // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. XXXVIII. SPb.: 2019. (v pečati); NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Koll. 4. Kart. 115, № 1-2: Maklakova S.V. Drevnejšie dokumenty Akvily v sobranii Nauchno-istoričeskogo arhiva SPbII RAN // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. XXXVII. SPb., 2018. C. 13–39.

Box 201 contains printed documents of the institutions of the Republic of Venice and comprises only 11 storage units. It includes various resolutions of the Senate (1556–1569, 25 sheets); collections, lists of laws voted on by the Senate (1558, 46 sheets); the rules of conduct of monks (1592, 96 sheets), cadasters of landed property in Padua (1627, 30 sheets); conclusions of the auditors and the Senate Commission of Affairs in Padua (1746, 23 sheets; 1785, 37 sheets); statues of Padua (1788, 11 sheets). The earliest documents date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the latest one to 1788.

The printed documents of various institutions of the Venetian Republic are collected in box 202, which contains 20 storage units. The collection consists of documents of Senate (1556–1677, 11 units, 36 sheets); resolutions of Senate (1570–1722, 22 units, 50 sheets); documents of the Consiglio di Pugadi (1556–1649); documents of the Officio delle Acque (1573, 1579, 1604, 5 units, 12 sheets); decisions on land holdings of communes (1557, 1602, 1606, 3 units, 8 sheets); documents related to the province of Padua (1614–1718, 12 units, 66 sheets); decrees, appeals and other similar documents (18<sup>th</sup> century, 13 units, 14 sheets); Marino Grimani's poems, which were presented to the Doge (with the text of the presentation), (1597, 12 sheets, 1599, 4 sheets); text of a performance in honour of Doge Niccolò Da Ponte (1583, 8 pages); collections of decrees and other documents of various institutions of the Republic (1569–1636, 51 pages); inventories of cities and communes of the province of Padua (1776, 14 sheets, 1777, 16 sheets); decisions of the Legislative Commission (1780, 10 pages); a copy of the treaty of peace between the King of France and the Duke of Savoy, written in Leon (1601, 4 pages); court decisions (1599–1619, 6 units, 22 sheets); tariffs and decrees of the management of the Terraferma (1675, 8 sheets).

There are a variety of documents of institutions of the Republic of Venice in box 203, containing 89 storage units. Among other things, the box includes: the decisions and decrees of the Senate, Consiglio dei Pugadi and others (1556–1735, 302 sheets); a decision of the Consiglio di Pugadi (1714, 2 pages); ordini stability... per il territorio Padovano (1674, 8 pages); the decisions of the Consiglio de' dicci (1753, 8 sheets); decisions of the Senate of the Republic (1731–1774, 58 sheets).

Further, box 204 contains documents of institutions of the Republic of Venice (11 storage units in total). Included in the box are documents of various institutions, laws, orders (16–18<sup>th</sup> centuries, 41 units, 83 sheets); the decisions of Senate, orders, etc. (16–19<sup>th</sup> centuries, 35 units, 61 pages); a letter from the Doge of Venice to Pope Julius II (16<sup>th</sup> century, 2 pages); Gasparo Cantarino "On the Magistrates of Venice" (1551, 72 pages); a collection of documents of the Consiglio di Pugadi (1545–1599, 40 sheets); Komini, a mourning speech (1510, 10 pages); the decision of the Senate on the army (1573, 4 pages); decrees of different times of the Council 12 and 15 on management (1499–1603, 34 pages); the decision to combat smuggling in Verona (1626, 16 sheets); the rules on stationing and supplying the army established by the conductor of the Terraferma (1706, 10 sheets); the conclusion of the council of the "five wise" (*cinque sati*) on maritime trade (1749, 6 sheets); statutes of the province of Padua (1753, 18 sheets); charters and rules for the sale of silk (1754, 10

sheets); the appeal of conductors (1767, 18 pages); the capitulary on the administration of the Scuola of the Senate, Maria della Narita (1768, 36 sheets); conclusions of the legislative commission (1773, 9 sheets); a decision of Senate on the affairs of the Levant, Dalmatia and Albania (1777, 8 pages); a decision on the case of manege (1779, 6 sheets); the Statute of the Church of St. Anthony in Padua, approved by the Council of Ten (1788, 6 sheets); a decree on the production and trade of silk (1789, 6 sheets); a register of ships (for December 31, 1735, 10 sheets).

This box is followed by box 205, which contains private deeds of Padua amounting 100 units. The earliest of the documents dates back to August 1292, and the latest one to December 1381. Following this, is box 206, which contains 14 units of public and private deeds of Padua. This box covers documents from May 24, 1317 to July 4, 1810. Then we find a block of six boxes (207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212), containing 57, 52, 52, 50, 52, 48 units each, respectively. The collection consists of public and private parchment deeds belonging to the commune of Caltrano. The earliest of the deeds dates back to June 1380, and the latest one to October 1588. Box 213 consists of public and private parchment deeds belonging to the Cogollo district. There are 55 storage units in the box. The earliest of the deeds dates back to May 1561, and the latest one to September 1579. Box 214 is divided into two districts - Cogollo (1-12) and Vicenza (13-52) and consists of public and private parchment deeds. The box has 55 storage units. The earliest of the deeds dates back to May 1335, and the latest one to April 1624. In box 215 are public and private parchment deeds that belong to the Vicenza district. There are 52 storage units in the box. The earliest of the deeds dates back to February 1513, and the latest one to February 1565. Box 216 is divided into Vicenza (1-37) and Plovena (38-60) and consists of public and private parchment deeds. The box has 61 storage units. The earliest of the deeds dates back to January 1569, and the latest one to May 1592.

Box 217 contains 46 parchment deeds, public and private. The collection is divided into Scledo (1-32) and Clupano (33-46). The earliest of the deeds dates back to January 1456, and the latest one to August 1582. Box 218 also contains private and public deeds. The collection is divided into Monticulus Maior (1-9a), Distretto di Vicenza (10-58) and has 60 storage units. The deeds within the box range chronologically from August 1476 to April 1764. Box 219 contains the collection of the Vulpe family. It contains 34 parchment documents. The documents range chronologically from March 1297 to August 1505. The documents in box 220 are interwoven volumes of parchment deeds related to Vicenza and its districts. In total, there are 76 storage units. The earliest document dates back to 1350, and the latest one to 1539. Following this is a block of three boxes (220, 221, 223), each of which relates to Vicenza and its district, and Verona and is represented by bound volumes of parchment deeds. The earliest of the documents in the three boxes dates to 1539, and the latest one to 1591. The last four boxes (224, 225, 226, and 227) contain parchment deeds of Vicenza and its districts; there are 116, 109, 77 and 69 storage units in each, respectively. The earliest of the documents dates to the beginning of 1592, and the latest to 1713.

## Provenance of the documents

The manuscripts from the Likhachev collection were purchased directly from private collectors or via commercial antiquarians through correspondence or during trips abroad in the period between 1892 and 1914. For the particular deeds that make up the 6<sup>th</sup> collection "Venice and its possessions", one can obtain information about their provenance only through the comparative analysis of the previous owners' or antiquarian covers with pasted clippings from the catalogues of the auctions; in some cases the handwritten notes of Likhachev himself are preserved. During the study of the documents of the Venetian chancellery our team identified the following sources of acquisition of the manuscripts: auction houses "Pio Luzziotti" (Rome), "Gabriel Charavay" (Paris), "Gilhofer und Ranschburg" (Vienna)<sup>34</sup> and the private collection Gabriele of a Venetian notary, Fantoni (1833-1913), who offered in 1901 to sell Likhachev his collection of historical documents<sup>35</sup>.

A relatively large group of documents from the 6<sup>th</sup> collection is mentioned in a letter from Likhachev to a Professor of St. Petersburg University, Pomyalovsky, dated 11 November 1895. Likhachev wrote: "In Venice, I saw an archive of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, broken and lying in vain, and bought it all for 50 liras. It contains several hundred documents on parchment, and I do not know yet if the Academy here will allow me to get it out of the country. I had to take a chance, and I trusted one of the local antiquarians to send it to St. Petersburg. In order to avoid costs, I directed the package to the University library. Please speak to the librarian and pay the shipping costs."<sup>36</sup>

The antiquary mentioned here is most likely Davide Toffoli (Libreria ed oggetti di antichità. Venezia, San Marco, 363), one of the first Venetian contractors of Likhachev, who deserved a mention in his "Memoirs": "In Venice, Toffoli is, in his own words, "the only antiquarian-Christian" and he cheated me. My walks in Venice began with Toffoli. Inexperience and gradual familiarization"<sup>37</sup>. His letters to Likhachev dated 30 January and 10 February 1896 discussing the purchase of icons, which were at that time the main collecting interest of Likhachev, are preserved<sup>38</sup>.

The priest Luigi Bailo (1835-1932), Director of the Biblioteca Comunale in Treviso and founder of the Museo Civico in Treviso, later named after him, was one of Likhachev's consultants for the acquisition of Venetian documents. From his letter to Likhachev dated 25 August 1896, one can conclude that the purchase of the entire archive was a rarity at that time in Treviso or Venice, unlike in Rome or Florence. The local antiquarian market focused on buyers of particular unique documents, mainly wealthy collectors from the US

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<sup>34</sup> The history of their relations with N.P. Likhachev see: Klimanov L.G. Prilozhenie. N.P. Lihachev-kollekcijer i ego svjazi: antikvary, kollekcijer, uchenye (po razlichnym istochnikam) // "Zvuchat lish' pis'mena... " K 150-letiju s dnja rozhdenija akademika Nikolaja Petrovicha Lihacheva. Katalog vystavki / Pod red. A. O. Bol'shakova i E. V. Stepanovoj. SPb.: Gosudarstvennyj Jermitazh, 2012. S. 565-592; here: S. 565, 579, 587.

<sup>35</sup> For the list of all things purchased from G. Fantoni see: Klimanov L.G. O proishozhdenii nekotoryh venecianskih dokumentov Zapadnoevropejskoj sekcii Arhiva SPbII RAN // Vspomogatel'nye istoricheskie discipliny. T. XXVIII. SPb., 2002. S. 235-270.

