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## A NOTARY ARRIVES TO TANA: VENETIAN NOTARIES IN THE OVERSEAS COLONIES IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY

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This article deals with the fates of the two notaries, Niccolò de Varsis and Benedetto de Smeritis, who served in the 1430s in the Venetian colony in Tana (today Azov), placed in the mouth of the Don River where it flows into the Sea of Azov. In this article based on the notarial documents the author established the chronology of the arrival and departure of our two notaries together with the chronology of the arrival and departure of the respective consuls. Further, based on the self-identifications of the notaries the author inferred that the self-description of the notary and, more broadly, of any person in notarial deeds varied considerably, and there is no reason to see any clear relationship between the formula and the legal status of the person. The *imbreviaturae* of the notarial documents drawn up by the notaries Niccolò de Varsis and Benedetto Smeritis mainly, although with a few exceptions, in Tana from 1430 to 1440 are stored in the Archivio di Stato di Venezia, in the sections *Notarili Testamenti* and *Cancellaria Inferior, Notai*. After the death or the termination of the activities of public notaries, the *Cancellaria Inferior* received these *imbreviaturae*. The deeds of Varsis and Smeritis are the only notary documents of Venetian origin that came to us from Tana in the 1430s. Joining the notarial College, Venetian notaries were not always able to find a place in Venice and went to practice overseas, often combining their work with other positions, most often the clerical ranks, and then they returned home. In the overseas colonies the functions and responsibilities of a notary were much wider than in the metropolis – they included not only the drafting of the private notarial deeds, but also participation in the management of the colonial chancery and administration, the drafting of the official documents of the curial office of the consul, etc. The position of a notary could be combined with other administrative and ecclesiastic posts in the colonies. The notaries in the overseas Venetian trading stations were simultaneously priests, and this can be often seen in Tana, since they could combine in one person a number of essential functions (the chancellor of the consul's curia, the chaplain, the notary). In Tana, the Venetians lived compactly within a community, which determined the special role of the notary, who performed in relation to them, in addition, the duties of the pastor. One of their tasks was to draw up private notarial deeds for the individuals, although their work as notaries was not limited to this, as it is discussed in this article.

**Keywords:** Benedetto di Smeritis, Black Sea, Caffa, colonies, consul, Italians, maritime trade republics, Niccolò di Varsis, Notariate, notary, Tana, Venice

The present article is devoted to the fates of the two notaries, Niccolò de Varsis and Benedetto de Smeritis, who served in the 1430s in the Venetian colony in Tana, nowadays Azov, situated in the embouchure of the River Don where it flows into the Sea of Azov. The *imbreviaturae* of the notarial documents drawn up by the notaries Niccolò de Varsis and Benedetto Smeritis mainly (with a few exceptions) in Tana from 1430 to 1440 are stored in the Archivio di Stato di Venezia (hereinafter – ASV) in the sections *Notarili Testamenti* (hereinafter – NT) and *Cancellaria Inferior, Notai* (hereinafter – CI). After the death or the termination of the activities of public notaries, the *Cancellaria Inferior*

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received these *imbreviaturae* compiled by them. They are divided in three parts: 1) busta 917<sup>1</sup>, 2) busta 231<sup>2</sup>, and 3) busta 750<sup>3</sup>. The deeds of Varsis and Smeritis are the only notary documents of Venetian origin that came to us from Tana in the 1430s. Without going deep into the history and legal essence of the notarial practice, it is crucial to say a few words about the status of the Venetian notaries in the overseas colonies. Joining the notarial College, Venetian notaries were not always able to find a place in Venice and went to practice overseas, often combining their work with other positions, most often the clerical ranks, and then, often in old age, they returned home. In the overseas colonies the functions and responsibilities of a notary were much wider than in the metropolis – they included not only the drafting of the private notarial deeds, but also participation in the management of the colonial chancery and administration, the drafting of the official documents of the curial office of the consul, etc. This obviously required legal education and deep knowledge of the Roman law.

