

Vincentius Demetrius Volcius (1563-1607), the portolan maker from Dubrovnik

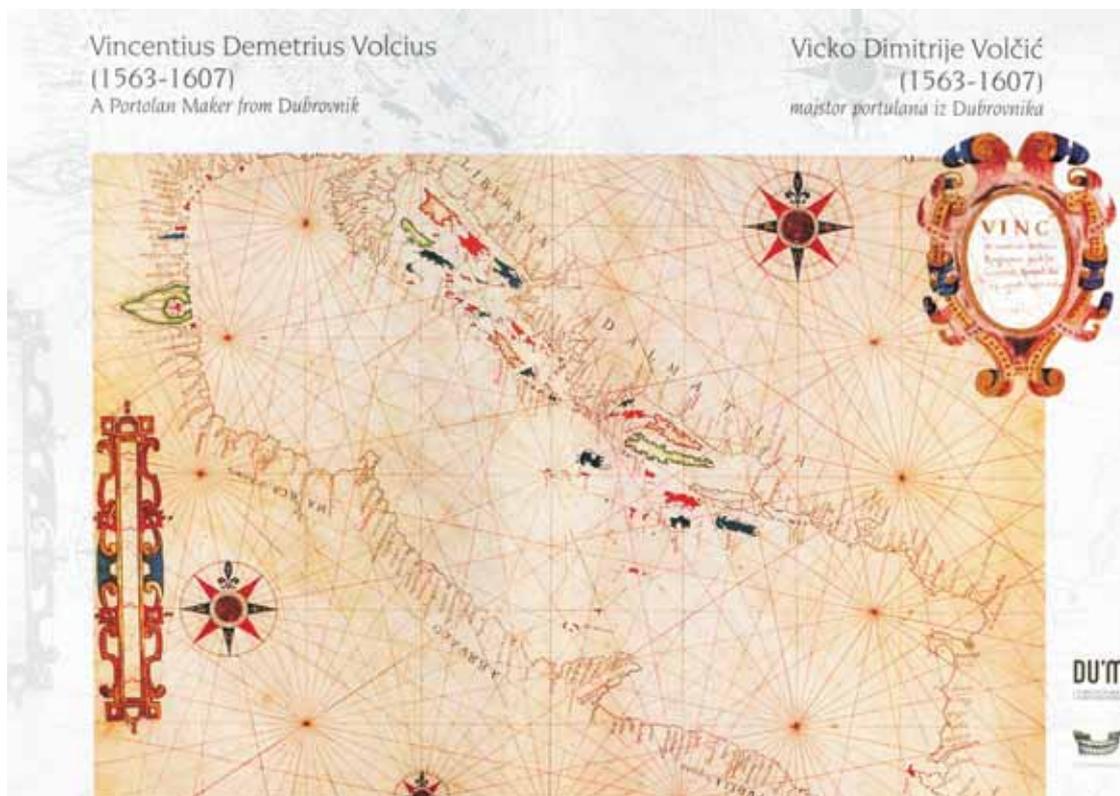
An Exhibition in Dubrovnik, April and May, 2006

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It was special honour for the Maritime Museum to present a truly valuable edition of the book *Five Centuries of Maps and Charts of Croatia* in Dubrovnik, in one of the rooms of Rector's Palace (Knežev dvor), with an accompanying exhibition. The promotion was held on April 3, 2006. The director of Dubrovnik museums Mišo Đuraš greeted all present, and Anica Kisić, MSc, the author of this text, gave the introductory word. The book was presented very informatively and successfully by Prof. Dr. Drago Novak and Prof. Dr. Miljenko Lapaine, who are the editors of the book, together with Dr. Du-bravka Mlinarić. D. Novak explained all important texts in the book, and especially commented on his success-

ful research of portolans by Vincentius Volcius Raguseus. M. Lapaine gave a very interesting presentation of cartography in different aspects of living and research, with projections of interesting maps. At the end, Đivo Bašić, higher custodian and the new director of the Maritime Museum in Dubrovnik, gave some of his thoughts about cartography and announced the exhibition, which the visitors could look at after the book promotion.

A small exhibition *Vincentius Demetrius Volcius (1563–1607), the portolan maker from Dubrovnik* consisted of 16 posters with photographs of those of Volcius' portolans in best condition, Volcius' life and a list of



Vicko Dimitrije Volčić (1563-1607) majstor portulana iz Dubrovnika

Izložba, Dubrovnik, travanj-svibanj, 2006.