<sup>36</sup> OR RNB. F.608. D. 957. L. 21; Klimanov L.G. N.P.Lihachev "v poiskah zhelannyh zven'ev velikoj diplomatičeskoj vystavki" // Zvuchat lish' pis'mena. 2012. S. 43-44.

<sup>37</sup> Lihachev N.P. Vospominanija bibliofila i sobiratelja dokumentov i avtografov / Publ. i kommentarii L.G.Klimanova // Kniga: Issledovanija i materialy. 1991. Vyp. 62. S. 198.

<sup>38</sup> SPbF ARAN. F. 246. Op. 2. № 104. L.260-263; op. cit.: Klimanov L.G. Prilozhenie. N.P. Lihachev-kollekcijer i ego svjazi: S. 581.

and the UK. A parchment certificate signed by the Doge Marino Faliero (1354–1355) was sold to Baylo for 200 lire<sup>39</sup>. Riccardo Predelli (1842–1909), Director of the State archives of Venice and the School of Palaeography and Archival Science, was another likely consultant to Likhachev at the time. Likhachev “studied the history of paper” in this archive. Two letters from Predelli to Likhachev dated 1896<sup>40</sup> and 1907 survived; in the last letter he answers the question of the use of the lead bull by the patriarchs of Grado<sup>41</sup>.

The number of documents and an indication of a single archive allow us to correlate this testimony in 1895 with the parchment letters from boxes 207–218, a total of 640 units, the vast majority of which date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a significant part dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and only 20 pieces date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Thus, the set of notarial deeds from the province of Vicenza belongs to the earliest of Likhachev’s foreign acquisitions and, of course, is the largest purchase in terms of the number of medieval deeds in the collection.

All parchments have the shape of *carta transversa* and were purchased in the form of scrolls. Judging by the absence of other fold lines, they were stored in the previous archive in this form. In the card inventories of the Western European section compiled by Anninsky in the 1930s, they are marked as scrolls. During the restoration of the 1970s, the documents were straightened, so now they are stored in new covers of rough blue cardboard rather than in flexible dark cardboard ordered by Likhachev for the Palaeographic Cabinet in 1924; these flexible dark cardboards are a hallmark of the deeds and letters of this collection, now kept in the Western European section of the Archive and in the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The other documents in the collection of the Western European section, acquired by Likhachev in the form of scrolls, are often accompanied by all kinds of additional materials, including threads or parchment strings, deterring parchment straightening and the parchment or paper notes with former archival ciphers or the notes of the antiquarians placed under these threads and parchment strings. Unfortunately, during the restoration works on the straightening of the parchment, carried out in the Soviet period, this kind of additional material was often lost along with potential information about the origin and storage of the documents.

The vast majority of the deeds of the 15<sup>th</sup> century stored in this collection are composed by the same notary – Pietro, son of deceased ser Gennaro di Caltrano. Later documents are mostly copies of deeds of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, compiled by the same notary. However, since it is not a collection of *imbreviaturae* and not a collection of notarial *minutae*, but a collection of the *instrumenta*, the documentary complex acquired in Venice is apparently part of some kind of ancestral (and not notarial) archive. It is not yet possible to establish the connections of the persons mentioned in the deeds. To do this, one would have to study the entire array of our documents using methods of the social network studies, supplemented by research in the archives of Vicenza

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<sup>39</sup> SPbF ARAN. F. 246. Op. 3. № 67. L.1-2ob; op. cit.: Klimanov L.G. Prilozhenie. N.P. Lihachev-kollekcijoner i ego svjazi: S. 576; Klimanov L.G. Osnovatel' gorodskogo muzeja (Museo civio “Luigi Bailo”) v Trevizo i Nikolaj Petrovich Lihachev // Nasledie Nikolaja Petrovicha Lihacheva: interpretacija teksta i obraza. SPb., 2014 (Truda Gosudarstvennogo Jermitazha, LXX). S. 70-79.

<sup>40</sup> SPbF ARAN. F. 246. Op. 3. № 312; op. cit.: Klimanov L.G. Prilozhenie. N.P. Lihachev-kollekcijoner i ego svjazi: S. 580.

<sup>41</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES, koll. 55; Klimanov L.G. Vizantijskie otrazhenija v sfragistike. SPb. 1999. S. 327-329.

and Venice. The experience of studying medieval monastic and family archives shows that, when acquiring the rights to real estate, the parties included the previous transactions with the same possessions in the general collection of documents of the new owner in order to ensure the preservation of the acquired rights, as well as the fulfilment of obligations towards the holders and supreme lords, which were acquired together with the right to dispose of real estate. Thus, a horizontal time slice in such archives may include treaties relating to different family holdings, which were only merged into one domain centuries later.

In order to assess the value and potential of this archive, a team of the Research and Study Group under the leadership of Khvalkov<sup>42</sup> chose a small group of the oldest deeds<sup>43</sup> related to the largest part of this collection, namely the deeds connected to the real estate transactions in the village Caltrano. According to preliminary estimates, about 300 deeds from the entire array of 640 units refer to Caltrano. This suggests that the main array of patrimonial possessions of this unknown noble family from the province of Vicenza was situated there. Out of the 28 documents studied and dated from 1454 to 1465, in 16 documents of landed property transfer, the buyer is a certain Lazzaro of Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati<sup>44</sup>. In 5 other deeds he leases the land holding on the rights of livellum (iure locationis et livelli perpetui)<sup>45</sup>. Unfortunately, there is no data about this owner in the available literature. The notary from Caltrano was asked to draw up the deeds of real estate transactions in neighbouring villages because the inhabitants of Caltrano (from the possessions of which this domain was later on composed) appealed to a trusted person and their countryman.

Within the studied group of 32 deeds, 2 of the earliest documents of the 15<sup>th</sup> century were drawn up by notaries other than Pietro di Zennaro. A deed dated 1408 was composed by a notary Bartolomeo, son of magister Giovanni Fabri from Chiuppano: *“Ego B(ar)th(olome)us not(arius) filius m(agistri) Ioh(ann)is Fabri de Clupa(n)o his omnib(us) int(er)fui et rogatus sc(ri)pssi”*<sup>46</sup>. The deed of 1432 was drawn up by notary Domenico, son of Lorenzo, son of the deceased Giullelmo from Caltrano: *“Ego Dominicus filius Laurentii q(uon)d(am) Guill(elm)i de Cartrano public(us) auct(oritat)e imp(er)iali not(arius) examinatus et conp(ro)bat(us) etc., p(re)dict(is) o(mn)ibus et sing(u)lis int(er)fui eaq(ue) rogatus publice s(crip)si et publicavi”*<sup>47</sup>. Only the part of the oldest document, dated 1380, is preserved. Among the four witnesses the deed mentions notary Jacopo, son of the deceased abbot of Piovene, but the name of the notary who drew up the deed is unknown. According to his individual notarial sign, his name could have begun with the letter “N”<sup>48</sup>. The text of the notarization record allows us to restore the omitted text in the record of the notary Domenico: *“conprobatus per examinatos ad hoc deputatos per collegium notariorum civitatis Vincentie”*.

<sup>42</sup> Research and Study Group ‘Bishops, Doges and Merchants: Texts of Medieval Italian Cities of XIII-XV Centuries’ / School of Arts and Humanities / HSE Campus in St. Petersburg.

<sup>43</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№1-17, 19, 19a, 20-32; № 18/207 помещен в картон по ошибке в дате, и относится к 16 столетию.

<sup>44</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 6-11, 17, 19, 19a, 20, 21, 24-26, 28, 30.

<sup>45</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 16, 27, 29, 31, 32

<sup>46</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 2.

<sup>47</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 3.

<sup>48</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 1.

Thanks to the changes in the text, we learn when the notary Pietro lost his father. In the deed drawn up on 10 January 1456, as in all the preceding documents, he calls himself “*Petrus filius s(er) Zenarii*”, while in the deed dated 23 November 1456 he is already described as “*Petrus q(uondam) s(er) Zenarii*”<sup>49</sup>

All four notaries demonstrate one and the same tradition of writing. The individual notarial sign, similarly to the documents coming from Ferrara, is located in the upper left corner and is not duplicated at the beginning of the notarial certification record (unlike the documents coming from Lombardy). This may lead to the conclusion that in the deeds of Vicenza, the individual notarial sign developed out of a symbolic invocation. In the deeds of the 1450s drawn up by the notary Pietro di Zennaro, the text of the document is preceded by another verbal invocation in the form of letters “.YhS.”, the abbreviated form of “Jesus”, placed in the middle of the top edge of the documents. In his deed of 1434, however, this detail is missing. The individual notarial sign is followed in all deeds by the verbal invocation “In Christi nomine amen”. Then comes *datum* (year A.D., year of the indiction, day of week, date and month), the local date and names of witnesses (usually three). In the part of the *datum* on the geographic location where the deed was composed, except locality (“in villa de Cartrano”, “in Cartrano”, “Cartrani”, “in villa Cartrani”) and the *distretto* of Vicenza, the notary specifies sometimes a specific place of the conclusion of the contract with the indication of the parish (*contrada*), steading (*ora*) or just someone’s dwelling: “in contrada Curtini prope domum hereditarium ser Antonii quondam Benedicti de dicta villa”<sup>50</sup>, “in ora Casogni in habitatione Lamentii quondam Guilleimi de Cartrano”<sup>51</sup>, “in habitatione infrascripti locatoris”<sup>52</sup>.

After the names of the witnesses, the type of contract is indicated: “iure locationis”, “iure locationis, renovationis ac livelli perpetualliter” “tituli venditionis”. Out of the 32 documents that we studied, 20 are deeds for the sale and purchase of land<sup>53</sup>, 11 are deeds of investiture tenable on the right of *livellum*<sup>54</sup>, one deed is a *socida* (the rent of a cow)<sup>55</sup>. After that the deeds of purchase and sale specify the price of the contract. The names of the parties are given in connection with the transfer of the sum of money and only after that the subject of the contract is indicated. In the case of land plots, their approximate size is mentioned *in campo* and in its shares. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the traditional measures of area were still in use, Vicenza counted the land in *campo Paduvano*, the size of which was 0.38 hectares<sup>56</sup>. The location of the land plot is marked with an indication of the *contrada* or locality / township (*ora*), and it is also describes the areas it borders. The sides are

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<sup>49</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 9, 10.

