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SETTLEMENTS AND POPULATION OF VRSINJE IN THE 14th AND 15th CENTURIES**

Abstract: Zupci are located in the south of the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where they border the municipality of Herceg Novi in Montenegro and Konavle in Croatia. In the Middle Ages, this region was called Vrsinje and belonged to Travunia, as did neighbouring Dračevica and Konavle, which were sold to Dubrovnik in the 1420s. The medieval past of Vrsinje has not been fully examined in historical literature. This area is most often mentioned in the context of other topics. Vrsinje has remained in the shadow of its parent region, Travunia. Based on unpublished and published sources, this paper presents the settlements and population of Vrsinje, as well as the economic and social conditions during the 14th and 15th centuries, about which a rich written trace remains in Dubrovnik's sources. The aim of this paper is to expand and complete existing knowledge about medieval Vrsinje by gathering and systematising scattered data.

Keywords: Vrsinje, Zupci, Trebinje area, Middle Ages, Dubrovnik.

In the medieval period, Vrsinje belonged to Travunia, later called the Trebinje area. Like Travunia, Vrsinje was later renamed Zupci. This area shared the political fate of Travunia, which was initially independent before coming under the rule of Rascian rulers from the 10th century onward.¹ During the time of the Vojislavljevićs, whose progenitor was knez Vojislav – referred to as “the Serb of Travunia” by historian Kekaumenos – Travunia fell under the rule of Duklja. Knez Vojislav ceded

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¹ Константин Порфирогенит, *О темама (De thematibus); О народима (De administrando imperio)*, са предговором Гаврила Ласкина, превео Стеван Бербер, Београд 2014, 164.

Travunia to his sons to govern.² Although there are differing claims, if the accounts of this historiographer are credible, it follows that the rulers of the House of Vojislavljević were a Trebinje dynasty.

From 1185, the Trebinje area – including Vrsinje – once again came under the rule of Rascian rulers. Later, this area was governed by Vojislav Vojinović until 1363, then by his widow Gojislava and Nikola Altomanović until 1373.³

Following the downfall of the Altomanovići, from 1373 to 1377, the Trebinje area – which included Vrsinje – was ruled by Đurađ Balšić of Zeta, and then, from 1377, by Bosnian ruler Tvrtko I Kotromanić.⁴

However, within the Kingdom of Bosnia, the Trebinje area was divided between the noble families of Pavlović and Kosača, though their holdings were not compact but rather intermingled. By the late 14th century, the Pavlovići controlled a larger portion of the Trebinje area, in addition to Vrm and Klobuk, while another part, such as Vrsinje, Dračevica with Novi, belonged to the Kosača family. At the same time, Konavle was ruled by the Sankovići.⁵

After the death of King Tvrtko I Kotromanić in 1391, the sons and heirs of Sanko Miltenović – župan Beljak and voivode Radič – intended to sell Konavle, along with Sokol and Vitaljina, to the Ragusans. However, voivode Vlatko Vuković and Pavle Radinović, with the consent of the Bosnian king, seized Konavle and divided it between themselves.⁶ Later, Sandalj Hranić sold his portion of Konavle in 1419, while Radosav Pavlović sold his share in 1426, following the First Konavle War.⁷

By the mid-1460s, the Ottomans had seized a large part of Herzegovina. In March 1465, Vrsinje was under the control of herzog Stefan Vukčić.⁸ Soon after, on 15 November 1465, Vrsinje was occupied by the Ottoman Turks.⁹

² *Византијски извори за историју народа Југославије*, т. 3, Београд 1966, 210–212; Vojisla Korać, *Trebinje : istorijski pregled I, Period do dolaska Turaka*, Trebinje 1966, 85, 91.

³ V. Korać, *Trebinje I*, 95–96, 112–115; Гордана Томовић, „Војиновићи“, in: *Споменица академика Симе Ђирковића*, Београд 2011, 355–363; Павле Драгичевић, *Баштине обласних господара у средњовековној Србији*, Бања Лука 2021, 65–75.

⁴ С. Ђирковић, *Историја средњовековне босанске државе*, Београд 1964, 135; Раде Михаљчић, „Доба обласних господара“, in: *Историја српског народа*, књ. II, Београд 1982, 25–28; Срђан Рудић, *Балшићи – господари Зете*, Београд 2021, 64–65.

⁵ Ђуро Тошић, *Требињска област у средњем вијеку*, Београд 1998, 95–99; Сима Ђирковић, „Павловића земља (*Contrata Dei Paulouich*)“, in: *Земља Павловића. Средњи вијек и период турске владавине*, Бања Лука – Српско Сарајево 2003, 41–44 (Научни скупови, књ. V).

⁶ Јованка Мијушковић, „Хумска властeosка породица Санковић“, *Историјски часопис* 11 (1961) 17–52 = eadem, „Хумска властeosка породица Санковић“, in: *Европа и Срби. Средњи век*, Београд 2006, 245–287; 263; Паво Ђивковић, „Уступање Konavala Dubrovčanima“, in: *Konavle u prošlosti, sadašnjosti i budućnosti I*, Dubrovnik 1998, 78–80.

⁷ Паво Живковић, „Учешће босанске властеле у диоби Конавала“, *Прилози* 16 (Сарајево 1979) 181–188.

⁸ [“...*de Versigne jurisdictionis herceg...*”]. Državni arhiv u Dubrovniku [=DAD], *Lamenta de foris* [Lam. de for.] XXXVI f. 207 (19. III 1465).

⁹ [“...*de Vlachis Xubci jurisdictionis Turcorum...*”]. DAD, Lam. de for. XXXVII f. 157 (15. XI 1465); Михаило Динић, *Из Дубровачког архива*, књ. III, Београд 1967, 136.

Numerous documents about Vrsinje and Zupci have been preserved in various series of the Dubrovnik Archive, many of which have been published as source material.¹⁰

A significant number of archival documents on Vrsinje and Zupci have also been analysed and published by B. Hrabak. However, in this paper, archival references are noted based on the original digitised archival material from the Dubrovnik Archive.

Vrsinje stretched northeast of Vitaljina, southwest of Trebinje, east of Površ, west of Grahovo, south of Klobuk, and northwest of Risan.¹¹

Citing O. Đurić-Kozić, Đ. Tošić has written in greater detail about the borders of Vrsinje: "The northern part of Vrsinje (Zupci) was part of the Trebinje župa. Its border began at Kokotova gradina and ran through Rikal, Žaljevac, Kruševo brdo, Ljetovac, Golobrado, and reached Petrinja, above the village of Polica. From there, it turned south, following the peaks separating the Trebinjsko from Zubačko polje, crossing Gučina, Strač, Ždulac, Mali and Veliki Priporac, then turned north again, encompassing Premišlje and descending to the border of Površ below the village of Zgonjevo".¹²

Due to the lack of sources, the earliest history of Vrsinje remains unknown. One document from the Ragusan chancery, dated October 1285, mentions *Bercus de Vsrigna*. However, due to the unclear spelling of the place, it is uncertain whether this refers to Vrsinje, as some earlier researchers asserted.¹³

Notable K. Jireček wrote that Vrsinje was mentioned in 1305 and 1318 and that it was a župa in the Middle Ages. By the late medieval period, the name Vrsinje changed. Instead of Vrsinje, it was called Zupci, after the eponymous tribe, i.e. the name of the population inhabiting the area.¹⁴ Medieval sources attest to this. In late 1421, some individuals from Vrsinje of the Zubac lineage are mentioned.¹⁵ Thus, during the Middle Ages, the name Vrsinje gradually disappeared, and the region came to be called Zupci,

¹⁰ Бранислав М. Недељковић, „Мешовита порота. Дубровачка документа XIV и XV века о пограничној пороти“, *Мешовита грађа (Miscellanea)*, књ. 6 (1978). Over the past years, E. Kurtović and his associates transcribed and compiled several thousand documents from the Dubrovnik Archive. Among others, there are numerous documents about Vrsinje and Zupci. Esad Kurtović, *Izvori za historiju srednjovjekovne Bosne : (Ispisi iz knjiga zaduženja Državnog arhiva u Dubrovniku (1365–1521))*, Sarajevo 2017; idem, *Arhivska građa za historiju srednjovjekovne Bosne : (ispisi iz knjiga kancelarije Državnog arhiva u Dubrovniku 1341–1526)*, sv. 1–3, Sarajevo 2019; Esad Kurtović & Asim Peco, *Izvori za historiju srednjovjekovne Bosne : (Ispisi iz knjiga notarijata Državnog arhiva u Dubrovniku (1370–1529))*, Sarajevo 2021; Esad Kurtović, *Izvori za historiju srednjovjekovne Bosne : (Ispisi iz knjiga tužbi Državnog arhiva u Dubrovniku: Lamenta de foris I–L, 1370–1483)*, 1–3, Sarajevo 2022.

¹¹ B. Hrabak's work on Zupci focuses less on the Middle Ages, while the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries are covered in significantly greater detail. Богумил Храбак, „Зупци“, *Зборник за историју Босне и Херцеговине*, 4 (2004) 143–179.

¹² Đuro Tošić, „Srednjovjekovna župa Trebinje“, *Prilozi XXIV*, 25/26 (Sarajevo 1990) 84–85.

¹³ Грегор Чремошник, *Канцеларијски и нотарски списи 1278–1301*, Београд 1932, 151.

¹⁴ Константин Јиречек, *Историја Срба*, књ. I, Београд 1981, 76; ibidem, књ. II, 35, 37, 45.

¹⁵ In Konavle, in the place of Kamen Brod, three brothers: Radivoj, Dobrašin and Đurina Pribilović, along with Volkosav, stole a pig belonging to Radosav Gudeljević. DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f. 374' (21. XII 1421).

a name that has remained to this day. However, K. Jireček did not cite the source mentioning the župa of Vrsinje. In historical sources, we find no mention of the župa of Vrsinje, though it appears in numerous scholarly works. Vrsinje is not listed among the župas of Travunia, nor in the Chronicle of the Priest of Duklja.¹⁶

Vrsinje is also mentioned in 1376.¹⁷ In a charter dated 15 April 1391, brothers Beljak and Radič Sanković declared that they were ceding to the Ragusans the župa of Konavle with Donja Gora, the town of Sokol, all villages and people, lands, pastures, waters, mills, revenues, and all borders adjoining Trebinje and Vrsinje.¹⁸ Even on this occasion – as well as later – it was not specified as a župa.

Vrsinje was not a župa, but belonged to the župa of Travunia, later the Trebinje area. Persons from this area are referred to in sources as being from Trebinje, from Vrsinje.¹⁹

In the 1450s, the area called Zupci (*contrata dicta Zupci*)²⁰ is mentioned. In sources and literature, this area is inconsistently referred to as Zupci and Zubci (*de Zupci, de Xubci, de Xupzi, Subač*).²¹

Regarding the origin of the name Zupci, aside from the assertions that it was named after the eponymous tribe, there is also a long-standing tradition in historical literature that Zupci received its name from a certain young man named Zuban. To win the emperor's daughter, Zuban was tasked with finding and catching a horse "without a marking" – unbridled, unsaddled – and riding it. The place where he found the horse and mounted it was named Konjsko.²²

Konjsko is a medieval settlement that has retained its name to this day, as also attested by Ragusan sources. In March 1420, in a place called Konjsko, Brajan Bokčinović was beaten and robbed by unknown assailants.²³ Two years later, Petko Radosalić filed a suit against Bogeta Radosalić, Bogavac, the son of Radovac, Rajko Radešić, Milat Pribinić, Branko Vraničić, and others he did not know. The accused had stolen various goods in Orah near Konjsko, including fabrics, 60 librae of wool, a *raša* black mantle, a hat, four *kupels* of grain, and other items.²⁴

Konjsko is situated at the foot of Srđevo Brdo, Škuljevaca, Stijena, Kokošinji Kuk, Ždrijelo and Vukov Dol. It consists of four distinct settlements: Konjsko, Nugo, Carevo Polje and Željevo.²⁵

¹⁶ Фердо Шишић, *Љетопис попа Дукљанина*, Београд–Загреб 1928, 326.

¹⁷ Сима Ђирковић, „Писмо Радоње Куделиновића Дубровнику о заоставштини требињског свештеника“, *Грађа о прошлости Босне* 3 (2010) 63–67.

¹⁸ Љубомир Стојановић, *Старе српске повеље и писма* I–1, Београд – Сремски Карловци 1929, 123–126.

¹⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. II, f. 30' (27. I 411).

²⁰ DAD, Lam. de for. XXX, f. 35' (23. I 1457); Ђ. Тошић, *Требињска област у средњем вијеку*, 56.

²¹ DAD, Diversa Cancellariae [=Div. Canc.] LIV, f. 259 (30. VII 1440); Lam. de for. XXI, f. 71' (12. V 1447); XXXIV, f. 158' (7. IV 1451).

²² Ђ. Тошић, *Требињска област у средњем вијеку*, 32.