Pomorskom muzeju bilo je osobito zadovoljstvo predstaviti doista vrijedno izdanje knjige *Pet stoljeća geografskih i pomorskih karata u Hrvatskoj* u Dubrovniku, u jednom od salona Kneževa dvora i uz popratnu izložbu. Promocija je održana 3. travnja 2006. Skup je pozdravio ravnatelj Dubrovačkih muzeja Mišo Đuraš, a uvodnu riječ imala je mr. sc. Anica Kisić, pisac ovoga teksta. O knjizi su govorili vrlo informativno i uspješno prof. dr. Drago Novak i prof. dr. sc. Miljenko Lapaine, koji su uz dr. sc. Dubravku Mlinarić urednici knjige. D. Novak osvrnuo se na sve važnije tekstove u knjizi, a posebno je komentirao svoje uspješno istraživanje portolana Vicka Volčića. M. Lapaine vrlo je zanimljivo predstavio kartografiju u različitim aspektima življenja i istraživanja uz projekcije zanimljivih karata. Na kraju je Đivo Bašić, viši kustos i novi voditelj Pomorskoga muzeja u Dubrovniku, iznio neka svoja razmišljanja o kartografiji i najavio izložbu, koju su posjetitelji mogli razgledati nakon promocije knjige.

Mala izložba *Vicko Dimitrije Volčić (1563-1607), majstor portulana iz Dubrovnika* prikazala je na 16 panoa s fotografijama najbolje očuvane Volčićeve portulane, Volčićev život i popis muzeja i knjižnica u svijetu u kojima se čuvaju Volčićevi portulani. Izložba je bila smještena u manjem izložbenom prostoru u polukatu Kneževa dvora. Budući da se u Hrvatskoj ne nalazi ni jedan izvorni Volčićev portulan, za ilustraciju je u vitrinu postavljen portolan Placidusa Caloiroa Olive iz 1649. koji je inače izložen u Pomorskom muzeju u Dubrovniku. Izložbu je priredila A. Kisić koja je također osmislila katalog.

Vicko Volčić (Vincentius Demetrius Volcius) rodio se u Dubrovniku 1563. i na svojim portulanskim kartama uz ime potpisuje se Raguseus, ali se ne zna zašto je izrana napustio Grad. Radio je u Livornu, gdje je osnovao nautičko-kartografsku školu i radionicu. Slijedio je tradiciju crtača portulana na pergamentu iz radionica Majorce, Genove, Venecije i Ancone s vrijednim osobnim doprinosom umjetničkom i dekorativnom oblikovanju. Godine 1601. seli se u Napulj. Nažalost, on je "kartograf iz Dubrovnika, ali nije kartograf Dubrovnika".

Poznato je 20 sačuvanih Volčićevih portulanskih karata risanih na pergamentu (1908. u bibliografiji se opisuju još dvije karte, danas izgubljene). Ta za hrvatsku baštinu neprocjenjivo vrijedna kartografska djela našega Volčića nalaze se u različitim svjetskim zbirka (Biblioteca National u Madridu – 3, University Library, Nordenskiöld Collection u Helsinkiju – 3, The Newberry Library, Edward E. Ayer Collection u Chicagu – 1, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Rim – 1, The Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA – 5, The Hispanic Society of America, New York – 1, Bibliothéque Nationale de France, Paris – 1, Biblioteca Municipale dell' Archigiannasio, Bologna – 1, Archivio di Stato, Firenze – 1, privatna kolekcija M. K. Samourkas – 1), a niti jedno nije sačuvano u Dubrovniku, niti uopće u Hrvatskoj.

Volčić je poznat i priznat u stručnoj hrvatskoj i svjetskoj literaturi, ali se o njemu malo sustavno pisalo. Poglavitito se malo zna o njegovu životu. Zainteresiran za Volčićevo djelo D. Novak uspio je ući u trag svim sačuvanim kartama i investirao u pribavljanje snimaka na CD-u. Prikazane su na panoima na izložbi u Nacionalnoj i sveučilišnoj knjižnici u Zagrebu, gdje će biti trajno izložene. CD sa snimkama svih 20 Volčićevih karata D. Novak poklanja i Pomorskom muzeju na čuvanje i korištenje, na čemu mu Dubrovački muzeji veoma zahvaljuju.

Rezultate istraživanja o dubrovačkom kartografu Vicku Volčiću objavio je D. Novak u vrijednom i raskošnom izdanju *Pet stoljeća geografskih i pomorskih karata Hrvatske*, koje je izdala Školska knjiga u Zagrebu 2005., a začeti te knjige sežu u davnu 1988. godinu. Tada je započela i uspješna suradnja znanstvenih kartografskih krugova s Pomorskim muzejom u Dubrovniku.

Godine 1988. održan je VI. međunarodni simpozij Međunarodnoga društva skupljača karata (IMCoS), koji je održan u Zagrebu i Dubrovniku. Taj skup inicirao je D. Novak, član IMCoS-a, u silnoj želji, a to je bilo prije uspostave hrvatske države, da svjetski stručnjaci upoznaju Hrvatsku temeljem bogatstva i važnosti naše kartografske građe od antičkoga doba do suvremenih topografskih

museums and libraries in the world that keep Volcius' portolans. The exhibition was situated in a smaller exhibition space in the mezzanine of Rector's Palace. Since there is not a single one original portolan of Volcius in Croatia, there was exhibited a portolan by Placidus Caloiro Oliva from 1649, which is otherwise kept at the Maritime Museum in Dubrovnik. The exhibition was prepared by A. Kisić, who also came up with the catalogue.

