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THE OLDEST NOTARIAL DOCUMENTS
OF VICENZA DISTRICT FROM THE
COLLECTION OF N.P. LIKHACHEV,
1380S – 1465S, WITH THE REGESTAE OF
THE DOCUMENTS

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THE OLDEST NOTARIAL DOCUMENTS OF VICENZA DISTRICT FROM THE COLLECTION OF N.P. LIKHACHEV, 1380S – 1465S, WITH THE REGESTAE OF THE DOCUMENTS.

The collection of the Western European manuscripts gathered by N.P. Likhachev (1862 – 1936) and currently stored in the Scientific and Historical archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences contains, among other documents, the vast majority of this array comes from Italy (about five thousand documents), of which about a third are original notarial deeds. There are over ten thousand storage units related to the history of Italy in the collection of the West-European section of the archive of St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The collection is divided into fonds, and the focus of this research will be on the sixth collection that was named «Venice and its possessions», where you can find notarial deeds analyzed by a team of scholars within the framework of our project. The manuscripts studied by our team provide information about economic and social aspects of life in the rural communes of the Val d’Astico located in the Northern Vicentino. Here we describe the geographical and historical peculiarities of the region in order to place the documents in the particular context and to proceed with its better understanding. All of these documents are instrumenta rather than imbreviaturae, and at least when it comes to the deeds drawn by Pietro di Zennaro we can treat this set as a certain unity. Within this study, one of our main objectives of the team work was preparation of these documents for critical publication. The source material studied here still has to be contextualized and researched in more profound manner; however, we can clearly see now that the investigation of the deeds stored in the Western European section of the Scientific and Historical archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences is more than promising.

Key words: History of Italy, 14–16th centuries, Venetian Republic, Vicenza, notaries, notarial deeds, diplomatic, Latin palaeography.

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The collection of the Western European manuscripts gathered by N.P. Likhachev (1862 – 1936) and currently stored in the Scientific and Historical archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences is the largest collection of medieval documents of the X – XV centuries in Russia. The vast majority of this array comes from Italy (about five thousand documents), of which about a third are original notarial deeds.

**The significance of the notariate and the private deed and their use as a historical source**

The private notarial deeds are the main source for the present study. In the community of historians there are multiple approaches to the study of this type of historical sources. Deeds can be researched in different ways, answering many questions, seemingly not intended in the main task of the drafters of the document, i.e. giving a picture of reality independent of the subjective intentions of the notary and the parties to the transaction. Further, the notarial deeds can be studied with the use of quantitative and statistical methods as a serial source. In the XX – XXI century the historians have especially appreciated this type of documents and each new generation of researchers discovers new facets in these truly inexhaustible sources. The advantages of notarial deeds for writing social history are well known: on the one hand, the notary described the real life in a way different from that of the author of the narrative source, on the other – the notary sought to formalize and standardize the diversity of individual cases, which greatly facilitates the processing of notarial deeds. At the same time, the notarial practice shows an original and coming from within the source intention (rather than just the intention of the researcher) to formalize and to streamline social reality, assigning to individual names certain describers, calling someone "nobilis", “dominus” etc. The form of the document, which by default required the identification of the subjects of the transaction and, consequently, an indication of their social status, forced the notary to do this, and the role of this "notarial coercion" was very significant. In other words, the notarial deed encrypts information about the social structure, social values and individual characteristics of a person. Notary practice, however, does not always mean that it bears the imprint of the "objective" social hierarchy or that it creates this hierarchy itself, but, in any case, the relationship of these phenomena is obvious. While our documents can hardly be considered representative, the most valuable information for us can be found not in the statistical generalizations, but rather in particular case studies, valuable as source data that can shed light on the usually hidden side of social practice, and the individual life experiences. Case studies can serve as the basis for the creation of the descriptions of society as a whole. The research of the notarial deeds also makes possible the prosopography studies, relating them to the broader social history. In the case of the documents of Pietro di Zenaro (studied here) we have a pretty limited and by far not the most representative sample. However, there are few documents on this region and the

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9 It is widely known that for the period of the XIV – XV centuries only one notarial office of the city of Pisa produced more documents than they the whole Medieval Russia in the same period.

10 Is there, for example, a certain stylistic unity in the manner of behavior inherent in different documents or actions of these persons; is there a personal or situational originality behind some of the notarial deeds? What biographical picture can be built based on the sources?
period as a whole, and this set of documents, despite its formal non-representativeness, is therefore important. For the socio-historical reconstruction of the Middle Ages, notarial deeds are generally one of the key sources.

The identification and publication of the oldest Latin deeds in the framework of the series founded in 1954 by A. Bruckner and R. Marichal «Chartae latinae antiquiores»[^11] made the researchers to face the problem of the criteria of authenticity of notarial deeds. Systematic study of the documents drawn in the largest chanceries of medieval Europe (diplomas of the German emperors[^12] and the papal documents[^13]), showed the need for a detailed study of isolated traditions of documentary writing, expressed in the stages of development of the text, the methods of certification of the deed, the graphic features and the coexistence of different writing manners among the drafters of the document. In the case of private notarial deed the investigation of certain notarial tradition includes not only the definition of the criteria of authenticity of a written document, but also a study of other (non-written) – ways of the bilateral agreement, of the various rituals recorded in the text, denoting the transition and ensuring the safety of the transaction. The collection of N.P. Likhachev comprises samples of many notarial traditions of medieval Italy, sometimes distinguishable at a glance – by the location and method of execution of the individual notarial sign. In this respect St. Petersburgh collection differs favorably from the collections of the Italian archives, where normally just one (namely the local) notarial tradition is represented[^14].

### The history of the study of the notarial deeds from the collection of N.P. Likhachev

The study of the Italian notarial deeds from the collection started already in the 1920s, during the lifetime of the famous antiquarian, due to the need to systematize the material, which was caused by the transfer of this initially private collection called the Paleographic Cabinet to the state educational institutions (first the Archaeological Institute, later – to the Petrograd University) and the subsequent transformation of the collection into an independent academic institution(Museum of Paleography of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, inaugurated in 1925). From the minutes of the meeting done by the experts invited by N.P. Likhachev on November 8, 1924 for a meeting and discussion of the issues of the Paleographic Cabinet we know that during this period scholars like Olga Antonova Dobish-Rozhdestvenskaya (1874-1939), Vsevolod Vladimirovich Bakhtin (1901-1951), Sergei Alexandrovich Ushakov (1904-1938), Vladimir Sergeevich Lublinskiy (1903-1968), Anna Ilyinichna Khomentovskaya (1881-1942) and Zinaida Nikolaevna Shamonina (1863-?)[^15] were

[^12]: Series Diplomata of the research project «Monumenta Germaniae Historica», founded in 1824 and brought to the present moment to the initial period of the reign of Frederick II (1220-1250) http://www.mgh.de/publikationen/diplomata/
engaged in the preparation of the systematic description of the Italian documents. A. I. Khomentovskaya published in a note a description of the Venetian notarial deed dated 1385 – a bill of sale of a Tatar female slave. V. V. Bakhtin published the so-called "surety from Piacenza". At the same time, the participants of the seminar of O.A. Dobiash-Rozhdestvenskaya drafted transcriptions and descriptions of oldest documents from the archives of the Cathedral Chapter of Cremona. The archival document preserved some of the working records bearing character of the very first approximation to a material.

The active engagement with the Italian deeds continued after the dissolution of the Museum of Paleography in the 1930s and with the transfer of the manuscript collection (more than 40 thousand units of storage) to the Institute of the Document, Book, and Writing of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which was united in 1936 to the Historical-Archival Institute (formerly the Archaeographic Commission) into the Leningrad branch of the Institute of History of the USSR (now St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences). Sergey Aleksandrovich Anninsky (1891-1942), Keeper of the Western European documents at the Institute of the Document, Book, and Writing (ICDP) and of the Archive of the LOII prepared the edition of the documents of Cremona of the X – XIII centuries: he students’ was re-proofread transcription, developed uniform criteria of publication, identified previous publications on the public deeds, composed critical apparatus, wrote a detailed archaeographic introduction description describing the methods of work of the notaries in Cremona. O. A. Dobiash-Rozhdestvenskaya wrote a preface summarizing the historical content of the published documents and introducing them into a wider context. The publication was supplemented by several reproductions of the deeds and facsimile images of samples of notarial verifications with notarial individual signs. The same approach was implemented in the publication of the documents of Cremona of the XIII–XVI centuries by Viktor Ivanovich Rutenburg (1911-1988) and Elena Cheslavovna Skrzhinskaya (1894-1981), which included part of the material of the XIII century, prepared by S. A. Anninsky. "The documents of Cremona of the X – XIII centuries" was the first major publication of the LOII, and despite the highest level of academic performance, the edition were publicly condemned by one of the members of the Academic Council of the Institute of History of the USSR Academy of Sciences for the scope alien to the Soviet people and elitism. Thanks to the reproductions of the notary verifications and the full-text publication of the instrumenta, this edition was one of the first examples of study and representation of the local notarial tradition in the world, that is why it was used for training students

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at the European universities (oral testimony of the employee of the monumental project Regesta Imperii Katrin Baaken).

The next major publication of the notarial deeds from the collection of N.P. Likhachev was the publication of ninety documents dated as of the late XIII – XIV centuries, drawn in Padua and, because of the inclusion of this city in the possessions of the Venetian Republic, now stored in the collection 6 ("Venice of her possession"), box 205. In the process of preparation of this volume, the curator of the Western European section Alla Maksimilianovna Kononenko (1931 – 1984) published reviews of this compact collection. She also prepared generalizing works on the history of the Italian notariate based on the source material from Padua and Lombardia. Vladimir Ivanovich Mazhuga (b. 1949) wrote a separate study on the language and pronunciation features, reflected in the writing of the Paduan documents. One should add to the above-mentioned studies the publications of books of notarial imbreviature of the XV century from Luni and Ferrara, comparable in volume to the individual deeds reflected in them. The editions of the documents prepared by Lidia Georgievna Katushkina (b. 1929) and Elena Viktorovna Bernadskaya (1918 – 2004) are supplemented by lengthy articles devoted, first of all, to the analysis of social and economic relations reflected in private legal contracts.

