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# **ACTA HISTRIAE**

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VSEBINA / INDICE GENERALE / CONTENTS

<b>Darko Darovec:</b> Facing Foreigners in Urban Early Modern Europe: Legislation, Deliberation, Practice – Introduction to the Special Double Issue .....	159
<i>Affrontare gli stranieri nell'Europa urbana della prima età moderna: legislazione, deliberazione, pratica – Introduzione al numero speciale doppioo</i>	
<i>Soočanje s tujci v mestih zgodnjenovoveške Evrope: zakonodaja, deliberacija, praksa – Uvodnik za dvojni posebni številki</i>	
 <b>Darja Mihelič:</b> Foreigners in the Statutes of Trieste, Muggia, Koper, Izola and Piran: From the High Middle Ages to the Early Modern Period .....	203
<i>Gli stranieri negli statuti di Trieste, Muggia, Capodistria, Isola e Pirano: dall'alto medioevo all'età moderna</i>	
<i>Tujci v statutih mest Trst, Milje, Koper, Izola in Piran: od visokega srednjega do zgodnjega novega veka</i>	
 <b>José María Lozano Jiménez:</b> Palermo Facing a Hispanic Population: Deliberative Processes of Acquiring Citizenship in Early Modern Palermo .....	265
<i>Palermo e la sua popolazione ispanica: processi deliberativi di acquisizione della cittadinanza nella Palermo d'età moderna</i>	
<i>Palermo in soočanje s španskim prebivalstvom: postopki deliberacije o podelitvi meščanstva v zgodnjenovoveškem Palermu</i>	



<b>Branka Grbavac:</b> The Integration of the Members of the De Surdis Family from Piacenza in the Fourteenth-Century Zadar Commune .....	279
<i>L'integrazione dei membri della famiglia de Surdis di Piacenza nel Comune di Zara nel quattordicesimo secolo Integracija članov družine Surdis iz Piacenze v zadrski komun v 14. stoletju</i>	
<b>Jan Figueras i Gibert:</b> Deliberating on Foreignness: Migrant Integration and Deliberative Practices in a Catalan Craft Guild (ca. 1580–ca. 1600) .....	293
<i>Discutere la condizione di straniero: integrazione dei migranti e pratiche deliberative in una gilda artigiana catalana (ca. 1580–ca. 1600) Deliberacija o tujstvu: integracija migrantov in deliberativne prakse v katalonskem cehu (ok. 1580–ok. 1600)</i>	
<b>Ona Vila i Palacín:</b> To Arrange a Marriage with a Foundling: French Immigrants Between Integration and Exclusion in Early Modern Barcelona (1532–1601) .....	317
<i>Organizzare un matrimonio con una trovatella: immigrati francesi tra integrazione ed esclusione nella Barcellona di età moderna (1532–1601) Skleniti poroko z najdenko: francoski migranti med integracijo in izključenostjo v zgodnjenovoveški Barceloni (1532–1601)</i>	
<b>David Hazemali, Aleš Maver &amp; Mateja Matjašič Friš:</b> Newcomers in Maribor in the First Half of the Eighteenth Century in the Marriage Records of the Parish of St John the Baptist .....	347
<i>I nuovi arrivati a Maribor nella prima metà del diciottesimo secolo nei registri matrimoniali della Parrocchia di San Giovanni Battista Prišleki v Mariboru v prvi polovici 18. stoletja v poročnih knjigah župnije sv. Janeza Krstnika</i>	

## THE INTEGRATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DE SURDIS FAMILY FROM PIACENZA IN THE COMMUNE OF ZADAR IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

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### ABSTRACT

*Based on published and unpublished archival sources mostly from the State Archives of Zadar and relevant literature, the author presents the activities of the members of the de Surdis family from Piacenza in the commune of Zadar during the reign of King Louis I the Great of Hungary-Croatia and their integration within Zadar and Dalmatia in general. After a short introduction on the position of Dalmatia and Zadar in the Angevin period, author gives general information about foreigners in Zadar which is followed by information about the most prominent members of the de Surdis family and offices they held in the commune of Zadar.*

*Key words: Middle Ages, Dalmatia, Zadar, King Louis I the Great, foreigners, the de Surdis family*