The position of a notary could be combined with other administrative posts in the colonies. According to the decree of the Senate of Venice of February 8, 1333 the consul of Tana was officially obliged to have one notary performing the functions of a priest. Here some clarification is needed. The Venetian notary usually had the rank of a presbyter (while e.g. the Genoese could only be a layman). This naturally followed from the difference in relations of the two republics to the Papal Rome. The Genoese clergy was entirely controlled by the Pope, while the clergy of Venice depended to a much lesser extent on the Roman Curia and much more was a part of the Venetian state machine. Therefore, it is clear why the Venetians, why the Republic of Venice, in an effort to reduce the cost of maintaining the colonies, tended to ensure that the functions of the worship, administration, office work and notarial practice were combined in one hand. Consequently, the notaries in the overseas Venetian trading stations were simultaneously priests, and this can be often seen in Tana, since they could combine in one person a number of essential functions (the chancellor of the consul's curia, the chaplain, the notary). In Tana, the Venetians lived compactly within a community, which determined the special role of the notary, who performed in relation to them, in addition, the duties of the pastor. One of their tasks was to draw up private notarial deeds for the individuals, although their work as notaries was not limited to this, as it was discussed above.

What did the notaries face when they came from Venice to Tana? First of all, I should say a few words about the landscape, the physical and material conditions of life in Tana. The flat area of the Don River region is crossed by low spurs of the Donets Ridge, which is the highland in the North-Eastern part of the Donets upland, and in some places it forms valleys with rivers and streams flowing through them. Sometimes along the rivers and the steppes one can see the human-made tumuli (often with burials). Seemingly deserted nowadays, the steppes were home to numerous nomads [Огородникова 1916, 82]. Tana was situated on the left bank of the Don River, in its embouchure, and it was surrounded by the steppe and its inhabitants, the Tatar nomads. In the XV century Tana was apparently a small settlement entirely or almost entirely surrounded by the fortified walls [Ковалевский 1905, т. 2, 157–162] with the towers; Giosafato Barbaro mentioned one of them, recording his conversation with a Tatar [I viaggi... 1973, 83; Барбаро и Контарини... 1971, 148]. The Venetian community lived alongside with the Jewish and the Genoese quarters. In the middle of the settlement there was a square with the roads leading from it up the hill, to the Jewish and Genoese quarters, and to the river. Near the Venetian settlement there was a nomadic Tatar city and the settlement of the Greek, Russian and other Orthodox people with an Orthodox parish of St. Nicholas. The city was well protected. In times of obvious danger or even a possibility of such, the gates were, of course, locked; however, even during the safe days they were very well guarded.

Let us say further a few words about the features of the administration of the Venetian and Genoese colonies in Tana. Unfortunately, as far as we know, the Venetian Statute of

Tana did not survive; but perhaps it was in many ways similar to the Statute of 1449 for the Genoese trading stations in the Crimea. The rules of urban life were established by the decisions of the Senate and treaties with the Tatars. Some features of the administrative structure of Tana, however, are reflected in the above-mentioned Genoese Statute of 1449; those rules were fixed in the middle of the XV century for the Genoese and their trading station in Tana and probably *mutatis mutandis* can be applied to the Venetian Tana [Барбаро и Контарини... 1971, 44].

The Venetian consul of Tana (along with the officers in Constantinople, Crete, etc.) provided as supervision over the navigation of the Venetian galleys [Карпов 1997, 55] and perhaps had in fact even more power than comparable officers in other colonies, being exposed to the challenges from the Tatars, Turks, and the tribes of the Caucasus. The Council of Twelve was elected to help the consul. In the XIV century, the Venetian Consul in Tana had a staff of ten people [Брун 1848, 716]. The main duty of the consul was the construction of the buildings on the land provided by the Tatars, the strengthening of the trading station and its protection from external invasions [Барбаро и Контарини 1971, 33]. A Venetian document dated February 21, 1474 indicates that in subsequent years the salary of the consul in Tana should have come from fees taken from Venetian merchants trading in Gazaria [Iorga 1899, 211]. In the early XV century, there are trials initiated against consuls who exceeded their powers. However, during our period of 1430s such trials are unknown. Perhaps our consuls did not commit any egregious crimes. Interestingly, our documents, namely the wills, twice call the consul “the consul of Tana and of all the empire of Gazaria”. In addition to the usual administrative and judicial duties the consul had to negotiate terms of relations with the local Tatar khans, who were feuding with each other and constantly changing.

