

20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**To The Trustees of The International  
Trust for Croatian Monuments**

**PROGRESS REPORT**

Dear Sirs,

I am a PhD student at the University of Zadar. The title of my research program is: Urban Formation and Architecture of Varaždin in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century .

Throughout 2017, with the financial help of the trustees of The International Trust for Croatian Monuments, I finished the systematic exploration, analysis and interpretation of the specific features and changes of the urban character of Varaždin in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century, which was part of my research. Varaždin is the city in the northern part of Croatia, well known as the city with the rich historical layers and the well preserved cultural heritage.

As a part of my study, I travelled to Germany and explored the historical documents preserved in Generallandesarchiv (State archive) in Karlsruhe. I found various charts and maps there which show the position of Varaždin through the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century in Europe, and also several layouts of the city from the same period. These maps, charts and layouts are of great importance for my research.

The main architect working in Austria, Slovenia and Croatia in the second half of 16<sup>th</sup> century was Domenico dell'Aglio, from Italy. Research of the work of dell'Aglio makes a very important part of my research and a significant part of my future PhD thesis. Therefore, I visited cities in south Austria, where the buildings that he constructed are still preserved, several times. The capital of Styria is Graz, and there are many buildings that are useful as comparative examples for the similar buildings preserved in Varaždin. Apart from Graz, I visited the cities with similar architecture and the defensive walls like the ones we can find in Varaždin. In Austria I explored Bad Radkersburg and Fürstenfeld, in Slovenia Ptuj, Maribor and the castle Gornja Radgona. In Croatia, I visited the cities where dell'Aglio constructed the defensive walls - Ivanić – grad, Križevci and Koprivnica.

The important part of the research was a trip to Italy. I travelled to Scaria, the home town of Domenico dell'Aglio, placed in the Alps near the Swiss border. In Scaria lives a very vivid memory of the Aglio family, as the family gave many known builders and architects. There is an interesting museum in the village with various works of art that are heritage of the family Aglio. I was also introduced to the heir of dell'Aglio family, Mr. Giovanni Peduzzi. He is the director of the "Associazione Amici del Museo d'Arte sacra di Scaria" (Association of the friends of the Museum of Arts in Scaria). I am still in contact with Mr. Peduzzi, and he sent me some very useful information and photographs. During my trip to Italy, I also visited the cities Como, Bergamo and Verona, where Domenico dell'Aglio shaped his professional knowledge.

My studies covered fortifications, secular and church buildings which store elements from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century in their construction tissue. With their analysis and use of historical sources, in my PhD thesis I will try to reconstruct a complete picture of the urban development of a city at the turn of the Middle Ages and Modern Times.

A large part of the research is finished. The results of the research were presented on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2017, when I had my Dissertation Proposal Defense in Zadar, in front of 3 members of the Committee and an audience consisting of the university professors and students. I passed the exam successfully, and with compliments of my Committee members.

**I would very much like to thank the trustees of the ITCM for enabling me, with their kind donation, to finish this important part of my PhD study.**

Yours sincerely,

Ivana Peškan, MA in History of Art and Italian Language and Literature  
Senior Expert Advisor – Conservator in Conservation Department in Varaždin



Karlsruhe, Generallandesarchiv



Austria, Graz, Landhaus



Italy, Scaria, mr. Giovanni Peduzzi and Ivana Peškanić in front of the Museum in Scaria