<sup>50</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 2.

<sup>51</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 3.

<sup>52</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 4.

<sup>53</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 6-11, 13-15, 17, 19, 19a, 20, 21, 22, 24-26, 28, 30.

<sup>54</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 1-5, 16, 23, 27, 29, 31, 32.

<sup>55</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 12.

<sup>56</sup> Gustav Wagner, Friedrich Anton Strackerjan: *Kompendium der Münz-, Maß-, Gewichts- und Wechselkurs-Verhältnisse sämtlicher Staaten und Handelsstädte der Erde*. Verlag Teubner, Leipzig 1855, S. 77-78.

marked by the directions – "versus mane" "versus sero", "versus meridiem", "versus montes". For areas of elongated shape there is an indication of the sides and ends ("heads"): "ab uno capite et ab uno latere"<sup>57</sup>.

The description of the object of the transaction is followed by the formulas of guarantee and the refusals of exceptions. In the deeds drawn up by notary Pietro in the 1450s, parts of the form are marked with paragraph signs in the form of the majuscule letter "C" (an abbreviation for "capitulum"), even when this sign breaks one sentence into parts. On the reverse side along the upper edge there is a brief designation of the essence of the contract done in the hand of the same notary. E.g.: "Livellis Donati quondam Petri de Cartrano conditoris, *magistri* Iohannis Pellipariis quondam dicta villa civis et habitator civitatis Vincentie locatoris", "Soceda Lazari Ognibeni de Cartrano (con)t(ra) Antoniu(m) Vincentii a Platea de Clupano". In all cases, the inscriptions run along the upper edge of the document, except for the deed of the notary Bartolomeo, dated 1408. Since the letters were rolled up in the form of a scroll, the bottom edge inside, this inscription was on the outside. For later storage, this inscription served as an archival cipher: taking the scroll in one's hands, they could immediately understand what kind of document it was without unrolling. From a legal and ritual point of view, it served as an identifying inscription. The transfer of rights is not reflected in the text of the notarization, but it is clearly spelled out in the form of the deed of sale: "*Et ex causis et precio antedictis prefactus venditor antedicto emptori dedit, cessit, tradidit, transtulit, donavit, alienavit, remissit, ressutavit omnia sua iura*". The parchment deed with the text of the contract written on it was transferred to the buyer, *livellarius* or lessee of the cow as the sign of the rights transferred to him.

In 2 deeds of the 1430s, which formalize the holding tenable on the rights of *livellum*, a record of the registration of the deed was made after the notarization record done by the notary, and it was made by another hand. In a contract drawn up on January 9–14, 1432: "Registratum et auscultatum ad off(iciu)m registri co(mmun)is Vincentie p(er) me Andeam filiu(m) Gasp(ar)i de Arnaldo civis Vinc(entie), nota(r)ium et off(ici)alem ad d(i)c(tu)m off(iciu)m die lune quarto decimo m(ensi)s ianua(r)ii mill(esim)i quadringentesimi trigesimi secundi, ind(ictione) decima"<sup>58</sup>. In a contract drawn up on February 14–March 8, 1434: "Registrat(um) et auscultat(um) ad officiu(m) registri co(mmun)is Vinc(entie) p(er) me Conte(m) q(uondam) Petri de Nanto, not(arium) dicti registri die lune octavo mensis Marcii MCCCCXXX quarti, ind(ictione) XII"<sup>a</sup>. On the reverse side of the same contract under a brief indication of the essence of the document made by notary Pietro simultaneously with the text of the document, a notary of the registration service Conto made a record of the acceptance of the document for registration on 26 February: "P(ro)duct(um) ad off(iciu)m reg(ist)ri co(mmun)is Vinc(entie) p(er) not(arium) rogat(um) die ven(er)is XXVI<sup>o</sup> feb(ruar)ii 1434, ind(ictione) XII"<sup>a</sup>,<sup>59</sup>.

<sup>57</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 19.

<sup>58</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 3.

<sup>59</sup> NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 4.

## The commune of Caltrano: historical and geographical context

The manuscripts studied by our team provide information about the economic and social aspects of life in the rural communes of the Val d’Astico located in northern Vicentino. Here we describe the geographical and historical peculiarities of the region in order to place the documents in their particular context and to proceed with the better understanding of them.

The region where the documents were written is inextricably connected with the river Astico which shapes the local environment and affects the economic activity of local inhabitants. The name of the river derives from *àstacus*, a species of crayfish living in the unpolluted rivers of Europe, however, the Vincentian historian of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Gaetano Maccà proposed another version. According to him, ‘Astico’ is from *laste*, i.e. stone slabs polished by the river stream. As for other rivers of northern Italy, the Astico’s history reveals traces of human intervention. Near the commune of Sarcedo, the Romans had built a wall to prevent floods and alluvium of the Vincentian region which also threatened to destroy the aqueduct of the city<sup>60</sup>. The riverbed had also experienced natural changes, one of which took place around the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE when, probably after a heavy flood, the stream temporarily changed course to the southeast and occupied the modern bed of the Astichello<sup>61</sup>. This situation was changed by the Vincentini at the end of 11<sup>th</sup> century when they diverted the river to the north to prevent floods, leaving in its old riverbed only the narrow Astichello<sup>62</sup>.

The Astico runs through Val d’Astico, collecting the water of the streams from the slopes of the valley. Reaching out from Trentino to Vicenza, the valley has been inhabited from the Palaeolithic times. Later, the Euganei and Veneti who settled gradually became a part of Roman Empire in the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries BCE. Although Val d’Astico was excluded from *municipium* of Vicenza, its inhabitants were strongly affected by Roman culture, including Roman law. The archeological investigation in Rotzo and Caltrano demonstrated that around the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE Roman troops invaded the mountain villages where people were hostile to the Empire, which led to the burning of some communes<sup>63</sup>. Other artefacts, like a stone from Chiuppano, contain scarce information about the development of wool production at the mouth of the valley<sup>64</sup>. From the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, Val d’Astico was heavily influenced by Goths and later by Longobards, who established the administrative division of the territory following the geographical features of the region. Owing to this organization, Val d’Astico became an intermedium between the economic activity of the plain and the mountains, free from invasions and destruction<sup>65</sup>. It is worth mentioning that through the centuries, the

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<sup>60</sup> Sottani N. *Antica idrografia vicentina. Storia, evidenze, ipotesi*, Vicenza: Accademia Olimpica, 2012. P. 55-56.

<sup>61</sup> Baldan A. *Storia della Riviera del Brenta*. Cassol: Moro editore, 1978. P. 34.

<sup>62</sup> Sottani N. *Cit. op.* P. 142-143.

<sup>63</sup> Mantese G. *Memorie storiche della Chiesa vicentina. Vol. I: Dalle origini al Mille*. Vicenza: Accademia Olimpica, 1952. P. 5-8.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.* P. 15-17.

<sup>65</sup> Zordan S. *La Valle dell’Astico, Corte Longobarda. Cogollo del Cengio*: Nuova Grafica, 1983. P. 40-47.

territories of Val d’Astico served as place of cross-cultural and interethnic contacts as a significant part of the local population was German although there are only scarce signs of territorial conflicts<sup>66</sup>.

In 917, Emperor Berengar I bestowed Val d’Astico and the surrounding area to the bishop of Padua in order to improve the local fortifications and, thus, to protect the valley from the Hungarians<sup>67</sup>. From the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century valley of Astico with its center in Caltrano became part of the possessions of the bishop of Vicenza, whereas the plains of Asigo and Thiene still belonged to the bishop of Padua, which caused particular problems with the ruling of the territory.<sup>68</sup> The situation was resolved in 924 when Caltrano and Cogollo were transferred to the bishopric of Padua<sup>69</sup>. Finally, Val d’Astico joined the Venetian Republic in 1404 together with other Vincentian territories. In the intervening period between the episcopal administration and Venetian supremacy, the castles of Piovene-Rocchette and Caltrano appeared. The notary called Pietro who created the documents studied by our team, lived and worked in Caltrano.

The castle of Caltrano took its name from the Latin *cardus*, that is carding, one of the steps in wool production<sup>70</sup>. The original castle was built on a hill, overlooking the river Astico between valleys of La Grande and Val Mala. There was at least one tower surrounded by other buildings for the dislocation of local troops. The key function of this tower was to observe the river and later the road which led through Val d’Astico to Vicenza. This road was constructed after 1264 by the order of commune of Vicenza and, following the left bank of Astico, ended on the contemporary Italian-Austrian border. Together with the tower of Chiuppano with which the castle of Caltrano had direct connection, these towers were part of the security system of the mouth of the valley<sup>71</sup>.

While under administration of the Paduan church in the 13–14<sup>th</sup> centuries, Caltrano enjoyed considerable independence, and its church functions extended to all Altipiano. However, in the 14<sup>th</sup> century Caltrano blurred as a religious centre as it became a part of the vicariate of Schio<sup>72</sup>. In the following centuries Caltrano lost its position as the important guarding settlement, although the road through Val d’Astico to Schio, Thiene and Vicenza was still strategically important until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

After 1311, the commune shared the destiny of Vicenza and fell under power of Scaligeri. Only at the time of Venetian domination after 1411 did the economic potential of Caltrano start to develop in terms of the traditional economy<sup>73</sup>. Despite the hilly and rocky terrain, the soils of Caltrano were suitable for agriculture, especially for viticulture; the vines that grew on the hills of Caltrano, including the *contrada* of St. Donato,

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<sup>66</sup> Brazzale Dei Paoli A. La terra di confine dei Comuni di Lastebasse, Pedemonte, Tonezza del Cimone, Valdastico. Venezia: La Serenissima, 1990. P. 32.

<sup>67</sup> Mantese G. Cit. op. 53.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid. P. 507-508.

<sup>69</sup> Zordan S. Cit. op. P. 235.

<sup>70</sup> Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 17.

<sup>71</sup> Zordan S. Cit. op. P. 50-60.

<sup>72</sup> Brazzale Dei Paoli A. Cit. op. P. 16.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. P. 14.

were an integral part of the rural landscape and of local production<sup>74</sup>. The *contrade* of Caltrano, Camissino and San Donato, were surrounded by walls and, thus, seemed to be small communes on their own, as supported by the documents that we studied, where *Camixinum* appeared as the origin of a person involved in a contract sealing.