## L'INTEGRAZIONE DEI MEMBRI DELLA FAMIGLIA DE SURDIS DI PIACENZA NEL COMUNE DI ZARA NEL QUATTORDICESIMO SECOLO

### SINTESI

*Basandosi su fonti archivistiche editate e inedite provenienti dall'Archivio di Stato di Zara e sulla letteratura di riferimento, l'autore presenta le attività dei membri della famiglia de Surdis di Piacenza nel comune di Zara durante il regno del re Luigi I d'Ungheria-Croazia e la loro integrazione a Zara e, più in generale, in Dalmazia. Dopo una breve introduzione, l'autore fornisce informazioni generali sugli stranieri a Zara, seguite da dati sui membri più illustri della famiglia de Surdis e sulle cariche da essi ricoperte nel comune di Zara.*

*Parole chiave: Medioevo, Dalmazia, Zara, re Luigi I il Grande, stranieri, famiglia de Surdis*

## INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

Medieval Dalmatia was a constituent part of the medieval Kingdom of Croatia-Dalmatia, which consisted of two rather different parts. The first of them, Croatia, was a coherent territory stretching from the mountain chains of the Dinaridi to the Adriatic Sea. The second part of the kingdom's title, Dalmatia, was the term applied to territorially disconnected cities and islands stretching from the Kvarner in the north to Boka Kotorska in the south. However, the whole area shared similar characteristics because of the fact that all its constituent parts had maintained a strong continuity with the late antique settlements in both their ecclesiastical and their secular traditions, and had a very similar economy, almost identical to that of neighbouring Italy. The population (including the urban nobility) had become highly Slavicized (Croatized) as early as the early Middle Ages and this process had constantly progressed as it approached later times. Most of the population was bilingual, which facilitated the transfer of cultural innovations from Italy. Dalmatian cities also shared a common development of civic institutions (communes), even though there were significant differences in the pace of that development among them, which was very much influenced by the development of their Italian counterparts. By the election of King Coloman of Hungary as the king of Croatia-Dalmatia, the area became a constitutive part of the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia and of the royal nomenclature.<sup>2</sup>

Among all Dalmatian cities, a special place belonged to the commune of Zadar (Zara), which, at that time, was the greatest city of the Kingdom of Croatia-Dalmatia, distinguishing itself as a cultural, political, and economic metropolis. Due to its geographical position in the middle of the East Adriatic coast, and as a starting point on the sailing route towards the West Adriatic coast (Ancona), in the period from the eleventh to the fourteenth century, Zadar was in the centre of the political interests of Venice, the kings of Hungary-Croatia and Croatian noble families from the hinterland, which resulted with victory of royal policy with the Treaty of Zadar in 1358, by which the whole coastal area came under the firm royal rule.<sup>3</sup> This period of the rule of the House of Anjou over the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia was very important for the city of Zadar and for Dalmatia in general, because they were at the centre of royal policy enabling connection of the dynasty's Central European possessions with those in the Kingdom of Naples, which stimulated their economic, social and cultural development. Therefore, at the same time, Zadar and Dalmatia became of great interest for immigration of different types of newcomers, either on permanent or temporary basis, including those connected to royal policy in the area, as will be the case of the de Surdis family discussed in this paper.

1 This article is based upon work from the COST Action CA22149 *Research Network for Interdisciplinary Studies of Transhistorical Deliberative Democracy (CHANGECODE)*, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).

2 For more information cf. Raukar (1997; 2007), Goldstein (1999), Supićić (1999) and Hercigonja (2008).

3 For more information about history of Zadar, cf. Brunelli (1913), Klaić & Petricioli (1976). For the importance of the Treaty of Zadar for its development, cf. Ančić & Nekić (2022).