Alongside with the publications of the sets of deeds one should list numerous publications of individual documents. E. C. Skrzynskaya published the oldest authentic private deed concerning medieval Italy (a rare item even for Italian archives) with a thorough historical commentary. Sergei Pavlovich Karpov (b. 1948) and his student Svetlana Vladimirovna Bliznıyuk prepared studies and publications of individual documents related to

Venice and its black Sea possessions. The long-term study of the deeds of Ferrara and their separate groups, done by the current Senior Keeper of the Western European section Natalia Bronislavovna Sredinskaya (b. 1951) should have resulted in the publication of this set. So far, a study of the legal relations of Ferrara has been published, based entirely on the analysis of the protocols of the notarial deeds of the XIV century from the collection of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the State archive of Modena. Thanks to the everyday specifics and dramatic nature of the life situations, the Italian notarial deeds have repeatedly become items of exhibitions dedicated to the collection of N.P. Likhachev in the State Russian Museum in 1991 and in the State Hermitage Museum in 2012. The descriptions were prepared by the curator of the Western European section, Lev Grigorievich Klimanov (1941 – 2015) and N. B. Sredinskaya. Among the latest publications devoted to the notarial traditions of the XII and XIII centuries, it is necessary to list the works Of D. I. Travin and S. V. Maklakova.

An overview of the collection and the place of our sources in it

There are over ten thousand storage units related to the history of Italy in the collection of the Western European section of the archive of St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The collection is divided into fonds, and the focus of this research will be on the sixth collection that was named «Venice and its possessions», where you can find notarial deeds analyzed by a team of scholars within the framework of our project.

First of all, let us say a few words about the external features of the documents. For better orientation the fonds has an internal division into boxes. The first four boxes (186, 187, 187a and 188) contain the lettere ducali (33, 27, 12 and 9 units in each box, respectively). The earliest document in these boxes dates back to the beginning of 1355, and the latest to the middle of 1648. The next four boxes (189, 190, 191, and 192) contain the lettere...
ducali, written not only on parchment, but also on paper (15, 25, 20, 17 units in each box, respectively). The earliest document dates back to 1631, and the latest to July 8, 1794.

The lettere ducali are followed by a set of eight boxes (193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, and 200). They contain both public and private documents (39, 27, 40, 41, 33, 28, 17, 74 units in each box, respectively in the order of numbering of boxes). In 193rd box there is the earliest document dated August 1188, and in 199th box the latest, dated May 1812. In general, the set consists of copies of the lettere ducali (1437-1554), a collection of official printed documents, codices (XVI–XVII centuries – 74 units). Among other features, one can distinguish an engraved portrait of Paolo Mamizio from 1572 stored in box 199.

The 201st box contains printed documents of the institutions of the Republic of Venice and comprises only 11 storage units. It includes various resolutions of the Senate (1556 – 1569 – 25 sheets); collections, lists of laws voted by the Senate (1558 – 46 sheets); the rules of conduct of monks (1592 – 96 sheets), cadasters of landed property in Padua (1627 - 30 sheets); conclusions of the auditors and the Senate Commission of Affairs in Padua (1746 - 23 pages; 1785 - 37 sheets); statues of Padua (1788 - 11 sheets). The earliest documents date back to the 14th century and the latest one to 1788.

The printed documents of various institutions of the Venetian Republic are collected in box 202 that contains 20 storage units. The collection consists of the documents of Senate (1556-1677 - 11 units, 36 sheets); resolutions of Senate (1570-1722 - 22 units, 50 sheets); documents of the Conseggio di Pugadi (1556-1649); documents of the Officio delle Acque (1573, 1579, 1604 - 5 units, 12 sheets); decisions on land holdings of communes (1557, 1602, 1606 - 3 units, 8 sheets); documents related to the province of Padua (1614-1718 - 12 units, 66 sheets); decrees, appeals and other similar documents (XVIII century - 13 units, 14 sheets); Marino Grimani’s poems that were presented to the Doge (with the text of the presentation), (1597 - 12 sheets, 1599 - 4 sheets); text of the performance in honor of Doge Nicolò Da Ponte (1583 - 8 pages); collections of decrees and other documents of various institutions of the Republic (1569-1636 - 51 pages); inventories of cities and communes of the province of Padua (1776 - 14 sheets, 1777 - 16 sheets); decisions of the Legislative Commission (1780 - 10 pages); a copy of the treaty of peace between the King of France and the Duke of Savoy, written in Leon (1601 - 4 pages); court decisions (1599-1619 - 6 units, 22 sheets); tariffs and decrees of the management of the "Terraferma" (1675 - 8 sheets).

There are a variety of documents of institutions of the Republic of Venice in 203rd box, containing 89 storage units. Among other things, the box includes: the decisions and decrees of the Senate, Conseggio dei Pugadi and others (1556-1735 - 302 sheets); a decision of the Conseggio di Pugadi (1714 - 2 pages); ordini stability… per il territorio Padovano (1674 - 8 pages); the decisions of the Conseggio de’ dicci (1753 - 8 sheets); decisions of the Senate of the Republic (1731-1774 - 58 sheets).

Further, the 204th box consists of documents of institutions of the Republic of Venice (11 storage units in total). Inside the box, there are the following items: documents of various institutions, laws, orders, etc. (XVI-
XVIII centuries. - 41 units, 83 sheets); the decisions of Senate, orders, etc. (XVI-XIX centuries - 35 units, 61 pages); a letter from the Doge of Venice to Pope Julius II (XVI century - 2 pages); Gasparo Cantarino «On the Magistrates of Venice» (1551 - 72 pages); collection of documents of the Conseglìo di Pugadi (1545-1599 - 40 sheets); B. Komini, a mourning speech (1510 - 10 pages); the decision of Senate on the army (1573 - 4 pages); decrees of different times of the Council XII and XV on management (1499-1603 - 34 pages); the decision to combat smuggling in Verona (1626 - 16 sheets); the rules on stationing and supplying the army established by the conductor of the Terraferma (1706 - 10 sheets); conclusion of the council of the «five wise» (cinque sati) on maritime trade (1749 - 6 sheets); statutes of the province of Padua (1753 - 18 sheets); charters and rules for the sale of silk (1754 - 10 sheets); appeal of conductors (1767 - 18 pages); the capitulary on the administration of the Scuola of the Senate, Maria della Narita (1768 - 36 sheets); conclusions of the legislative commission (1773 - 9 sheets); a decision of Senate on the affairs of the Levant, Dalmatia and Albania (1777 - 8 pages); a decision on the case of manege (1779 - 6 sheets); the Statute of the Church of St. Anthony in Padua, approved by the Council of Ten (1788 - 6 sheets); decree on the production and trade of silk (1789 - 6 sheets); register of ships (for December 31, 1735 - 10 sheets).

This box is followed by the 205th box, which contains private deeds of Padua amounting 100 units. The earliest of the documents dates back to August 1292, and the latest one dates back to December 1381. Following this, comes 206th box, which contains a collection of public and private deeds of Padua amounting 14 units. Box covers documents from May 24, 1317 to July 4, 1810. Then we find a block of six boxes (207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212), containing 57, 52, 52, 50, 52, 48 units each, respectively. The collection consists of parchment public and private deeds belonging to the commune of Caltrano. The earliest of the deeds dates back to June 1380, and the latest one dates back to October 1588. The 213th box consists of parchment public and private deeds belonging to the Cogollo district. There are 55 units of storage in box. The earliest of the deeds dates back to May 1561, and the latest one dates back to September 1579. The 214th box is divided into two districts - Cogollo (1-12) and Vicenza (13-52) and consists of parchment public and private deeds. The box has 55 storage units. The earliest of the deeds dates back to May 1335, and the latest one dates back to April 1624. In box 215th one can find parchment public and private deeds that belong to the Vicenza district. There are 52 units of storage in box. The earliest of the deeds dates back to February 1513, and the latest one dates back to February 1565. The 216th box is divided into two regions - Vicenza (1-37) and Plovena (38-60) and consists of parchment public and private deeds. The box has 61 storage units. The earliest of the deeds dates back to January 1569, and the latest one dates back to May 1592.

The 217th box contains parchment deeds, public and private, all in all 46 items. The collection is divided into two districts: Scledo (1-32) and Clupano (33-46). The earliest of the deeds dates back to January 1456, and the latest one back to August 1582. Box 218 also contains private and public deeds. The collection is divided into two districts: Monticulus Maior (1-9a), Distretto di Vicenza (10-58) and has 60 storage units. The deeds within
the box range chronologically between August 1476 and April 1764. The 219th box contains by the collection of a Vulpe family. It contains parchment documents amounting 34 items. Documents from box range chronologically in the interval between March 1297 and August 1505. The documents in box 220 are interwoven volumes of parchment deeds related to Vicenza and its district. In total, there are 76 storage units. The earliest document from the collection dates back to 1350, and the latest one dates back to 1539. Following this, the 219th box there is a block of three boxes (220, 221, 223), each of which relates to Vicenza, its district and Verona and is represented by bound volumes of parchment deeds. Each block contains 92 storage units. The earliest of the documents among all three boxes dates to 1539, and the latest one to 1591. The last four boxes (224, 225, 226, and 227) contain parchment deeds of Vicenza and its district; there are 116, 109, 77 and 69 storage units in each, respectively. The earliest of the documents among the boxes dates to the beginning of 1592, and the latest to 1713.

Provenance of the documents.

The manuscripts from the collection of N.P. Likhachev were purchased directly from private collectors or through commercial antiquarians through correspondence or during trips abroad in the period between 1892 and 1914. For particular deeds that make up the current collection 6 "Venice and its possessions", one can obtain the information about their provenance only through the comparative analysis of the previous owners’ or antiquarian covers with pasted clippings from the catalogs of the auctions; further, in some cases the notes made by the hand of the scholar and antiquarian himself are preserved. During the study of the documents of the Venetian chancellery our team identified the following sources of acquisition of the manuscripts: auction houses „Pio Luzzietti” (Rome), „Gabriel Charavay” (Paris), „Gilhofer und Ranschburg” (Vienna) and the private collection Gabriele of a Venetian notary Fantoni (1833-1913), who offered in 1901 N.P. Likhachev to buy his collection of historical documents.

A relatively large group of documents from the nowadays collection 6 is mentioned in a letter from Likhachev himself to the Professor of St. Petersburg University I.V. Pomyalovsky dated November 11, 1895. N.P. Likhachev wrote: "In Venice, I saw an archive of the XV and XVI centuries, broken and lying in vain, and bought it all for 50 liras. It contains several hundred documents on parchment, and I do not know yet if the Academy here will allow me to get it out of the country. I had to take a chance, and I trusted one of the local antiquarians to send it to St. Petersburg. In order to avoid costs, I directed the package to the University library. Please speak to the librarian and pay the shipping costs».

The antiquary who is mentioned here is most likely Davide Toffoli (Libreria ed oggetti di antichità. Venezia, San Marco, 363), one of the first Venetian contractors of N.P. Likhachev, who deserved a kind of mention in his "Memoirs": "In Venice Toffoli, according to his own words, "the only antiquarian-Christian", and he cheated me. My walks in Venice began with Toffoli. Inexperience and gradual familiarization". His letters to N.P. Likhachev dated January 30 and February 10, 1896 with the discussion of the purchase of icons which were at that time the main collecting interest of the Russian collector are preserved.

