

old frontier of the Dubrovnik Republic, its value being even greater because of the detailed demarcation of the border with the Bay of Kotor and the Ottoman Empire, i.e., Montenegro.

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**Željko Peković** and **Ivica Žile**, *Ranosrednjovjekovna crkva Sigurata na Prijekome u Dubrovniku* (The Early Medieval Church of Sigurata at Prijeko in Dubrovnik). *Katalozi i monografije*, 6. Split: Muzej hrvatskih arheoloških spomenika Split, 1999. Pages 40 + ix tables.

Two conservators of Dubrovnik—Željko Peković and Ivica Žile—are the authors of this monograph on the early medieval church of Sigurata, situated in the northwest part of the old City. The popular and widespread name of the church is the derivation of *Transfiguratio Christi*, to which the church was consecrated; since the seventeenth century it has commonly been known as Our Lady of Sigurata because of the worshipped painting of the Madonna displayed in it.

In writing this volume the authors combined a series of archeological, historical, and artistic facts with the architectural research of Sigurata during its conservation. The result of their work is twofold: the restored church itself and this book, which undoubtedly represents an exemplary restoration study in terms of documentation and scientific methodology. Devoid of unnecessary digression, commonly found in literature of the kind, Peković and Žile have produced a comprehensive scientific “diary” of their conservation work on Sigurata carried out between 1992 and 1995. Commendable is the decision of the publisher—Museum of Croatian Archeological Monuments of

Split—to present it as a bilingual edition (Croatian/English), and thus approach an international scientific audience.

Illuminating and highly readable, this study does not exhibit the laborious yet appealing nature of the research stage before reconstruction. Guided by his own finds and yet aware that the results of this type of work are generally unpredictable, a researcher paddles his way through in quest of the expected, hopefully, valuable discovery, or none at all. Viewed professionally, Sigurata has proved a significant, multilayered, and meaningful challenge to the authors.

The study is splendidly documented, including the essential archeological approach to the necessary reconstruction due to the aging of the building, as well as the damages the church suffered in the Serbian aggression on Dubrovnik at the end of 1991. In the chapters on the location, present state and previous research, Peković and Žile provide their own observations and sparse data on the church, its neighbourhood, and the urban development of the City to be found in the literature. One should point to the fact that the work of these two authors has contributed to the clearer understanding of the origin of the church and a series of reconstructions undertaken on it over the centuries. In addition, the results of the restoration of Sigurata offer reliable proof to the theses of both the authors, Žile in particular, concerning the beginnings of the early medieval Dubrovnik settlement.

Crucial phases of restoration, together with the results of the archeological and architectural research, which led the authors to the new conclusions about the pre-Romanesque Sigurata, have been given chronologically. By deconstructing a number of extensions on the church building and in the surrounding area, the authors were able to ex-

plain the complex history of the oldest building. The conservators proceeded with dating the following construction phases: the first, between late antiquity and early Middle Ages, and the second, the early Middle Ages as far as the eleventh century. This has thrown a new light on the beginning of urban development of Dubrovnik, especially the area around the street Prijeko. Namely, on the site of the pre-Romanesque church the foundations of two older churches were discovered: an early Christian church, the evidence of which has been found in a number of stone fragments (*spolia*) dating from the sixth century. As the fragments in question are of the early Christian origin, and, without doubt, are related to the existing building, this contributes to the corpus of the late antiquity and early Christian fragments excavated in the City. All the unearthed fragments from Sigurata have been carefully classified and presented in the study.

The results of the study lead the authors to the conclusion that the Church of Transfiguration originates from the period spanning between the late antiquity and early Middle Ages. It was built outside the settlement, on the shores of a bay enclosed by a peninsula, where a Byzantine *castrum* had been built in the sixth century.

The most recent reconstruction of Sigurata revealed a succession of alterations carried out over the years, as a result of the changes in style concept and liturgical requirements. A reconstruction was carried out at the turn of the eleventh century, to be followed by another one in the fourteenth century, and the last Baroque adaptations before and after the 1667 earthquake. Thanks to the excellent drawings enclosed to the text, the whole architectural development of the church can be vividly followed.

The value of this book most certainly proves the idea that each restoration of an architectural monument should be rounded off with a scientifically based and documented study such as this one by Peković and Žile.

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**Joe J. Simmons III**, *Those Vulgar Tubes, External Sanitary Accommodations aboard European Ships of the Fifteenth through Seventeenth Centuries*. Studies in Nautical Archeology I, Second Edition. London: Texas A&M University Press, Chatham Publishing, 1998. Pages xi + 100.

Joe J. Simmons has dedicated his book to all those who have gone at sea, its title being taken from a poem "A Sea Chaplain's Petition to the Lieutenants in the Ward Room, for the Use of the Quarter Galley" attributed to William Falconer and published in *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1758. Joe J. Simmons earned his M.A. in anthropology with a specialization in nautical archeology from Texas A&M University. From 1975 to 1994 he served in numerous nautical archeology projects, the result of which is this devotedly written monograph imbued with humour.

Simmons's book provides historians and anthropologists with a rich view of the rare subject of the development of sanitary facilities, that is, toilets aboard ships from the antiquity to modern age, focusing on European ships of the great era of sail. The disposal of human wastes generated aboard ships has always been an important consideration, particularly in earlier periods. Thus, in the introduction Simmons discusses the use of chamber pots, which were probably