## FOREIGNERS IN THE COMMUNE OF ZADAR

The largest circulation of foreigners and newcomers in the medieval commune of Zadar, and in general in all Dalmatian communes was certainly connected with trade as one of the most important economic branches of medieval society. Due to the closeness of both sides of the Adriatic the largest number of foreigners in Zadar came from Apennine Peninsula, from those provinces that are geographically oriented towards Zadar and with which throughout history the commune of Zadar established various connections, from cultural and economic exchange to political interests. Thus, the presence of the Anconitans which can be attributed to the ‘traditional friendship’ between the two cities, is also confirmed by trade agreements from 1258 and 1288 (CD 5, 88–90; CD 6, 620–633). In the context of cultural exchange, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the arrival of numerous people from Bologna and Padua, two university cities, can be explained by the fact that they made up most of the communal officers.<sup>4</sup>

It is important to mention that the presence of Venetians from the second half of the fourteenth century was significantly reduced due to the new political change of government, which resulted in the loss of privileges they enjoyed during the Venetian rule over Zadar. Namely, their privileged position was confirmed also by the Statute of Zadar in which it was explicitly stated that the Venetians are not to be considered as foreigners. Therefore, during the reign of King Louis, Florentines succeeded the Venetians thanks to the business connections they established in the 1370s with the Neapolitan Angevins. However, Florentines came only to those communes which allowed them to expand their business and stayed only as long as the trade and monetary politic was strong and stable (cf. Bartulović, 2019, 140–144).

Foreigners who have decided to settle in Zadar for a longer period held the status of *habitor* or *nunc habitator* but some of them, due to their activities, positions or wealth, could get a full citizenship. They belonged predominantly to the merchant, artisan and intellectual classes.<sup>5</sup> It is important to mention that among foreigners and newcomers during the reign of King Louis I special place belonged to the officers delegated by the king.

## THE OFFICERS OF KING LOUIS I THE GREAT IN THE COMMUNE OF ZADAR – A CASE OF THE DE SURDIS FAMILY

In the period of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the royal presence in Dalmatia was hardly visible and Dalmatian communes enjoyed a high degree of autonomy. During the reign of King Louis I the Great that in a way changed how the

4 For further information on foreigners, specifically notaries employed in the Zadar commune, cf. Grbavac (2006, 80–83) and Grbavac (2010, 69–74).

5 For more information about foreigners in Zadar in the second half of fourteenth century, cf. Bartulović (2019, 135–177).



king intervened directly in the life and governance of Dalmatian communes, so the presence of royal power became much more visible, especially due to the officers delegated by the king.<sup>6</sup>

Among all the officers who were delegated by the king during the second half of the fourteenth century, a special place belongs to two families originating from Italy. It was the de Sorba and de Surdis families, whose members, due to their loyalty to the king, gained prominent political positions in the Zadar communal administration and that of the other parts of Dalmatia. They were also the king's political supporters in his fight against the Venetians. The de Sorba family belonged to the nobles of Genoa, and two members of the family gained a high political position in the commune of Zadar. It was Baltazar de Sorba, who was in the early 1360s on the head of the Dalmatian-Croatian Chamber of Salt and the Thirtieth Office and in the late 1360s he held the title of royal admiral. Baltazar's son Raphael also held important political positions. He held the position of *comes* of Split and became a royal knight. Even though they were foreigners, Baltazar and his son Raphael were well accepted in their new environment and became members of the nobility of Zadar. However, after Raphael's death in the Crusade in 1396, the family disappeared from political life of the commune (Grbavac, 2009, 227–240). Besides Raphael de Sorba, at the same time existed in Zadar also his namesake who belonged to another family, the de Surdis family, which is the subject of this paper.

The de Surdis family was also of Italian origin and its members were nobles of Piacenza.<sup>7</sup> The first member of the family mentioned in Zadar sources was Francis, son of Manfred de Surdis who worked as a notary in Zadar. Before becoming a notary in Zadar, he performed the same service in his hometown, as is known from a document drawn up in Venice in 1346, in which Francis is mentioned in the role of a witness to some residents of Dubrovnik (Ragusa) and in which he is mentioned as *notario Placentino* (CD 11, 318–319). Francis was a public notary in Zadar from 1349 to 1350 (CD 11, 341, 596–597). He was also a notary of the Zadar *curia* (CD 11, 582). His notarial register which contains documents composed from October 1349 to April 1350, has also been preserved.<sup>8</sup> It is known that after quitting his service in Zadar, he worked as a notary in Split. First, in 1356 he was in the service of archbishop of Split, Hugolino Branco (CD 12, 352), and a year later he worked as a communal notary. Namely, in December 1357, *podestà* of Split, who at that time was Gentilis de Chalio (Stipišić & Šamšalović, 1982, 82–84), requested that he stay in the service for another two years (Stipišić & Šamšalović, 1982, 164). Francis'

6 For more information, cf. Gál (2025, 30–64) and Grbavac (2008, 89–116).

7 The Hungarian historian Antal Pór in his work *De-Surdis II. János esztergomi érsek* claims that the family came to Italy from England, and their first ancestor was Galvano who settled down in Sordio. For the history of the family, cf. Pór (1907).