The priest Luigi Bailo (1835-1932), Director of the Biblioteca Comunale in Trevizo and founder of the Museo Civico in Trevizo, later named after him, was one of the consultants of N.P. Likhachev as for the acquisition of the Venetian documents. From his letter to N.P. Likhachev dated August 25, 1896, one can conclude that the purchase of the entire archive was a rarity at that time in Treviso or Venice, unlike Rome or Florence. The local antiquarian market focused on buyers of particular unique documents, mainly wealthy collectors from the US and the UK. A parchment certificate signed by the Doge Marino Faliero (1354 – 1355) was sold to L. Baylo for 200 lire. Riccardo Predelli (1842-1909), Director of the State archives of Venice and the School of Paleography and Archival Science, was yet another likely consultant to N.P. Likhachev at the time. Likhachev «studied the history of paper" in this archive. Two letters from Predelli to the Russian antiquarian dated 1896 and one dated 1907 survived; in the last letter he answers the question of the use of the lead bull by the patriarchs of Grado.

The number of documents and an indication of a single archive allow us to correlate this testimony in 1895 with the parchment letters from the boxes 207-218, a total of 640 units, the vast majority of which date back to the XV century, a significant part dates back to the XVI century, and only 20 pieces date back to the XVII and XVIII centuries. Thus, the set of notarial deeds from the province of Vicenza belongs to the earliest of the foreign acquisitions of N.P. Likhachev and, of course, is the largest purchase in terms of the number of medieval deeds that were joined to the collection.

All parchments have the shape of carta transversa and were purchased in the form of scroll. Judging by the absence of other fold lines, they were stored in the previous archive in this form. In the card inventories of the Western European section compiled by S. A. Anninsky in the 1930s, they are marked as scrolls. During the restoration of the 1970s, the documents were straightened, so now they are stored in new covers of rough blue cardboard rather than in flexible dark cardboard ordered by N.P. Likhachev for the Paleographic Cabinet in 1924; these flexible dark cardboards are a hallmark of the deeds and letters of this collection, now kept in the Western

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European section of the Scientific and Historical Archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences and in the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The other documents in the collection of the Western European section, acquired N.P. Likhachev in the form of scrolls, often are accompanied by all kinds of additional materials, including threads or parchment strings, deterring parchment from straightening and the parchment or paper notes with former archival ciphers or notes of the antiquarians placed under these threads and parchment strings. Unfortunately, during the restoration works on the straightening of the parchment, carried out in the Soviet years, this kind of additional material was often lost along with potential information about the origin and storage of the documents.

The vast majority of the deeds of the fifteenth century stored in this collection is composed by the same notary – Pietro, son of deceased ser Gennaro di Caltrano. Later documents are mostly copies of deeds of the XV century, compiled by the same notary. However, since it is not a collection of *imbreviaturae* and not a collection of notarial *minutae*, but the collection of the *instrumenta*, the documentary complex acquired in Venice is apparently part of some kind of ancestral (and not notarial) archive. It is not yet possible to establish the connections of the persons mentioned in the deeds. To do this, one would have to study the entire array of our documents using the methods of the social network studies, supplemented by research in the archives of Vicenza and Venice. The experience of studying medieval monastic and family archives shows that, when acquiring rights to real estate, the parties included the previous transactions with the same possessions in the general collection of documents of the new owner in order to ensure the preservation of the acquired rights, as well as-the fulfillment of obligations towards the holders and supreme lords, which were acquired together with the right to dispose of real estate. Thus, a horizontal time slice in such archives may include treaties relating to different family holdings, which were only merged into one domain centuries later.

In order to assess the value and potential of this archival, the team of the Research and Study Group under the leadership of E.A. Khvalkov42 chose a small group of the oldest deeds43 related to the biggest part of this collection, namely the deeds connected to the real estate transactions in the village Caltrano. According to preliminary estimates, about 300 deeds from the entire array of 640 units refer to Caltrano. That allows drawing a conclusion that the main array of patrimonial possessions of this unknown lordly family from the province of Vicenza was situated there. Out of the 28 documents studied and dated as of the decade from 1454 to 1465, in sixteen documents of landed property transfer the buyer is a certain Lazaro of Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati44. In the other five deeds he leases the land holding on the rights of livellum (*jure locationis et livelli perpetui*)45. Unfortunately, there is no data about this owner in the available literature. Calling the notary from Caltrano to draw the deeds of the real estate transactions in the neighboring villages is due to the

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42 Research and Study Group 'Bishops, Doges and Merchants: Texts of Medieval Italian Cities of XIII-XV Centuries' / School of Arts and Humanities / HSE Campus in St. Petersburg.
43 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№1-17, 19, 19а, 20-32; № 18/207 помещен в картон по ошибке в дате, и относится к 16 столетию.
44 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 6-11, 17, 19, 19а, 20, 21, 24-26, 28, 30.
45 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№16, 27, 29, 31, 32
fact that the inhabitants of Caltrano (from the possessions of which this domain was later on composed) appealed to a trusted person and their countryman.

Within the studied group of 32 deeds, two of the earliest documents of the XV century are drawn by the notaries other than Pietro di Zennaro. A deed dated 1408 is composed by a notary Bartolomeo, son of magister Giovanni Fabri from Chiupранo: «Ego B(ar)th(olome)us not(arius) filius m(agistri) Io(hann)is Fabri de Clupa(n)o his omnib(us) int(er)fui et rogatus sc(r)ipssi»46. The deed of 1432 was drawn by notary Domenico, son of Lorenzo, son of the deceased Giullelmo from Caltrano: «Ego Dominicus f(ilius) Laurenti q(uon)dam Guill(elm)i de Cartrano public(us) auct(oritat)e imp(er)iali not(arius) examinat(us) et comp(ro)bat(us) etc., p(re)dict(is) o(nn)ibus et sing(u)lis int(er)fui eaq(ue) rogat(us) publice s(crip)si et publicavi»47. Only the upper edge of the most ancient document dated 1380 is preserved. Among the four witnesses the deed mentions notary Jacopo, son of the deceased abbot of Piovene, but the name of the notary who had drawn the deed is unknown. According to his individual notarial sign, his name could have begun with the letter «N»48. The text of the notarization record allows us to restore the omitted text in the record of the notary Domenico: «conprobatus per examinatores ad hoc deputatos per collegium notariorum civitatis Vincentie». Thanks to the changes in its text, we learn when the notary Pietro lost his father. In the deed drawn on January 10, 1456, as in all the preceding documents, he calls himself «Petrus f(ilius) s(er) Zenarii», while in the deed dated November 23, 1456 he is already described as «Petrus q(uondam) s(er) Zenarii»49.

All four notaries demonstrate one and the same tradition of writing. The individual notarial sign, pretty much in the same way as in the documents coming from Ferrara, is located in the upper left corner and is not duplicated in the beginning of the notarial certification record (unlike the documents coming from Lombardy). This may lead us to the conclusion that in the deeds of Vicenza the individual notarial sign developed out of a symbolic invocation. In the deeds of the 1450s drawn by the notary Pietro di Zennaro, the text of the document is preceded by another verbal invocation in the form of letters ".YhS.", abbreviated name "Jesus", placed in the middle of the top edge of the documents. In his deed of 1434, however, this detail is missing. The individual notarial sign is followed in all deeds by the verbal invocation "In Christi nomine amen". Then comes datum (year A.D., year of the indiction, day of week, date and month), the local date and names of witnesses (usually three). In local date, except locality («in villa de Cartrano», «in Cartrano», «Cartrani», «in villa Cartrani») and the distretto of Vicenza, the notary specifies sometimes a specific place of conclusion of the contract with the indication of the parish (contrada), steading (ora) or just someone’s dwelling: «in contrada Curtini prope domum

46 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 2.
47 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 3.
48 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 1.
49 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 9, 10.
hereditarium ser Antonii quondam Benedicti de dicta villa»\(^{50}\), «in ora Casogni in habitacione Lamentii quondam Guilleimi de Cartrano»\(^{51}\), «in habitacione infrascripti locatoris»\(^{52}\).

After the names of the witnesses the type of contract is indicated: «iure locationis», «iure locationis, renovationis ac livelli perpetualliter» «tituli venditionis». Out of the 32 documents that we studied, 20 are the deeds of sale and purchase of land\(^{53}\), 11 are the deeds of investiture tenable on the right of \textit{livellum}\(^{54}\), one deed is a socida (rent of a cow)\(^{55}\). After that the deeds of purchase and sale specify the price of the contract. The names of the parties are given in connection with the transfer of the sum of money and only after that the subject of the contract is indicated. In the case of land plots, their approximate size is mentioned \textit{in campo} and in its shares. In the nineteenth century, when the traditional measures of area were still in use, Vicenza counted the land in \textit{campo Paduvano}, the size of which was 0.38 hectares\(^{56}\). The location of the land plot is marked with an indication of the contrada or locality / township (\textit{ora}), and it is also describes which areas it borders. The sides are marked by the directions – "versus mane" "versus sero", "versus meridiem", "versus montes". In areas of elongated shape, instead, one can find an indication of the sides and ends ("heads"): «ab uno capite et ab uno latere»\(^{57}\).

The description of the object of the transaction is followed by the formulas of guarantee and the refusals of exceptions. In the deeds drawn by notary Pietro in the 1450s, parts of the form are marked with paragraph signs in the form of the majuscule letter "C" (abbreviation for "capitulum"), even when this sign breaks one sentence into parts. On the reverse side along the upper edge there is a brief designation of the essence of the contract done by the hand of the same notary. E.g.: «Livellis Donati quondam Petri de Cartrano condutoris, magistri Iohannis Pellipariis quondam dicta villa civis et habitator civitatis Vincentie locatoris», «Soceda Lazari Ognibeni de Cartrano (con)t(ra) Antoniu(m) Vincentii a Platea de Clupano». In all cases, the inscriptions run along the upper edge of the document, except for the deed of notary Bartolomeo dated 1408. Since the letters were rolled up in the form of a scroll, the bottom edge inside, this inscription was outside. For later storage, this inscription served as an archival cipher: taking the scroll in one’s hands, they could immediately understand what kind of document, without unfolding. From the legal and ritual point of view, it served as an identifying inscription. The transfer of rights is not reflected in the text of the notarization, but it is clearly spelled out in the form of the deed of sale: «\textit{Et ex causis et precio antedictis prefactus venditor antedicto emptori dedit, cessit, tradidit, transtulit, donavit, alienavit, remissit, ressutavit omnia sua iura}». The parchment deed with the text of the contract written on it was transferred to the buyer, \textit{livellarius} or lessee of the cow as the sign of the rights transferred to him.