In Tana, there was also a Genoese Consul in Tana, and we have more information on him at our disposal. According to the Statute of 1449 (undoubtedly reflecting also the realities of an earlier time), the consul was given a one-percent duty for the import and export of all goods (*unum pro centario de ingressu et totidem de egressu*). This duty was the salary of the consul and his *cavallerius* (*dicti consulis et cavalerii sui*) [Vigna 1879]. In addition, the consul of Tana received from the Treasury of Caffa 300 silver aspres of Caffa [Vigna 1879]. The Statute even argued that a bigger salary should have been assigned to the consul of Tana, so as “the good consuls would go to that place”.

Arriving in Tana, the consul had to elect two *massarii* (treasurers and accountants) from the local residents (without restrictions on candidates whether they are nobles or commoners; the main condition in this case is that they had to be *ex melioribus*). Together with these *massarii* the consul collected taxes in Tana, including the tax on real estate, so called *terraticum*. The *massarii* had to register in special books of accounts (*massariae*) all incomes and expenses of the colonial administration in the double-entry bookkeeping system [Vigna 1879]. Unfortunately, unlike the *massariae* of Caffa, the books of Tana are not extant. The salary of the scribe and the translator was paid from the treasury at the rate of 300 bezants per person. Two assistants in the curia (*servientes*) received 150 bezants [Vigna 1879]. After paying salaries and spending money on other expenses (e.g. for Christmas and other holidays, which were quite numerous, as the Genoese took care so as Tana would have celebrated them in the same day as the metropolis [Balard 2009, 493–501]) the rest of the money of the administration (coming from the fees, duties, and fines) had to be spent to repair the walls from the side of Zikhia, the project launched by the priest Solomon Teramo (Salomon Teramus) [Vigna 1879]. The Consul and the *massarii* were not entitled to spend more than stated, and were responsible in the case of violation of this rule [Vigna 1879].

The author studied the sequence, in which the two notaries, Niccolò di Varsis and Benedetto di Smeritis, worked in Tana between 1430 and 1440, based on their signatures. Thus we can establish when each of them appeared in Tana and when he left based on the

dates in the notarial deeds, as well as the exact positions that they held in the colony. One should remember that according to the decisions of the Venetian Senate, the presbyter-notary was part of the consul's entourage and his service was paid from funds allocated. Further, the consul himself chose the chancellor of the curia, who carried out respective functions during the term of the consul's mandate. They all went together to Tana, usually with the caravan of galleys, which often performed, in addition to trade, diplomatic and military tasks.