²³ DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f. 169 (25. III 1420).

²⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. V, f. 112 (1. XII 1422).

²⁵ Обрен Ђурић-Козић, *Шума, Површ и Зупци : Херцеговина, антропогеографске студије*, Гацко 2004, 555–557; Aleksandar Ratković, „Srednjovjekovno selo – Konjsko“, *Most*, god. XXX/96, 185 (Mostar 2005) 1.

On the main road from Trebinje to Herceg Novi, near the place of Tuli, a local road branches off southeast, extending about 9 km towards Konjsko. In the hamlet of Radišići, within the courtyard of the Church of the Ascension, in the Orthodox cemetery, there are 43 *stećci*, including one with an inscription marking the grave of Vukašin Dobrašinović. Ragusan sources from 1421 and 1428 record Vukašin Dobrašinović, believed to be the same person buried in Konjsko, in Zupci.²⁶

In the early 20th century, O. Đurić-Kozić listed the following settlements in Zupci: Konjsko, Bogojević Selo, Orašje, Turmenti, Tuli, Kraj and Podkraj, Kunja Glavica, Ograde, Grab and Drenovi Do.²⁷ However, among the medieval settlements of Vrsinje (Zupci) that belonged to the Trebinje župa, apart from Konjsko, sources also mention Rapti, Dubrave, Sutjeska, Orašje, Turmenti, the village of Bogoje, and the village of Dobrovoj Branojević, which will be discussed further.

The settlement of Rapti was inhabited by subjects of the noble Dobrovojević family.²⁸ It is possible that the progenitor of nobleman Dobrovojević was Dobrovoj Branojević. From Rapti in Trebinje came Radiša Radmilović, a subject of nobleman Radič Dobrovojević, who is mentioned in mid-1425 in connection with the theft of a cow worth nine perpera, owned by Pribil Gojčinović.²⁹

In early December 1455, Radmilo Radonjić accused Vukac Radinčić from Rapti and two of his unknown companions of stealing two sheep and three goats from him in the settlement of Orašje.³⁰

It is important to note that, in addition to Rapti in Vrsinje (Zupci), there is also Rapti in Bobani. From the place called Rapti in Bobani came Strahinja, the son of Vignjo Dobrilović, and Dobruško Miloradović.³¹

Petko Radivojević was from Rapti and conducted business with Marko Mladenović.³² However, it is unknown whether he was from Rapti in Bobani or Zupci. Today, the settlement of Rapti in Zupci is uninhabited and abandoned.

In the Middle Ages, the village of Turmenti was populated and has retained its name to this day. The village most likely derived its name from the Turmentić family

²⁶ Marko Vego, *Zbornik srednjovjekovnih natpisa Bosne i Hercegovin*, knj. 3, Sarajevo 1964, br. 132, 246–247; A. Ratković, „Srednjovjekovno selo – Konjsko“, 1–2; Срђан Рудић, *Властела Илирског зрбовника*, Београд 2006, 107; Esad Kurtović, „Dobrašinovići iz Vrsinja (Datiranje natpisa iz sela Konjskog kod Trebinja)“, in: *Godišnjak. Centar za balkanološka ispitivanja*, knj. 39, Sarajevo 2010, 163–171, 169.

²⁷ О. Ђурић-Козић, *Шума, Површ и Зупци*, 555–571.

²⁸ Ђ. Тошић, *Требињска област у средњем вијеку*, 32, 34.

²⁹ *Radissa Radmilouich de Rapath de Tribigna, homo Radizi Dobrouoieuch furatus fuerit cum fratre suo Dobrillo et Milouaçio Miletich et Pribisauo Malouçich et Bogdano Radmilouich, omnibus de Tribigne, vaccam unam Pribilo Goicinouich valoris yperperorum nouem [...]* DAD, Div. Canc. XLIII, f. 212' (15. X 1425).

³⁰ *Vucaç Radincich de Rapat [...]*. DAD, Lam. de for. XXIX, f. 2 (3. XII 1455).

³¹ *Nos Strachigna filius Vigagni Dobrilouich de Bobani de loco vocato Rapti, Dobruschus Miloradouich de dicto loco Rapti et Petar Radossalich de Griepzi [...]* DAD, Debita Notariae [=Deb. Not.] XLIII, 63' (19. X 1502).

³² *Ego Petchus Radiuoieuch de Rapti [...]* DAD, Deb. Not. LXVI, f. 160 (28. VIII 1508).

who resided there. On 26 September 1412, two brothers, Mitoš and Mioman Božtković, were accused of stealing grain in Turmentiči in Vrsinje on 15 August of that year.³³

In August 1422, Rajan Turmenić was noted as a participant in a bandit raid and theft.³⁴ Pripko Radomanović from Župa Dubrovačka accused unknown persons of stealing his ox and two goats that he had entrusted to Rajan Turmenić for rearing and keeping.³⁵

In a court case from early November 1425, a later testimony concerning a robbery mentions the place Turmenta in Vrsinje.³⁶

Four years later, Radoš Milovčić declared before Ragusan knez Dobro Binčolić that his donkey, tied near the door of St Luke's church in Dubrovnik, had been stolen and was now in Vrsinje, in the possession of Bratoš, a man from Turmenta.³⁷

It is also noteworthy that in 1412, the settlement of Stulovo near Vrsinje (*in Stulovo prope Versignam*) is mentioned.³⁸

In addition to the above settlements of Vrsinje, medieval sources also mention the village of Orašje in Vrsinje. For instance, Obrad Golubić, who is frequently mentioned in sources, accused a number of men – Radič Branojević, Novak Radetinić and his two brothers Stefan and Pokrajac, Stanihna Rašković, Milman and Vukosav Radetinić, and Milman's sons Toma and Branko Branojević – of stealing and driving away three oxen, two cows, eight wethers, and one sword, worth five perpera, in Orašje in Vrsinje.³⁹ In later years, bandits from Orašje were mentioned in October 1443. Even after falling under Ottoman rule, Orašje is mentioned. A frequently mentioned bandit from Orašje, from Zupci, was Stefan Dabiživović Nenadić.⁴⁰

In the Middle Ages, the village of Bogoje also existed in Vrsinje, likely named after a certain Bogoj, whose descendants bore the surname Bogojević. It is thus significant to note that during the 15th century, the Bogojević family lived in Vrsinje. Among them was Dobrašin Bogojević from Zupci. Alongside Dobrašin, sources also mention Vukač Dobrašinović, possibly the son and heir of Dobrašin Bogojević.⁴¹ In the same period, Vlatko and Bogeta Bogojević also lived in Vrsinje, likely Dobrašin's brothers.⁴² It is most probable that Bogojević Selo was named after the eponymous family or a prominent individual. In November 1455, Vukosav Radičević from Vrsinje, from the village of Bogoje (*de Versigne in vila Bogoe*), sold a horse to a merchant from Drijeva for 12 perpera.⁴³

³³ DAD, Lam. de for. III, f. 14' (26. IX 1412).

³⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. V, f. 70' (6. VIII 1422).

³⁵ DAD, Lam. de for. XII, f. 202' (15. II 1439).

³⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. VI, f. 179' (26. XI 1425).

³⁷ DAD, Lam. de for. VIII, f. 211' (10. VII 1429).

³⁸ DAD, Lam. de for. III, f. 22 (23. X 1412).

³⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f. 131' (11. I 1420).

⁴⁰ DAD, Lam. de for. XLVIII, f. 29 (31. V 1479); Б. Храбак, *Зупци*, 151.

⁴¹ DAD, Lam. de for. V, f. 197 (7. IX 1423).

⁴² DAD, Lam. de for. V, f. 273' (1. XII 1423).

⁴³ DAD, *Diversa Notariae* [=Div. Not.] XL, f. 40' (18. IX 1455).

In mid-February 1411, Rogušina Milošević from Vrsinje, from the village of Dobrovoj Branojević, was accused of stealing an ox in Vrsinje.⁴⁴

In the Middle Ages, the settlement of Ovráčovac (*de Ouracouaç de Zupci*) also existed in Zupci. From Ovráčovac came Bratič Ratković, mentioned in late July 1440 in connection with the sale of a yearling mule.⁴⁵

Zupci, named after the eponymous tribe, are situated in the far south of the Republic of Srpska, on the Zubački plateau, between Trebinje, Korjenici, Krivošije, Kruševica and Konavle. They are surrounded by mountains and hills: Orjen, Sniježnica, Štirovnik and Štedar, with Bijela Gora to the south. They lie about 5 km as the crow flies from the sea.

The main road through Zubačko Polje runs from Trebinje via Donje Čičevo, Tuli, Sitnica, and onward to the sea, towards Herceg Novi and Sutorina. However, one branch of this road diverges near the settlement of Grab, descends through the Zubačka basin, passes between the Konavoska brda, through the Prapatno valley, over the Jablan Do saddle, and leads into Konavle and further to Cavtat.⁴⁶ This, too, is an ancient trade route once used by caravans transporting various goods through Konavle and Vrsinje towards Trebinje and further into the interior. The stretch of the caravan route leading from Konavle towards Trebinje was also known as *via comunis*. From Ljuta eastwards towards Lastva and Grahovo, it was called *via gluta* or *via de planine*.⁴⁷

After the Ragusans purchased both parts of Konavle, all routes passing through Konavle were documented. Niko Kapetanić noted: "The main roads (*via grande*) running through entire Konavle from Župa are two *pases* wide (one *pas* or *sežanj* = 2.048 m); one of them runs from Plat eastwards above Obod, below the houses in Uskopje to the Church of St Barbara and Knežja Street above Mrcine, then through Prapatno to the border with Vrsinje".⁴⁸

It was along this route that grand voivode Sandalj Hranić was to arrive in Dubrovnik in 1426, at the invitation of the Senate. After Sandalj accepted the invitation, on 20 January the Senate issued instructions regarding the manner in which the voivode should be received and honoured. Sandalj was to come via Konavle, so they ordered the knez of Konavle to assemble a gathering where each household was to bring one loaf of bread and deliver it to the Soko fortress, where a feast would be prepared, with rams and wine. Once the voivode entered Konavle, half the bread, wine and ten rams were to be given to him, and the other half upon his return from Dračevica. When the knez learned of the voivode's arrival, he was to ride out to meet him with at least 100 mounted men and await him at the border of Konavle. The

⁴⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. II, f. 32' (15. II 1411); E. Kurtović, „Dobrašinovići iz Vrsinja (Datiranje natpisa iz sela Konjskog kod Trebinja)“, 169, 163–70.

⁴⁵ DAD, Div. Canc. LIV, f. 259 (30. VII 1440); Б. Храбак, *Зупци*, 147.

⁴⁶ The route from the village of Grab towards Konavle, although asphalted in the last century, is currently impassable for political reasons.

⁴⁷ Marko Vego, *Naselja bosanske srednjovjekovne države*, Sarajevo 1957, 59, 72; Marija Obad, *Iz prošlosti sela Dubravka*, in: Konavoski zbornik I., Dubrovnik 1982, 98–104.

⁴⁸ Niko Kapetanić, *Konavle u XV. stoljeću*, Gruda 2011, 25.

entire escort was to accompany the voivode to Novi and see him off upon his return all the way to the harbour in Cavtat, where he was to board a galley.⁴⁹

In the medieval period, the above route from Trebinje through Vrsinje, i.e. Zupci, then via Sitnica and other settlements of Dračevica leading to Sutorina and Novi, was also frequently used.⁵⁰

Since ancient times, the people of Vrsinje had been connected to Konavle and Dračevica, which held particular importance for them. It is known that in earlier times, Vrsinje, the župa of Konavle, and the župa of Dračevica formed a single entity – Travunia.⁵¹ The importance of the harbour at Sutorina in Dračevica must be emphasised, not only for the people of Trebinje and Vrsinje but also for the Ragusans and the Bosnian ruler, King Tvrtko I Kotromanić, who established a salt market in Sutorina.⁵²

Besides Sutorina, the harbour in Cavtat in Konavle was also of exceptional importance to the people of Vrsinje, giving them access to the sea in two directions, in Dračevica and Konavle. However, the people of Vrsinje were not large-scale merchants. They engaged primarily in livestock farming, a traditional occupation and defining characteristic of the vlachs, including Zupci.

Both today and in the Middle Ages, Vrsinje offered exceptional conditions for livestock farming, while agricultural conditions were very modest. This arid karst region has a harsh, mostly mountainous climate, with strong winds characteristic of the Zubački plateau, where sandy soil rapidly drains water.⁵³

The inhabitants practised agriculture mostly for subsistence. Far more favourable conditions for agricultural production existed in neighbouring Konavle and Dračevica, making the people of Vrsinje uncompetitive in this economic branch. Some, like Brajan Zubac and his wife Milosava, owned land in Konavle.⁵⁴

Before the outbreak of the Konavle War, the people of Vrsinje ploughed fields near Sitnica, Kanak and Kažin Dol in spring.⁵⁵ They obtained wine from the people of Konavle and Ragusans. Interestingly, in the 1340s, Zupci had vineyards near Dubrovnik.⁵⁶

⁴⁹ Jorjo Tadić, *Promet putnika u starom Dubrovniku*, Dubrovnik 1939, 114–116.