8 His register was edited by Jakov Stipišić and published in SZB (1977).

service in Split ended in June 1359 (Stipišić & Šamšalović, 1982, 239) and in December of the same year he started to perform notarial service in Dubrovnik. He remained in the service for a short time due to a conflict with the government of Dubrovnik. Namely, the government of Dubrovnik confiscated a letter he had sent to one of his relatives in Split, in which he had secretly informed him of the intentions of the government of Dubrovnik regarding some ongoing court proceedings. For this reason, he was even imprisoned and immediately dismissed from the service in January 1360 (Tadić, 1935, XXV). Nothing is known about his life after finishing his service in Dubrovnik, but it is likely that he influenced other members of this family to come to Zadar. Unlike Francis, other members of the family built political careers in the commune of Zadar which at that time was in the period of its greatest political independence and influence within the scope of the newly established rule of King Louis I. During the Angevin period, members of the family de Surdis established strong ties with the royal court and held significant positions on both communal and state level.

The first of them was John de Surdis, one of the four sons of Dominic de Surdis. Biography of this important member of the family is well known, especially regarding his ecclesiastical functions (Engel, 1996, 218). He was born in Piacenza where he was obviously ordained priest. It is possible that he came from Piacenza to the Kingdom of Hungary upon the invitation of his former schoolmate James of Piacenza, who was at that time the provost of Bratislava (Pozsony) and personal physician of King Charles I of Hungary-Croatia, and later became the bishop of Cenad (1333–43) and in 1343 the bishop of Zagreb (Dobronić, 1995, 116–119).

John de Surdis is mentioned in the sources in 1349 as a chaplain of bishop of Nitra, Nicholas, who was also a candidate for bishop of Zagreb (*postulatus*). Nicholas requested for his chaplain from Pope Clement VI the position of a canon in the Chapter of Zagreb and the prebend there as well as the dignity in the Diocese of Zagreb if any were vacant. At that time John de Surdis was already the cantor and canon with the prebend in Chapter of Čazma and also was the canon with prebend in the Church of St. Anthony in the Diocese of Piacenza. Before taking the position of canon of Diocese of Zagreb, he had to renounce his positions of the cantor and canon of the Chapter of Čazma as well as a canon of the Dioceses of Piacenza (cf. Jerković, 2018, 418). In 1351, John de Surdis appears in the documents as the provost of Kalocsa, who represented the Archbishop of Kalocsa, Dionysius, in the Apostolic Chamber and on his behalf undertook to pay the debt of Dionysius' predecessor, Stephen, of 260 florins for common taxes, and 40 florins for four small taxes. In 1352, as the provost of Kalocsa, he represented the Archbishop of Esztergom, Nicholas, on whose behalf he undertook to pay 36 florins for common taxes and 10 gold florins for four small taxes. As the provost of Kalocsa, he also represented the Archbishop Dionysius, in the Apostolic Chamber in 1355, when he paid 225 gold florins for the common taxes

and 75 gold florins for four small taxes (cf. Jerković, 2018, 418).<sup>9</sup> Obviously, he held this position till the end of 1362, when in the beginning of January 1363, Pope Urban V confirmed him as a Bishop of Vác (Engel, 1996, 64, 71, 75). He spent the following years abroad, while he was a member of papal administration of the Papal State in Italy for Pope Urban V. He was also a strong confidant of King Louis I and even his personal chaplain (Bossányi, 1918, 397). As such, he sought the support of Pope Urban in the question of legitimacy of King Louis I claim on the Polish throne in 1369 (Galla, 1970, 125).

