

testimone, e il pievano di Pinguento Quirino de Germanis era in rapporti stretti con l'élites politica. I consiglieri di Pinguento, *homini de bene*, come venivano chiamati, eleggevano tra di loro i detentori di funzioni politiche. La più alta era quella dei giudici comunali, e spesso era nelle mani della famiglia de Germanis. Essendo proposta per le funzioni politiche da parte del podestà, dopo dal capitano, questa famiglia rappresenta la collaborazione dei Rettori veneziani e dell'élites locale. Il fenomeno è conosciuto in tutto il dominio veneziano e alla Serenissima serviva per stabilire il potere e ottenere la fiducia dei cittadini nei nuovi territori in modo facile ed efficace.

Il lavoro rappresenta un primo passo nella ricerca sulle élites del Tardo Medioevo del pinguentino, e la metodologia usata, insieme alle basi teoriche, possono servire da modello per ulteriori ricerche della stratificazione sociale e delle élites cittadine dei comuni istriani medievali.

The elite strata of the commune in Buzet in the late medieval period

Summary

The author analyses the elite strata of the late Medieval period in Buzet's society. Using the published sources, city's statute from 1435, the notary book of Martin Sotolić (1492-1517) and the conclusions of communal councils (1502-1523), along with the elite theory postulates, distinguished citizens are defined and their role in Buzet's society is analysed, as well as their economic power, family relations and the amount of trust placed in them by the local community.

The most distinguished stratum was comprised of Venetian patricians and Capodistrian nobility, the holders of the highest political offices who also demonstrated the highest economic power. Andrea Ferro, Buzet's *podestà* in multiple terms, and the family de Gravisi, the marquises of the nearby estate Petrapilosa, are examples of such citizens. The largest sums of money mentioned in the analysed sources are linked precisely to them. The noblemen were also notable for their solidarity and the amount of trust other citizens placed in them.

Besides the "imported" elites, distinguished local families and their representatives have also been researched. Clerical elites were most often summoned to perform the duty of witnesses and Buzet's parish priest Quirinus de Germanis was closely related to the local political elite. Buzet's councillors, *homini de bene* as they called themselves, chose among themselves the holders of various offices. The most prestigious was that of communal judges and it was mostly held by the members of the de Germanis family. Since they were most often proposed as candidates by the *podestà*, later captain, this family exemplifies the collaboration between Venetian rectors and local elites. This phenomenon is known throughout the Venetian dominium and the Serenissima used it to establish her government more easily and effectively as well as to win the confidence of its subjects.

The paper represents the first step in the research of Buzet's late Medieval elites, and the employed methodology and theoretical framework may serve as a model for future research of social stratifications and urban elites in Medieval Istrian communes.