⁵⁰ Б. Храбак, *Зупци*, 143.

⁵¹ К. Порфирогенит, *О темама (De thematibus); О народима (De administrando imperio)*, 164; Ф. Шишић, *Љетопис попа Дукљанина*, 326.

⁵² Богумил Храбак, „Босанско бродовље у доба Твртка I и Косача“, in: *Косаче – оснивачи Херцеговине : Ђоровићеви сусрети прозних писаца у Билећи : научни скуп историчара у Гацку 20–22 септембар 2000, Билећа–Гацко–Београд 2002, 446–451; Павле Драгичевић, *Трг соли у Суторини у вријеме краља Твртка I*, Гласник Удружења архивских радника Републике Српске, бр. 2 (2010) 161–167; Павле Драгичевић, „Двије дубровачке жалбе поводом продаје соли у Суторини“, *Грађа о прошлости Босне* 2 (2009) 99–109.*

⁵³ In Herzegovina, Zupci is known for its significant deposits of sand, which were exploited until recently.

⁵⁴ Верена Хан, *Архивска грађа о стаклу и стакларству у Дубровнику (XIV–XVI век)*, Београд 1979, 68.

⁵⁵ Сима Ћирковић, *Херцег Стефан Вукчић-Косача и његово доба*, Београд 1964, 152.

⁵⁶ Б. Храбак, *Зупци*, 144.

Viticulture and wine held great significance in the economic life of medieval Dubrovnik, so wine trade was strictly regulated.⁵⁷

Wine was often pledged against debt. Creditors had the right to sell it if the debt was not repaid in time. There were instances when wine was seized due to unpaid debts. Wine was confiscated from two men of Vrsinje, Bogosav Bombar and Živko Ratković.⁵⁸

Notably, at a session of the Great Council held on 11 July 1450, just before the war between herzog Stjepan and Dubrovnik, Šišman and Vukosav Zubac were granted permission to purchase and export 30 *kvinkva* of wine from Ston and Pelješac.⁵⁹

Dry summers and water scarcity in Vrsinje posed problems for both the population and livestock. Even today, the inhabitants of this region obtain water from *čatrnjas*. Due to water shortage, the people of Vrsinje had been constructing water collection structures since medieval times. Two masons, Cvjetko Stojković and Stjepan Mihailović from Župa Dubrovačka, were commissioned by Zola Radosalić from Vrsinje to build a *čatrnja* for water in the form of a trough, lined with stone.⁶⁰

In Zubačke Uble, about 25 km from Trebinje, even nowadays snow persists in some areas until spring. Both in the Middle Ages and today, climatic conditions were of exceptional importance for cattle breeders and farmers. During heavy snowfall, the cattle-breeding population of Vrsinje drove their livestock towards the nearby sea coast, to warmer regions such as Konavle and Župa Dubrovačka.⁶¹

The Kosača and Pavlović families acquired land at the foot of Orjen, Štirovnik, Šiljevica, Dobrostrica, Gornja and Donja Vrbanja, Vardište, Kruševica, and other areas where elevations exceed 1,800 metres. Mostly pasturelands, these areas – like the waters and ponds in both Planina and Konavle – were common property. By the late Middle Ages, the Ragusans had seized the landholdings of subjects of Bosnian rulers.⁶²

The natural woodland wealth enabled timber exploitation. The Ragusans purchased *japija*, i.e. timber from the people of Vrsinje. In early 1412, Paskval Restić ordered from Pribo Vočetić and Brajko Pribinović to deliver to him 200 pieces of *kantinel*, two cubits and three fingers long and four fingers wide.⁶³

In medieval Vrsinje, both large and small livestock were raised: cattle, horses, donkeys, sheep and goats. Monetary income was mostly derived from herding and selling livestock and animal products, marketed in Dubrovnik. They traded with both Ragusans and foreign merchants, some of whom settled in Dubrovnik, establishing families and remaining there for life. One such settler was Lorino Ricci, originally from

⁵⁷ Dušanka Dinić-Knežević, „Trgovina vinom u Dubrovniku u XIV veku“, *Godišnjak Filozofskog fakulteta u Novom Sadu* IX (1966) 66.

⁵⁸ DAD, Div. Canc. XLIX, f. 111' (10. VIII 1436).

⁵⁹ Enes Dedić, *Izvori za historiju Bosne u srednjem vijeku : Ispisi iz arhivske građe iz serije Acta Consilii Maioris Državnog arhiva u Dubrovniku (1415–1497)*, Sarajevo 2023, 357.

⁶⁰ DAD, Div. Not. LXIX, f. 81 (23. VI 1489); Б. Храбак, *Зупци*, 151.

⁶¹ DAD, Div. Canc. XLIX, f. 8' (27. III 1435).

⁶² П. Живковић, *Учешће босанске властеле у диоби Конавала*, 187–188.

⁶³ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXIX, f. 20' (23.I 1412).

Florence. On 26 April 1356, Prodan Vangešić from Vrsinje sold in a public place a black cow with a star on its forehead and one calf to Lorino Ricci for six perpera.⁶⁴

In sales contracts, the appearance of the animal was sometimes described in detail in sources, as livestock was often targeted by thieves. Some merchants sold stolen cattle, which led to frequent lawsuits. To identify animals, during sales, descriptions often included the colour of the hide, fur or markings if the animal had them. In late 1367, Ratko Bolojević from Vrsinje brought a black ox to Dubrovnik and sold it to Milatko Radomil for five perpera.⁶⁵

Besides cows and oxen, the people of Vrsinje sold pack animals – horses and donkeys – in public places in Dubrovnik. In September 1383, Gojko Radojković from Vrsinje sold a horse to Pribiša Kurtišić for nine perpera.⁶⁶

The Zubačko field, numerous valleys and surrounding slopes rich in diverse grass and low vegetation, were suitable for livestock farming in certain seasons. For these and other reasons, the Ragusans entrusted livestock to the people of Vrsinje under stipulated conditions. In September 1388, Dživo Kabužić gave a donkey to Radoslav Hranišić from Vrsinje to feed, tend and guard for one year. If the donkey died due to the shepherd's fault or negligence, Radoslav was to compensate the loss.⁶⁷ A year later, Radoslav Hrančić from Vrsinje again did business with Dživo Kabužić, agreeing to provide him with a well-crafted wooden barrel with good hoops, holding 50 *kvinkva*.⁶⁸

The people of Vrsinje and Ragusans often formed partnerships for joint livestock farming. One such agreement was made on 25 January 1397 between Pokrajac Milosavić from Vrsinje and Ragusan nobleman Martin Krusić. They agreed to raise sheep and goats together. Martin Krusić, owner of small livestock, contributed 20 goats and sheep, while Pokrajac Milosavić from Vrsinje undertook to feed and keep them. Profits and potential losses were to be shared according to local customs. The partnership was to last as long as Martin desired.⁶⁹

Besides sheep and goats, the people of Vrsinje took oxen from Ragusans for rearing and labour. Thus, Brajko Cvjetković from Vrsinje took a white ox from Bogavac Obrojević to feed, guard and work with, according to local customs.⁷⁰ Later, Pasko Pripčić Zubeč (*Xubeç*) from Vrsinje took 38 sheep from a certain Petko to rear and keep.⁷¹

⁶⁴ DAD, Div. Canc. XVIII, f. 122 (26. IV 1356); For more details about Lorino Ricci see: Радмило Пекић, *Фирентинцина Балкану 1300–1600*, Косовска Митровица 2012, 49, 51, 77, 91, 168, 172, 253, 378.

⁶⁵ DAD, Div. Canc. XXI, f. 147 (5. XII 1367).

⁶⁶ DAD, Div. Canc. XXV, f. 246' (13. IX 1383).

⁶⁷ DAD, Div. Canc. XXVII, f. 152 (13. IX 1388).

⁶⁸ DAD, Div. Canc. XXIX, f. 10' (19. IX 1389); About wine measures see: Душанка Динић-Кнежевић, „Prilog proučavanju mera za vino u Dubrovniku u XIV veku“, *Historijski zbornik XIX–XX* (1966–1967) 1968, 419–420; 419–427.

⁶⁹ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXII, f. 18 (25. I 1397).

⁷⁰ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXII, f. 222. (8. II 1399).

⁷¹ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXIV, f. 219 (12. V 1403).

A number of Zupci people from Vrsinje went to Konavle and drove off four milking cows, four calves, one ox, and four barren cows that had stopped producing milk. The cows had been pastured and tended by Bogeta Bogavčić in Konavle. Accused of the theft were: Volkoslav Radetinić, Radosav and Šišman Stepanović, Ljubiša and Gleđ Ruđić, Tomo and Đuro Milmanović, Rakoje and Đurin Pribilović, Večerin Pribilović, Radosav Radašinović, Ostoja Vojković, Novak Kurlović, Dobrašin Branković, Stoisav Đurojević, Radoslav Rakić, Dubravac Đurojević, Bogdan and Budisav Milošević.⁷²

In early 1421, two brothers, Radiša and Trifko Đurđević from Plata, reported the disappearance of two heifers that had been pastured by Bogić Vezić in Vrsinje.⁷³

After voivode Sandalj sold his portion of Konavle in 1419, it was later recorded that the people of Vrsinje and Konavle jointly engaged in livestock theft. In late 1423, three men from Konavle, along with Vrsinje men: Šišman and Radosav Stefanović, Đuro and Tomaš Miomanović, Vukša Pribilović and his men, and brothers Dapko and Dabiživ Mirković, stole 35 wethers in Vrsinje.⁷⁴

In January 1436, Stanko Bratosaljić from Župa Dubrovačka entered into an agreement with Radač Radunović from Vrsinje, whereby the latter undertook to feed and keep 20 sheep over a term of five years. Radač pledged to keep, feed and guard the sheep entrusted to him, as well as their offspring, in the manner befitting a good shepherd. Should any sheep perish due to negligence or be lost through Radač's fault, he was obliged to compensate Stanko for the loss. They agreed that the profits would be divided as follows: half of the lambs, milk and cheese would belong to Stanko, the owner of the sheep, and the other half to Radač, the shepherd from Vrsinje.⁷⁵

Two men from Vrsinje, Radivoje Božićković and Bogdan Milošević, subjects of voivode Sandalj, stole an ox worth 10 perpera from a man of Konavle.⁷⁶ The following year, in the village of Merčinić in Konavle, Sandalj's men, Vukosav Dobrašinović Zubac and his man Radilo Radišić, stole 66 head of livestock, one cow and five sheep. During this incident, they wounded Dobrilo Prvošević and Medin Milatković.⁷⁷

Throughout the 14th and 15th centuries, numerous instances of livestock theft were recorded. Bratoje Dobromanić from Vrsinje, Zupci, entrusted his brother Petko Dobromanić from Vrsinje with a mare and foal for rearing and keeping. However, on 13 August 1411, he accused a certain Gradoje, as well as Beloje Gradojević and his son, of stealing the mare and foal around St George's Day.⁷⁸

In early 1412, nobleman Paskoje Rastić accused Dobrivoje Zubac and two of his kinsmen from Vrsinje, along with Riđani vlachs, of forcibly taking 300 sheep on 4 January in Prapatno, Konavle.⁷⁹

⁷² DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f. 174 (6. IV 1420).

⁷³ DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f. 282 (26. I 1421).

⁷⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. V, f. 237' (1. XII 1423).

⁷⁵ DAD, Div. Canc. XLIII, f. 256'-257 (13. I 1426).

⁷⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. VI, f. 70 (14. XII 1424).

⁷⁷ DAD, Lam. de for. VI, f. 133' (1. VIII 1425).

⁷⁸ DAD, Lam. de for. II, f. 78' (13. VIII 1411).

⁷⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. II, f. 135' (8. I 1412).