The village of Caltrano bordered the commune of Chiuppano in the south and the commune of Cogollo in the north with which it formed a coherent system of social and economic links.

The castle of Chiuppano was constructed around the same time as that of Caltrano, around the beginning of the first millennium. Its name has roots in *fundus Cleppianus* (Lat.) associated with the Roman domination of the region. Since Roman times there had been a ferry across Astico, after that the road led to the slopes of the valley<sup>75</sup>. However, only the toponym, 'Il Castello', is left from the tower, while the constructions of the castle dissolved throughout the centuries.

For the first time in 975, the name of the commune, which then was a part of the possessions of the Vincentine monastery of San Felice, appeared in the sources<sup>76</sup>. The further story of the commune follows that of Caltrano. In the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the village suffered from encounters between Vicenza and Padua. Probably, the demolition of the castle of Chiuppano was a consequence of these hostilities<sup>77</sup>. The relationships with the neighbouring commune also caused problems to Chiuppano as far as, together with Caltrano, it had to share the highlands<sup>78</sup>. Moreover, the administration of these villages depended on different vicariates: Chiuppano belonged to the vicariate of Thiene while Caltrano belonged to Schio. In spite of this fact, the documents which we studied demonstrate that there were intensive economic and social relationships between Caltrano and Chiuppano in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when a resident of Caltrano called Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, acquired various territories in the vicinity of Chiuppano and other surrounding communes including Cogollo.

There are two theories about the origin of the name Cogollo. According to the first, it is derived from *Cucullus* (Lat.), a kind of hooded cloak used by shepherds. However, the commune's coat of arms representing the pile of stones used by local farmers to mark the borders of their possessions reflects another idea associated 'Cogollo' with *Cubulum* (den or cave).<sup>79</sup> Although the castle of Cogollo does not exist today, there are signs of medieval fortifications. In this way, toponym Pra' della Varda is considered to derive from the German 'Warda' that is, the guarding position. Moreover, the tower of Pedescala, built to protect the valley perhaps, was connected with other signal towers of the region<sup>80</sup>. Although the commune Cogollo, together with Caltrano and

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<sup>74</sup> Maccà G. Storia del territorio vicentino. T. 11. Part. 2. Caldogno: Battista Menegatti, 1814. P. 29.

<sup>75</sup> Brazzale Dei Paoli A. Dalle Bregonze al Summano: comuni di Carrè, Chiuppano, Piovone Rocchette, Zugliano. Vicenza: La Serenissima, 1992. P. 34-36.

<sup>76</sup> Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 155.

<sup>77</sup> Canova A., Mantese G. I castelli medievali del vicentino. Vicenza: Accademia Olimpica, 1979. P. 218-219.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. P. 25.

<sup>79</sup> Profilo storico del commune di Cogollo del Cengio. [Internet resource]. URL: <http://www.comune.cogollodelcengio.vi.it/zf/index.php/servizi-aggiuntivi/index/index/idservizio/20005/idtesto/27> (last visited: 12.12.2019).

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

Chiuppano, became the dominion of the Paduan bishopric in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, its castle still belonged to the bishops of Vicenza, which led to the overlapping of the two jurisdictions. Finally, to the south of Cogollo, near Astico, there was an observation tower built by Scaligeri on a Roman foundation<sup>81</sup>. Perhaps it was this tower in which Francesco Caldugno<sup>82</sup> was interested. However, the residents of the surrounding communes made a stand against him, thus, the Venetian Senate was forced to refuse the request of its military and administrative functioner<sup>83</sup>. To resolve internal territorial conflicts between the neighbouring villages, the representatives of Caltrano, Cogollo, Chiuppano and others first met in the church of Sant'Agata in Cogollo (1202) and then in 1204 in the nearby Pra' della Warda when both the borders between the communes and the rights to use pastures and forests were defined<sup>84</sup>.

There are scarce sources on the time of the Venetian domination in Cogollo. It is supposed that even under the administration of the *Serenissima*, the inhabitants of the village sustained medieval administrative tools like the assembly of local householders headed by the *degan* (dean)<sup>85</sup>, a common phenomenon for Venetian Terraferma. As Knapton puts it, before the battle of Agnadello (1509), the *Serenissima* applied a policy of *laissez-faire* to its continental possessions, i.e. it did not interfere in the internal affairs of its subjects and abstained from putting pressure on the local nobles and landlords, as long as they paid their taxes<sup>86</sup>.

From the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Caltrano and Cogollo depended, in an administrative sense, on the vicariate of Schio. Its name derived from the medieval term *scledum* (Lat.) which means the place planted with oaks<sup>87</sup>. Unlike other settlements discussed previously, the commune of Schio was founded by the Benedictines who came to this region in the 11<sup>th</sup> century<sup>88</sup>. The monks also settled on Mount Summano, which also appears in the documents we studied. The origin of its name is unclear. According to Giovanni Mantese, it derived from *zovum* (*jugum*), *magnum*<sup>89</sup>. Being, at the beginning of its history, a Benedictine dominion, the further history of Schio resembles the common itinerary: it became a part of the possessions of Ezzelino III da Romano in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century; the commune then was transferred to the hands of Scaligeri to end up under the rule of Venice. During the period of the Scaligeri domination, Schio developed as vicariate, i.e. the administrative centre of the region<sup>90</sup> with the duty to annually present a report before the podestà of Vicenza<sup>91</sup>. The Venetian

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<sup>81</sup> Canova A., Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 187-188.

<sup>82</sup> A Venetian nobleman and cavalier, who was granted with the annual stipendium of 200 ducats for devotion to the republic and other virtues.

<sup>83</sup> Benzoni G. Caldugno, Francesco // Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani. Vol. 16. Roma: Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana, 1973. [Internet source]. URL: [http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/francesco-caldugno\\_\(Dizionario-Biografico\)/](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/francesco-caldugno_(Dizionario-Biografico)/) (last visited: 12.12.2019).

<sup>84</sup> Profilo storico del commune di Cogollo del Cengio. [Internet resource]. URL: <http://www.comune.cogollodelcengio.vi.it/zf/index.php/servizi-aggiuntivi/index/index/idservizio/20005/idtesto/27> (last visited: 12.12.2019).

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Knapton M. Venezia e la terraferma, 1509–1797: istituzioni, politiche e pratiche di governo, rapporti del potere, cultura politica // L'ombra di Agnadello: Venezia e la terraferma: Atti del Convegno Internazionale di studi, Venezia 14 – 16 maggio 2009. / A cura di Giuseppe Del Torre e Alfredo Viggiano. Venezia, 2010. P. 103-104.

<sup>87</sup> Schweickard W. Denomasticon Italicum: Dezinario storico dei derivati dai nomi geografici e da nomi di persona Vol. IV (R-Z). Berlin: DR Gruyter, 2013. P. 288.

<sup>88</sup> Schio. Il centro storico. Comune di Schio, 1981. P. 47.

<sup>89</sup> Mantese. Cit. op. P. 11-14.

<sup>90</sup> Canova A. Cit. op. P. 79.

<sup>91</sup> Maccà G. Storia del territorio vicentino. T. 11, Part. 1. Caldugno: Battista Menegatti, 1814. P. 43.

rule then stimulated the commune's wool production, with which the economy of Schio became associated<sup>92</sup>. However, traditional agriculture was also significant as the mountainous land was fertile enough to provide the local population with bread, olives and wine<sup>93</sup>. The fortifications which Schio had inherited from earlier times, were destroyed during the wars of the League of Cambrai (1508–1516) and reconstruction had not followed<sup>94</sup>. Gaetano Maccà tells us about a tradition associated with a pagan festival dedicated to nature. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, the local inhabitants used to plant two oaks near the Vicar's Palace and to cover them with a scarlet cloth or, later, with less valuable fabric. The one who succeeded in climbing to the top of the tree then received these gifts<sup>95</sup>.

The other administrative centre of the region, Thiene, appeared for the first time in 1152. Its name is considered to have a German origin and is associated with the invasion of the Cimbri of the North Italy in the 9<sup>th</sup> century<sup>96</sup>. Around that time, the Benedictine order proliferated in the region, developing the land and draining and cultivating the marshes<sup>97</sup>. For other villages discussed in the review, we can find only written testimonies of the existence of the castle in Thiene. The first mention of local fortifications appeared in the order (1152) edited by Count Guido Maltraversi, by which he appointed the archdeacon of Torengo, chosen from the bishopric of Padua, which possessed *possessione castri Tienne et trium mansorum in Tienne*<sup>98</sup>. The public documents of 1292 provide details on the position of the castle: "*itero unum sedimen cum domo supra murata in castro de Tienis... apud curiam sancte Marie de Tienis*". Thus, presumably, it was located where the cathedral of Santa Maria is today<sup>99</sup>. Like others, the castle had suffered after the death of Ezzelino III Romano in the middle 13<sup>th</sup> century followed by the advent of the Guelf ruling of Vicenza<sup>100</sup>. However, further documents mentioning the castle (e.g. a public deed of 1288)<sup>101</sup> confirmed that it still existed at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The time and clear-cut causes of its destruction are unknown.

During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, some irrigation systems had been constructed in Thiene. In 1276, the brothers Ottonello and Angelo Verla contributed to the digging of the drain Verlata which provided the whole village with the water to irrigate the fields located to the south of Thiene. Five years later, a canal connecting the stream Timonchino of Santorso with the commune of Thiene was finished as well, which resulted in the flourishing of rural production in Thiene.

At the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the commune to the north of Thiene obtained independent administration and later formed the commune of Zanè (medieval Zanade). However, the first notion of Zanè

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<sup>92</sup> Schio. Il centro storico. Comune di Schio, 1981. P. 60.

<sup>93</sup> Maccà G. Storia del territorio vicentino. T. 11, Part. 1. Caldogeno: Battista Menegatti, 1814. P. 9.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid. P. 24.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid. P. 20.

<sup>96</sup> Canova A., Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 209-212.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid.

<sup>98</sup> Zanocco R. Thiene nell'età di mezzo: frammenti di storia civile. Vicenza: Società Anonima Tipografica, 1911. P. 22.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid. P.24.