\(^{50}\) NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 2.  
\(^{51}\) NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 3.  
\(^{52}\) NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 4.  
\(^{53}\) NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 6-11, 13-15, 17, 19, 19а, 20, 21, 22, 24-26, 28, 30.  
\(^{54}\) NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, №№ 1-5, 16, 23, 27, 29, 31, 32.  
\(^{55}\) NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 12.  
\(^{57}\) NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 19.
In two deeds of the 1430s, which formalize the holding tenable on the rights of livellum, a record of the registration of the deed is made after the notarization record done by the notary, and it is made already by another hand. In a contract drawn on January 9, 1432 – January 14, 1432: «Registrat(um) et auscultat(um) ad off(iciu)m registri co(mmun)is Vincentie p(er) me Andeam filiu(m) Gasp(ar)i de Arnaldo civis Vinc(entie), nota(r)iun et off(ici)alem ad d(i)c(tu)m off(iciu)m die lune quarto decimo m(ensis) ianua(r)ii mill(esim)i quadringentesimi trigesimi secundi, ind(ictione) decima»58. In a contract drawn on February 14, 1434 – March 8, 1434: «Registrat(um) et auscultat(um) ad off(iciu)m registri co(mmun)is Vincentie p(er) me Conte(m) q(uondam) Petri de Nanto, not(arium) dicti registri die lune octavo m(ensis) Marcii MCCCCXXX quarti, ind(ictione) XIIa». On the reverse side of the same contract under the brief indication of the essence of the document made by notary Pietro simultaneously with the text of the document, a notary of the registration service Conto made a record of acceptance of document for registration on 26 February: «P(ro)duct(um) ad off(iciu)m reg(ist)ri co(mmun)is Vincentie p(er) not(arium) rogat(um) die ven(er)is XXVI° feb(ruar)ii 1434, ind(ictione) XIIa»59.

The commune of Caltrano: historical and geographical context

The manuscripts studied by our team provide information about economic and social aspects of life in the rural communes of the Val d’Astico located in the Northern Vicentino. Here we describe the geographical and historical peculiarities of the region in order to place the documents in the particular context and to proceed with its better understanding.

The region where the documents were written is inextricably connected with the river Astico which shapes the local environment and affects economic activity of local inhabitants. The name of the river derives from astacus, a species of crayfish living in unpolluted rivers of Europe, however, the Vincentian historian of the 19th century Gaetano Maccà proposed another version. According to him, ‘Astico’ is from laste, i.e. stone slabs polished by the river stream. As other rivers of the North Italy, in its history Astico reveals the traces of human intervention. Nearby the commune of Sarcedo, the Romans had built a wall to prevent floods and alluvium of Vincentian region which also threatened to destroy the aqueduct of this city60. The riverbed had also experienced the natural changes, one of which took place around the sixths century A.D. when, probably after a heavy flood, the stream temporarily changed in the Southeast direction and occupied the modern bad of Astichello61. This situation was changed by Vincentini in the end of elevenths century when they diverted the river water to the North to prevent floods, leaving in its old riverbed only the narrow Astichello62.

Astico runs through Val d’Astico, collecting water of the streams from the slopes of the valley. Reaching out from Trentino to Vicenza, the valley was inhabited from the Paleolithic times. Later, there settled Euganei

58 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 3.
59 NIA SPbII RAN, ZES. Coll 6, box 207, № 4.
62 Sottani N. Cit. op. P. 142-143.
and Veneti who gradually became a part of Roman Empire in the 2nd – 1st centuries B.C. Although Val d’Astico was excluded from municipium of Vicenza, its inhabitants were strongly affected by the Roman culture, including the Roman law. The archeological investigation in Rotzo and Caltrano demonstrated that around 2nd century A.D. the Roman troops invaded the mountain villages where people were hostile to the Empire, which led to the destruction of some communes in fire. Other artifacts, like a stone from Chiuppano, contain scarce information about the development of wool production in the mouth of the valley. From the end of the 5th century Val d’Astico was heavily influenced by Goths and later by Longobards who established the administrative division of the territory following the geographical features of the region. Owing to this organization Val d’Astico became intermediate between economic activity of the plain and the mountains, free of invasions and destructions. It is worth mentioning that through centuries territories of Val d’Astico served as place of cross-cultural and interethnic contacts as a significant part of the local population was German although there are only scarce signs of the territorial conflicts.

In 917, emperor Berengar I bestowed Val d’Astico with the surrounding area to the bishop of Padua in order to improve the local fortifications and, thus, to protect the valley from the Hungarians. From the beginning of the 10th century valley of Astico with the center in Caltrano became part of the possessions of the bishop of Vicenza, whereas the plain of Asigo and Thiene still belonged to the bishop of Padua, which caused particular problems with the ruling of the territory. The situation was resolved in 924 when Caltrano and Cogollo were transferred to the bishopric of Padua. Finally, Val d’Astico joined the Venetian Republic in 1404 together with other Vincentian territories. In the intervening period between episcopal administration and Venetian supremacy, appeared the castles of Piovene-Rocchette and Caltrano. The notary called Pietro who created documents studied by our team, lived and worked exactly in the latter one – Caltrano.

The castle of Caltrano had taken its name from the Latin cardus, that is carding, one of the steps in the wool production. The original castle was built on the hill, overlooking above the river Astico between valleys of La Grande and Val Mala. There was at least one tower surrounded by other buildings for the dislocation of local troops. The key function of this tower was to observe the river stream and later the road which led trough Val d’Astico to Vicenza. This road was constructed after 1264 by the order of commune of Vicenza and, following the left bank of Astico, ended on the contemporary Italian-Austrian border. Together with the tower of Chiuppano

64 Ibid. P. 15-17.
67 Mantese G. Cit. op. 53.
68 Ibid. P. 507-508.
69 Zordan S. Cit. op. P. 235.
70 Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 17.
with which the castle of Caltrano had direct connection, these towers were part of the security system of the
mouth of the valley.\(^{71}\)

While being under administration of the Paduan church in the 13\(^{th}\)–14\(^{th}\) centuries, Caltrano enjoyed
considerable independence, and its church functions extended to all Altipiano. However, in the 14\(^{th}\) century
Caltrano blurred as a religious center as it became a part of the vicariate of Schio.\(^{72}\) In the following centuries
Caltrano lost its position of the important guarding settlement, although the road through Val d’Asstico to Schio,
Thiene and Vicenza was still sought-after up until the 20\(^{th}\) century.

After 1311, the commune shared the destiny of Vicenza and fell under power of Scaligeri. Only with the
time of the Venetian domination after 1411 the economic potential of Caltrano started to develop in frames of
traditional economy.\(^{73}\) Despite of the hilly and rocky terrain, the soils of Caltrano were suitable for agriculture,
especially for viticulture, so the vines that grew on the hills of Caltrano, including the contrada of St. Donato,
were an integral part of the rural landscape and of local production.\(^{74}\) The contrade of Caltrano, Camissino and
San Donato, were surrounded by walls and, thus, seemed to be small communes by its own, as it is supported by
the documents that we studied, where Camixinum appeared as indication of the origin of a person involved in the
contract sealing.

The village of Caltrano bordered the commune of Chiuppano in the South and the commune of Cogollo in
the North with which it formed a coherent system of social and economic links.

The castle of Chiuppano was constructed around the same time with that of Caltrano, around the beginning
of the first millennium. Its name has roots in fundus Cleppianus (Lat.) associated with Roman domination of the
region. Since Roman times there had been a ferriage across Astico, after that the road led to danger slopes of the
valley.\(^{75}\) However, only the toponym, ‘Il Castello’, is left from the tower, while the constructions of the castle
were dissolved throughout the centuries.

For the first time the name of the commune which then was a part of the possessions of the Vincentine
monastery of San Felice appeared in the sources in 975.\(^{76}\) The further story of the commune follows the part of
Caltrano. In the first half of the 14\(^{th}\) century, the village suffered from the encounters between Vicenza and Padua.
Probably, the demolition of the castle of Chiuppano was a consequence of these hostilities.\(^{77}\) The relationships
with the neighboring commune also caused particular problems to Chiuppano as far as together with Caltrano
they had to co-use the highlands.\(^{78}\) Moreover, the administration of these villages depended on different
vicariates: Chiuppano belonged to the vicariate of Thiene while Caltrano belonged to Schio. In spite of this fact,

\(^{71}\) Zordan S. Cit. op. P. 50-60.
\(^{72}\) Brazzale Dei Paoli A. Cit. op. P. 16.
\(^{73}\) Ibid. P. 14.
34-36.
\(^{76}\) Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 155.
\(^{78}\) Ibid. P. 25.
the documents which we studied demonstrate that there were intensive economic and social relationships between Caltrano and Chiuppano in the 15th century, when the resident of Caltrano called Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, acquired various territories in the vicinity of Chiuppano and other surrounding communes including Cogollo.

There are two theories about the origin of this name. According to the first one, it is derived from *Cucullus* (Lat.) that is kind of hooded cloak used by shepherds. However, the commune’s coat of arms representing the pile of stones used by local farmers to mark the borders of its possessions reflects another idea associated ‘Cogollo’ with *Cubulum* (den or cave). Although the castle of Cogollo does not exist today, there are signs of the medieval fortifications. In this way, toponym Pra’ della Varda is considered to derive from the German ‘Warda’ that is the guarding position. Moreover, the tower of Pedescale built to protect the valley perhaps was connected with other signal towers of the region. Although the commune Cogollo, together with Caltrano and Chiuppano, became the dominion of the Paduan bishopric in the 10th century, its castle still belonged to the bishops of Vicenza, that led to overlapping of the two jurisdictions. Finally, in the South of Cogollo nearby Astico, there was an observation tower built by Scaligeri on the Roman foundation. Perhaps, it was this tower in which Francesco Caldogno got interested. However, the residents of the surrounding communes made a stand against him, thus, the Venetian Senate was forced to refuse the request of its military and administrative functioner. To resolve internal territorial conflicts between the neighboring villages, the representatives of Caltrano, Cogollo, Chiuppano and others met first in the church of Sant’Agata in Cogollo (1202) and then in 1204 in the nearby Pra’ della Warda when were defined both the borders between the communes and the rights to use pastures and forests.

There are only scarce sources on the time of Venetian domination in the Cogollo. It is supposed that even under the administration of the *Serenissima*, the inhabitants of the village sustained medieval administrative tools like the assembly of local householders headed by the *degn* (dean), a common phenomenon for Venetian Terraferma. As Michael Knapton puts it, before the battle of Agnadello (1509), the *Serenissima* applied the policy of *laissez-faire* on its continental possessions, i.e. it did not interfere in the internal affairs of its subjects and abstained from the pressure on the local nobles and landlords, while they paid the taxes properly.