Seventeen days later, Bogdan Ponošević testified before the Dubrovnik judges that he had been robbed in Vrsinje that January, losing ten sheep and one ox by force.⁸⁰

In late 1412, Ostoja Đurđević from Vrsinje sold a mare in Dubrovnik to Antonio Zanello from Trani for ten perpera.⁸¹ The following year, Ratko Obradović had an ox stolen in Vrsinje. The accused were Grupko Stančić and Radovan Pribilović.⁸²

On 16 September 1416, two men from Vrsinje, Bogoje Radošević and Radut Radosalić, sold a horse to a certain Martolo in a public place in Dubrovnik for eight perpera and six groschen.⁸³

In April of the following year, innkeeper Cvjetko Radosalić gave a horse to Dobrašin Bogdanović from Vrsinje for grazing and care. For this service, Dobrašin received six groschen per month.⁸⁴

In addition to the inhabitants of Vrsinje, residents of Konavle also took livestock for rearing and care. Whether due to negligence or other reasons, two horses that were raised and cared for by a man from Bačev Dol in Konavle disappeared in 1423. The following year, thanks to the testimony of two men from Vrsinje, one horse was found in Trebinje.⁸⁵

In addition to horses, horse equipment was also stolen. Thus, Ratko Tasovčić from Vrsinje was accused of stealing clothing and footwear, as well as various items, including a currycomb used for grooming horses.⁸⁶

In early October 1425, Ratko Brajanović from Mlini accused five men from Vrsinje – Dobrilo Mirković, Radoslav, Radivoje and Ljubiša Ruđić, and one of their relatives – of stealing a donkey that had been given for rearing and care to Radut Milovanović.⁸⁷

Shortly thereafter, Ivko Glađević from Vrsinje was also accused of stealing a donkey. The owner of the donkey was Mikoje Ratković.⁸⁸

The following year, four men from Vrsinje – brothers Dobril and Doberko Grahiković, Radosav Novaković and Radosav Radčić – stole a cow owned by Petko Radutović from Župa Dubrovačka.⁸⁹ That same year, Vukša Pribilović from Vrsinje and his son Radič were accused of stealing a pig and five *stari* of grain.⁹⁰

The instances of Vrsinje inhabitants sending livestock to Konavle for grazing were rare. In early December 1426, Dobrivoje Pribilović Zubac accused Radoslav Bogilović of stealing an ox and a cow he had given to Vlatko Poničić in Konavle for rearing and care.⁹¹

⁸⁰ DAD, Lam. de for. II, f. 145' (25. I 1412).

⁸¹ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXIX, f. 196 (31. XII 1412).

⁸² DAD, Lam. de for. III, f. 61 (25. III 1413).

⁸³ DAD, Div. Canc. XLI, f. 30 (26. IX 1416).

⁸⁴ DAD, Div. Canc. XLI, f. 107 (18. IV 1417).

⁸⁵ DAD, Lam. de for. V, f. 197 (7. IX 1423).

⁸⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. XI, f. 47 (20. II 1436).

⁸⁷ DAD, Lam. de for. VI, f. 163' (21. X 1425).

⁸⁸ DAD, Lam. de for. XXII, f. 77' (? V 1449).

⁸⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. VI, f. 198 (7. I 1426).

⁹⁰ DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 85' (14. X 1426).

⁹¹ DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 110' (1. XII 1426).

The following day, Radoslav Rajković from Vitaljina accused men from Vrsinje – Brajko Ogřejić and his brother Obrad, Arčuk Bogunović, Nikša Vokšić, Ljupko and Radašin Pripčić – of beating him and his family with sticks.⁹²

After the defeat of the Sanković family in 1391, Konavle was divided: the northern part went to the Radenović (Pavlović) family, and the southern part to the Kosača family. Voivode Sandalj Hranić sold his part of Konavle to the Ragusans in 1419.⁹³

Soon after, in 1421, Radoslav Pavlović began negotiations to sell the other part of Konavle. Radoslav's men launched attacks and incited conflicts in various ways. In early July 1423, the Ragusans intended to divide the land in their part of Konavle, which caused great dissatisfaction among the local population, leading to the Konavle Uprising. The rebels from Konavle were related to the Riđani and Zupci vlachs, who, besides Vrsinje, also inhabited Dračevica. One of the rebels stated: "We can seek refuge with our relatives, the Riđani and Zupci, in Dračevica". However, after two days, the uprising failed and was fully suppressed by mid-June 1423.⁹⁴ During the Konavle Uprising, sixteen men from Zupci in Konavle swore allegiance to Dubrovnik.⁹⁵

In those turbulent times, one of the most prominent figures from Vrsinje was Radič Dobrovojević, known as Vrag, who is mentioned in Dubrovnik sources starting from 1419. In November 1419, Ostoja Kvalković accused Radič Dobrovojević and two of his brothers of stealing four pigs in Vodovađa, Konavle.⁹⁶ In 1420, Radič committed two acts of theft in the village of Začula near Trebinje. A year later, a man from Konavle accused Radič Dobrovojević of severely wounding him with a sword in Prapatno, as well as his nephew Petar, who lost three fingers on his right hand.⁹⁷

Later, Radič and his subjects from the village of Rapti, along with his brothers Dabiživ and Branko, plundered and ravaged Vitaljina, the Konavle Mountains, and other villages. They stole and seized oxen, cows, goats, grain and other goods.⁹⁸

In late 1426, a larger group of men from Vrsinje were accused of stealing an ox from Božičko Milogostić from Župa, which was being fed and cared for by Radosav Čepnjić. A few days later, Radič Dobrovojević, Vukac Dobrašinović, Nenad and

⁹² DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 111 (2. XII 1426).

⁹³ J. Мијушковић, *Хумска властeosка породица Санковићу*, 22–31; M. Vego, *Naselja bosanske srednjovjekovne države*, 58.

⁹⁴ Adis Zilić, „Pobuna u Konavlima i prateća razbojništva u sjeni pregovora oko Dubrovačkog stjecanja Pavlovića dijela župe“, *Hercegovina : časopis za kulturno i historijsko naslijeđe*, br.17 (Mostar 2018) 59–94.

⁹⁵ Богумил Храбак, *Из старије прошлости Босне и Херцеговине*, књ. II, Београд 2003, 179; idem, *Зупци*, 145.

⁹⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f. 109 (22. XI 1419).

⁹⁷ DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f. 155 (27. II 1420), *Ibid*, f. 357 (20. XI 1421).

⁹⁸ DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f.388' (14. I 1422); Lam. de for. VI, f. 154 (22. IX 1425); Div. Canc. XLIII, f. 212' (15. X 1425); Lam. de for. VI, f. 185' (4. XII 1425); VII, f.123 (30. XII 1426); Михаило Динић, *Хумско-требињска властела*, Београд 1967, 53; Esad Kurtović, „Pljačke i nasilja Dobrovojevića, ljudi vojvode Sandalja Hranića sa područja Vrsinja“, in: *Godišnjak. Centar za balkanološka ispitivanja* 32, Sarajevo 2005, 269–276.

Večerina Mazić, Zupci vlachs from Vrsinje, stole 100 *kupels* of wheat, barley and rye in the Konavle Mountains.⁹⁹

Prominent robbers from Vrsinje included members of the Miljević family. Further accounts mention Radašin, Dapko, Dabiživ and Bioč Miljević as bandits and robbers. In 1426, Ljupko Miljević from Vrsinje was imprisoned in Dubrovnik. Four men from Konavle provided a guarantee that Ljupko would appear before the jury.¹⁰⁰

In late 1426, Radoslav Pavlović sold the remaining part of Konavle and soon regretted it, expressing dissatisfaction and resentment towards the Ragusans. In such circumstances, thefts and robberies were increasingly more common. In March 1427, Ljupko Stanišić from Vrsinje was arrested and brought before the court for having stolen from the house of Miladin, a man in the service of Vito Gučetić, two oxen, a cow and four piglets.¹⁰¹

The following day, Ljupko Stanišić from Vrsinje and Novak Radosalić from Konavle were accused of having, around the feast of St Peter, stolen from the house of Ljubiša Milošević in Konavle a small sum of money, some cloth and other items.¹⁰²

Besides Konavle, men of Vrsinje were also committing thefts in Trebinje. Thus, Radašin Miljević from Zupci stole a small sum of money and wine from Radoslav Smilović and Bogdan Novaković near the church of St Stephen in Trebinje.¹⁰³

On the feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian in 1427, Ostoja Bogmilović was wounded and robbed in Vrsinje. Two brigands, Đuro Pribilović and Bogdan Milošević, stole from him a castrated he-goat and other items.¹⁰⁴ On the feast of St Demetrius in the same year, in Vrsinje, Radoslav Budujević from Konavle was beaten and robbed. The perpetrator of this act of brigandage was named as Šišman Stefanović from Vrsinje.¹⁰⁵

On 15 January 1430, Radovac Milanović accused six unknown men of having attacked him on 12 January of the same year, about midday, on the road to Vrsinje. Among other things, they stole from him four pigs and other belongings.¹⁰⁶

Radoslav Pavlović entirely repudiated the agreement made with the Ragusans and instigated the Konavle War (1430–1432), in which the men of Vrsinje also took part.¹⁰⁷

The first attack on Konavle was led by the renowned voivode of Trebinje, Radoje Ljubišić from Uskoplje, deemed the most influential man of Trebinje in the first half of the 15th century.¹⁰⁸

⁹⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 119' (17. XII 1426); f. 123 (30. XII 1426); Милош Благојевић, *Земљорадња у средњовековној Србији*, Београд 1973, 260.

¹⁰⁰ Б. М. Недељковић, *Мешовита порота*, 48–49.

¹⁰¹ DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 153' (9. III 1427).

¹⁰² DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 154 (10. III 1427).

¹⁰³ DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 217 (12. VIII 1427).

¹⁰⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 232' (7. X 1427).

¹⁰⁵ DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 242 (30. XI 1427).

¹⁰⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. VIII, f. 319' (15. I 1430).

¹⁰⁷ Ćiro Truhelka, „Konavoski rat (1430.–1433.)“, *Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja u Bosni i Hercegovini* XXIX (1917) 1918, 145–211; С. Ђирковић, *Историја средњовековне босанске државе*, 261–265.

¹⁰⁸ Владимир Ђоровић, *Хисторија Босне*, Београд 1940, 438; С. Ђирковић, *Хертцег Стефан Вукчић-Косача и његово доба*, 29; В. Кораћ, *Требиње*, књ. I, 140.

In Konavle, in Ljuta, the Ragusans suffered a defeat, during which Ragusan commander Ivan Crijević and two of his soldiers perished in battle. Thereafter, the Ragusans regrouped, mobilised a greater number of soldiers and mercenaries, and stationed them in Brgat and Konavle. Trade was interrupted. The caravan road through Trebinje and Bilečke Rudine was not safe. Voivode Sandalj strove to prevent a total cessation of trade and sent his nephew Stefan to safeguard some caravans. Nonetheless, the caravans continued to be attacked and plundered by brigands. A decision was made to prohibit the export of grain to Trebinje. Desertions to both sides became a matter of particular concern.¹⁰⁹

In such circumstances, the Ragusans planned an assault on Trebinje and Lug, with the intent of laying them waste and burning them down. The Ragusans were led by Marin Gučetić, who received an order to, among other things, set fire to the house of Radoslav Pavlović in Trebinje. During the assault on Trebinje, the Ragusans saw that some of the men of Vrsinje were fighting on the opposing side – subjects of Sandalj Hranić, who maintained a stance of neutrality in this war. According to Ragusans' testimonies, in the evening, as they returned from Trebinje, the Ragusans encountered two companies of men – one a band from Vrsinje, the other vlachs, drovers who were transporting salt from Dubrovnik. These vlachs included the Mirilović, Burmaz, Podcrnje, Plijesak, Boban, Pilatović, and Kresojević clans, as well as a small number of subjects of Grgur Nikolić. Mistaking them for allies, since they were Sandalj's men, the Ragusans approached them. However, they were immediately set upon by the men of Vrsinje, and from the opposite side by the vlachs who had been transporting salt – some 170 men from the caravan dismounted their loads from horses and, riding horses, joined the fray. At the same time, the Ragusan army was attacked from the rear by the men of Trebinje, who captured two nobles – Marin Gučetić, the leader of the expedition, and Nalko, the son of Vlahota Hranković. The third noble, Nikša, the son of Radin Ilić, lost his life in battle. The men of Vrsinje in this skirmish were led by Radič Dobrovojević, known as Vrag.¹¹⁰

Though they were subjects of voivode Sandalj, who remained neutral during the Konavle War, the men of Vrsinje raided Ragusan lands, where they pillaged and assaulted the populace. Thus, on 18 February 1431, Sandalj's subjects from Vrsinje – Branko Dobrovojević, Bogiša Maksić and others – beat and robbed Priboj Bogavčić and his son. A little over a year later, the Ragusans managed to capture and shackle Radič Dobrovojević from Vrsinje. Despite numerous complaints against Radič Dobrovojević by the Ragusans and their pleas for his punishment, voivode Sandalj took no measures against him; rather, he interceded on behalf of imprisoned Radič. His subsequent fate remains unknown. It is surmised that Radič died in prison. His brother Branko, however, persisted in the same conduct thereafter. Even after the

¹⁰⁹ Ć. Truhelka, „Konavoski rat (1430.–1433.)“, 156; Salih Jaliman, „Radoje Ljubišić – najznatniji trebinjski vlastelin“, *Prilozi* 42 (Sarajevo 2013) 11–34.