Based on the documents we can infer that Niccolò di Varsis arrived in Tana before August 1, 1430 [ASV, NT, busta 750, 26r] (probably with the caravan of galleys of the year 1430) as a notary and a chaplain of the Venetian consul of the colony Pietro Lando. In the documents for this year [e. g. ASV, NT, busta 750, 26v, 27r], the Venetian consul is also called the consul of the whole Empire Gazaria (Varsis calls himself: ... *spectabilis et egregii domini Petri Lando Venetie ducale per serenissimo dominio honorabilis Tane consulis et tocius imperii Gazarie capelanus*). In late 1430 or early 1431 consul Pietro Lando died (the deed dated January 11, 1431 mentions him as being already diseased [ASV, NT, busta 750, 27v – 28r]), in any case, on January 3, 1431, his duties apparently passed to and were performed by Ermolao Pisani [ASV, NT, busta 750, 28r – 28v]. Varsis calls himself in the *corroboratio*: “Ego presbiter Nicolaus de Varsis Venetus notarius et capelanus egregii viri nobili domini Hermolai Pisani Tane vizeconsulis complevi et roboravi”. After the death of Lando until at least September 9, 1431, in Tana there was no consul and Varsis continued to call himself a chaplain of the vice-consul Ermolao Pisani [ASV, NT, busta 750, 30r – 30v], and then, until October 7, 1432, he called himself as a notary and chaplain of the diseased consul of Tana Pietro Lando [ASV, NT, busta 750, 31r]. Why he omits the position of the chaplain of the vice-consul? The point is that the notary could not call himself otherwise, because in this period (about 1431–1432) there was another chaplain of the Tana, Marco Malipiero (Maripetri); he is mentioned as chaplain of Tana in October 7, 1432 [ASV, NT, busta 750, f. 31r]. Most likely, in 1432 Varsis was still in Tana and performed the functions of notary along with the chaplain Marco Malipiero, and then with his successor Benedetto di Smeritis, chaplain of the new consul Giusto Venier and in 1433 Varsis left Tana for Venice. On February 4, 1434 we find him on Rialto [ASV, NT, busta 750, 31v], and he calls himself simply as a Venetian notary.

Apparently, Benedetto di Smeritis arrived in Tana with the caravan of galleys in the summer of 1432, and initially worked only as a notary. For the first time Smeritis appears as “Venetian notary from Giudecca” in the *imbreviatura* dated 22 July 1432 [ASV, NT, busta 917, 1]. Further, he became a chaplain of the consul of Tana Giusto Venier (presbyter *Benedictus de Smeritis Venetus notarius ac capellanus spectabilis et generosi viri domini Iusti Venerio honorabilis consulis Tane*) [ASV, NT, busta 917, 1] not later than December 27, 1433 (replacing Marco Malipiero) and served as a chaplain and a notary of the consul until at least April 6, 1436 [ASV, NT, busta 917, 1, 2–3, 4, 5–6]. On April 29 and May 2, 1436 he appears in Tana as a *fideicommissarius* of a certain Giorgio [ASV, NT, busta 750, 19r (3) – 19v (4)]. On September 21, 1436 Smeritis is still in Tana judging from the documents [ASV, NT, busta 750, 23v – 24r]. On December 13, 1436 we find him in Constantinople on the position of chancellor of the baylo of Constantinople, Cristoforo Marcello [ASV, NT, busta 917, 7–8]; he held this position until at least August 9, 1437; and at least until January 10, 1439 (the date of his last document drawn up in Constantinople), he remained in the capital of the Byzantine Empire as a notary, again signing as Benedetto di Smeritis. On January 25, 1440, we find him on the galley Alexandria [ASV, NT, busta 917, 8].

We have no formal grounds to believe that Smeritis performed in Tana the duties of the chancellor of the curia, although, of course, as a chaplain notary of Tana he performed these functions. In his own documents, however, he is never mentioned as a chancellor of the consul Giusto Venier. In the deeds of Niccolò di Varsis dated 1436, Benedetto di

