

dalle parti contrastanti per determinare le delimitazioni comuni, sono comparabili a quelli contemporanei: già nel medioevo gli staterelli cittadini negli accordi reciproci conoscevano le prerogative sia dei gruppi di esperti in trattative (i "gruppi professionali" contemporanei) sia delle decisioni prese con l'aiuto di giudici-intermediari ed arbitri esterni scelti, come anche degli accordi presi a livello di "primi ministri" (capi locali). Alla descrizione delle circostanze in cui si arrivava ad una definizione più attenta dei confini e del chiarimento di questioni ad essi legate, seguono un esempio di descrizione dei confini comunali (piranesi) ed una presentazione più accurata di documenti redatti in occasione della delimitazione tra Pirano e Buie.

Border negotiations on medieval town districts (Piran and its neighbours)

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Summary

The research describes settlements of territorial and border disputes of medieval Piran and the neighbouring urban settlements in north-western Istria. It draws on the preserved manuscripts kept by the Piran Branch of the Regional Archives Koper dating back to the 13th and the first decades of the 14th century. Most charters were published by Camillo De Franceschi, one by Pietro Kandler, and a few were left unpublished. Judging from the preserved records on border disputes and negotiations conducted with its neighbours, Piran was most often at odds with Izola and Buje, and occasional border disputes would also arise in its relations with Umag. The description of situations that led to the specification of borders and settlement of related questions is followed by an example of a medieval description of (Piran) communal borders, which is followed by detailed descriptions related to border delimitations between Piran and Buje. The findings arising from the border settlement examples under discussion shed light on the compositional and spatial structure of medieval Istrian urban settlements that were not confined to the urban core but included broader agrarian surroundings. In this framework they developed – despite being subject to Istrian authorities – their own administration and judicial system, and constituted complete city states living side by side in the urban environment of north-western Istria. They rigorously protected their territory and borders. Any breach of border by neighbouring communes led to disputes that were settled by mutual negotiations. The latter were conducted by selected representatives and with the assistance of superior Istrian authorities or secular and ecclesiastical lords. Customary approaches to border settlements were comparable to modern ones: medieval city states already employed groups of negotiation authorities (present "expert groups"), decision-making with the aid of selected arbiters–mediators and external arbiters, as well as agreements at "prime-ministerial" level (city chieftains).