¹¹⁰ Ć. Truhelka, „Konavoski rat (1430.–1433.)“, 151–159.

death of voivode Sandalj, under the rule of Stefan Vukčić Kosača, Branko, together with his men, was plundering and stealing mainly livestock.¹¹¹

The interruption of caravan trade afflicted not only the belligerent parties but also business people in Bosnia and Serbia. As noted earlier, voivode Sandalj made efforts to prevent a suspension of trade. On 15 October 1432, Stanoje Stanković, a subject of Sandalj from the katun of Maleševci in Rudine near Bileća, concluded an agreement with Primo Bunić to transport goods by packhorse from Cavtat to the village of Novaci in Komorane beyond Breza.¹¹² Thus, as we see, caravans once again began departing from Konavle, from Cavtat. Two days later, Stanoje Stanojević entered into another contract on the transport of goods, this time with Vladislav Gučetić. Once again, Cavtat was the point of departure, while the destination for the unloading of the goods was Prijepolje. The consignment consisted of 23 pieces of cloth and one load of tin.¹¹³

In July 1432, Bogdan and Bogiša Milošević from Vrsinje were accused of the theft of a wether and a he-goat.¹¹⁴ A month later, Petko Radosalić and brothers Dabiživ and Dapko Miljević wounded Gojko Stojšavov in Vrsinje and stole two pigs and other belongings.¹¹⁵

The negotiations concerning the Konavle War were concluded in November 1432, with the restoration of the state of affairs that had existed prior to the war.¹¹⁶

Even after the Konavle War, the migration of the population continued. Vatoľj Hranislavić from Vrsinje voluntarily became the vassal of Junije Crijević, who at the same time accepted the aforesaid into his service.¹¹⁷

The herdsmen of Vrsinje were compelled to abandon the old practice of driving their livestock from Vrsinje to the warmer regions of Kupare in Župa Dubrovačka or to Konavle at any time of the year. In the territory of Dubrovnik, with the exception of the mountainous parts, livestock could be kept until the month of April.¹¹⁸

On 27 March 1435, during the partition of a portion of property, Novak Milošević, formerly a resident of Vrsinje, which had been under the jurisdiction of late voivode Sandalj, gave a written undertaking to his son Dobrilo, resident in Kupare in Župa Dubrovačka, that he would grant him one-sixth of the livestock he possessed.¹¹⁹

¹¹¹ E. Kurtović, *Pljačke i nasilja Dobrovojevića, ljudi vojvode Sandalja Hranića sa područja Vrsinja*, 284–287.

¹¹² Stanoje Stanhouich super se et omnia sua bona promisit et se obligavit cum primo bono tempore cum suis equis et salmeriis bonis et ydoneis de Zaptat leuare et conducere et conductas dare et consignare omnibus suis risigis et periculissaluas et illesas in loco siue villa Nouaci Comaranni ultra Bressam [...]. Deb. Not. XV, f 280 (15. X 1432).

¹¹³ Радмилу Пекић, *Билећке Рудине у средњем вијеку*, Косовска Митровица – Бања Лука 2018, 106.

¹¹⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. IX, f. 94 (22. VII 1432).

¹¹⁵ DAD, Lam. de for. IX, f. 105 (6. VIII 1432).

¹¹⁶ С. Ђирковић, *Историја средњовековне босанске државе*, 265.

¹¹⁷ DAD, Div. Canc. XLIX, f. 19' (10. IV 1435).

¹¹⁸ Б. Храбак, *Зупци*, 145–146.

¹¹⁹ DAD, Div. Canc. XLIX, f. 8' (27. III 1435).

In a later period, the transfer of the right of ownership over livestock is also mentioned, in this case to a daughter. On 16 February 1444, Ratko Pripković from Vrsinje committed in writing that he would grant his daughter Vladna eight goats, two sheep, four cows and two oxen.¹²⁰

After the conclusion of peace, the men of Vrsinje once more began driving livestock to Dubrovnik and selling them in public places. Milorad Ostojić from Vrsinje sold a horse with a star on its forehead to a certain Filip for nine perpera and one grosch, claiming that the horse was his and not stolen.¹²¹ Later, Branko Dobrojević from Vrsinje also brought to Dubrovnik a white horse with a mark on its left side. Branko's horse was purchased by Luka Radišić, a baker, and Petar Gojković for 28 perpera.¹²²

The acts of robbery and fraud also continued. In April 1438, Aleksa Dabižinović from Zupci assaulted and wounded Radoslav Petković, and thereafter robbed him.¹²³ Several days later, a number of men from Vrsinje were accused of having attacked and robbed furrier Radeta Nenković. The accused were brothers Vatolj and Butor Crnković from Vrsinje, subjects of a certa in Varica, as well as Radoje Novaković, Radonja Radosalić and his brother Ostoja. They stole 181 perpera, three gold rings, a belt adorned with silver, a box full of needles, hides and three shirts.¹²⁴

In early 1439, Dabiživ Pribilović accused Šišman Stefanović from Vrsinje of having forcibly taken and stolen from him a horse belonging to Nikola Menčetić.¹²⁵ Four months later, several men from Vrsinje, including Šišman and Radoslav Stefanović, were accused of stealing an ox that was being raised by Radut Bilosalić in Trebinje.¹²⁶

In October 1439, brothers Radašin and Milorad Radmilović Grnčarić accused Uglješa Zubac, Ratko Vukosalić and Aleksa Zubac of having stolen an ox raised and tended by Pribisav Pripković from Trebinje.¹²⁷ Around ten days later, a larger number of Vrsinjans were accused of having stolen an ox from Stanko Dobrunović. Among the accused were Tomo Dobrašinović and his villagers from Vrsinje, as well as the notorious brigands previously mentioned – Branko Dobrovojević, Aleksa Dabiživović, Bogdan Mašić and his brother, Vukić Pokrajčić, Ratko Vukosalić and his brother, Dabiživ Miljević, and Brajan Ljubković.¹²⁸

Men of Vrsinje are sometimes mentioned in sources as witnesses.¹²⁹ In a court proceeding held in March 1440, the following were named as witnesses: Radič Vokić, Dobrilo Miladinović and Bogeta Pribisalić from Vrsinje.¹³⁰

¹²⁰ DAD, Div. Canc. LVIII, f. 198' (16. II 1444).

¹²¹ DAD, Div. Canc. XLVIII, f. 62 (15. II 1434).

¹²² DAD, Div. Canc. LIII, f. 82 (20. I 1439).

¹²³ DAD, Lam. de for. XII, f. 18' (29. IV 1438).

¹²⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. XII, f. 20 (4. V 1438).

¹²⁵ DAD, Lam. de for. XII, f. 184 (10. I 1439).

¹²⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. XII, f. 259 (23. V 1439).

¹²⁷ DAD, Lam. de for. XIII, f. 80 (30. X 1439).

¹²⁸ DAD, Lam. de for. XIII, f. 87 (11. XI 1439).

¹²⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. VII, f. 261 (8. II 1428).

¹³⁰ DAD, Lam. de for. XIII, f. 176' (6. III 1440).

Aside from livestock theft, a frequent occurrence was the ambushing and robbing of the rural population. One such victim was Vukuša, the daughter of Radoslav Kominović. Vukuša was attacked and robbed in Vrsinje by Ratko, the son of Vukosav, and Milorad Graghović.¹³¹

On 20 August 1441, a judgment was rendered concerning a stolen horse and mare, when two men from Vrsinje participated in the dispute: Radivoj Radkić and his neighbour and companion Uglješa.¹³²

The men of Vrsinje sold livestock to neighbouring Konavlians, while at the same time taking livestock into their care for grazing and husbandry. In 1441, Brajan Dabiživović from Vrsinje took into his care for grazing 50 sheep and two oxen from Radoslav Radinović from Konavle, the subject of nobleman Mato Getaldić.¹³³ Two years later, the same Brajan Dabiživović from Vrsinje, the subject of Branko, sold to the aforementioned Radoslav Radinović from Konavle, the subject of nobleman Mato Getaldić, an ox, a cow and a calf for 25 perpera.¹³⁴

In December 1443, Cvjetko Brajković from Vrsinje sold to Ratko Ostojić from Konavle eight sheep, ten goats, two donkeys and one pig for a total of 34 perpera.¹³⁵ The following year, Dobro Bijelović from Vrsinje forcibly took from Stefan Grubačić one ox, a knife, and 18 groschen.¹³⁶ Twelve days later, Novak Vukosalić, Bogeta and Desislav from Vrsinje were accused of having stolen an ox from Radič Tončić.¹³⁷

As noted earlier, in addition to the Zupci, the Riđani vlachs were also settled in Vrsinje, as attested by Ragusan sources. In March 1444, Kosovac Radišić and Radoje Dobrosalić from Dub accused a larger number of members of the Riđani, namely: Ivica Glađević, Milorad Bratković and his brother Dobrilo, Stjepko Bogetić, Vukoje Vukotić and his brother Vukašin. All those mentioned were the Riđani from Vrsinje. Alongside them, Vukosav Vukmirović also took part in the robbery. The Riđani drove off a total of 600 head of small livestock from Vrsinje, namely: 400 goats and sheep, and 200 lambs and kids. In addition, they stole numerous garments and footwear.¹³⁸

In an indictment raised over a stolen horse belonging to priest Petar from Korčula, Uglješa Radetinić from Vrsinje is mentioned.¹³⁹

For a robbery committed in November 1447, among those accused were Dobro Radilović, Ifko Gleđević and Radman Radivojević – all three from Vrsinje.¹⁴⁰

¹³¹ DAD, Lam. de for. XVI, f. 271' (6. III 1440).

¹³² DAD, Div. Canc. LV, f. 127 (3. VII 1441).

¹³³ DAD, Div. Canc. LVII, f. 122' (11. II 1441).

¹³⁴ DAD, Div. Canc. LVIII, f. 1' (7. VII 1443).

¹³⁵ DAD, Div. Canc. LVIII, f. 127' (25. VII 1443).

¹³⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. XVII, f. 176 (2. II 1444).

¹³⁷ DAD, Lam. de for. XVII, f. 196' (14. II 1444).

¹³⁸ DAD, Lam. de for. XVII, f. 224 (4. III 1444).

¹³⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. XIX, f. 38 (25. II 1445).

¹⁴⁰ DAD, Lam. de for. XXI, f. 233 (26. XI 1447).

Two men of Vrsinje, Mileta Pribisalić and Radovan Milićević, together with Pribil Živković from Konavle, waylaid Bogdan Brajković on the road to Novi, beat him and stole ten groschen.¹⁴¹

In early 1451, Tomo Radišić, Vuk Mirosalić, and his brother Stanoje robbed in Vrsinje Mileta Radojević from Brgat.¹⁴²

The relatively good relations between Dubrovnik and voivode Sandalj, whose vassals were the inhabitants of Vrsinje, gradually worsened after Sandalj's death in 1435. His nephew and heir, Stefan Vukčić Kosača – who in 1438 seized almost all the southern territories from the Pavlović family – declared himself the “herzog of Saint Sava”. After him, the town of Sveti Stefan, later known as Novi, which had been founded and built by King Tvrtko I Kotromanić in 1382, was definitively renamed Herceg Novi. Owing to mercantile rivalry between Novi and Dubrovnik, the imposition of customs duties, and Dubrovnik's decree of 18 July 1450 forbidding trade, a conflict broke out between herzog Stefan and Dubrovnik (1451–1454).¹⁴³

In the years preceding the war, men of Vrsinje often raided Konavle, looting and beating people. In some cases, there were murders and woundings. One of the victims was a man of Konavle, Stjepko Radešić, who in April 1445 was beaten in Vrsinje by Ratko Vukosalić from Vrsinje. The man of Konavle was severely injured – he bore two wounds on the leg, from which blood flowed, and one of his fingers was severed.¹⁴⁴

A notable brigand and marauder was the aforementioned Šišman Stefanović. Together with Šišman, the following men from Vrsinje took part in a robbery: Uglješa Novaković, Radosav Račić, Vukosav Dobrašinić and Petoje Radeljić. They stole twenty head of livestock, one cow, four modii of salt, one knife and one belt.¹⁴⁵

In October 1446, Dabiživ Večerinović and Radič Nenadić, called Zupci of Vrsinje, attacked Bogeta Popović with a sword and axe while he was on his way to the house of the said Dabiživ. They felled him to the ground and inflicted injuries.¹⁴⁶ The following year, Ragusan nobleman Nikola Gučetić accused Đuro Miomanović and his son Bujak from Vrsinje, from Zupci, of stealing a mare that had been kept and reared by Srijedan Stupodnić.¹⁴⁷

In the raids on the Ragusan territory, the mentioned Aleksa Dabiživović Zubac was particularly prominent.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴¹ DAD, Lam. de for. XXIV, f. 17 (16. XI 1450).

¹⁴² DAD, Lam. de for. XXIV, f. 76 (20. I 1451).

¹⁴³ С. Ћирковић, *Херцег Стефан Вукчић-Косача и његово доба*, 25–40, 152–160; Boris Nilević, „Poslednji Pavlovići – Bosna sredinom XV stoljeća“, *Historijska traganja* 5 (Sarajevo 2010) 28–29.