John had not only an ecclesiastical career but a political one as well. When the king's distant cousin Charles of Durazzo was granted the title of Duke of Slavonia in 1371, John de Surdis, at that time bishop of Vác acted as governor of the province on his behalf (*vicarius regni Sclauonie generalis*) (Engel, 1996, 18). In the next year, 1372, when Duke Charles took over the actual administration in Croatia and Dalmatia, John de Surdis was appointed as his *vicarius generalis* in Dalmatia (Engel, 1996, 23). Taking the fact into account that John was sent to Dalmatia a few months before Charles's arrival, as Tomislav Popić already argued in 2024, it could be concluded that John's role in Dalmatia, at least partly, was preparing the ground for the administration of Charles of Durazzo (Popić, 2024, 97).

It is important to mention that Charles of Durazzo held also the position of Ban twice (1372–74, 1376) (Engel, 1996, 23–24)<sup>10</sup> but he did not hold the position of *comes* of Zadar.<sup>11</sup> That position was given to John de Surdis (DAZd, BZ, PP, b.1, fasc. 16, fol. 5r) and moreover he also became *comes* of the island of Korčula (DAZd, OK, kut. 1, fasc. 4, fol. 9v).<sup>12</sup> It is possible that his positioning as *comes* of Zadar and of the island of Korčula served as a preparation for the war between Venice and Genoa, Zadar was the largest and the most important Dalmatian city when sailing

9 In the document composed in 1358, he is mentioned as the provost of Cologne (*ad preposituram Coloniensem*) (CD 12, 458) but in fact he was the provost of Kalocsa. This mistake was caused by incorrect transcription of adjective *Colocensis* to *Coloniensis*.

10 Duke Charles during that time held also position of Ban, as is clear from letters and charters of King Louis (KASp, OIL, fasc. 528, fol. 66r; fasc. 541, fol. 169v; MNL, OL, DL 6320).

11 Namely, when King Louis I defeated Venice in 1358 and the peace treaty was concluded in Zadar, he not only regained control of the Dalmatian territories previously under Hungarian control but was also able to expand its territory (compared to the territories held during the Árpád era) to southern Dalmatia. Thus, the king established a system whereby the position of Ban of Croatia-Dalmatia was combined with that of *comes* of Zadar, and Zadar itself, as the most important city in Dalmatia, was to become the administrative centre of the Kingdom of Croatia-Dalmatia. The Ban of Croatia-Dalmatia was the most important member of King Louis' Croatian-Dalmatian administrative officialdom, who traditionally governed the province in the name of the king, and oversaw jurisdiction, financial administration, judiciary, military affairs, and could also appoint the local, royal officials. For more details, cf. Gál (2022, 570–590).

12 The position of royal admiral was also connected to that of *comes* of the three islands (Brač, Hvar and Korčula). Already in the 1360s, after Nicholas Szees left the position of Ban of Dalmatia and Croatia at the end of 1366, the king began to change individuals in this position more frequently, but the system of administration persisted until 1371, when it was changed by the appointment of Stjepan Lacković as Ban of Dalmatia and Croatia and Petar de Belante as *comes* of Zadar. Thus, the royal court moved away from the previously described system of appointing the bans of Dalmatia and Croatia as *comes* of Zadar (1371). For more details, cf. Gál (2022, 570–590).

from Venice to the south, and Korčula, which had an exceptional strategic position given that all ships sailing to the north of the Adriatic basin passed through the Canal of Pelješac, as was recently argued by Popić (2024, 96).

At the end of 1372 or the beginning of 1373, he also held the position of *comes* of Nin (CD 14, 501) and was also the royal treasurer from 1373 until 1375 (Engel, 1996, 52). John was generally one of king's closest and most trusted men who, together with his family, for his faithful service received the fortified castle of Lipovec in 1373. This marked the beginning of relocation of the family to Slavonia which thereafter was referred to with the surname of Lipovečki.<sup>13</sup> John was elected Bishop of Győr sometime around May 1375. However, in January 1376 he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Esztergom by Pope Gregory XI (Engel, 1996, 64, 71, 75; Jerković, 2018, 418). After Charles of Durazzo left Dalmatia for Naples in 1376, to claim the Neapolitan crown, the king once again appointed John as his *vicarius* in Dalmatia (KASP, sv. 64, fol. 25r), and he held this position until his death (ASFŠ, CD, fol. 104r/17p). He died around May or June 1378. It is important to mention that he should not be confused with his another relative also called John de Surdis, who lived at the same time and was the Bishop of Vicenza (Campi, 1662, 141).