80 Ibid.
81 Canova A., Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 187-188.
82 A Venetian nobleman and cavalier, who was granted with the annual stipendium of 200 ducats for devotion to the republic and other virtues.
85 Ibid.
From the 14th century both Caltrano and Cogollo depended in administrative sense on the vicariate of Schio. Its name derived from the medieval term *scledum* (Lat.) that means the place planted with oaks. Unlike other settlements discussed previously, the commune of Schio was founded by the Benedictines who came to this region in the 11th century. The monks also settled on the mountain Summano, which also appeared in the documents that we studied. The origin of its name is unclear. According to Giovanni Mantese, it derived from *zovum (jugum), magnum*. Being in the beginning of its history a Benedictine dominion, the further history of Schio resembles the common itinerary: it became a part of the possessions of Ezzelino III da Romano in the middle of the 13th century; the commune then was transferred in the hands of Scaligeri to end up under the rule of Venice. During the period of the Scaligeri domination, Schio developed as vicariate, i.e. administrative center of the region with the duty to annually present a report before the podestà of Vicenza. The Venetian rule then stimulated the commune’s wool production, thus, the economy of Schio get specified on it. However, the traditional agriculture also took significant place as the mountainous area was fertile enough to provide local population with bread, olives and wine. The fortifications which Schio had inherited from the previous times, were destroyed during the wars of the League of Cambrai (1508-1516), however, the reconstruction had not followed. Gaetano Maccà tells about a tradition associated with the pagan festival dedicated to the nature. In the 1st of May, the local inhabitants used to plant two oaks nearby the Vicar’s Palace and to cover them with scarlet cloth or, later, with less valuable stuff. The one who had succeeded to climb a tree up to the top then achieved these gifts.

The other administrative centre of the region, Thiene, appeared in first time in 1152. Its name is considered to have German origin and is associated with the invasion of the Cimbri to the North Italy in the 9th century. Around that time Benedictine order proliferated its activity in the region developing the land and draining and cultivating the marsh areas. As for other villages discussed in the review, we can find only written testimonies of the existence of the castle in Thiene. The first mention of local fortifications appeared in the order (1152) edited by the count Guido Maltraversi, by which he appointed the archdeacon of Torengo chosen from the bishopric of Padua, which possessed *possessione castri Tienne et trium mansorum in Tienne*. The public documents of 1292 provide details on the position of the castle: “*itero unum sedimen cum domo supra murata in castro de Tienis... apud curiam sancte Marie de Tienis*”. Thus, presumably, it was located on the place taken

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89 Mantese. Cit. op. P. 11-14.
90 Canova A. Cit. op. P. 79.
94 Ibid. P. 24.
95 Ibid. P. 20.
96 Canova A., Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 209-212.
97 Ibid.
nowadays by cathedral of Santa Maria. As others, the castle had suffered after the death of Ezzelino III Romano in the middle 13th century followed by the advent of the Guelf ruling of Vicenza. However, further documents mentioning the castle (e.g. public deed of 1288) confirmed that it still existed in the end of the 13th century. The time and clear-cut causes of its destruction are unknown.

Over the 13th century, some irrigation systems had been constructed in Thiene. In 1276, brothers Ottonello and Angelo Verla contributed in the digging of the drain Verlata which provided the whole village with the water in order to moisten the fields located to the South of Thiene. Five years later, the canal connecting the stream Timonchino of Santorso with the commune of Thiene was finished as well, what had resulted into the flourishing of the rural production in Thiene.

In the beginning of the next century, the commune to the North of Thiene obtained an independent administration and later on formed the commune of Zanè (medieval Zanade). However, the first notion of Zanè dates back to the early 11th century when it was given by the Holy Roman Emperor Henry II together with other communes of the region to Giovanni and Negro Verlati. The origin of the village name is unclear, but there is an assumption that it derived from “Giovanni”.

Calvene was another commune subject to the vicariate of Thiene. There are two major theories on the origin of its name. According to the first one, it is considered to derive from the clavis that means ‘the key of the mountain’ associated with the strategic location of Calvene protecting the approaches to the Cima di Fonte, communicated directly with Altopiano. The other story connects the origin of the name with gens Calvena, the kin that resided in the vicinity of Calvene in the Roman times; the Roman artefacts found there preserve these traces. The history of this commune is inextricably connected with other villages discussed previously. There were some fortifications of the commune including a fortress and a tower surrounded by a ditch, currently not preserved. Moreover, there was the office of bishopric of Padua, thus, Calvene was directly governed from there. The time of the destruction of the castle is supposed to be the first half of the 14th century when the region became the place of a struggle between the Guelphs of Padua and Scaligeri. Despite the conflicts, the commune was gradually growing, therefore in the end of the 14th century the rural commune of Lugo, which also appears in our manuscripts, together with the commune of Loneno came apart from the Calvene. It is worth

101 Zanoco R. Cit. op. P. 81.
103 Canova A., Mantese G. Cit. op. P. 214.
106 Ibid. P. 217.
mentioning that Lugo (from *lucus*, a sacred grove)\textsuperscript{108}, like Schio, had experienced the Benedictine influence as in the 11\textsuperscript{th} century its territories were part of the domain of the Benedictine cloister of San Lorenzo\textsuperscript{109}.

The aforementioned villages have a lot in common. Set in the mountainous region, exposed to the same historical processes from the construction of the castles aimed at the protection from the Hungarian invasion up to the domination of Serenissima, each of them still represents both its unique features and large-scale trends, e.g. the specification of regional economics and etc. In their turn, the private contracts from the Western European section of the Scientific Archive of St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences might substantively contribute in the reconstruction of social structure of this region that eventually could have a solid impact on the studies of the Venetian Terraferma, its economy and multiple ranges of social interactions.

**The external characteristics and the handwriting of the documents**

As it was mentioned above, the notarial documents drawn up mainly by Pietro di Zennaro are stored in the Scientific Historical Archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. All of these documents are *instrumenta* rather than *imbreviaturae*, and at least when it comes to the deeds drawn by Pietro di Zennaro we can treat this set as a certain unity. Within this study, one of our main objectives of the team work was preparation of these documents for critical publication.

One of the most difficult questions in the field of the study of the notarial documents is the problem of the representativeness of our sources. How typical are these documents and do they sufficiently reflect the activities of our notary? In which respect these sources are representative, and in which they are not? It is clear that we don’t have a full array of documents of Pietro di Zenaro, but rather just a very small selection prone to randomness. One of the key things here is the composition of our set from the taxonomic point of view. Classification and taxonomy of notarial deeds is traditionally based on the types of transactions recorded by these deeds. The task of the researcher is often to identify the relationship between abstract situations (which must comply with legal formulas of the document) and the types of real transactions, which is necessary based on a more or less representative sample to establish the degree of such compliance. There is a considerable number of types of the document: trading operations (purchase and sale), trade agreements and contracts (*societas*, *commenda*), gifts of real estate, sale and emancipation of slaves, testimonies, debts, sale of part of the ship, loan, cambium, repayment of debts, marriage contracts and receipts of dowry, testaments, contracts of employment, promises, service agreements, contracts of freight and leasehold, arbitration agreements, the inventories of property etc. However, in our case most of the deeds refer to the sale of landed property. This fact raises doubts as it comes to representativeness of the sources. Surely, part of the notarial deeds could not have been preserved for objective reasons: fires, water, rodents and losses when moving were always enemies of any kind of


\[\textsuperscript{109} \text{Ibid.}\]
documents, moreover, a number of transactions in the XV century no longer required the participation of notaries, whose services could be replaced by the preparation of documents for internal use; however, apparently during his career the notary drew other types of documents as well. Based on what was said above, we can state that the sample that has come down to us is not representative enough to extract statistical data from it, and this insufficiency is not just quantitative, but also qualitative. First, almost all the notarial deeds that we have at our disposal are the real estate transfers. It is hardly possible to calculate the ratio of the amount of preserved notarial source material to the hypothetical amount of the total volume of deeds, but it is difficult to dispute the fact that the hypothetical number of documents of one notary should be measured in tens for one year and hundreds – for the period of his professional activity.

Further, there is a problem of the authenticity of the notarial deeds. While discussing the representativeness of documents, we should not be embarrassed by the fact that some of them may be fictitious. Fictitious deeds can be, on the one hand, fraudulent ones, on the other hand they can be authentic ones where the form used in the documents did not reflect (or only partially reflected) the real purpose of the deed, but rather camouflaged some other transaction; in the latter case the lack of, let us say, due sincerity in the intentions of the subjects of transactions does not automatically lead to the denial of the authenticity of the transaction.

The documents are drawn in parchment and their degree of preservation is quite good; there are only few insignificant damages from moisture, which do not impede reading at all. The handwriting is fairly neat. No. 22 has a big hole and No. 23 small holes in it. The fields are average; the distance between the lines is about two lines width. There is a light, although quite moderate tendency to save parchment – the fields are never too wide, and the notary did not leave much empty space. The deeds are written in cursive script of the XIV – XV centuries with certain features of late Italian Gothic including the design of some capital letters ("P" in "Pro", "I" in "In"). Gothic "i" occurs at the beginning of the word and sometimes it becomes almost indistinguishable from "z". Handwriting is neat and fairly regularized with only few individualized idiosyncrasies. In some words there is a (rare) tendency to slightly separate the first letter of the word, but sometimes one word can be divided into two contrary to the rules of Latin spelling. The upper parts of some letters ('b', 'l', 's' etc.) are usually slightly elongated. Apparently, all the deeds are written by one and the same hand; therefore, the notary either wrote them himself or had all this time one and the same scribe. Different spelling of words on a single sheet normally does not occur. There are numerous abbreviations, suspensions and contractions in the documents. The scribe uses a number of standard contractions (reduction of the syllables with "n", “m”, “l” and "r", reduction of “cum” / “con”, case endings, etc.), most of them are well-known and only few at times are not quite conventional. Sometimes, although very rarely, occurs continuous writing of multiple words. The initial letter of the deed (normally it is initial ‘I’ in the invocatio) is placed on the field and much bigger than others. Sometimes (though very rarely)
there is a tendency to slightly separate the first letter of the word. The date and place in the deeds are mentioned almost always. The *datum* is normally written at the beginning of each deed in words (the notary uses numbers only occasionally and only for the days, never for e.g. year).

Most deeds are well-edited; there are no corrections, strikethroughs or insertion between the lines. The initial letters are slightly decorated. Most deeds are approximately equal in length. The notary was not prone to make errors; his manner of composing the deeds indicates a long-term habit of such work. The individual notarial sign is drawn everywhere without exceptions in the upper left corner. This sign is a vertically elongated a column with a diamond wrapped around it the left and right of which, respectively, there are two dots.

**The language of the deeds**

The language of documents has stylistic features characteristic of similar notarial deeds of that époque, including repetitions and repeating references to what is written above or what is written below. The deeds are written in typical bureaucratic Latin with some Italianisms. The influence of Italian dialects on Latin has been a common feature of the language of all Italian notaries since the mid-14th century. The language of the professional activity of the notary was subjected to the influence of his spoken vernacular – the *dialetto*. By the standards of the time, the Latin language of Pietro di Zennaro is not yet perfect, but fairly good; however, we still can see the traces of the language interference – the influence of the spoken native language on the documental one. There are typical mistakes in the deeds, mainly the confusion of the case forms, the use of one case instead of another, improper management of prepositions, irregular spelling. Although we often have to deal with atypical errors, we can still say that some errors and irregularities in the Latin of Pietro di Zennaro are quite standard and predictable; these features constitute the norm rather than the exception.