¹⁴⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. XIX, f. 61' (19. IV 1445).

¹⁴⁵ DAD, Lam. de for. XIX, f. 146 (27. VII 1445).

¹⁴⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. XX, f. 233' (23. X 1446).

¹⁴⁷ DAD, Lam. de for. XXI, f. 71 (12. V 1447).

¹⁴⁸ С. Ћирковић, *Херцег Стефан Вукчић-Косача и његово доба*, 115.

In August 1444, Aleksa Dabiživović was accused of the plunder of three *kupels* of grain.¹⁴⁹ That same year, Aleksa and his brother, along with a greater number of companions, stole three goats in a place whose name remains unclear.¹⁵⁰

We know nothing of Aleksa's father Dabiživ, after whom he bore his surname. From the available sources, it is known that Aleksa had three brothers: Bogeta, Radosav and Đurađ. It is most likely that Radonja and Stefan Bogetić were sons of Aleksa's brother Bogeta. In October 1445, Aleksa Dabiživović, his brother Bogeta, Radonja Bogetić and his brother Stefan Bogetić, together with Milorad and DobrokoGrahović, beat a man of Konavle, Branko Utješenić, and forcibly took from him: two oxen with a plough, two scythes, a billhook, caps, a shirt, coarse cloth (*sklavina*) and one *kupel* of grain.¹⁵¹

In his brigandish ventures, Aleksa was accompanied by his aforementioned brothers. These four Dabiživović brothers, in late 1445, together with Stefan Nenadić, Radoje Radašinić, Biok, a man of Stoislav, Kovo and Petko Radosalić, Dobrilo Gunjević, Ostoja Ljupković, Ljupko (the father of the said Ostoja), and Ifko Gleđević, stole five goats from Priboj Radosalić from Župa Dubrovačka. The matter was considered by the court in March 1446.¹⁵²

Aleksa Dabiživović and his brothers would go out together in a band and attack helpless folk who could offer no serious resistance to so many robbers. In one such raid in December 1446, some thirty men of Vrsinje took part. On that occasion, they attacked and robbed brothers Radašin and Radilo Račić from Crnoglav. Among those who took part in the plunder were: Aleksa Dabiživović and two of his brothers, Radonja Bogetić and two of his brothers, Radonja Branković, Radič Vezerinić, Dabiživ Nenadić, Ifko Gleđević, Milorad, Doberko and Dobrilo Grahović, Novak Vokosalić, Pavlica Novaković, Vito Bogdanić, Radoje Vojsalić and others. On this occasion, they drove off over one hundred head of livestock and carried away various items.¹⁵³

At the beginning of the following year, Aleksa Dabiživović, together with Mladoš Baljinović and Radoslav, the son of Ostoja Mrđenić, beat Đuro Radovanović in front of his house.¹⁵⁴

On 6 July 1447, Aleksa Dabiživović was accused of having plundered the village of Površ in Konavle, together with his men. Aleksa and his band descended into Konavle, where they came upon a lot of cattle. First, they beat the shepherd and rendered him helpless. Then they drove off 400 sheep and goats, 40 oxen and cows, and various other goods. Besides Aleksa and his brothers Bogeta and Radosav, among those who took part in the robbery were: Aleksa and Dabiša Nenadić, Radič Večerinić, Ifko Gleđević, Novak Vukosalić, Ostoja Ljupković, Radosav Nespidrav, Bogač from Čičevo,

¹⁴⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. XVIII, f. 40' (2. VIII 1444).

¹⁵⁰ DAD, Lam. de for. XVIII, f. 93 (20. IX 1444).

¹⁵¹ DAD, Lam. de for. XIX, f. 243' (11. X 1445).

¹⁵² DAD, Lam. de for. XX, f. 16' (19. XII 1445).

¹⁵³ DAD, Lam. de for. XX, f. 257 (9. XII 1446).

¹⁵⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. XX, f. 284 (12. I 1447).

the man of Krasoje, and many others unknown to the witnesses.¹⁵⁵ On the same day in Dubrovnik, another complaint was lodged against Aleksa Dabiživović and his company. They were accused by Milat Novaković of attacking his house and wounding his bride.¹⁵⁶

Not all of Aleksa's band were men of Vrsinje. Aside from Bogač from Čičevo near Trebinje, other sources identify Radosav Nespidrav from Vrm.¹⁵⁷ It is also evident that four members of the Nenadić family from Vrsinje were frequently part of this band: Stefan, Aleksa, Dabiša and Dabiživ Nenadić.

In the period that followed, Aleksa Dabiživović, with his brother Bogeta, and Radič Večerinić, Stefan and Dabiživ Nenadić, continued to plunder the Konavle region. From the village of Bani, they stole and drove away two oxen belonging to Stefan Lukarević, which had been grazing at the property of Stojislav Cukotić.¹⁵⁸

At times, some of Aleksa's companions engaged in independent acts of plunder on their own accord. One such was Ifko Glađević from Vrsinje, who, in mid-May 1449, was accused of stealing a donkey from Mikoj Ratković, a vassal of nobleman Nikola Gučetić. On account of the *sočbina*, Radivoj Novaković was paid four perpera.¹⁵⁹

In the same period, mention is made of the Vrsinjans Radič Dabiživović and his brother – whose name is not recorded – as brigands. Alongside them, Bioč Miljević and his brother wounded Radojko Miladinović in Konavle and robbed him of his belongings.¹⁶⁰

Half a year prior to the outbreak of the Konavle War, Aleksa and his numerous company, including Kojo Ratković, Radivoj Dobrosalić, Smoljan Radosaljić Starčić, brothers Uglješa and Pavlica Novaković, Ratko Vukosalić, Mladoš Baljenović and his son Vukosav, Brajan and Lukač Miošić, Radič Đurašević, and others, were accused of the murder of Hrvatín Doberković and Vlatko Radosalić. At the same time, they wounded a number of men, pillaged many houses, stole large quantities of livestock, and carried off various goods.¹⁶¹

Six days later, another accusation was brought against Aleksa Dabiživović and his company because they attacked and set fire to the house of Nenko Radosalić in Površ, Konavle. On that occasion, they wounded Nenko's father Radoslav, his mother Jela, his brother Vlatko, and Ljubiša Hrvatinić, who narrowly escaped death by fire. They looted numerous items, clothing and footwear, tools, and other household necessities vital for a peasant household. The robbers also found and carried off a small sum of money, along with wheat, barley, oats and wool. In addition, they stole ten goats, six oxen, three cows, one calf, and various other items.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁵ DAD, Lam. de for. XXI, f. 108' (6. VII 1447).

¹⁵⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. XXI, f. 109 (6. VII 1447).

¹⁵⁷ DAD, Lam. de for. XXI, f. 233 (26. XI 1447).

¹⁵⁸ DAD, Lam. de for. XXI, f. 282 (22. I 1448).

¹⁵⁹ DAD, Lam. de for. XXII, f. 77' (15. V 1449).

¹⁶⁰ DAD, Lam. de for. XXIII, f. 109 (29. IV 1450).

¹⁶¹ DAD, Lam. de for. XXIV, f. 90 (1.II 1451).

¹⁶² Among those accused were the following: Lukač Miošić, Vidak Dobrosalić, brothers Ratko and Vladimir Vukosalić, Uglješa Novaković, Mladoš Baljenović, Radivoj Dobrosalić, Božidar Radičević, Marko and Boško Bratanović, brothers Bioč and Radman Pečić, Brajan Miošić,

Two months later, a large number of men from Konavle brought suit against Aleksa Dabiživović and his band, of whom some hailed from Zupci, from Vrsinje, and others from Trebinje. Several of these men were already known as robbers from earlier times. In the suit brought by Ostoja Milojević, the following brigands from Vrsinje were named: Pavlica Novaković from Zupci, Aleksa Dabižinović and his two brothers, Tomo Miomanović from Zupci, Doberko, Cvjetko and Ifko Ruđić, two sons of Đuro Radetić, Uglješa Novaković, Radosav Ratkić, Radenko Đurđević, Ratko Vukosalić and Vokić Pokrajčić. Accompanying them were the following men from Trebinje: Mieč Krasojević, Nikola and Vokač Draguljević, Radivoje Marković, Butko Milanović, Vlatko and Radoje Vojsilović, the son of Miljo Obradović and his brother Miloš, Tološ Bogišić, Dobrun Grubačić and Bogiša Grubačević. In Konavle, from the said Ostoja, they violently seized 200 sheep, six oxen, ten cows, and all the goods within his house, in the value of 30 perpera. Also, Radovač Siljesković from Konavle accused the aforementioned of having forcibly taken from him in Konavle: two horses, four oxen, four pigs, and all the items from his house, worth 50 perpera. They also looted the house of Ratko Siljesković, carrying away all its contents worth 30 perpera. Radeta Ratkić, his brother Radman and Radašin Ratkić accused the aforementioned of having taken from them 250 sheep, 100 lambs and kids, 15 oxen, four cows, four pigs, two *stari* of wheat, and a chest of goods. Mirko Milojević likewise stated that the said robbers had forcibly taken from him 100 sheep, 30 goats and four oxen. In this same raid, Ljubiša Siljesković, Vokša Radosalić and Milić Bogdanović were plundered, the latter reporting that his grain, worth 20 perpera, was stolen.¹⁶³

The strained political relations between Dubrovnik and Stefan VukčićKosača worked in favour of Aleksa Dabiživović Zubac and his company. Herzog Stefan undertook no action against Aleksa's band and most likely incited them to such deeds.

On the eve of the Konavle War, on 5 June 1451, Aleksa's company committed several murders. One of the victims was Pribil Pribigarović, who succumbed to the blows and wounds he received.¹⁶⁴

The herzog's forces occupied Konavle on 24 and 25 June 1451. In the initial skirmishes, the Ragusans, reinforced with Italian mercenaries, suffered a defeat, losing around 400 men in one clash. To continue the war effort, they sought aid from mercenary forces from Italy, enlisting Galeazzo Brugnoli from Mantua for this purpose.¹⁶⁵

This local conflict was accompanied by intense diplomatic negotiations. Thanks to Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror, who sided with herzog Stefan against the strong coalition, a peace treaty was concluded in Novi on 10 April 1454.¹⁶⁶

Radoje Dobrosalić, Radoje, Vlatko and Ljubiša Vosilović, and others. DAD, Lam. de for. XXIV, f. 103 (8. II 1451).

¹⁶³ DAD, Lam. de for. XXIV, f. 158' (7. IV 1451).

¹⁶⁴ DAD, Lam. de for. XXIV, f. 202' (5. VI 1451).

¹⁶⁵ С. Ђирковић, *Херцег Стефан Вукчић-Косача и његово доба*, 174–187.

¹⁶⁶ Константин Јиречек, „Настојање старијих Дубровчана око раширења границе“, in: *Зборник Константина Јиречека I*, Београд 1959, 312–313.

During and after the war, due to acts of plunder, the Ragusans arrested and imprisoned several men from Zupci. In the summer of 1452, Brajan Rađenčić from Zupci and Stjepko Dubljević from Tjentište were imprisoned in Dubrovnik. On 19 September of that year, they were released. Branko from Zupci was also released from prison in early 1453. Later, two Zupci brothers, Vukosav and Petko, were imprisoned.¹⁶⁷

After the war, the people of Konavle sought to reclaim the missing and stolen livestock. Thus, the *potknez* of Površ Radman Mudričić reported that prior to the last war, a horse had been stolen from him by Tomo and Nikša Miomanović from Vrsinje.¹⁶⁸ Trade between the two regions resumed as well. In early September 1455, Radovan Bratošević from Vrsinje sold a mare to Živko Raknić from Konavle for ten perpera.¹⁶⁹

Throughout the 14th and 15th centuries, there were no merchants of notable standing in Vrsinje. Business was typically conducted in modest monetary sums. Bogdan Bratunović from Vrsinje and his business partner were indebted to Mara, the wife of Dživo Bunić, for eight perpera. The debt was to be repaid within three weeks.¹⁷⁰

Very seldom did men from Zupci appear in the credit records of the Dubrovnik Archive. One such was Dobrivoj Pribilović Zubac, who did business with Gojслав Radičijević.¹⁷¹

Two years later, Radič Zubac is also mentioned in the credit records. He entered into a small credit arrangement with Vukosav from Goražde.¹⁷²

In February 1432, Stanihna Rašković from Vrsinje, the principal debtor, and Rade Jagodić, the weaver, entered into a credit agreement with Maroje Ptčić, from whom they borrowed 11 perpera and one grosch for a term of one month.¹⁷³

Radič Vukić from Vrsinje was also engaged in credit dealings. On 9 October 1445, together with two men from Župa Dubrovačka, he borrowed 85 perpera from Nikola Pucić, with an obligation to repay the debt by 17 December of that year.¹⁷⁴

Radič Radojević from Vrsinje also borrowed a small amount of money in Dubrovnik – eight perpera.¹⁷⁵

It was rare for men of Vrsinje to enter into formal trading companies for joint commercial ventures, sharing profit or losses according to prearranged terms. One such partnership was formed by Stanj Vukić from Zupci from Vrsinje with Živan Grubačević. They agreed their partnership would last two months. Among the capital invested were four silver rings, one silver cross, and a certain sum of money. Živan was to travel and trade various goods. Apart from the invested principal, one quarter of

¹⁶⁷ Б. Храбак, *Зупци*, 148.