Smeritis is referred to as the former chaplain of Tana (*presbyter Benedictus de Smeritis Sancti Hermie, olim capelanus Tane*) [ASV, CI, busta 231, 7v; NT, busta 750, 19r (3) – f. 19v (4)], because he was replaced by Varsis, who arrived with the new consul as a notary and a chancellor. However, if we take into account the fact that Varsis was still the chancellor of the consul in 1435, but at least until the end of March 1436 he stayed in Constantinople and the documents composed in Tana date back to April 24, 1436 [ASV, NT, busta 750, (2) 18v – 19r (3)], then we can conclude the following. Niccolò di Varsis appeared in Tana again as the chancellor of the curia of the new consul Arsenio Duodo, after having spent the winter in 1436 in Constantinople; in spring he moved to Tana. We do not know whether he held the post of chancellor since the summer of 1435 or was elected as chancellor by the new consul Arsenio Duodo, but had to stay for the winter in Constantinople. The first option is more likely, since on April 6, 1436 [ASV, NT, busta 917, 5–6] Smeritis mentions Giusto Venier as the consul; therefore, the next consul, Arsenio Duodo, did not reach Tana yet. Apparently, when Arsenio Duodo was appointed as the new consul, he went to the Black Sea area in 1435 along with Niccolò di Varsis, stayed in Constantinople in the winter of 1435 until the spring of 1436. The estimated time of going from Venice to Tana by sea is about three months [Balard 1978, 474], and provided that the departure of the galleys was delayed greatly, they had to stay for winter in Constantinople together with the consul, his notary and chaplain Varsis and Giosafato Barbaro, the famous author of the travelogues. Anyway, on January 23, 1436 Varsis draws a testament in Constantinople [ASV, NT, busta 750, 18v], and in the *procuratio* on March 25, 1436 also made still in Constantinople [ASV, CI, busta 231, 1r, 1v], he refers to it. It turns out that the new consul Arsenio Duodo and his chancellor Niccolò di Varsis arrived in Tana and took on their duties between April 6 and 24, 1436, succeeding respectively to Giusto Venier and Benedetto di Smeritis.

From April 24 to October 9, 1436 Varsis calls himself “*civis et habitator Venetiarum, imperiali auctoritate notarius et spectabilis et generossi viri domini Arsenii Duodo Tane consulis cancelarius*” [ASV, CI, busta 231, f. 2r etc., same in ASV, NT, busta 750 for the respective dates]. He is the chancellor of the curia of Tana and the chaplain of the consul of Tana Arsenio Duodo; further, he mentions the name of his diseased father (quondam Georgii), his Venetian citizenship (*civis Venetiarum*), and informs us about the nature of his investiture from the Holy Roman Empire (*publicus imperiali auctoritate notarius*). In another document of June 25, 1436 [ASV, CI, busta 231, 3r] he also calls himself a Venice resident (*habitor*), adds a standard title of judge (*imperiali auctoritate notarius publicus ac iudex ordinarius*) and points directly to his position of the chancellor of the curia (*consulis Tane cancelarius*). Remarkably, in the documents from busta 750 with the testaments he does not always mention his post of chancellor, but in the will of June 14, 1436 he mentions the parish to which he continued to be attached in Venice (*ecclesie Sanctorum apostolorum de Venetiis diachonus*) [ASV, NT, busta 750, 21v]. On March 6, 1437 Niccolò di Varsis calls himself only a notary and a chaplain of Tana [ASV, NT, busta 750, 8]. This, however, does not mean that he was replaced as a chancellor by a newly arrived notary, because in his will of July 28, 1437 he again appears as chancellor of the consul [ASV, NT, busta 750, 24r – 24v]. Until January 1, 1439 Varsis signs as the chancellor of the curia of Tana under the consul Arsenio Duodo [ASV, NT, busta 750, 26r]. In the will drawn up on October 7, 1439, Varsis no longer calls himself chancellor (*presbiteri Nicolai de Varsis Venetiarum notarii et ecclesie sanctorum apostolorum diachoni*) [ASV, NT, busta 750, 26r], and this time it already gives us reason to believe that he was replaced by another person. In this case, the word “*deacon*” most likely used not in the sense of the Holy orders in the canonical sense, because Varsis at the same time and in the same deed calls himself both a deacon and a presbyter. Perhaps the notary is referring to the fact that, as a priest, he has a diaconal *benefitium* in Venice.

On August 27, 1445, Varsis is again in Tana, and again as chancellor of the curia, now with a new consul Leonardo Venier; he calls himself “presbyter Nicolaus de Varsis Venetiarum notarius spectabilis et egregii viri Domini Leonardi Venerio Tane consulis chancelarius” [ASV, CI, busta 231, separate parchment]. In May – October, 1454 Varsis is again in Tana, this time just as an ordinary Venetian notary (sanctorum apostolorum et Venetiarum notarius) [ASV, NT, busta 750, 44r – 45r].