The notary uses interchangeably ‘n’ and ‘m’ in cases of nasalization in some words like ‘amem’ instead of ‘amen’ in the *invocation*, ‘Nom’ instead of ‘Non’ in the formula ‘Non obstante…’, and «dannum» instead of ‘damnun’. He consistently uses ‘y’ instead of the final ‘i’ in the end of the word: ‘spey’ instead of ‘spei’, ‘rey’ instead of ‘rei’, ‘fruy’ instead of ‘frui’, ‘mey’ instead of ‘mei’. The gemination (duplication of consonants not provided by the rules of Latin spelling) occurs quite often, especially with the consonants ‘n’, ‘l’, ‘f’, ‘s’: «pe(n)na» instead of «pena» (poena), «civilles» instead of «civiles», «legittimis» instead of «legitimis», «reffectio» instead of «refectio», «suprasscripti» instead of «suprascripti». However, the opposite process, namely the simplification of the geminates, i.e. the loss of double consonants, is never found. Hypercorrection occurs sometimes and it is caused by the a misunderstanding of etymology: «estimatio» instead of «estimatio», «prefactus» instead of «prefatus», «ractione» instead of «ratione», however «frutiferis» instead of «fructiferis». Sometimes the notary uses ‘-ci’ where ‘-ti’ in Classic Latin would be expected (citacione, estimacioni, laudacione, renovacione, solucione, stipulacionem, vendicionis); however, in this time it can hardly be considered as an idiosyncrasy. In some positions certain letters in the manuscripts of Pietro are difficult to distinguish.
between, so we restore them in accordance with the rules of Classic Latin. A search for a graphic expression of the sounds that are present in the *dialetto*, but absent in Latin, is evident one cases: the name of the father of the notary Zennaro (instead of the regular Latin ‘Januarius’; ‘Gennaro’ in contemporary Italian). Pietro sometimes also replaces "s" with "x" in intervocalic position – ‘Camexino’ instead of ‘Camesino’, however, this happens rarely. Prepositions and cases are often not completely consistent; sometimes there is also a mixture of declinations. The notary often uses absolute participial (presentibus testibus) and past infinitives (‘habuisse et recepisse’, ‘didisse vel alienasse’); he also prefers infinitive phrases to subordinate clauses, which is typical of the bureaucratic language of the time. The influence of dialetto can be traced in the fact that the family name is often given in an invariable form. In general, it can be stated that since the Venetian notaries composed their documents in both Latin and *dialetto*, the lines between the native language and the language used in professional activities could be blurred, although normally Pietro’s Latin is quite good.

When transcribing documents, we have kept all the features of spelling of the deeds, including errors and different spellings. The words and letters are reconstructed according to the context are given in italics. The ellipses in square brackets indicate places that cannot be read because of the peculiarities of the notarial handwriting. Traditional abbreviations in the text are disclosed in italics. All the names in the *regestae* are given in Italian transcription insofar as the authors managed to restore it.

**Analysis of the form of documents**

The notarial documents that we studies are all private deeds, formalizing a transaction between subjects, mediated by a notary, a private person endowed with public power so as to give validity and authenticity to the documents. In the late medieval and early modern Veneto, one can find a high degree of order of the office work at all levels, from the private deed to the materials of the state assemblies. In order for a notarial document to have legal force, it had to be drawn up according to certain rules, although they were not as rigid as it might seem. The typical content of the deed is manifested through its form, i.e. the general structure of the document, which is superimposed on a certain set of more or less standard formulas that reveal the content of the transaction. The juxtaposition of the form and the content is not rigid, because the form, being not a self-sufficient element, but an expression of the content, is not absolutely unchanged; it depends on the notary and varies depending on the specific circumstances of the transaction fixed by the deed.

The notarial document is a reflection of economic and social life, since it records the agreements between people. In addition, it is a product of legal practice, since the transaction is done in accordance with certain more or less strictly observed rules arising as a result of legal practice or established by the legislative bodies of public authority, which makes it possible to use a notarial document in court proceedings. Therefore, one of the first steps in working with notarial deeds is a formal study of documents. The form of the notarial deed is important for us in two respects: first, as an element that determines the belonging of the document to the category of
notarial deeds and makes it possible to classify and identify the documents; second, as a reflection of the level and nature of the development of law on this type of agreements. The analysis of the form includes the definition of the components of the notarial form, identification of the system of notarized situations and their relationship with the types of transactions, analysis of legal formulas, identification of the counterparties and the outcome of the transaction.

Traditionally, the formulas of the notarial deeds are divided into the significant and the ritual ones. The significant formulas reflect the content of the nature of the transaction and the type of the deed and, accordingly, they are more subject to transformation. The ritual formulas are not meaningful and are a tribute to a certain notarial and legal tradition, being used to add solemnity to the document (especially there are a lot of ritual formulas in the deeds of property transfer). It is believed that the Venetian notarial documents were extremely formalized, so sometimes subtle changes in form could also be a reflection of the specifics of the content, and the slightest modification of the form of the document could reflect both procedural innovations and more serious changes in the situation as a whole. A brief glance at the documents studied here does not reveal, however, any clear links between the use of a legal formula and significant changes in content. Our analysis suggests that we should not perceive the variability of the form as significant. There is no direct correlation between the extension or contraction of the formulas and the scope of the transferred property rights. No social typology of formulas was found either: ‘talkativeness’ or ‘reticence’ of the document is not linked to the social standing of the notary’s client. In general, our deeds are quite highly standardized.

The documents start with a standard invocation (In Christi nomine amen). The date is written always entirely in words in the format year – indict – (day of the week) – day – month. The place of drawing of the documents is mentioned almost always. The sequence of the parts of the deed – prologus (explanation of cause), intitulatio, suppletio (the main part), corroboratio – is regularized. A deed had legal effect only if it was made in the presence of two witnesses. As for the clientele (subjects of transactions), as well as in general the persons referred to in the deeds, they are standardly identified through the proper name, family name, the expression "son of X", parish, etc., although it was not necessary for the notary to be completely consistent, for him such kind of an identification was much more important, which would be clear and sufficient for the society in which he worked, and for the authorities, to which his clients could apply. As a rule, documents are made on behalf of clients using ‘third person’ utterances.

The source material studied here still has to be contextualized and researched in more profound manner; however, we can clearly see now that the investigation of the deeds stored in the Western European section of the Scientific and Historical archive of the St. Petersburg Institute of History of the Russian Academy of Sciences is more than promising.

111 One should remember that the form is determined by the content pertaining to a certain class of the notarial documents.
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APPENDIX
REGESTAE

1/207
10 June 1380.
Niccolò, son of the deceased Ser Giovanni, son of Ser Moses from Piovene, rents something to Ser Jacopino, son of the deceased Guglielmo from Caltrano, the contrada of Camesino (Camexino), and to his heirs for ten years. Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 solde. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in the contrada of Camessino (Camexino) in the house of Ser Eugenio, the inhabitant of Caltrano. In the presence of witnesses Antonio, son of the deceased Enrico, from the village (de villa Se(...)ri), notary Jacopo, son of the deceased abbot of Piovene, Giovanni, son of the late Gerardino from Treviso, Ziglo named Maloso, the son of the deceased Ordano from Saltusio (? - Sant(...)usio).

2/207
23 September 1408.
Magister Bartolomeo Pilipannis, son of the deceased Antonio, resident of Caltrano, leases for ten years to Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Grandono, resident of Caltrano one plot of arable land, planted with vines and trees, about one field and one quarter of the field (campum). The plot is located in vicinity of Caltrano in ora Galaini, from the Southwest around the commune road, from the North around possessions of the tenant, from the East around the hereditary possession of Ordano a Vale. For the rented plot the tenant undertakes to pay annually 4 starii of grain eight days before or eight days after the St. Felix's day. Each renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in the contrada Curtini, near the house of ser Antonio, son of the deceased Benedicto, resident of Caltrano, in the presence of notary Bartolomeo, son of Magister Giovanni Fabri from Chiuppano, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: presbyter Antonio, son of the deceased Giovanni, archpresbyter of the church Santa Maria of Caltrano, Donato, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Gasparo, son of the deceased Antonio.

3/207
9 January 1432.
Giovanni, son of Lorenzo, a resident of Caltrano leases for ten years to Gabriel, son of the deceased Antonio, a resident of Lugo, one plot of arable land, planted with trees and vineyards, about half a field. The plot is located in the vicinity of Lugo, in ora Gaugne; from the East, near the possessions of Vincenzo, son of Albrico, from the North, near the commune road, from the southwest, near the hereditary possessions Henry de Capellis. For this plot the tenant undertakes to pay annually two starii of grain eight days before or eight days after the St. Felix's day. Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in ora Casogni, in the house of Lorenzo, son of the deceased Giulio, resident of Caltrano, in the presence of notary Domenico, son of Lorenzo, son of the deceased Giullelmo from Caltrano, and witnesses: Benedetto, son of Vincenzo Chiari, resident of Lugo, and residents of Caltrano – Giacomo, son of the deceased Giovanni Seti, and Francesco, son of the deceased Bononi. The contract is registered on 14 January 1432 in the communal chancellery (officium) by Antonio, son of Gasparo from Arnaldo, a citizen of Vicenza.

4/207
15 February 1434.
Magister Giovanni Pellipari, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Caltrano, living in Vicenza, rented out (locatio renovatio ac livellum) to Donato, son of the deceased Pietro from Caltrano, a plot of arable land in the size of one field (campum) plus one quarter of a field and more for 10 years. For this plot the tenant undertakes to pay annually 4 starii of grain in eight days before or eight days after the day of St. Felix. Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees and is in the vicinity of Caltrano, on the border with Galaini; bordered on the East by the site of Blassio, son of the deceased Ordano from Caltrano, on the South and West – by communal road, on the North – by plots owned by the named renter
and Antonio, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Caltrano, and then with others. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in the house of Giovanni Pellipari, in the presence of notary Pietro, son of Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Caltrano, and three witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro, Antonio, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Antonio, son of the deceased Viviano from Vello.

5/207
13 April 1454.
Antonio, son of the deceased Francesco ... from Chiuppano, acting on behalf of Giovanni ... from Chiuppano, father of wife, leased (locatio renovatio ac livellum) to Giovanni, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Carrè, a plot of arable land in the size of one field for a period of 10 years. Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees and is bordered on one side by a communal road; among the owners of neighboring plots are named: Angelo and his brothers, sons of the deceased ... from Piovene, the heir of Giacomo Piovene, ... Pietro and his brothers. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, in the courtyard of the notary’s house, in the presence of notary Pietro, son of Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Caltrano, and three witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Gianantonio, son of the deceased Antonio Marco, Giacomo, son of the deceased Niccolò Gravigani, and Bartolomeo, son of the Gianino, known as Fantini.