¹⁶⁸ DAD, Div. Not. XXXVIII, f. 66' (8. VI 1453).

¹⁶⁹ DAD, Div. Not. XL, f. 33' (1. IX 1455).

¹⁷⁰ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXVII, f. 101' (16. IX 1408).

¹⁷¹ DAD, Deb. Not. XIV, f. 275' (22. III 1429).

¹⁷² DAD, Deb. Not. XV, f. 109 (10. VIII 1431).

¹⁷³ DAD, Deb. Not. XV, f. 165' (6. II 1432).

¹⁷⁴ DAD, Deb. Not. XXII, f. 165' (9. X 1445).

¹⁷⁵ DAD, Deb. Not. XXXI, f. 130' (2. XI 1457).

the profit and potential losses were to belong to Stanj from Zupci, and the remaining three quarters to Živan.¹⁷⁶

Due to harsh living conditions, the youth of Vrsinje would go to Dubrovnik for service, some to learn various crafts.¹⁷⁷ These were mostly underage children from livestock-keeping households, and contracts were often made on their behalf by their parents, siblings or close kin. Yet some adults also went to Dubrovnik and entered into service on their own. In addition to male and female servants, some men trained in various crafts. In November 1373, Stefan Dimitrović from Vrsinje was apprenticed to blacksmith Milosav Dobromirović for a term of seven years.¹⁷⁸

Pripčin Božitković from Vrsinje went to Dubrovnik and on 14 April 1393 pledged to serve and learn the craft of hat- and cap-making under master Petoj Dabojević for five years. However, before completing four years, Pripčin entered into a new agreement to serve Nikola Tuduzić for a term of three years, in return for board, clothing and a payment of four perpera.¹⁷⁹

Unlike Pripčin, Radoslav Rajčić from Vrsinje served Radovač Bratanović for six years, receiving board and a monetary remuneration of twelve perpera.¹⁸⁰

In the early 15th century, Gojслав Papalić from Vrsinje bound himself to serve and learn a craft under Petar, a master of crossbow-making, for a period of six years.¹⁸¹

In June 1410, Ratko Miljević from Vrsinje went to Dubrovnik and thence to the nearby island of Koločep to serve Markulin Pribilović for a term of two years. For his service, besides lodging and food, he received an annual payment of nine perpera. Ratko's guarantor was Radivoje Petić.¹⁸²

The men of Vrsinje also served notable personages of the time in Dubrovnik. One such was Ljubiša Petković, who, on 26 April 1413, pledged to serve Bartolo from Piombino, a physician of the Ragusan Commune, for six years.¹⁸³ However, in late 1416, Ljubiša Petković from Vrsinje is mentioned again, now of age, serving and learning the craft of tailoring under Petar Ljubojević.¹⁸⁴ Whether this was the same person who had earlier served physician Bartolo or someone else is not known.

There are numerous instances of servants fleeing their masters, sometimes due to harsh working conditions and at times owing to their age. Young girls and boys did not easily adapt to life in a foreign household. Occasionally, a servant would also rob the master and flee. For this reason, employers would often ask for guarantors when concluding contracts. One who fled his master was Brajko from Vrsinje, a servant of

¹⁷⁶ DAD, Div. Canc. LXXI, f. 138, (24. II 1464).

¹⁷⁷ Радмилу Пекић, „Становништво Требиња на служби код Италијана у XIV и XV вијеку“, *Радови Филозофског факултета. Филозофске науке* 17 (Пале 2015) 183–200.

¹⁷⁸ DAD, Div. Not. IX, f. 93 (14. XI 1373).

¹⁷⁹ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXI, f. 59' (14. IV 1393); XXXIII, f. 10' (1. I 1397).

¹⁸⁰ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXI, f. 175' (8. XI 1395).

¹⁸¹ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXVI, f. 92' (7. IX 1406).

¹⁸² DAD, Div. Canc. XXXVIII, f. 136' (25. VI 1410).

¹⁸³ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXIX, f. 247' (26. IV 1413).

¹⁸⁴ DAD, Div. Canc. XLI, f. 61 (30. XII 1416).

Nikola Tuduzić.¹⁸⁵ Later, Radak Radovčić accused Ostoja Radojković and his own maidservant of stealing three *kupels* of grain in Vrsinje.¹⁸⁶

Radivoj Pribilović of Vrsinje also went to Dubrovnik, where he served two men – Vlatko Dobrojević and Palko Milovčić – who were business partners, for a year. His annual wage amounted to eight *perpera*, and, in accordance with the custom of the City, he received a tunic and a mantle at the end of his service.¹⁸⁷

The reasons why Ljubiša Petković from Vrsinje broke his contract with tailor Petar Ljubojević are unknown. However, after a year and a half, Ljubiša entered into a new contract, obliging himself to serve weaver Zanes, the son of Petar, for four years. The total price of his service was eleven gold ducats.¹⁸⁸

A similar case was that of Radojko Gojaković from Vrsinje, aged twenty, who, on 24 October 1421, concluded an agreement with Ratko Miletić, a comb-maker, to serve and learn his craft for two years.¹⁸⁹ Not even two months passed before Radojko from Vrsinje and master Ratko rescinded their contract. On 2 December 1424, the said Radojko from Vrsinje entered the service of cloth-maker Ivan Kotruljević for a period of two years.¹⁹⁰

Petko Milivanić from Vrsinje served for two years in the household of prominent Bratoslav Predojević, a well-known figure in historical literature. In addition to maintenance and new clothing made of rough woollen cloth (*rašča*), Petko received 13 *perpera*. Petko's guarantor was Radojko Tvrtković from Gruž.¹⁹¹

Krasoje Brajković from Vrsinje served Volkosav Radujević for two years, for 15 *perpera* and three sets of garments.¹⁹²

In October 1423, Radun Bojesalić from Vrsinje, who was above seventeen, bound himself to serve and learn the tanning craft under Radašin Bogdanović for five years.¹⁹³

Petko Brajković from Vrsinje also went to Dubrovnik to serve and learn the tanning craft under Radoje Petković. The period of apprenticeship was four years.¹⁹⁴

Miljoje Pribisavić likewise learned the tanning craft in Dubrovnik. His father Pribisav Ratković had left Vrsinje and settled in Dubrovnik. Pribisav gave his son Miljoje to serve for five years under master Stojko Dupetin, to learn the craft. During that time, Miljoje was obliged to lodge with Stojko and to guard and care for his property. In turn, Stojko committed to instruct him in the shoemaker's craft.¹⁹⁵ Four months later, Pribo Bogavčić from Vrsinje, a grown youth, entered the service of

¹⁸⁵ DAD, Div. Canc. XL, f. 23' (26. VI 1414).

¹⁸⁶ DAD, Lam. de for. IV, f. 91 (9. X 1419).

¹⁸⁷ DAD, Div. Canc. XLI, f. 136' (11. VII 1417).

¹⁸⁸ DAD, Div. Canc. XLI, f. 254' (15. VI 1418).

¹⁸⁹ DAD, Div. Not. XIII, f. 207'-208 (24. X 1421).

¹⁹⁰ DAD, Div. Not. XIII, f. 215' (2. XII 1421).

¹⁹¹ DAD, Div. Not. XIII, f. 240 (21. II 1422).

¹⁹² DAD, Div. Canc. XLII, f. 297' (16. VII 1424).

¹⁹³ DAD, Div. Canc. XLII, f. 195' (18. X 1423).

¹⁹⁴ DAD, Div. Canc. XLII, f. 222' (2. I 1424).

¹⁹⁵ DAD, Div. Canc. XLIV, f. 70 (19. X 1426).

weaver Ljubisav Petković for a term of four years. In addition to board and craft instruction, Ljubisav paid Pribo two perpera per year.¹⁹⁶

Ivan Stojšalić of Vrsinje also went to Dubrovnik to serve. He served Džono Đurđević for two years, receiving board and 20 perpera.¹⁹⁷ During the same period, Radosav Milović of Vrsinje served and learned the comb-maker's craft under Toma Antonijev from Rimini, a cloth-maker, for board and two gold ducats.¹⁹⁸

Unlike the aforementioned, Radovan Radetić from Vrsinje served and learned the tanning craft for five years under Dobrić Dragojević Pribilović. At the end of his service, the Vrsinje man received a set of tanner's tools from master Dobrić, so that he could work on his own.¹⁹⁹

Some men of Vrsinje served solely for board. One such was Radonja Miodrušić, who served nobleman Vlaho Đorđić for a year. For Radonja's conduct, sailor Radosav Pripčić was the guarantor.²⁰⁰

Radosav Pribilović, a *tesarius*, hired Sredan Vokosalić from Vrsinje, aged 14, to serve him for four years and to be instructed in the craft.²⁰¹

In September 1448, Božitko Radovčić took into his service Brajan Pribisalić from Vrsinje for the following two years. Besides lodging and food, Brajan was to receive a set of clothing annually and, at the end of service, a remuneration of 20 perpera.²⁰²

Some Vrsinje men, having acquired certain artisanal skills, remained to work in Dubrovnik. One such was Radelja Radašinović, who took into his service Vukosav Ostojić, upon the guarantees of his father Ostoja Obradović from Slobin, to serve and learn a craft for four years. Upon the expiration of that term, Radelja committed to paying him 12 perpera in addition to providing garments for his service.²⁰³

D. Dinić-Knežević noted that between 1373 and 1454, eight youths from Vrsinje went to Dubrovnik to serve and learn a craft.²⁰⁴

In February 1453, Radosav Brajković from Vrsinje went to Dubrovnik to serve and learn a craft under weaver Mileta Radovčić for a period of four years. Radosav's conduct was guaranteed by his brother Milorad Brajković.²⁰⁵

Later that same year, Živko Sekulić from Vrsinje went to Dubrovnik to serve nobleman Marin Đurđević, with blacksmith Bogdan Utješinović giving a guarantee.²⁰⁶

¹⁹⁶ DAD, Div. Canc. XLV, f. 160 (21. I 1429).

¹⁹⁷ DAD, Div. Not. XVI, f. 72' (17. V 1429).

¹⁹⁸ DAD, Div. Not. XVII, f. 209' (26. II 1432).

¹⁹⁹ DAD, Div. Not. XVII, f. 256 (11. V 1432).

²⁰⁰ DAD, Div. Canc. XLVII, f. 58 (9. II 1433).

²⁰¹ DAD, Div. Canc. LIX, f. 148 (17. I 1446).

²⁰² DAD, Div. Canc. LXI, f. 220 (18. IX 1448).

²⁰³ DAD, Div. Not. XXXV, f.12 (9. XI 1449).

²⁰⁴ Душанка Динић-Кнежевић, *Миграције становништва из јужнословенских земаља у Дубровник током средњег века*, Нови Сад 1995, 65. Cf.: Bogumil Hrabak, *Момци из Херцеговине и Босне у дубровачком занатству, трговини и поморству у XIV, XV и XVI столећу*, Прилози IX/1 (Sarajevo 1973) 28–31.

²⁰⁵ DAD, Div. Not. XXXVIII, f. 19' (12. II 1453).

²⁰⁶ DAD, Div. Not. XXXVIII, f. 164' (27. XI 1453).