The variability of the self-identification formula and descriptors of the notaries allows us to draw several important conclusions. Firstly, the name of the notary (and, more broadly, any person) in notarial deeds varied considerably. Secondly, based on our sources there is no reason to see any clear relationship between the formula and the legal status of the person. If in one testament Varsis calls himself *iudex ordinarius* and the other omits these words, we do not have to think that he lost this status. In addition, the self-description, most likely, adjusted to the way he called himself in the public curial and private documents. Also there is no point in giving much meaning to the absence or presence of the terms *civis*, *habitor*, etc. when we see them in the notarial deeds. If one Varsis calls himself in one place *habitor Veneciis*, this does not mean that he was not a Venetian citizen (*civis*). The formula “ecclesie Sanctorum Apostolorum de Venetiis diachonus” [ASV, NT, busta 750, 18v, 21v] equally seems to be a ritual one; moreover, the notary often calls himself in different ways within the same document [e.g. ASV, NT, busta 750, 18v]. It is likely that when the notary made a longer and probably better paid document he decided to decorate it with a more solemn self-description. The same tendency can be seen in the degree of expansion or reduction of legal formulas. No doubts, some subjective factors also influenced. Summarizing, the use of the formulas of description and self-description in the notarial deeds are flexible, although, undoubtedly, in certain cases, the social reality is still expressed through the legal form.

To sum up, in this article we established the chronology of the arrival and departure of our two notaries (together with the chronology of the arrival and departure of the respective consuls). We also discovered based on the notarial documents that the previously poorly known Marco Malipiero (Maripetri) was mentioned as chaplain of the Tana in October 7, 1432 [ASV, NT, busta 750, f. 31r], and apparently held this position. Finally, based on the titles of notaries we concluded that the self-description of the notary (and, more broadly, of any person) in notarial deeds varied considerably, and there is no reason to see any clear relationship between the formula and the legal status of the person.

<sup>1</sup> It comprises the deeds of Benedetto Smeritis, mainly the wills drawn up by him in Tana from July 22, 1432 to April 6, 1436 (and also a couple of wills drawn up elsewhere).

<sup>2</sup> It comprises the deeds of Niccolò de Varsis, containing the imbreviaturae of various documents drawn up by him in Tana from May 2, 1436 to October 9, 1436, as well as the imbreviatura of one document that he had previously drawn up in Constantinople (March 25, 1435) and a parchment instrument dated August 17, 1445.

<sup>3</sup> It comprises the deeds of Niccolò de Varsis, arranged without chronological sequence.

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Є. О. Хвальков

#### Нотаріус приїжджає у Тану:

#### венеціанські нотаріуси в заморських колоніях у XV столітті

Ця стаття присвячена долям двох нотаріусів, Нікколо ді Варсіса і Бенедетто ді Смерітіса, які служили в 1430-х рр. у Венеціанській колонії в Тані (нині Азов), розташованій у гирлі річки Дон, де вона впадає в Азовське море. У цій статті автор встановив на підставі нотаріальних документів хронологію прибуття і від'їзду наших двох нотаріусів разом з хронологією прибуття і від'їзду відповідних консулів. Далі, ґрунтуючись на самоідентифікації нотаріусів, автор зробив висновок про те, що самохарактеристика нотаріуса і, в більш широкому сенсі, будь-якої особи в нотаріальних справах значно різняться, і немає ніяких підстав бачити будь-який чіткий зв'язок між формулою і юридичним статусом особи. *Imbreviaturae* нотаріальних документів, складених нотаріусами Нікколо ді Варсісом і Бенедетто ді Смерітісом в основному, хоча і з деякими винятками, в Тані з 1430 по 1440 рік,

