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Diplomatic documents of the Municipality of Lokva Rogoznica

Summary

Lokva Rogoznica in Central Dalmatia was an independent municipality from its establishment at the beginning of the 13th till the beginning of the 19th century. This municipality had the characteristics of noble republic from its establishment until the period of Venetian rule, and from that period it evolved even to the status of semi-sovereign republic under patronage. This place, though smaller than the neighboring principality of Poljica and the town of Omis, too often neglected in legal and general historiography, had very strong influence on the history of the coastal territory from Omis to Makarska. It was often the border between Eastern Islamic and Western Christian rule. In these turmoil through the wars, Lokva Rogoznica made many important legal-historical and international agreements with the Venetian Republic, which determined its future status and which were supported by many decrees of the Venetian Doge on the confirmation of noble privileges and status. It had also one of the leading and crucial roles in the policy of Primorje toward the Ottomans, Venice and other powers. However, its most important document is the statute in two parts, written in 1235 and 1236. That is one of the oldest Dalmatian laws in the developed Middle Ages and at the very beginning of Dalmatian statutory law. After a rich history, Rogoznica survived despite all the challenges and in the last two centuries it was included in the municipality of Omis and in the Republic of Croatia. The article deals with historical chronology and important legal documents and the most important diplomatic documents are published for the first time in one place.

Keywords: Lokva Rogoznica in the Middle Ages and Herzegovina sandzak; noble municipalities of Primorje; history and law of Central Dalmatia; Rogoznica Statutes.