John de Surdis had three brothers (Raphael, Michael and Luke)<sup>14</sup> among whom one was his successor in positions in the royal administration, as well as at communal level in Zadar (Engel, 1996, 218; Dokoza & Andreis, 2020, 532–533). It was Raphael de Surdis who, unlike his brother John who belonged to ecclesiastical circle and was occupied with various diplomatic mission on both ecclesiastical and royal level, actually lived in Dalmatia, in the commune of Zadar and was completely integrated in its society. In November 1372, he succeeded his brother on the position of *comes* of Zadar (DAZd, BZ, PP, b. 1, fasc. 17, fol. 9r). During 1373, Raphael also took over the position of *vicarius generalis* in Dalmatia from John (CD 14, 502), and presumably held it till the departure of Charles of Durazzo from Dalmatia (CD 15, 199–200).

It is important to mention that with the departure of Charles of Durazzo in 1376, the regular system of government in Dalmatia and Croatia was re-established and the position of ban was once again entrusted to Nicholas Szecs, who would then by default also occupy the position of *comes* of Zadar, but his brothers, John and Raphael, did not leave their positions. Obviously, the king was satisfied with their political services, so Raphael stayed on the position of *comes* of Zadar until April of 1378 (CD 15, 360). After that, Nicholas Szecs united the titles of Ban of Croatia and Dalmatia and *comes* of Zadar, which also represented a return to the previous administrative structure.

13 For more information about the de Surdis family after they moved to Slavonia, cf. Miljan (2015, 37, 41–42, 81, 88–89, 104, 121–122, 126, 151, 175, 196, 232).

14 Michael is mentioned in sources from 1372–84 (Engel, 2001). He was probably more engaged in Hungary than in Zadar, but was accepted into nobility of Zadar in 1372. Luke was apparently dead already in 1372, and was not mentioned in that grant, even though he had son John, mentioned from 1373–80.

From the documents composed in September 1375, it is evident that Raphael was also *comes* of the commune of Nin and *comes* of Ostrovica (DAZd, BZ, PS, b.2, fasc. 2, fol. 3r–4r). Even though Raphael lived in Zadar, little is known about his private life. From the document drawn up in September 1375, it is evident that he bought from the Zadar nobleman John de Gallo nine silver washing basins for the price of 300 gold ducats, which John de Gallo held in pledge from the former prior of Vrana (DAZd, BZ, PS, b.2, fasc. 2, fol. 1v). Raphael was married to a certain Helen. It is possible that she was a member of some Zadar noble family and maybe his second wife. We surely know that Raphael died in the commune of Zadar in the beginning of the 1380s (Dokoza & Andreis, 2020, 533). That is evident from the document composed in 1388, in which his wife Helen requested from the Zadar patricians Francis de Zadulinis and Bartholomew de Ciprianis to purchase a land property for the Church of St. Mary Presbiterorum in Zadar in which the altar of St. Simon was located and whose priests had to pray for the salvation of Raphael's soul (DAZd, BZ, AR, b. 1, fasc. 3/3, fol. 6v–7v). The connection of Raphael and St. Simon once again indicates his strong connection to the royal court, considering the fact that the saint's cult was highly influenced by Queen Elisabeth, who in 1377 entrusted to her most loyal knights from the ranks of Zadar patricians to ensure that a silver chest was made as soon as possible to keep the body of Saint Simon (Grbavac, 2004, 41).

Raphael had two sons, Nicholas and John, who apparently also lived in Zadar, at least while Raphael lived there. However, due to a new political situation after the death of the King Louis they moved to Slavonia and took the surname Lipovečki. From the document composed by the Zadar notary Peter from Sarzana in 1385, it is evident that Nicholas was *castelanus* and *vicarius* of Ban John, son of Benedict (DAZd, BZ, PS, b. 2, fasc. 25, fol. 10v; cf. Dokoza & Andreis, 2020, 533). After they moved to Slavonia, they got married there and were integrated into the nobility of Hungary.<sup>15</sup>

The third important member of the family de Surdis was Raphael's relative, Galeazzo de Surdis. It is not clear which branch of the family he belonged to. However, what is known for certain from few documents drawn up in Piacenza from 1363 to 1375 is that they were related, as it was stated that Raphael was a relative of the aforementioned John, Bishop of Vicenza, as well as of the jurists Gabriel and Galeazzo and of the physician John, son of Francis, who was also a physician (Campi, 1662, 148).