<sup>100</sup> Barbarano de Mironi F. Historia ecclesiastica della città, territorio e diocesi di Vicenza. Libro VI. Vicenza: Stamperia di Carlo Breffan, 1760. P. 93.

<sup>101</sup> Zanoco R. Cit. op. P. 81.

dates back to the early 11<sup>th</sup> century when it was given by the Holy Roman Emperor Henry II together with other communes of the region to Giovanni and Negro Verlati<sup>102</sup>. The origin of the village name is unclear, but there is an assumption that it derived from “Giovanni”.

Calvene was another commune subject to the vicariate of Thiene. There are two major theories on the origin of its name. According to the first, it is considered to derive from the *clavis* that means ‘the key of the mountain’ associated with the strategic location of Calvene protecting the approaches to the Cima di Fonte, and communicating directly with Altopiano<sup>103</sup>. The other story connects the origin of the name with *gens Calvena*, the family who resided in the vicinity of Calvene in Roman times; the Roman artefacts found there preserve these traces<sup>104</sup>. The history of this commune is inextricably linked with the other villages discussed previously. There were some fortifications of the commune including a fortress and a tower surrounded by a ditch, currently not preserved. Moreover, there was the office of bishopric of Padua, thus, Calvene was directly governed from there<sup>105</sup>. The destruction of the castle is supposed to have occurred in the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century when the region became the place of a struggle between the Guelphs of Padua and Scaligeri<sup>106</sup>. Despite the conflicts, the commune was gradually growing, therefore, at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century the rural commune of Lugo, which also appears in our manuscripts, together with the commune of Lonedo separated from Calvene<sup>107</sup>. It is worth mentioning that Lugo (from *lucus*, a sacred grove)<sup>108</sup>, like Schio, was influenced by the Benedictines; in the 11<sup>th</sup> century its territories were part of the domain of the Benedictine cloister of San Lorenzo<sup>109</sup>.

The aforementioned villages have a lot in common. Set in a mountainous region, exposed to the same historical processes from the construction of the castles for protection from the Hungarian invasion up to the domination of Serenissima, each of them still represents both its unique features and large-scale trends, e.g. the specification of regional economics. In turn, the private contracts from the Western European section of the Archive might substantively contribute to the reconstruction of the social structure of this region, which eventually could have a solid impact on the studies of the Venetian Terraferma, its economy and range of social interactions.

## The external characteristics and the handwriting of the documents

As mentioned, the notarial documents drawn up mainly by Pietro di Zennaro are stored in the Scientific Historical Archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. All of these

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<sup>102</sup> Zanè on Italiapedia. [Internet source]. URL: [http://www.italiapedia.it/comune-di-zane\\_Storia-024-119](http://www.italiapedia.it/comune-di-zane_Storia-024-119) (last visited: 12.12.2019).

<sup>103</sup> Canova A., Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 214.

<sup>104</sup> Associazione pro loco Calvene. [Internet source]. URL: [http://www.procalvene.it/cenni\\_storici.html](http://www.procalvene.it/cenni_storici.html) (last visited: 12.12.2019).

<sup>105</sup> Canova A., Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 215-216.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid. P. 217.

<sup>107</sup> Brazzale Dei Paoli A. Dall’Astico all’Altopiano: comuni di Caltrano, Calvene, Cogollo del Cengio, Lugo di Vicenza. Vicenza: La Serenissima, 1988. P. 37.

<sup>108</sup> Comune di Lugo. La storia. [Internet source]. URL: <http://www.comune.lugo.vi.it/zf/index.php/servizi-aggiuntivi/index/index/idservizio/20065/idtesto/124> (last visited: 12.12.2019).

<sup>109</sup> Ibid.

documents are *instrumenta* rather than *imbreviaturae*, and at least when it comes to the deeds drawn up by Pietro di Zennaro, we can treat this set with a certain unity. Within this study, one of our main objectives of the teamwork was the preparation of these documents for critical publication.

One of the most difficult questions in the study of notarial documents is the problem of the representativeness of our sources. How typical are these documents and do they sufficiently reflect the activities of our notary? In which respect are these sources representative, and in which are they not? It is clear that we do not have a full array of documents of Pietro di Zennaro, but rather just a very small selection prone to randomness. One of the key things here is the composition of our set from a taxonomic point of view. The classification and taxonomy of notarial deeds is traditionally based on the types of transactions recorded by these deeds. The task of the researcher is often to identify the relationship between abstract situations (which must comply with the legal formulae of the document) and the types of real transactions, which are necessarily based on a more or less representative sample to establish the degree of such compliance. There is a considerable number of types of documents: trading operations (purchase and sale), trade agreements and contracts (*societas, commenda*), gifts of real estate, the sale and emancipation of slaves, testimonies, debts, the sale of part of a ship, loans, cambium, the repayment of debts, marriage contracts and receipts of dowry, testaments, employment contracts, promises, service agreements, contracts of freight and leasehold, arbitration agreements, inventories of property etc. However, in our case most of the deeds refer to the sale of landed property. This fact raises doubts as to the representativeness of the sources. Surely, part of the notarial deeds could not have been preserved for objective reasons: fire, water, rodents and losses when moving are always enemies of any kind of documents, moreover, a number of transactions in the 15<sup>th</sup> century no longer required the participation of notaries, whose services could be replaced by the preparation of documents for internal use; however, apparently during his career the notary drew up other types of documents as well. Based on the above, the sample that has come down to us is not representative enough to extract statistical data from it, and this insufficiency is not just quantitative, but also qualitative. First, almost all the notarial deeds that we have at our disposal are real estate transfers. It is hardly possible to calculate the ratio of the amount of preserved notarial source material to the hypothetical amount of the total volume of deeds, but it is difficult to dispute the fact that the hypothetical number of documents of one notary should be measured in tens for one year and hundreds for the period of his professional activity.

Further, there is the problem of the authenticity of the notarial deeds. While discussing the representativeness of the documents, we should not be embarrassed by the fact that some of them may be fictitious. Fictitious deeds can be fraudulent, or they can be authentic ones where the form used in the documents did not reflect (or only partially reflected) the real purpose of the deed, but rather camouflaged some other transaction; in the latter case the lack of, let us say, due sincerity in the intentions of the subjects of transactions does not automatically lead to the denial of the authenticity of the transaction.

The documents are written on parchment and their degree of preservation is good; there is a little damage from moisture, which does not impede their reading at all. The handwriting is fairly neat. No. 22 has a big hole and No. 23 has small holes. The fields are average; the distance between the lines is about two lines wide. There is a moderate tendency to save parchment – the fields are never too wide, and the notary did not leave much empty space. The deeds are written in cursive script of the 14–15<sup>th</sup> centuries with certain features of late Italian Gothic including the design of some capital letters ("P" in "Pro", "I" in "In"), the Gothic "i" occurs at the beginning of the word and sometimes it becomes almost indistinguishable from "z"<sup>110</sup>. Handwriting is neat and fairly regularized with few individual idiosyncrasies. In some words, there is a (rare) tendency to slightly separate the first letter of the word, but sometimes one word can be divided into two, contrary to the rules of Latin spelling. The upper parts of some letters ('b', 'l', 's' etc.) are usually slightly elongated. Apparently, all the deeds were written by one and the same hand; therefore, the notary either wrote them himself or had one scribe. Different spellings of words on a single sheet normally do not occur. There are numerous abbreviations, suspensions and contractions in the documents. The scribe uses a number of standard contractions (reduction of the syllables with "n", "m", "l" and "r", reduction of "cum" / "con", case endings, etc.), most of them are well-known and only few are unconventional. Sometimes, although very rarely, there is the continuous writing of multiple words. The initial letter of the deed (normally it is the 'i' of *invocatio*) is placed on the field and is much bigger than others. The date and place in the deeds are almost always mentioned. The *datum* is normally written at the beginning of each deed in words (the notary uses numbers only occasionally and only for the days, never for e.g. year).

Most deeds are well-edited; there are no corrections, strikethroughs or insertion between the lines. The initial letters are slightly decorated. Most deeds are approximately equal in length. The notary was not prone to make errors; his manner of composing the deeds indicates a long-term habit of such work. The individual notarial sign is always drawn, without exception, in the upper left corner. This sign is a vertically elongated column with a diamond wrapped around it, to the left and right of which there are two dots.

### **The language of the deeds**

The language of documents has stylistic features characteristic of similar notarial deeds of that époque, including repetitions and repeating references to what is written above or what is written below. The deeds are written in typical bureaucratic Latin with some Italianisms. The influence of Italian dialects on Latin had been a common feature of the language of all Italian notaries since the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. The language of the professional activity of the notary was subjected to the influence of his spoken vernacular – the *dialetto*. By the standards of the time, the Latin language of Pietro di Zennaro is not yet perfect, but fairly good; however, we still can see the traces of language interference – the influence of the spoken native language on the documental

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<sup>110</sup> The notary was guided not only by considerations of a calligraphic nature, "I" and "z" were in some cases phonetically indistinguishable; at the beginning of the word before the vowel, for example, they denoted the same affricate.

one. There are typical mistakes in the deeds, mainly the confusion of the case forms, the use of one case instead of another, improper management of prepositions, irregular spelling. Although we often have to deal with atypical errors, we can still say that some errors and irregularities in the Latin of Pietro di Zennaro are standard and predictable; these features constitute the norm rather than the exception.