Vincentius Demetrius Volcius was born in Dubrovnik in 1563. On the old portolan charts, he wrote Raguseus next to his name, but it is not known why he left his native Dubrovnik quite early. He has worked in Livorno, where he founded his own nautical and cartographical school and a workshop. There, he followed the tradition of mapmakers on parchment deriving from the workshops in Majorca, Genoa, Venice and Ancona, with his valuable personal contribution to their artistic and decorative design. He moved to Naples in 1601. Unfortunately, he is "a mapmaker from Dubrovnik, but not a mapmaker of Dubrovnik."

There are twenty Volcius' portolans drawn on parchment that have survived (in the bibliography from 1908, two additional portolans were described, nowadays lost). These priceless cartographic treasures for Croatian heritage drawn by our Volcius, native of Dubrovnik, are kept in various collections around the world (three are kept in Bibliotheca National, Madrid, three in the University Library, Nordenskiöld Collection, Helsinki, one in the Newberry Library, Edward Ayer Collection, Chicago, one in Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Rome, five are kept in the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, one at the Hispanic Society of America, New York, one in Bibliothéque Nationale de France, Paris, one in Biblioteca Municipale dell' Archigiannasio, Bologna, one in Archivio di Stato, Florence, one in M. K. Samourkas' private collection) but there is not a single one in Dubrovnik, or even Croatia.

Volcius has become recognized and prominent in expert literature, but very little was systematically written about him. Primarily, very little is known about his life. D. Novak, who has been interested in his work, succeeded in tracing all of his portolans, and has invested in acquiring all of them as facsimile photographs. They were on display in the National and University Library in Zagreb, and will remain there on permanent display in its exhibition space. Moreover, D. Novak also donated a CD, containing all of twenty photographs of Volcius' portolans to the Maritime Museum for safekeeping and perusal. We take this opportunity to thank him very much on behalf of the Dubrovnik Museums.

D. Novak had the results of his investigation on Vincentius Volcius' life published in a precious and luxurious edition of *Five Centuries of Maps and Charts of Croatia*, which was published by Školska knjiga in Zagreb in 2005, but the inception of this collection of papers of the conference proceedings goes many years



back, to 1988. It was exactly then that the successful cooperation of the scientific cartographic circles with the Maritime Museum began.

The sixth IMCoS (International Map Collectors' Society) Conference was held in Zagreb and Dubrovnik. This conference was initiated by D. Novak, an IMCoS member in fulfilment of his fervent wish that the experts from all around the world could become acquainted with Croatia through our wealth and importance of cartographic materials from the antique to the modern topographic maps, and this was before the proclamation of the independent and sovereign Republic of Croatia. The conference was held in Zagreb and Dubrovnik from September 30th to October 6th, 1988 in cooperation with the Croatian History Museum in Zagreb and Maritime Museum in Dubrovnik, and was accompanied by two great exhibitions. On the occasion, the Maritime Museum organized the exhibition in the Rector's Palace, under the title *Croatian Coastline on Maps and Sea Charts from 16th to 19th century*, having presented all valuable maps from museums and collections in Croatia.

Due to the war distress and insufficient funds, the collection of papers of the conference proceedings was not published before 2005, in a remarkable edition, indeed, with a great deal of effort put in by the editorial. The authors of the presentations at the conference in 1988 enriched their papers with some new insights, thus six additional papers by other authors were included, in which the cartography of Dubrovnik has also taken a significant position. In the meantime, D. Novak has acquired some up-to-date knowledge on Vincentius Volcius and has revealed all of his surviving works, the most beautiful of which can be seen on this exhibition.



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karata. Skup je održan od 30. rujna do 6. listopada u Zagrebu i Dubrovniku u suradnji Povijesnoga muzeja u Zagrebu i Pomorskoga muzeja u Dubrovniku, popraćen dvjema velikim izložbama. Pomorski je muzej tom prigodom u Kneževu dvoru priredio izložbu *Obala Hrvatske na geografskim i pomorskim kartama od 16. do 19. stoljeća*, skupivši sva vrjednija djela iz muzeja i zbirki u Hrvatskoj.

2005. godine u doista sjajnom izdanju. Autori izlaganja na skupu 1988. obogatili su svoje radove novim spoznajama, a tiskano je i 6 novih dodatnih radova drugih autora, u kojemu i kartografija o Dubrovniku zauzima značajno mjesto. U proteklom razdoblju D. Novak došao je do više saznanja o Vicku Volčiću i pronašao sva njegova sačuvana djela, a najljepša od njih prikazana su na ovoj izložbi.

Zbog ratnih neprilika i nedovoljnih sredstava, zbornik ovoga skupa uz veliku upornost uredništva tiskan je tek

Anica Kisić