Galeazzo was educated as is evident from the sources in which he is styled as *licenciatus in iure civili*. He is first mentioned as the head of the *Curia maior ciuilim* of Zadar on 8 March 1371, but in April of the same year he was replaced by three Zaratian patricians. He appears again as a judge of the *Curia maior ciuilium* on 10 November 1372 and held this position continuously until 25 August 1374. (cf. Popić,

15 For more information cf. Engel (2001; *sub voce* Lipoveci), Miljan (2015, 37, 41–42, 81, 88–89, 104, 121, 175, 232) and Nekić (2023, 41–42).



2014, 216). In December 1372, Galeazzo is mentioned as a *vicarius* of Bishop John.<sup>16</sup> As his representative Galeazzo was sent to the commune of Pag accompanied by the Zadar canon Matthew de Butadeis and other Zaratins, where he ordered the public reading and translation of two letters *in idioma Sclauonica* about the appointment of the nobleman Krševan de Varicassis as *vicarius* of Pag after the return of the island to jurisdiction of Zadar. According to sources dated in 1373, he was also *vicarius* of *comes* of Zadar Raphael de Surdis (cf. Popić, 2024, 82). It is certain that Galeazzo in Zadar was a person of the king's confidence, and not so much connected with the local authorities, as it was more the case of his relatives John and Raphael. It is known that in the 1370s King Louis I established a Royal Appellation Court for Dalmatia with its headquarters in Zadar, headed by Galeazzo de Surdis. He indeed took on this role which is evident from two of his preserved judgments which are preserved in fragmentary deeds of the Zadar notary Lawrence from Reggio, which were issued for that court. Also, from the notes of Croatian historiographer Ivan Lučić it is evident that Raphael de Surdis, at that time *vicarius Dalmatie et Crouatie generalis*, on March 31 1373 ordered to pay to Galeazzo salary for one-year service, who, as the note states, held the position of 'judge of appeals in Dalmatia' (cf. Popić, 2024, 77–78). Thus, at the same time as Galeazzo was on position of judge for civil disputes in Zadar, he also held the position of king's judge for appeals in the Dalmatia (*iudex appellationum in civitatibus, terris et locis Dalmatia pro domino rege*) (CD 14, 527). In February 1375, he also held a political position, that of *comes* of Šibenik (NSK, ZR, R 3931).

However, taking all facts into account, it can be stated that their faithful service to the king led also to their integration into the elite of the commune of Zadar. Namely, upon their arrival in the Zadar, the de Surdis brothers were accepted into the nobility of Zadar. As is evident from the document composed in November 1372, John and his brothers Raphael and Michael were admitted into the nobility of Zadar by the decision of the *Consilium rogatorum*, and then by the decision of the *Consilium generale*. (Granić, 1994, 280). Their acceptance into the nobility of Zadar, as is stated in the text of the document, was reward for taking certain steps towards the king due to the 'harmful actions' and 'false accusations' of the Archbishop of Zadar, Dominic of Durazzo. Their acceptance is also related to the fact that they did much, especially John, in restoring the island of Pag under the jurisdiction of Zadar. However, in addition to these three brothers, the document reveals two more people who were admitted into the nobility of Zadar. They were Archdeacon Stephan from Krk and a certain physician Francis. As stated in the documents, it seems that they were also brothers. From the document it is not clear which family they belonged to, but in my opinion, they were most likely also members of the de Surdis family. Physician Francis could be the one already mentioned in the documents from Piacenza as a relative of Raphael de Surdis, which may be revealed by further research of the de Surdis family in the State Archives of Piacenza.<sup>17</sup>

16 [D]omino Galiaç de Surdis de Placentia licentiato in iure, uicario domini Iohannis episcopi Uaciensis, uicarii generalis in partibus Dalmatie et Croatia (Antoljak, 1949, 11).