The notary uses interchangeably ‘n’ and ‘m’ in cases of nasalization in some words like ‘amem’ instead of ‘amen’ in the *invocation*, ‘Nom’ instead of ‘Non’ in the formula ‘Non obstante...’, and ‘dannum’ instead of ‘damnum’. He consistently uses ‘y’ instead of the final ‘i’ at the end of the word: ‘spey’ instead of ‘spei’, ‘rey’ instead of ‘rei’, ‘fruy’ instead of ‘frui’, ‘mey’ instead of ‘mei’. Gemination (the duplication of consonants not provided by the rules of Latin spelling) occurs quite often, especially with the consonants ‘n’, ‘l’, ‘t’, ‘f’, ‘s’: ‘pe(n)na’ instead of ‘pena’ (poena), ‘civilles’ instead of ‘civiles’, ‘legittimis’ instead of ‘legitimis’, ‘reffectio’ instead of ‘refectio’, ‘suprasscripti’ instead of ‘suprascripti’. However, the opposite process, namely the simplification of the geminates, i.e. the loss of double consonants, is never found. Hypercorrection sometimes occurs, caused by a misunderstanding of etymology: ‘extimatio’ instead of ‘estimatio’, ‘prefactus’ instead of ‘prefatus’, ‘ractione’ instead of ‘ratione’, ‘frutiferis’ instead of ‘fructiferis’. Sometimes the notary uses ‘-ci-’ where ‘-ti-’ would be expected in Classical Latin (citacione, extimacioni, laudacione, renovacione, solucione, stipulacionem, vendicionis); however, at this time it can hardly be considered as an idiosyncrasy. In some positions, certain letters in the manuscripts of Pietro are difficult to distinguish between, so we restore them in accordance with the rules of Classical Latin. A search for a graphic expression of the sounds that are present in *dialetto*, but absent in Latin, is evident one case: the name of the father of the notary Zennaro (instead of the regular Latin ‘Ianuarius’; ‘Gennaro’ in contemporary Italian). Pietro sometimes also replaces “s” with “x” in intervocalic position – ‘Camexino’ instead of ‘Camesino’, however, this happens rarely. Prepositions and cases are often not completely consistent; sometimes there is also a mixture of declinations. The notary often uses absolute participial (presentibus testibus) and past infinitives (‘habuisse et recepisse’, ‘didisse vel alienasse’); he also prefers infinitive phrases to subordinate clauses, which is typical of the bureaucratic language of the time. The influence of *dialetto* can be traced to the fact that the family name is often given in invariable form. In general, it can be stated that since the Venetian notaries composed their documents in both Latin and *dialetto*, the lines between the native language and the language used in professional activities could be blurred, although normally Pietro’s Latin is quite good.

When transcribing documents, we have kept all the features of the spelling of the deeds, including errors and different spellings. The words and letters are reconstructed according to the context are given in italics. The ellipses in square brackets indicate places that cannot be read because of the peculiarities of the notarial handwriting. Traditional abbreviations in the text are in italics. All the names in the *registrae* are given in Italian transcription insofar as the authors managed to restore it.

## **Analysis of the form of documents**

The notarial documents that we studied are all private deeds, formalizing a transaction between subjects, mediated by a notary, a private person endowed with the public power to give validity and authenticity to the documents. In the late medieval and early modern Veneto, one can find a high degree of order of the office work at all levels, from the private deed to the materials of the state assemblies. In order for a notarial document to have legal force, it had to be drawn up according to certain rules, although they were not as rigid as it might seem. The typical content of the deed is manifested through its form, i.e. the general structure of the document, which is superimposed on a certain set of more or less standard formulas which reveal the content of the transaction. The juxtaposition of the form and the content is not rigid, because the form, being not a self-sufficient element, but an expression of the content, is not absolutely unchanged; it depends on the notary and varies depending on the specific circumstances of the transaction fixed by the deed.

A notarial document is a reflection of economic and social life, since it records agreements between people. In addition, it is a product of legal practice, since the transaction is done in accordance with certain more or less strictly observed rules arising as a result of legal practice or established by legislative bodies, which makes it possible to use a notarial document in court proceedings. Therefore, one of the first steps in working with notarial deeds is a formal study of the documents. The form of the notarial deed is important for us in two respects: first, as an element which determines that the document belongs to the category of notarial deeds and makes it possible to classify and identify the documents<sup>111</sup>; second, as a reflection of the level and nature of the development of the law on this type of agreement. The analysis of the form includes the definition of the components of the notarial form, the identification of the system of notarized situations and their relationship with the types of transactions, the analysis of legal formulas, the identification of the counterparties and the outcome of the transaction.

Traditionally, the formulae of notarial deeds are divided into the significant and the ritual. The significant formulas reflect the content of the transaction and the type of deed and, accordingly, they are more subject to transformation. The ritual formulas are not meaningful and are a tribute to a certain notarial and legal traditions, being used to add solemnity to the document (there are especially many ritual formulas in the deeds of property transfer). It is believed that Venetian notarial documents were extremely formalized, so sometimes subtle changes in form could also be a reflection of the specifics of the content, and the slightest modification of the form of the document could reflect both procedural innovations and more serious changes in the situation as a whole. A brief glance at the documents studied here does not reveal, however, any clear links between the use of legal formulae and significant changes in content. Our analysis suggests that we should not perceive the variability of the form as significant. There is no direct correlation between the extension or contraction of the formulae and the scope of the transferred property rights. No social typology of formulae was found either: the

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<sup>111</sup> One should remember that the form is determined by the content pertaining to a certain class of the notarial documents.

'talkativeness' or 'reticence' of the document is not linked to the social standing of the notary's client. In general, our deeds are highly standardized.

The documents start with a standard invocation (In Christi nomine amen). The date is written always entirely in words in the format year – indiction – (day of the week) – day – month. The place of the drawing up of the documents is almost always mentioned. The sequence of the parts of the deed – *prologus* (explanation of cause), *intitulatio*, *suppletio* (the main part), *corroboratio* – is regularized. A deed had legal effect only if it was made in the presence of two witnesses. The subjects of transactions and, in general, the persons referred to in the deeds, are standardly identified through the first name, family name, the expression "son of X", parish, etc., although it was not necessary for the notary to be completely consistent, for him an identification which would be clear and sufficient for the society in which he worked, and for the authorities, to which his clients could apply was much more important. As a rule, documents are made on behalf of clients using 'third person' utterances.

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The source material studied here still has to be contextualized and researched in more profound manner; however, we can clearly see now that the investigation of the deeds stored in the Western European section of the Archive is more than promising.

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APPENDIX  
REGESTAE

**1/207**

10 June 1380.

*Niccolò, son of the deceased Ser Giovanni, son of Ser Moses from Piovene, rents something to Ser Jacopino, son of the deceased Guglielmo from Caltrano, the contrada of Camessino (Camexino), and to his heirs for ten years. Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 solde. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in the contrada of Camessino (Camexino) in the house of ser Eugenio, the inhabitant of Caltrano. In the presence of witnesses Antonio, son of the deceased Enrico, from the village (de villa Se(..)ri), notary Jacopo, son of the deceased abbot of Piovene, Giovanni, son of the late Gerardino from Treviso, Ziglo named Maloso, the son of the deceased Ordano from Saltusio (? - Sant(..)usio).*

**2/207**

23 September 1408.

*Magister Bartolomeo Pilipannis, son of the deceased Antonio, resident of Caltrano, leases for ten years to Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Grandono, resident of Caltrano one plot of arable land, planted with vines and trees, about one field and one quarter of the field (campum). The plot is located in vicinity of Caltrano in ora Galaini, from the Southwest around the commune road, from the North around possessions of the tenant, from the East around the hereditary possession of Ordano a Vale. For the rented plot the tenant undertakes to pay annually 4 starii of grain eight days before or eight days after the St. Felix's day. Each renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in the contrada Curtini, near the house of ser Antonio, son of the deceased Benedicto, resident of Caltrano, in the presence of notary Bartolomeo, son of Magister Giovanni Fabri from Chiuppano, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: presbyter Antonio, son of the deceased Giovanni, archpresbyter of the church Santa Maria of Caltrano, Donato, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Gasparo, son of the deceased Antonio.*

**3/207**

9 January 1432.

*Giovanni, son of Lorenzo, a resident of Caltrano leases for ten years to Gabriel, son of the deceased Antonio, a resident of Lugo, one plot of arable land, planted with trees and vineyards, about half a field. The plot is located in the vicinity of Lugo, in ora Gagne; from the East, near the possessions of Vincenzo, son of Albrico, from the North, near the commune road, from the southwest, near the hereditary possessions Henry de Capellis. For this plot the tenant undertakes to pay annually two starii of grain eight days before or eight days after the St. Felix's day. Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in ora Casogni, in the house of Lorenzo, son of the deceased Giulio, resident of Caltrano, in the presence of notary Domenico, son of Lorenzo, son of the deceased Giullelmo from Caltrano, and witnesses: Benedetto, son of Vincenzo Chiari, resident of Lugo, and residents of Caltrano – Giacomo, son of the deceased Giovanni Seti, and Francesco, son of the deceased Bononi. The contract is registered on 14 January 1432 in the communal chancellery (officium) by Antonio, son of Gasparo from Arnaldo, a citizen of Vicenza.*

**4/207**

15 February 1434.

*Magister Giovanni Pellipari, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Caltrano, living in Vicenza, rented out (locatio renovatio ac livellum) to Donato, son of the deceased Pietro from Caltrano, a plot of arable land in the size of one field (campum) plus one quarter of a field and more for 10 years. For this plot the tenant undertakes to pay annually 4 starii of grain in eight days before or eight days after the day of St. Felix. Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees and is in the vicinity of Caltrano, on the border with Galaini; bordered on the East by the site of Blassio, son of the*

deceased Ordano from Caltrano, on the South and West – by communal road, on the North – by plots owned by the named renter and Antonio, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Caltrano, and then with others. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in the house of Giovanni Pellipari, in the presence of notary Pietro, son of Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Caltrano, and three witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro, Antonio, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Antonio, son of the deceased Viviano from Vello.

#### 5/207

13 April 1454.

Antonio, son of the deceased Francesco ... from Chiuppano, acting on behalf of Giovanni ... from Chiuppano, father of wife, leased (*locatio renovatio ac livellum*) to Giovanni, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Carrè, a plot of arable land in the size of one field for a period of 10 years. Renewal (*renovatio*) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees and is bordered on one side by a communal road; among the owners of neighboring plots are named: Angelo and his brothers, sons of the deceased ... from Piovene, the heir of Giacomo Piovene, ... Pietro and his brothers. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in the courtyard of the notary's house, in the presence of notary Pietro, son of Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Caltrano, and three witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Gianantonio, son of the deceased Antonio Marco, Giacomo, son of the deceased Niccolò Gravigani, and Bartolomeo, son of the Gianino, known as Fantini.