6/207
16 April 1454.
Domenico, son of the deceased Niccolò from Cogolo, resident of Caltrano valley, sold for 4 ducats of good gold to Lazzaro, son of the deceased Ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati from Caltrano, a plot of land in the size of about one field. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees, located in the vicinity of Caltrano in the contrada of the Rhone, from the East and North near the domain of Antonio, son of the Pietro Cissi, and Gianpietro, son of Pietro, residents of Caltrano, and from the South at the Church of St. Maria de Caltrano. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, on the communal road by the wall of possessions of the heirs of Giacomo Giaroco of Caltrano, in the presence of notary Pietro, son of Gennaro from Caltrano, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, Bartolomeo, son of Gianini, known as Contantini from Caltrano, Niccolò, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Romano, son of the deceased Lorenzo.

7/207
16 April 1454.
Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro from the Caltrano valley, sold for 29 soldo to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased Sir Ognobeni, known as Terenati, a plot of arable land in the size of five quarters of field and more. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees and located in the vicinity of Caltrano, in the contrada of San Donato; from the East it is bordered by an area of Bartolomeo of Chiuppano, known as Tribia, from the South and West – by communal road, from the North – by a plot belonging to the commune of Caltrano. The contract is sealed in Caltrano, at the communal street nearby the walls of the possessions of heirs Giaroco from Caltrano, in the presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the ser Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and three witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, Bartolomeo, son of Gianini, known as Contantini from Caltrano, Niccolò, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Pietro, son of Gerardo, son of the deceased Jacopo Canalaro.

8/207
28 January 1455.
Antonio, son of the deceased Guglielmo from Caltrano, sold for 28 soldo to Lazzaro, son of the deceased Sir Ognibeni, a plot of meadow land. The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano next to the foratoria near the commune of Caltrano, ... from one side and near ... . The contract is sealed in the village Caltrano, in the house of the named buyer in the presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the ser Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and three witnesses: Domenico, son of the deceased Vincenzo, Romano, son of the deceased ... , and ... from the valley, residents of Caltrano.
9/207

10 January 1456
Andreo, son of Giacomo Cari, and his son Niccolò sold for 45 denarii to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognibeni, known as Terenati, one plot of land (sedime) in the size of half field (campum) planted with fruit trees. The plot is located in vicinity of Caltrano, in contrada Camessino; in the East alongside possessions of Corupo from Camessino, in the South and North – alongside communal road, in the West – alongside possessions of the named vendor, pro Ara et certo Broyleto suc habitatoris. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the named customer in the presence of notary Pietro of Coltrano, son of ser Gennaro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and three witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Antonio, son of the deceased Giuliano, Gianantonio, son of the deceased Antonio, known as Toneli, and Giovanni, son of the deceased Ordano.

10/207

23 November 1456
Bartolomeo from Carre, son of Giovanni, son of the deceased Nasimbene, sold for 22 lira and 10 soldo to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased Ognibeni, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land in the size of three quarters of the field (campum) planted with vineyards and trees. The plot is located in vicinity of Carre, in contrada San Lorenzo; in the East alongside the possessions of the named vendor in front of the church of Santa Maria de Montesumano, in the South – alongside the communal road, in the West – alongside the possessions of Benvenuto Florentini from Cintrali, in the North – alongside the possessions of Giacomo from Carre, son of the magister Lorenz. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the named customer in presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and three witnesses: Gianino from Cogollo, son of the deceased Antonio Marasche, Antonio from Carre, son of the deceased Nasimbene, and magister Bartolomeo Pellipari from Caltrano, son of the deceased Pietro.

11/207

25 January 1457
Pietro from Piovene, son of the deceased Moises, citizen of Vicenza, sold for 22 lira and 10 soldo (in denariis parvis) to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased Ognibeni, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land in the size of three quarters of the field (campum) planted with vineyards, olives and other trees. The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in the contrada of Brenzare; in the Southwest alongside the communal road, in the Northeast – alongside the possessions of Bonaguro of Caltrano, son of the deceased Bartolomeo. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of notary in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: the named magister Stefano, Cristoforo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Giovanni, Antonio, son of the deceased Giacomo, and Niccolò, son of the deceased Giuliano.

12/207

13/207

24 November 1457
Magister Ognobeni Pellipari from Schio, son of the deceased Andreo from the river band (a ripa), sold for 66 lira (in denariis parvis) to Giovannantonio from Caltrano, son of the deceased magister Bartolomeo Pellipari, one plot of arable land in the size of two fields (campum) planted with vineyards and trees. The plot is located in the vicinity of Schio in the contrada of Setecale; in the East and West alongside the communal road, on the other side – by the possessions of the named vendor, and the rest is nearby hereditary estate of Giacomo from Asto, resident of Schio. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of magister Stefano Fabri of Caltrano, son of the deceased Leonardo, in the presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: the named magister Stefano, Cristoforo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Donato, and Melchior from Schio, son of the deceased Blassio.
14/207

11 January 1458

Gianantonio from Caltrano, son of the deceased Antonio, known as Toneli, sold for 48 denarii to Giovanni Guidoni one plot of arable land in the size of three quarters of the field (campem). The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in the contrada Piassani (Piaxani); in the South and North alongside the possessions of Gianpietro Pietri from Caltrano, also in the South – alongside the possessions of Francesco Gaspari from Caltrano, in the West – by the possessions of Giovanni Ogniben from Caltrano, in the East – by the possessions of Ceno Piassi. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of heirs of Gianoco from Caltrano, in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Melchior, son of Giacomo, son of the deceased Giovanni Sancti, and Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro Cissi.

15/207

10 June 1458

Andreo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Giovanni Seti, and his son Domenico sold for 5 denarii to Giovanni Antonio from Caltrano, son of the deceased magister Bartolomeo Pellipari, one plot of meadow land in the size of a half of a quarter of the field (campum) planted with olives. The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in the contrada of Rondo; in the East – by the possessions of Paulo from Caltrano, son of Niccolò, in the South – by the possessions of Bonaguro from Caltrano, son of Bartolomeo, in the West – by possessions of ... from Caltrano, residents of Vicenza, in the North – alongside the communal road. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the named vendor in the presence of notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses, residents of Caltrano: Giovanni, son of Paulo, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and Bartolomeo, son of Gianino Fantini.

16/207

6 September 1459

Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, rents to Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro from Valley (a Valle), a plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, in the size of one field for a period of 10 years for 9 lira per year. This fee should be payed 8 days before or 8 days after St. Martin’s day (11 November). Renewal (renovatio) of the contract is possible upon payment of 5 soldo. The plot is located in Caltrano in the contrada of Canessino; in the East and the West – by the possessions of the named lessor, in the South – by the communal road, in the North – by the possessions of Francesco Gaspari from Caltrano. The contract is sealed in Caltrano at the side of the communal road nearby entrance to the courtyard of the house of Bianco from Tiene in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: Gianino from Zane, son of the deceased Giraldi, Andreo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Giacomo Cari, and Giovanni from Cortino, son of the deceased Antonio Lazari.

17/207

10 October 1459

Francesco, son of the deceased Bartolomeo Barbero from Leonico, citizen and resident of Vicenza in the commune (sindicaria) of San Giacomo, sold for 15 lira (in dinariis parvis) to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot (sedimen) of land with a house, vegetable garden and crags in the size of one and a half quarter of field (campum). The plot is located in Caltrano in the contrada of Canessino; on two sides – alongside the communal road and corubum of Canessino, nearby possessions of Domenico, son of Vincenzo, and on the other sides – nearby possessions of the named customer. However, the right of Antonio from Caltrano, son of the deceased Giacomo del Cetera, to use this possession (livellum) for 20 soldo annually is still untouched. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the courtyard of the house of Bartolomeo Biancoti from Tiene in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser
Gennaro, and three witnesses: Giovannantonio, son of the named Bartolomeo, and two residents of Caltrano – Antonio, son of the deceased Gianoco, and Giacomo, son of Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro from the Valley (a Valle).

18/207

27 November 1559
Paulo from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser ... Gennari, sold for 10 ducat (and 31 denarii grossi?) to Franceschina, daughter of Giovanni de Giopis, resident of Vicenza, and wife of Gianbatisto Ignazi/Cinati from Moson, now resident of Caltrano, one plot of arable land, planted with trees, olives and vineyards, in the size of three quarters of the field (campum). The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in ora Masi; in the Northeast – nearby the hereditary possession of Batisto Seti, in the South – by the possessions of Bernardo, ... , in the West – by ... The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the heirs of the named Gianbatisto in the presence of the notary Bernardino, son of the deceased Gi... from Castello, and witnesses: magister Antonio Cerdone from Caltrano, son of the deceased Batisto Cissi, and magister Vincenzo Carpentino from Asiago, son of the deceased Gianaes Giobia.

19/207

3 January 14...
Brothers Domenico Bernardini and Baldassare from Cassigliago, sons of the deceased Giani Bonore, sold to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot of meadow land, planted with trees and vineyards, in the size of seven fields (campum). The plot is located in the vicinity of Calvene in ora La Porta, nearby the possessions of Giacomo Testolini, resident of Calvene, citizen of Vicenza. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of the named customer in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: Giovanni from ..., son of the deceased Vincenzo, ..., son of Giacomo Molendinario, resident of ..., and Francesco, son of the late ...cacio a Busco from Toneza.

19a/207

28 March 1460/1461
Magister Vagente Cerdo from Cogollo, son of the deceased Giovanni, sold to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, in the size of the one field (campum). The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano, alongside the road to Mezo; on the one side and one end – nearby the possessions of Leo from Caltrano, son of Giorgio, on the other end – nearby the communal road, and on the other side the plot is limited with the possessions on which dominus Bartolomeo from Caltrano, son of the deceased Bonaguro, has right to use for annual payment of three starii of grain. The contract is sealed in caltrano in the house of the notary in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: Giovanni from ..., son of the deceased Vincenzo, ..., son of Giacomo Molendinario, resident of ..., and Francesco, son of the late ...cacio a Busco from Toneza.