17 For another opinion, perhaps erroneous, cf. Popić (2024, 80).

## CONCLUSION

From all information presented above, it can be concluded that the de Surdis family represents a specific case of the integration of foreigners into the commune of the Zadar. The family could acquire their first information on Zadar and Dalmatia in general from its member, notary Francis, who performed his service after Zaratín rebellion against Venice did not succeed. But when the House of Anjou took over the crown of the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia, it significantly changed its politics towards the Adriatic region. That was especially evident at the beginning of the rule of King Louis I the Great and his attempts to restore its authority in Croatia. The king's primary goal was to connect the two sides of the coast (to connect the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia with the Kingdom of Naples). Zadar was supposed to serve as a central point from which they could control both Adriatic coasts. Zadar itself also had an interest in implementing such policies, because it found a new backing in its fight against Venice, since the commune alone was not strong enough to resist Venetian hegemony. Therefore, King Louis started to create an administrative elite who helped him exercise authority in the Kingdom of Croatia-Dalmatia. In implementing such policies an important role belonged to the de Surdis family whose members held prominent political positions in the commune of Zadar as well as in Dalmatia in general. They did not want to be just passing foreigners in Zadar, but it was important for them to become part of the local community, and therefore they were admitted into the nobility of Zadar. Most likely, their presence in Zadar and Dalmatia in the spring of 1372 was to prepare the ground for the arrival of Duke Charles of Durazzo and also to accelerate the preparations for the war between Venice and Genoa. Therefore, the brothers John and Raphael took over the ducal daily affairs in Dalmatia, while their relative Galeazzo took over the judicial ones. It can be also stated that John de Surdis had the king's trust, while his brother Raphael was the confidant of the Duke Charles of Durazzo. This is especially evident from the fact that John was appointed *vicarius generalis* in Dalmatia in 1372, but when Charles of Durazzo took over the actual administration in Croatia and Dalmatia this position was given to his brother Raphael, who apparently held it until Charles' departure from Dalmatia. After his departure, the king again entrusted the position to John de Surdis. After the death of King Louis I the Great, members of the family moved to Slavonia due to a new political situation.

INTEGRACIJA ČLANOV DRUŽINE DE SURDIS IZ PIACENZE V ZADRSKI  
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**POVZETEK**

*V času vladavine kralja Ludvika I. Velikega (1342–1382) je bilo Kraljestvo Ogrske in Hrvaške v marsičem v svojem »zlatem obdobju«, saj je tedaj doseglo največji obseg ozemlja v svoji zgodovini. Kralj je oblikoval upravno elito, ki je upravljala tudi Kraljestvo Hrvaške in Dalmacije. Pomembno vlogo v tem obdobju je imela plemiška rodbina de Surdis iz Piacenze, zlasti v komunu Zadar, ki je bil tedaj najpomembnejše mesto v Dalmaciji. Člani rodbine so tam zasedali vidne položaje v upravi komuna ter se postopoma začeli vključevati v zadarsko družbo. Prvi član rodbine, omenjen v virih, je Frančišek, sin Manfreda de Surdisa, ki je deloval kot notar v Zadru (1349–1350), Splitu (1356–1359) in Dubrovniku (1359). Verjetno je prav on spodbudil druge člane družine k preselitvi v Zadar, kjer so nato igrali pomembno vlogo tako na ravni komuna kot v širšem prostoru. Med najvidnejšimi so bili škof Janez (Johannes) de Surdis ter njegovi bratje in sorodniki, ki so zasedali pomembne politične funkcije v Dalmaciji in nasploh v okviru kraljevine Ogrske in Hrvaške. Posebej izstopa Raphael de Surdis, ki je opravljal službo župana (comesa) Zadra in kraljevega vikarja v Dalmaciji. Čeprav družina de Surdis v Zadru ni ostala dolgo, je pripadala intelektualni in politični eliti mesta. Pridobili so polno meščansko pravico in bili celo sprejeti med zadarsko plemstvo. Po smrti kralja Ludvika pa so se zaradi spremenjenih političnih razmer člani rodbine preselili v Slavonijo, kjer so prevzeli priimek Lipovečki in postali ogrski plemiči.*

*Ključne besede: srednji vek, Dalmacija, Zadar, kralj Ludvik I. Veliki, tujci, družina de Surdis*

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