#### 6/207

16 April 1454.

Domenico, son of the deceased Niccolò from Cogolo, resident of Caltrano valley, sold for 4 ducats of good gold to Lazzaro, son of the deceased Ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati from Caltrano, a plot of land in the size of about one field. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees, located in the vicinity of Caltrano in the *contrada* of the Rhone, from the East and North near the domain of Antonio, son of the Pietro Cissi, and Gianpietro, son of Pietro, residents of Caltrano, and from the South at the Church of St. Maria de Caltrano. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, on the communal road by the wall of possessions of the heirs of Giacomo Giaroco of Caltrano, in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, Bartolomeo, son of Gianini, known as Contantini from Caltrano, Niccolò, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Romano, son of the deceased Lorenzo.

#### 7/207

16 April 1454.

Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro from the Caltrano valley, sold for 29 solde to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased Sir Ognobeni, known as Terenati, a plot of arable land in the size of five quarters of field and more. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees and located in the vicinity of Caltrano, in the *contrada* of San Donato; from the East it is bordered by an area of Bartolomeo of Chiuppano, known as Tribia, from the South and West – by communal road, from the North – by a plot belonging to the commune of Caltrano. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, at the communal street nearby the walls of the possessions of heirs Giaroco from Caltrano, in the presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the ser Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and three witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, Bartolomeo, son of Gianino Fantini, and Pietro, son of Gerardo, son of the deceased Jacopo Canalaro.

#### 8/207

28 January 1455.

Antonio, son of the deceased Guglielmo from Caltrano, sold for 28 soldo to Lazzaro, son of the deceased Sir Ognibeni, a plot of meadow land. The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano next to the *foratoria* near the commune of Caltrano, ... from one side and near ... . The contract is sealed in the village Caltrano, in the house of the named buyer in the presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the ser Gennaro, son of the

deceased Bartolomeo, and three witnesses: Domenico, son of the deceased Vincenzo, Romano, son of the deceased ... , and ... from the valley, residents of Caltrano.

### 9/207

10 January 1456

Andreo, son of Giacomo Cari, and his son Niccolò sold for 45 denarii to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognibeni, known as Terenati, one plot of land (sedime) in the size of half field (campum) planted with fruit trees. The plot is located in vicinity of Caltrano, in contrada Camessino; in the East alongside possessions of Corupo from Camessino, in the South and North – alongside communal road, in the West – alongside possessions of the named vendor, pro Ara et certo Broyleto suc habitatoris. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the named customer in the presence of notary Pietro of Coltrano, son of ser Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and three witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Antonio, son of the deceased Giuliano, Gianantonio, son of the deceased Antonio, known as Toneli, and Giovanni, son of the deceased Ordano.

### 10/207

23 November 1456

Bartolomeo from Carre, son of Giovanni, son of the deceased Nasimbene, sold for 22 lira and 10 soldo to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased Ognibeni, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land in the size of three quarters of the field (campum) planted with vineyards and trees. The plot is located in vicinity of Carre, in contrada San Lorenzo; in the East alongside the possessions of the named vendor in front of the church of Santa Maria de Montesumano, in the South – alongside the communal road, in the West – alongside the possessions of Benvenuto Florentini from Cintrali, in the North – alongside the possessions of Giacomo from Carre, son of the magister Lorenzo. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the named customer in presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and three witnesses: Gianino from Cogollo, son of the deceased Antonio Marasche, Antonio from Carre, son of the deceased Nasimbene, and magister Bartolomeo Pellipari from Caltrano, son of the deceased Pietro.

### 11/207

25 January 1457

Pietro from Piovene, son of the deceased Moises, citizen of Vicenza, sold for 22 lira and 10 soldo (in denariis parvis) to Lazzaro of Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land in the size of three quarters of the field (campum) planted with vineyards, olives and other trees. The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in the contrada of Brenzare; in the Southwest alongside the communal road, in the Northeast – alongside the possessions of Bonaguero of Caltrano, son of the deceased Bartolomeo. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of notary in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Giacomo, son of the deceased Giovanni, Antonio, son of the deceased Giacomo, and Niccolò, son of the deceased Giuliano.

### 12/207

### 13/207

24 November 1457

Magister Ognobeni Pellipari from Schio, son of the deceased Andreo from the river band (a ripa), sold for 66 lira (in denariis parvis) to Giovannantonio from Caltrano, son of the deceased magister Bartolomeo Pellipari, one plot of arable land in the size of two fields (campum) planted with vineyards and trees. The plot is located in the vicinity of Schio in the contrada of Setecale; in the East and West alongside the communal road, on the other side – by the possessions of the named vendor, and the rest is nearby hereditary estate of Giacomo from Asto, resident of Schio. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of magister Stefano Fabri of Caltrano,

son of the deceased Leonardo, in the presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: the named magister Stefano, Cristoforo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Donato, and Melchior from Schio, son of the deceased Blassio.

#### 14/207

11 January 1458

Gianantonio from Caltrano, son of the deceased Antonio, known as Toneli, sold for 48 denarii to Giovanni Guidoni one plot of arable land in the size of three quarters of the field (campem). The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in the contrada Piassani (Piaxani); in the South and North alongside the possessions of Gianpietro Pietri from Caltrano, also in the South – alongside the possessions of Francesco Gaspari from Caltrano, in the West – by the possessions of Giovanni Ognibeni from Caltrano, in the East – by the possessions of Ceno Piassi. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of heirs of Gianoco from Caltrano, in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Melchior, son of Giacomo, son of the deceased Giovanni Sancti, and Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro Cissi.

#### 15/207

10 June 1458

Andreo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Giovanni Seti, and his son Domenico sold for 5 denarii to Giovanni Antonio from Caltrano, son of the deceased magister Bartolomeo Pellipari, one plot of meadow land in the size of a half of a quarter of the field (campum) planted with olives. The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in the contrada of Rondo; in the East – by the possessions of Paulo from Caltrano, son of Niccolò, in the South – by the possessions of Bonaguro from Caltrano, son of Bartolomeo, in the West – by possessions of ... from Caltrano, residents of Vicenza, in the North – alongside the communal road. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the named vendor in the presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Giovanni, son of Paulo, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and Bartolomeo, son of Gianino Fantini.

#### 16/207

6 September 1459

Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, rents to Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro from Valley (a Valle), a plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, in the size of one field for a period of 10 years for 9 lira per year. This fee should be payed 8 days before or 8 days after St. Martin's day (11 November). Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The plot is located in Caltrano in the contrada of Camessino; in the East and the West – by the possessions of the named lessor, in the South – by the communal road, in the North – by the possessions of Francesco Gaspari from Caltrano. The contract is sealed in Caltrano at the side of the communal road nearby entrance to the courtyard of the house of Bianco from Tiene in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: Gianino from Zane, son of the deceased Giraldi, Andreo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Giacomo Cari, and Giovanni from Cortino, son of the deceased Antonio Lazari.

#### 17/207

10 October 1459

Francesco, son of the deceased Bartolomeo Barbero from Leonico, citizen and resident of Vicenza in the commune (sindicaria) of San Giacomo, sold for 15 lira (in dinariis parvis) to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot (sedimen) of land with a house, vegetable garden and crags in the size of one and a half quarter of field (campum). The plot is located in Caltrano in the contrada of

*Camessino; on two sides – alongside the communal road and corubum of Camessino, nearby possessions of Domenico, son of Vincenzo, and on the other sides – nearby possessions of the named customer. However, the right of Antonio from Caltrano, son of the deceased Giacomo del Cetera, to use this possession (livellum) for 20 soldo annually is still untouched. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the courtyard of the house of Bartolomeo Biancoti from Tiene in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and three witnesses: Giovannantonio, son of the named Bartolomeo, and two residents of Caltrano – Antonio, son of the deceased Gianoco, and Giacomo, son of Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro from the Valley (a Valle).*

## 18/207

27 November 1559

*Paulo from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser ... Gennari, sold for 10 ducat (and 31 denarii grossi?) to Franceschina, daughter of Giovanni de Giopis, resident of Vicenza, and wife of Gianbatisto Ignazi/Cinati from Moson, now resident of Caltrano, one plot of arable land, planted with trees, olives and vineyards, in the size of three quarters of the field (campum). The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in ora Masi; in the Northeast – nearby the hereditary possession of Batisto Seti, in the South – by the possessions of Bernardo, ... , in the West – by .... The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the heirs of the named Gianbatisto in the presence of the notary Bernardino, son of the deceased Giovanni from Castello, and witnesses: magister Antonio Cerdone from Caltrano, son of the deceased Batisto Cissi, and magister Vincenzo Carpentino from Asiago, son of the deceased Gianes Giobia.*

## 19/207

3 January 14...

*Brothers Domenico Bernardini and Baldassare from Cassigliago, sons of the deceased Giani Bonore, sold to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot of meadow land, planted with trees and vineyards, in the size of seven fields (campum). The plot is located in the vicinity of Calvene in ora La Porta, nearby the possessions of Giacomo Testolini, resident of Calvene, citizen of Vicenza. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the named customer in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: Giovanni from ..., son of the deceased Vincenzo, ..., son of Giacomo Molendinario, resident of ..., and Francesco, son of the late ...caclo a Busco from Toneza.*

## 19a/207

28 March 1460/1461

*Magister Vagente Cerdo from Cogollo, son of the deceased Giovanni, sold to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, in the size of the one field (campum). The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano, alongside the road to Mezo; on the one side and one end – nearby the possessions of Leo from Caltrano, son of Giorgio, on the other end – nearby the communal road, and on the other side the plot is limited with the possessions on which dominus Bartolomeo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Bonaguro, has right to use for annual payment of three starii of grain. The contract is sealed in caltrano in the house of the notary in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Giovanni, son of Melchior, son of the deceased Giacomo Seti, and Giovanni Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro from the Valley (a Valle).*

## 20/207

26 May 1461

*Giovanni from Zane, son of the deceased Martino, sold for 30 denarii to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, in the size of the one field (campum). The plot is located mostly in the vicinity of Zane in contrada ...; on the both*

sides – nearby the possessions of Pietro from Vallmarano, on the one end – nearby the possessions of the named vendor, and on the other end – nearby the possessions Gerardini from Zane. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the notary's house in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: Niccolò from Chiupano, son of Guilliemo, Bartolomeo from Caltrano, son of Bonaguro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Pietro del Vecla from Sorsio.