20/207

26 May 1461
Giovanni from Zane, son of the deceased Martino, sold for 30 denarii to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, in the size of the one field (campum). The plot is located mostly in the vicinity of Zane in contrada ...; on the both sides – nearby the possessions of Pietro from Vallmarano, on the one end – nearby the possessions of the named vendor, and on the other end – nearby the possessions Gerardini from Zane. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the notary’s house in the presence of the notary Pietro from Caltrano, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and witnesses: Niccolò from Chiupano, son of Guillielmo, Bartolomeo from Caltrano, son of Bonaguro, son of the deceased Bartolomeo, and Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Pietro del Vecla from Sorsio.
1 June 1461.
Antonio, son of the deceased Nasimbeno from Carre, and his son Baldassare, for 67 lira and 10 soldo of small denarii sold to Lazzaro, son of the deceased Ognobeni, known as Terenati, from Caltrano, a plot of arable plant, planted with trees and vineyards, the size of about two fields. The plot is located in the vicinity of Carre in contrada Compogroso; one side near the possessions of Icorjo of Caprilis, citizen of Vicenza, another side – near the possessions of Daniele Dzedi from Carre, one peak near Bartolomeo’s domain, son of Giovanni from Ferro, resident of Carre, another side – near communal road, and randomly near other possessions. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of mentioned buyer in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and witnesses: Antonio, son of Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro from the valley, Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Marco Gianoko, residents of Caltrano, and Gerardo, son of Bonato Steko from Carre.

2 July 1463.
Bernardo, son of the deceased magister Mateo Fabri from Marano, for 4 ducats sold to Antonio, son of the deceased Vincenzo, son of Panduto from Cogolo, a plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, the size of one quarter of field. The plot is located in the vicinity of Cogolo in contrada Semesego: from the West and East – near the house of Michele del Treto, resident of the village Dzane, from the South – near the house of Jacopo, son of Bartolomeo, son of Gerardini from Cogolo, and from the North – near the Cogolo’s church possessions. The contract is sealed in the Caltrano village, at the communal road in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and two witnesses: Gasparo Fabro, son of ser Avantio Pil...di, resident of Caltrano, and Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro from the valley, both residents of Caltrano.

10 November 1463.
Ladzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni from Caltrano, rented out for ten years to Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco, two plots of land, planted with vineyards and trees, with annual payment of 3 starii of grains before 8 days and after the day of St. Felix. At the end of the contract it can be renewed with the payment of 5 soldo denarii. One of the rented plots is located in the vicinity of Caltrano in contrada Carpanedi from the South – near the house of mentione renter, from the East – near the house of ... , from the West – near Val Salbino, and from the North – near the house of Francesco. The second plot of arable land the size of several quarters and half a field is located also in the vicinity of Caltrano in contrada Fonige near the house of Alessandro from Giugliano, resident of Vicenza, on both sides and near the village street and ... [aibus] Fonige from other sides. The contract was sealed in Caltrano village at the communal road near the house of mentioned renter in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Cristoforo, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Scio, Podzolo, son of the deceased Pascal from Valentia, resident of Scio village, and Gasparo, son of ser Anantio Pelukeli, resident of Caltrano.

10 November 1463.
Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco from Calveno, sold for 45 small denarii to Lazzaro from Caltrano, son of the deceased Ognobeni, known as Terenati, two plots of land, planted with vineyards and trees. One plot of land is the size of half a field and located in the vicinity of Calveno, on the border with Carpanedo, and is bordered to the South by the buyer's plot, to the East – with water of Fonoge, to the West – with Salbino village, and to the North – with Francesco’s and his brothers’ land, sons of the deceased Berto from Calveno. The second plot, the size of one quarter and half a field, is also located in the vicinity of Calveno on the border with Carpanedo, and is bordered from two sides by the land of Alessandro from Giugliano, from other sides – with the communal road and gaibum Fonogehe. The contract was sealed in Caltrano at the communal road near the house of mentioned buyer, in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased Gennaro from Caltrano, and
three witnesses: Cristoforo, son of the deceased Bartolomeo from Scio, Pondzeto, son of the deceased Pascal from Valentia, resident of Scio, and Gasparo, son of ser Avantio Pelukeli, resident of Caltrano.

25/207
20 December 1463.
Cristoforo, son of the deceased Donato from Caltrano, and Bartolomeo, his son, sold for 37 lira and 10 soldo of small coin to Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati from Caltrano, a plot of land the size of one field and more. The plot is planted with vineyards and trees and located in the vicinity of Caltrano, in the parish (ora) of St. Donata; from the Southern side it is located near [the possessions] of the heirs of Pietro Cixi from Caltrano, from the West – near [the possessions] of Antonio, son of Pietro from Caltrano valley, on the other sides it borders the site of the commune of Caltrano. The contract is sealed in Caltrano village in the house of buyer in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco from Calvene, Pietro, son of the deceased Jacopo from Segisvelli, and Antonio, son of the deceased Federico from Arserio.

26/207
5 March 1464.
Niccolò, son of the deceased Francesco from Piovene, sold for 30 soldo denarii to Lazzaro, son of the deceased Ognobeni from Caltrano, known as Terenati, one plot of arable land planted with vineyards and trees the size of one field. The plot is located in the vicinity of Piovene, opposite the road to Scio, near the possession of lady Catharine, wife of Gaspar Domenico from Piovene, – from one side; nearby the possessions of the heirs of Gaspar Beroderia from Piovene – from the other side; near the communal road with one of its tops and near the possessions of Berta, son of Giovanni from Piovene, with other top and some other way with another. The contract is sealed in Caltrano in the house of mentioned buyer in the presence of notary Petra, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Giuliano from Caltrano, Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco from Calvene, and Scrimino, son of the deceased Oleano from Asiago.

27/207
5 March 1464.
Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni Terenati from Caltrano, rented out for ten years to Niccolò, son of the deceased Francesco from Piovene, a plot of arable land the size of one medium field, planted with trees and vineyards. The tenant is obliged to annually pay two starii of grains 8 days before and after the St. Felix’s day. The renewal (renovatio) is possible with the payment of 5 soldo denarii. Rented plot is located in the vicinity of Piovene in Via de Scio contrada: from one side – near the house of Catharina, wife of Gasparo from Piovene, from the other side – near the possession of the heirs of Gasparo from Piovene; from one end – near communal road; and from the other end – near the house of Berto, son of Giovanni from Piovene. The contract is sealed in Caltrano village in the house of mentioned renter in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Giuliano from Caltrano, Giovanni, son of the deceased Francesco from Calvene, and Serenimo, son of the deceased Oleano from Asiago.

28/207
20 November 1464.
Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Bonaguro from Caltrano, for 30 lira and 1 denarii sold to Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni Terenati from Caltrano, a plot of arable land planted with vineyards and trees about one field size. The plot is located in the vicinity of Caltrano on the Corby border and above the communal road, below the house of Giovanni from Cortino, Caltrano, and the house of Icorjo de Caprelis, citizen of Vicenza; near the house of Vincenzo, son of Pietro from Mosson; and the house of the heirs of Dzanoka from Caltrano – from one side; near the house of Antonio, son of Vincenzo, son of Panducho from Cogolo. The contract is sealed in the village of Caltrano in the house of public notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Dzenario from Caltrano, in the presence of witnesses Gasparo, son of the deceased Jacopo from Caltrano, and Bartolomeo, son of the mentioned notary. The document was written by Pietro, son of the deceased ser Dzenario from Caltrano, public notary.
29/207
3 January 1465.
Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni, known as Terenati from Caltrano, rented out to brothers Francesco and Pascal, sons of the deceased Pietro Bertoni from Carre, and to Lazzaro, son of the mentioned Francesco, for ten years a plot of arable land planted with vineyards and trees one field size. The tenant is obliged to annually pay 1 and two quarters (1,5) starii of grains 8 days before and after the St. Felix’s day. Renewal (renovatio) is possible with payment of 5 soldo. Rented plot is located in the vicinity of Carre on the border with Lentanis: one side it is located near the possessions of the heirs of Antonio Conti of Carre, another side – near the possessions of mentioned Pascal, from one top – near thepossessions of Niccolò’s wife from Carre, another top – near the communal road. The contract is sealed in the house of mentioned renter in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro Cisi, Giovannantonio, son of the deceased magister Bartolomeo Pelipari – residents of Caltrano, and Jacopo, son of the deceased Antonio Gerardi, - from Chiuppano.

30/207
3 January 1465.
Brothers Francesco and Pascal, sons of the deceased Pietro Bertoni from Carre, and Lazzaro, son of the mentioned Francesco, for 22 lira and 10 denarii sold to Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni Terenati from Caltrano, a plot of arable land, planted with vineyards and trees, one field size. The plot is located in the vicinity of Carre on the border with Lentanis near the house of the heirs of Antonio Contio (Contis) from Carre – from one side; near the house of mentioned Pascal – from the other side; vixolum of Nicolao from Carade – from one end; and near the communal road – from another end. Mentioned Lazzaro at the time of the contract paid only 11 lira; the purchase will be considered successful after the full payment. The contract is sealed in Caltrano village in the house of mentioned buyer in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro from Caltrano, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the deceased Pietro Cisi, Giovannantonio, son of the deceased magister Bartolomeo Peliperi, residents of Caltrano, and Jacobo, son of the deceased Antonio Gerardi from Chiuppano.

31/207
4 January 1465.
Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni Terenati from Caltrano, rented out to Francesco, son of the deceased Berto from Calvene, and Niccolò … Germanum, son of the deceased Pietro from Calvene, a plot of land, partly arable, partly thickly overgrown with trees and olives, about 4 fields size. The tenant is obliged annually pay 6 starii and two quarters starii more 8 days before and after the St. Felix’s day. Renewal (renovatio) is possible wit the payment of 5 soldo. Rented plot is located in the vicinity of Calvene in contrada La Piana: from the East – near the valley Sabina, from the South – near the river Astikko, from the West – near the valley separating the commune Caltrano and Kalvenes, from the North – near the communal road. The contract is sealed in the Caltrano village in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and three witnesses: Niccolò, son of the deceased Galvani from Meda, Francesco, son of the deceased Berti, and Niccolò, son of the deceased Pietro – all residents of Calvene.

32/207
4 January 1465.
Lazzaro, son of the deceased ser Ognobeni from Caltrano, rented out to Francesco, son of the deceased Pietro from Calvene, and Niccolò … Germanum, son of the deceased Pietro from Calvene, a plot of land, partly arable, partly thickly overgrown with trees and olives, about 4 fields size. The tenant is obliged annually pay 6 starii and two quarters starii more 8 days before and after the St. Felix’s day. Renewal (renovatio) is possible wit the payment of 5 soldo. Rented plot is located in the vicinity of Calvene in contrada La Piana: from the East – near the valley Sabina, from the South – near the river Astikko, from the West – near the valley separating the commune Caltrano and Kalvenes, from the North – near the communal road. The contract is sealed in the Caltrano village in the presence of notary Pietro, son of the deceased ser Gennaro, and three witnesses: Antonio, son of the
deceased Inano from Caltrano, Gasparo, son of Anantio Pelukeli from Caltrano, and resident of Caltrano Bartolomeo, son of the deceased Jacopo from Pedescala of Rotio commune.