In October 1459, renowned merchant and cloth-maker Petar Pantela from Piacenza, known for initiating textile production in Dubrovnik, took Vlatko Stepković from Vrsinje into his service for a term of five years. In addition to board and clothing, Pantela committed to paying Vlatko 25 perpera upon completion of his service. Vlatko's behaviour was guaranteed by Brajan Regojević from Vrsinje.²⁰⁷ Four months later, carpenter Nikša Ivanković took into his service maidservant Stanica, the daughter of Brajan Đurđević from Vrsinje, for a period of eight years.²⁰⁸

Even after Vrsinje fell under Ottoman rule, young people continued to go to Dubrovnik to work as servants and learn crafts. In February 1477, tanner Radivoj Radovčić took into service a certain Brajan from Vrsinje, binding him to six years of service and apprenticeship.²⁰⁹

Benko Radojević, a cloth-maker, took Radosav Milković from Vrsinje into his service, to instruct him in his craft for five years. Guarantors for Radosav's conduct were his brothers Rajan and Vukašin Milković. Radosav received 30 perpera for his service.²¹⁰

Radonja, the son of late Čeljko from Vrsinje and resident of Dubrovnik, represented his sister Radosava, who was a maidservant in the house of Ivan, the son of Nikola Gundulić, and now lived in Venice under the name Katarina. On 19 October, Radonja declared that he had received from lady Margarita, the widow of Ivan Gundulić, six perpera as outstanding payment for the service rendered by his sister Radosava, now called Katarina, in the household of Ivan Gundulić.²¹¹

Somemen servants and maidservants married and thus settled permanently in Dubrovnik. One of them was Boljka, the daughter of Dobroja from Vrsinje, who married cooper Grubač Dubravčić.²¹² Half a year after Boljka, Bogeta Dražojević from Vrsinje declared that he had received 100 perpera as dowry for his wife Radoslava.²¹³ A house in Dubrovnik was purchased by Radoje Zubac for 76 ducats.²¹⁴

Radosav Brajković of Zupci in Vrsinje married Radosava, a maidservant in the household of Ivan Lukin, and in 1434 received a dowry of 70 perpera from her mother.²¹⁵

Ratko Tasovčić from Vrsinje settled in Dubrovnik and married there. His wife was Grlica, the daughter of Bogiša Velihnić. Grlica brought as her dowry money and silverware in the value of 50 perpera.²¹⁶

²⁰⁷ DAD, Div. Canc. LXIX, f. 8 (9. X 1459).

²⁰⁸ DAD, Div. Canc. LXIX, f. 61 (6. II 1460).

²⁰⁹ DAD, Div. Not. LXI, f. 38 (8. II 1477).

²¹⁰ DAD, Div. Canc. LXXXVI, f. 42 (10. III 1488).

²¹¹ DAD, Div. Not. LXXIII, f. 42'-43 (19. X 1493).

²¹² DAD, Liber Dotum Notariae [=Lib. Dot. III], f. 68 (4. I 1405).

²¹³ DAD, Lib. dot. III, f. 72' (1. VI 1405).

²¹⁴ Десанка Ковачевић-Којић, *Трговачке књиге браће Кабужић (Сабога) 1426–1433*, Споменик САНУ CXXXVII. Одељење историјских наука 11, Београд 1999, 127.

²¹⁵ DAD, Lib. dot. V, f. 10' (17. VII 1434).

²¹⁶ DAD, Lib. dot. VI, f. 74 (6. I 1446).

There was also a certain Jelka from Vrsinje who, in 1451, was cast out of her home by her husband, who took another woman in her stead.²¹⁷

Women from Vrsinje who did not marry or left no offspring would take younger men as sons, provided they would care for them until their death. Thus, in the late 14th century, Stojna, the daughter of late Slađan Bisić from Vrsinje, entered into an agreement with tailor Bogdan Baočić, by which she permanently accepted him as her son. In turn, Bogdan pledged to care for Stojna as his own mother.²¹⁸

In November 1465, Vrsinje was taken by the Ottomans.²¹⁹ In that same period, Bogeta Ljubišić from Dub in Konavle accused Radoslav Đurđević and Dragiša Nikšić, the Zupci vlachs, of having seized a 15-year-old boy, taken him to Trebinje, and sold him to the Turks.²²⁰ The following year, the men of Zupci continued to trade in people. In April 1466, Radič Radojević from Poljice in Konavle accused Lazar Heraković from Dračevica of having sold his sister Jelica to Mirko Šišmanović Zubac for three ducats.²²¹

Though Vrsinje fell in 1465, it was not recorded in the Ottoman census of 1468/69, as it was not under occupation at that time. Earlier researchers established that after its first fall to the Turks in 1465, Vrsinje was restored to the authority of herzog Vladislav on several occasions: in 1468, 1471 and 1476.²²²

In the census of the Sanjak of the vilayets of Herzegovina (1475–77), we find that the nahiya of Zupci was formed, within which there was a *cemaat* comprising 108 households and 17 bachelors. They spent winter in the place called Vršine, while during summer they were in Sitnica. The head of the *katun* (*cemaat*) was Bojak Đurđević.²²³

Dubrovnik scribes recorded the *katunar* of Zupci, Bojak Đurđević, under the name Bujak Đurđević. In early October 1462, the Ragusans granted Bujak permission to visit the city.²²⁴ On 14 March 1466, Bujak Đurđević from Zupci (*Buyach Giurgeuich de Xubci*) was accused. It is not known why Mihoč Vučetić deposited his Arabian horse and saddlebags with Bujak Đurđević. The horse was valued at 21 ducats. After some time, when Mihoč requested the return of his horse, Bujak refused, which is why a legal dispute ensued.²²⁵

Later, Radiša from Vrsinje, a man in the service of Vljajko, sold a horse for seven ducats to nobleman Jeronim Lukarević from Dubrovnik.²²⁶

²¹⁷ Радмило Пекић, „Брачне везе Захумљана и Требињаца у Дубровнику (XIV–XV вијек)“, in: *Српско писано наслеђе и историја средњовјековне Босне и Хума*, Бања Лука – Источно Сарајево 2018, 293.

²¹⁸ DAD, Div. Canc. XXXII, f. 30' (10. III 1397).

²¹⁹ Храбак, *Зупци*, 150.

²²⁰ М. Динић, *Из Дубровачког архива III*, 136.

²²¹ *Ibidem*, 139.

²²² Вељан Атанасовски, *Пад Херцеговине*, Београд 1979, 117–118.

²²³ *Поименични popis sandžaka vilajeta Hercegovine*, ed. Ahmed S. Aličić, Sarajevo 1985, 121–123.

²²⁴ Б. Храбак, *Зупци*, 149.

²²⁵ DAD, Lam. de for. XXXVII, f. 265' (14. III 1466).

²²⁶ DAD, Div. Not. LIX, f. 187 (15. I 1476).

Lastly, it must be emphasised that the topic of medieval Vrsinje and its inhabitants, the Zupci vlachs, is far from exhausted. With this study, limited in scope, we do not claim to present the matter in its entirety, but rather, by systematising the material, to broaden and deepen the knowledge that will serve as a basis for further research into medieval Vrsinje.

Fig. 1

Radosav maniſiſt, de decignna, ſiāt manifeſtum, qd ipſe hnt ⁊
 recepit, a ſ. Cūc de Junij de Chaboga vnum ſomecum ſm
 ad tenendum paſendum ⁊ aſtodiendum vſqad vnu annu, cum
 hjo gdetorb qd ipe ſ. Cūc poſſit ipſz aſſim accipe ⁊ vndermjs ſm
 ⁊ teneat ipe Radosav p vſuſactu dī aſſim dare ad aſſim ſ. Cūc
 duos metecos ad vno Capantato ambo pſent. l. p. Junijnoſ.
 Et ſi aſſim dūno iudic pucat ul cum forſuito, qd moriatur
 ipſo ambaly pſty. ⁊ ſi culpa ul negligēda dī Radosav p dēme
 qd teneat, ſolū ⁊ reſic p ipſo aſſim ipſa ſ. Cūc, ⁊ dāpny ad ipſz
 ſolū pſent pſy

Radosav Manišić from Vrsinje took one donkey from Dživo Kabužić
 for breeding and keeping, for a period of one year.
 DAD, Div. Canc. XXVII, f. 152 (13. IX 1388).

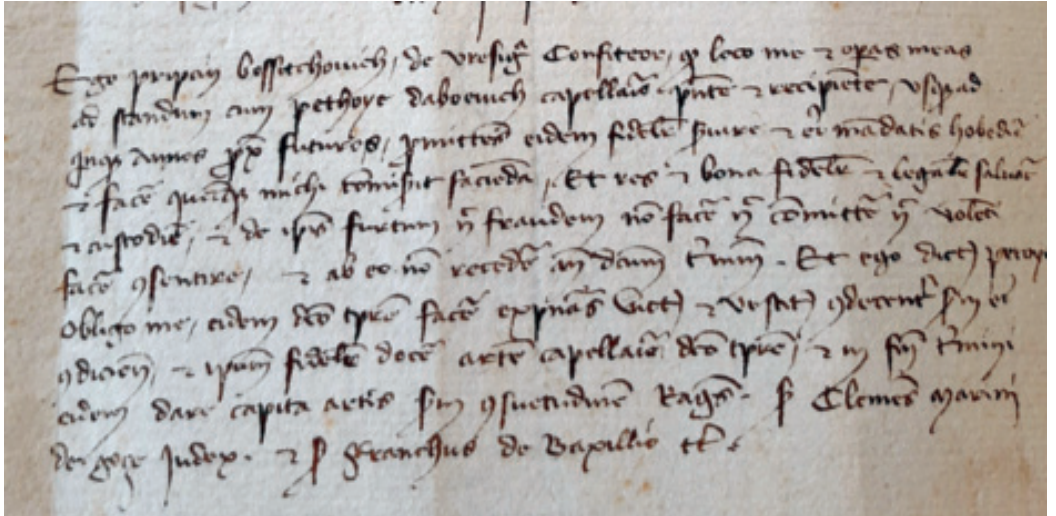
Fig. 2

1. 7. 19 die vni octubr
 Radak Radovčić, coram nobis ⁊ oſap vno dno Jſhe
 de gozro hnt Pertor Jagoſo pſitue ſm oſtoram
 radovčić ⁊ ſm pſitue ſm corpe dūo accipat
 in ſula ſua pta vident. ⁊ die ſabat pſlapſa
 Jſhna recepit armatorz pto ⁊ coppellon ſca ſm
 menty

H/ Glubryſan Radovčić

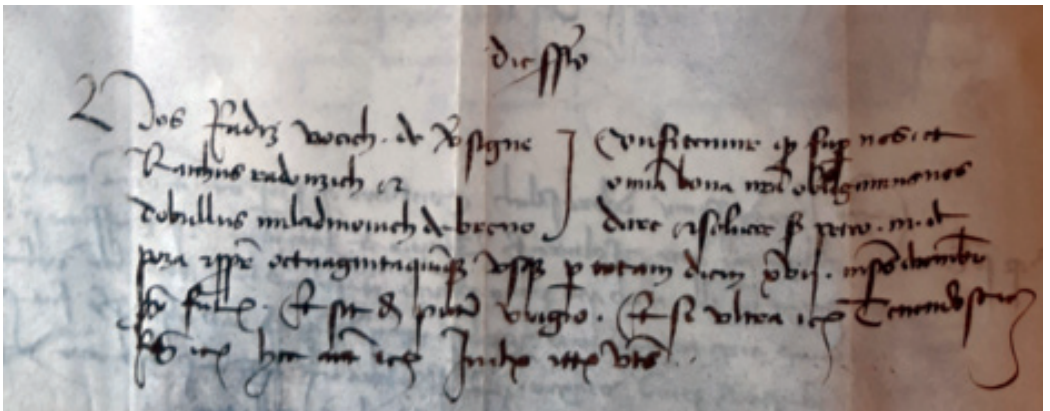
Radak Radovčić's complaint vs. Ostoja Radovčić and his maid
 due to the theft of three kupels of grain in Vrsinje.
 DAD, Lamenta de foris IV, f. 91 (9. X 1419).

Fig. 3



Pripčin Bošetković from Vrsinje committed to serving and learning the craft of hat-and-cap-making under master Petoja Dabojević for a period of five years.
DAD, Div. Canc. XXXI, f. 59' (14. IV 1393).

Fig. 4



Loan agreement of Radič Vučić from Vrsinje.
DAD, Deb. Not. XX, f. 165' (8. X 1445).

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Радмило Б. ПЕКИЋ

НАСЕЉА И СТАНОВНИШТВО ВРСИЊА У 14. И 15. ВЕКУ

Резиме

На темељу објављене и необјављене архивске грађе и релевантне литературе, у раду су приказани насеља и становништво Врсиња, које је припадало Требињској области у XIV и XV веку. Током тог периода, Врсиње је насељавало сточарско становништво из племена Зупци, по коме је Врсиње променило назив у Зупци. Тај средњовековни назив задржан је до данас. Зупци су смештени на југу Републике Српске, између Требиња, Корјенића, Кривошија, Крушевице и Конавла. Од 1377. године, Врсиње је припадало средњовековној краљевини Босни и било је под управом феудалних господара из властелинске породице Косача, све до пада под османску власт. У средњем веку, два значајна пута пролазила су кроз Врсиње – један је ишао од Новог, а други од Конавла, а оба су настављала ка Клобуку, односно Требињу и водила даље у унутрашњост. Врсињани су се превентивно бавили узгојем стоке, коју су најчешће продавали у Дубровнику и околини. За Врсињане је Конавле било од посебне важности будући да су два оружана сукоба избила око Конавала између Дубровника и племићких породица Павловића и Косача. Иако су имали релативно добре пословне односе са Дубровчанима, Врсињани су често нападали Конавле и дубровачко подручје. Упркос томе, млада популација из Врсиња често је одлазила на рад у Дубровник. Девојке су радиле као служавке, а момци су изучавали различите занатске вештине и служили мајсторима. Поједини су се трајно насељавали и заснивали породице у Дубровнику.