зберігаються в Archivio di Stato di Venezia, в розділах Notarili Testamenti і Cancelleria Inferior, Notai. Після смерті або припинення діяльності державних нотаріусів Cancelleria Inferior отримували ці *imbreviaturae*. Акти Варсиса і Смерітиса – єдині нотаріальні документи Венеціанського походження, що прийшли до нас з Тани в 1430-х рр. Вступивши в нотаріальну колегію, венеціанські нотаріуси не завжди могли знайти собі місце у Венеції і вирушали практикувати за кордон, часто поєднуючи свою роботу з іншими посадами, найчастіше з духовними чинами, а потім поверталися додому. У заморських колоніях функції і обов'язки нотаріуса були набагато ширше, ніж в метрополії, – вони включали в себе не тільки складання приватних нотаріальних актів, а й участь в управлінні колоніальною канцелярією і адміністрацією, складання офіційних документів куріальної канцелярії консула і т. д. Посада нотаріуса могла поєднуватися з іншими адміністративними і церковними посадами в колоніях. Нотаріуси на заморських венеціанських торгових станціях були одночасно священниками, і це часто можна бачити в Тані, оскільки вони могли поєднувати в одній особі ряд важливих функцій (канцлер курії консула, капелан, нотаріус). У Тані венеціанці компактно жили всередині громади, що визначало особливу роль нотаріусів, які виконували щодо них, крім того, обов'язки пастора. Одним з їхніх завдань було складання приватних нотаріальних актів для приватних осіб, хоча їхня діяльність в якості нотаріусів цим не обмежувалася, як це обговорюється в запропонованій статті.

**Ключові слова:** Бенедетто ді Смерітис, Венеція, італійці, Каффа, колонії, консул, морські торгові республіки, Нікколо ді Варсис, нотаріат, нотаріус, Тана, Чорне море

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#### **Нотариус прибывает в Тану:**

##### **венецианские нотариии в заморских колониях в XV веке**

Эта статья посвящена судьбам двух нотариусов, Никколо ди Варсиса и Бенедетто ди Смеритиса, которые работали в 1430-х годах в венецианской колонии в Тане (ныне Азов), расположенной в устье Дона у впадения в Азовское море. В этой статье автор установил на основании нотариальных документов хронологию прибытия и отъезда наших двух нотариусов вместе с хронологией прибытия и отъезда соответствующих консулов. Далее, основываясь на самоидентификации нотариусов, автор сделал вывод о том, что самописание нотариия и, в более широком смысле, любого лица в нотариальных актах значительно варьируется, и нет никаких оснований видеть четкую связь между формулой самоописания и юридическим статусом лица. *Imbreviaturae* нотариальных актов, составленных Варсисом и Смеритисом в основном, хотя и с некоторыми исключениями, в Тане с 1430 по 1440 год, хранятся в Archivio di Stato di Venezia, в разделах Notarili Testamenti и Cancelleria Inferior, Notai. После смерти или прекращения деятельности государственных нотариусов Cancelleria Inferior получали их. Акты Варсиса и Смеритиса – венецианские нотариальные акты 1430-х гг., дошедшие до нас из Таны. Вступив в нотариальную коллегию, венецианские нотариии не всегда могли найти себе место в Венеции и отправлялись в заморские колонии, часто совмещая свою работу с другими должностями, а затем возвращались домой. В заморских колониях функции и обязанности нотариия были гораздо шире, чем в метрополии, они включали в себя не только составление частных нотариальных актов, но и участие в работе колониальных канцелярии и администрации, составление официальных документов канцелярии курии консула и т. д. Должность нотариия могла сочетаться с другими административными и церковными должностями в колониях. В венецианских заморских факториях нотариии чаще всего были одновременно священниками, и это часто можно видеть в Тане, поскольку они совмещали ряд важных функций (канцлера курии консула, капеллана, нотариия). В Тане венецианцы жили компактно, что определяло особую роль нотариусов, которые выполняли по отношению к ним, кроме прочего, обязанности духовника. Одной из их задач было составление нотариальных актов для частных лиц, хотя их деятельность в качестве нотариусов этим и не ограничивалась, как это обсуждается в данной статье.

**Ключевые слова:** Бенедетто ди Смеритис, Венеция, итальянцы, Каффа, колонии, консул, морские торговые республіки, Никколо де Варсис, нотариат, нотариий, Тана, Черное море

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