### 21/207

1 June 1461.

Antonio, son of the deceased Nasimbeno from Carre, and his son Baldassare, for 67 lira dn 10 soldo of small denarii sold to Lazzaro, son of the deceased Ognobeni, known as Terenati, from Caltrano, a plot of arable plant, planted with trees and vineyards, the size of about two fields. The plot is located in the vicinity of Carre in contrada Compogroso; one side near the possessions of Icorjo of Caprilis, citizen of Vicenza, another side – near the possessions of Daniello Dzedi from Carre, one peak near Bartolomeo's domain, son of Giovanni from Ferro, resident of Carre, another side – near communal road, and randomly near other possessions. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of mentioned buyer in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and witnesses: Antonio, son of Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro from the valley, Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Marco Gianoko, residents of Caltrano, and Gerardo, son of Bonato Steko from Carre.

### 22/207

2 July 1463.

Bernardo, son of the deceased magister Mateo Fabri from Marano, for 4 ducats sold to Antonio, son of the deceased Vincenzo, son of Panduto from Cogolo, a plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, the size of one quarter of field. The plot is located in the vicinity of Cogolo in contrada Semeseago; from the West and East – near the house of Michele del Treto, resident of the village Dzane, from the South – near the house of Jacopo, son of Bartolomeo, son of Gerardini from Cogolo, and from the North – near the Cogolo's church possessions. The contract is sealed in the Caltrano village, at the communal road in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and two witnesses: Gasparo Fabro, son of ser Avantio Pil...di, resident of Caltrano, and Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro from the valley, both residents of Caltrano.

### 23/207

10 November 1463.

Ladzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni from Caltrano, rented out for ten years to Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco, two plots of land, planted with vineyards and trees, with annual payment of 3 starii of grains before 8 days and after the day of St. Felix. At the end of the contract it can be renewed with the payment of 5 soldo denarii. One of the rented plots is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in contrada Carpanedi from the South – near the house of mentioner, from the East – near the house of ... , from the West – near Val Salbino, and from the North – near the house of Francesco. The second plot of arable land the size of several quarters and half a field is located also in the vicinity of Caltrano in contrada Fonege near the house of Alessandro from Giugliano, resident of Vicenza, on both sides and near the village street and ... [...aibus] Fonege from other sides. The contract was sealed in Caltrano village at the communal road near the house of mentioned renter in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Cristoforo, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Scio, Podzolo, son of the deceased Pascal from Valentia, resident of Scio village, and Gasparo, son of ser Anantio Pelukeli, resident of Caltrano.

### 24/207

10 November 1463.

Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco from Calveno, sold for 45 small denarii to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased Ognobeni, known as Terenati, two plots of land, planted with vineyards and trees. One plot of land is the size of half a field and located in the vicinity of Calveno, on the border with Carpanedo, and is bordered to the South by the buyer's plot, to the East – with water of Fonege, to the West – with Salbino village,

and to the North – with Francesco`s and his brothers` land, sons of the deceased Berto from Calveno. The second plot, the size of one quarter and half a field, is also located in the vicinity of Calveno on the border with Carpanedo, and is bordered from two sides by the land of Alessandro from Giugliano, from other sides – with the communal road and gaibum Foneghe. The contract was sealed in Caltrano at the communal road near the house of mentioned buyer, in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses : Cristoforo, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Scio, Ponzeto, son of the deceased Pascal from Valentia, resident of Scio, and Gasparo, son of ser Avantio Pelukeli, resident of Caltrano.

### 25/207

20 December 1463.

Cristoforo, son of the deceased Donato from Caltrano, and Bartolomeo, his son, sold for 37 lira and 10 soldo of small coin to Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati from Caltrano, a plot of land the size of one field and more. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees and located in the vicinity of Caltrano, in the parish (ora) of St. Donata; from the Southern side it is located near [the possessions] of the heirs of Pietro Cixi from Caltrano, from the West – near [the possessions] of Antonio, son of Pietro from Caltrano valley, on the other sides it borders the site of the commune of Caltrano. The contract is sealed in Caltrano village in the house of buyer in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco from Calvene, Pietro, son of the deceased Jacopo from Segis velli, and Antonio, son of the deceased Federico from Arserio.

### 26/207

5 March 1464.

Niccolò, son of the deceased Francesco from Piovene, sold for 30 soldo denarii to Lazzaro, son of the deceased Ognobeni from Caltrano, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land planted with vineyards and trees the size of one field. The plot is located in the vicinity of Piovene, opposite the road to Scio, near the possession of lady Catharine, wife of Gaspar Domenico from Piovene, – from one side; nearby the possessions of the heirs of Gaspar Beroderia from Piovene – from the other side; near the communal road with one of its tops and near the possessions of Berta, son of Giovanni from Piovene, with other top and some other way with another. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of mentioned buyer in the presence of notary Petra, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Giuliano from Caltrano, Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco from Calvene, and Scrimino, son of the deceased Oleano from Asiago.

### 27/207

5 March 1464.

Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni Terenati from Caltrano, rented out for ten years to Niccolò, son of the deceased Francesco from Piovene, a plot of arable land the size of one medium field, planted with trees and vineyards. The tenant is obliged to annually pay two starii of grains 8 days before and after the St. Felix`s day. The renewal (renovatio) is possible with the payment of 5 soldo denarii. Rented plot is located in the vicinity of Piovene in Via de Scio contrada: from one side – near the house of Catharina, wife of Gasparo from Piovene, from the other side – near the possession of the heirs of Gasparo from Piovene; from one end – near communal road; and from the other end – near the house of Berto, son of Giovanni from Piovene. The contract is sealed in Caltrano village in the house of mentioned renter in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Giuliano from Caltrano, Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco from Calvene, and Serenimo, son of the deceased Cliano from Asiago.

### 28/207

20 November 1464.

Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Bonaguro from Caltrano, for 30 lira and 1 denarii sold to Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni Terenati from Caltrano, a plot of arable land planted with vineyards and trees about one field size. The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano on the Corby border and above the communal road,

*below the house of Giovanni from Cortino, Caltrano, and the house of Icorjo de Caprelis, citizen of Vicenza; near the house of Vincenzo, son of Pietro from Mosson; and the house of the heirs of Dzanoka from Caltrano – from one side; near the house of Antonio, son of Vincenzo, son of Panducho from Cogolo. The contract is sealed in the village of Caltrano in the house of public notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Dzenario from Caltrano, in the presence of witnesses Gasparo, son of the deceased Jacopo from Caltrano, and Bartolomeo, son of the mentioned notary. The document was written by Pietro, son of the deceased ser Dzenario from Caltrano, public notary.*

### **29/207**

*3 January 1465.*

*Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati from Caltrano, rented out to brothers Francesco and Pascal, sons of the deceased Pietro Bertoni from Carre, and to Lazzaro, son of the mentioned Francesco, for ten years a plot of arable land planted with vineyards and trees one field size. The tenant is obliged to annually pay 1 and two quarters (1,5) starii of grains 8 days before and after the St. Felix`s day. Renewal (renovatio) is possible with payment of 5 soldo. Rented plot is located in the vicinity of Carre on the border with Lentanis: one side it is located near the possessions of the heirs of Antonio Conti of Carre, another side – near the possessions of mentioned Pascal, from one top – near the possessions of Niccolò`s wife from Carre, another top – near the communal road. The contract is sealed in the house of mentioned renter in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro Cisi, Giovannantonio, son of the deceased magister Bartolomeo Pelipari – residents of Caltrano, and Jacopo, son of the deceased Antonio Gerardi, - from Chiuppano.*

### **30/207**

*3 January 1465.*

*Brothers Francesco and Pascal, sons of the deceased Pietro Bertoni from Carre, and Lazzaro, son of the mentioned Francesco, for 22 lira and 10 denarii sold to Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni Terenati from Caltrano, a plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, one field size. The plot is located in the vicinity of Carre on the border with Lentanis near the house of the heirs of Antonio Contio (Contis) from Carre – from one side; near the house of mentioned Pascal – from the other side; vixolum of Nicolao from Carade – from one end; and near the communal road – from another end. Mentioned Lazzaro at the time of the contract paid only 11 lira; the purchase will be considered successful after the full payment. The contract is sealed in Caltrano village in the house of mentioned buyer in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro Cisi, Giovannato, son of the deceased magister Bartolomeo Peliperi, residents of Caltrano, and Jacobo, son of the deceased Antonio Gerardi from Chiuppano.*

### **31/207**

*4 January 1465.*

*Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni Terenati from Caltrano, rented out for ten years with possible renewal (renovatio) with payment of 5 denarii to Giovanni Datio, son of the deceased Pietro Magri from Dzane, and his nephew/grandson Passio, son of the deceased Marco from Dzane, a plot of arable five quarters size land, planted with vineyards and trees. The plot is located in the vicinity of Dzana village in contrada named Lacalcaraina, from one side and one end – near the communal road; from another end – near the house of the heirs of Alessandro from Pigafetta (Plegafetis), citizen of Vicenza; from another side – near the house of Catharina, menegni Pietro Magri from Dzanade. The contract is sealed in Caltrano village in the house of mentioned renter in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and three witnesses: Niccolò, son of the deceased Galvani from Meda, Francesco, son of the deceased Berti, and Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro – all residents of Calvene.*

### **32/207**

*4 January 1465.*

*Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni from Caltrano, rented out to Francesco, son of the deceased Berto from Calvene, and Niccolò ... Germanum, son of the deceased Pietro from Calvene, a plot of land, partly arable, partly thickly overgrown with trees and olives, about 4 fields size. The tenant is obliged annually pay 6 starii and two quarters starii more 8 days before and after the St. Felix`s day. Renewal (renovatio) is possible wit the payment of 5 soldo. Rented plot is located in the vicinity of Calvene in contrada La Piana: from the East – near the valley Sabina, from the South – near the river Astiko, from the West – near the valley separating the commune Caltrano and Kalvenes, from the North – near the communal road. The contract is sealed in the Caltrano village in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased der Gennaro, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Inano from Caltrano, Gasparo, son of Anantio Pelukeli from Caltrano, and resident of Caltrano Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Jacopo from Pedescala of Rotio commune.*

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