

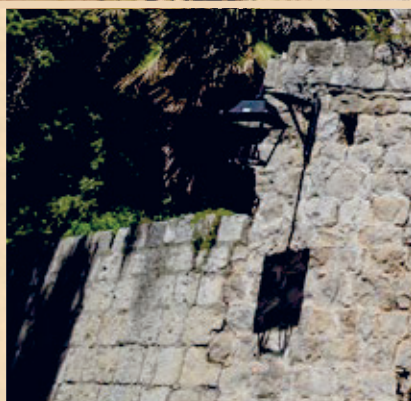
Cavtatske zidine



Franz Joseph Sandmann, *Ragusa Vecchia*, 1847.

(obojena litografija prema crtežu Johanna Högelmuüllera / colored lithograph based on the drawing by Johann Högelmuüller)

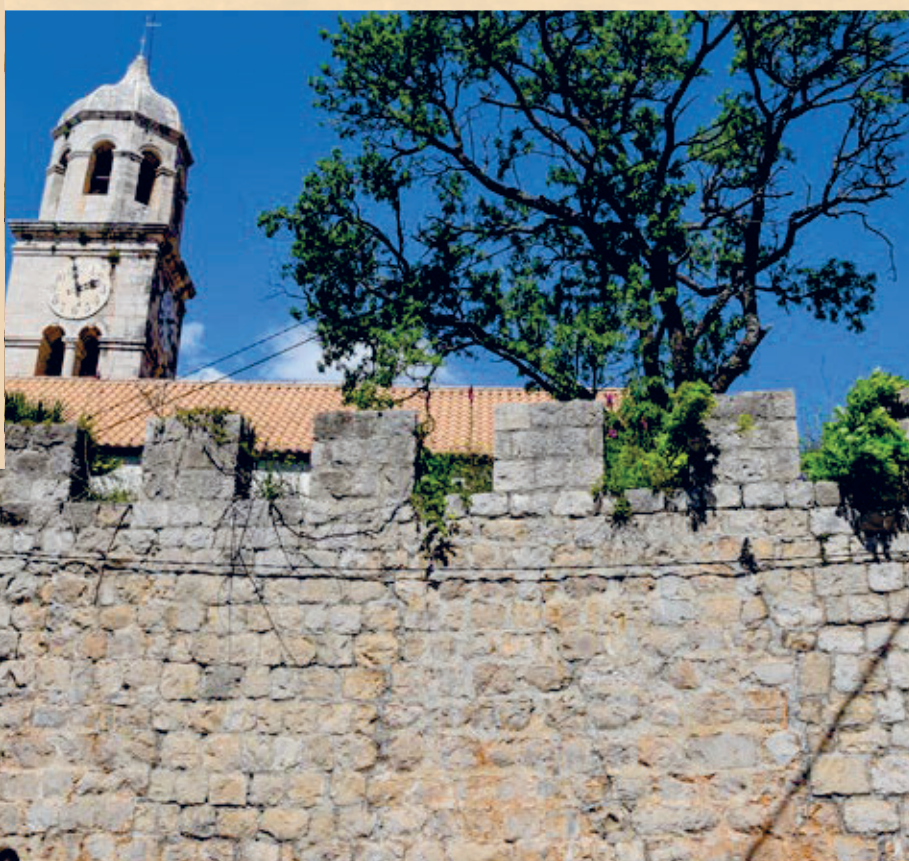
“ Cavtatske zidine danas su sačuvane tek djelomice. Preživjele su ratove i burna stoljeća, ali su krajem 19. i početkom 20. stoljeća u velikoj mjeri porušene ili rasprodane. Ipak, Knežev dvor i dijelovi zidina još uvijek svjedoče o utvrđenjima koja su stoljećima štitila južni prag Dubrovačke Republike i snažno obilježila povijest Konavala.



U 15. stoljeću Cavtat je bio jedan od najambicioznijih urbanističko-vojnih pothvata Dubrovačke Republike. Nakon otkupa istočnog dijela Konavala od bosanskog vojvode Sandalja Hranića 1419. godine, Dubrovačka Republika otkupila je i njihov zapadni dio. Odmah po procjeni sigurnosnih prijetnji s istoka, započela je plansku izgradnju obrambenih fortifikacija na poluotoku Ratu. U antičko doba tu je stajao rimski Epidaurum.

Već 1429. dubrovački je Senat donio odluku da se taj cavtatski poluotok odvoji od kopna kanalom širine dvadesetak metara. Zahvat je bio ozbiljan i hitan, pa je nakon izvida terena tročlana komisija izradila precizan prijedlog za njegovu izvedbu. Naime, nakon ostvarene kupoprodaje u 1427. bosanski vojvoda Radoslav Pavlović nije se mirio s gubitkom tog teritorija i Dubrovčanima je osporavao pravo na nj. Ta nesnošljivost će 1430. godine kulminirati otvorenim sukobom, u povijesti poznatom kao Konavoski rat. Dubrovačka Republika je također žustro reagirala apelima bosanskome kralju Tvrtku II. Tvrtkoviću i Sandalju Hraniću, ali i ugarskome kralju Sigismundu, pa čak i Mlećanima, a oglasila je i bogatu nagradu onome tko usmrti ili živoga privede vojvodu Radoslava. Uslijedili su pregovori, pa mir sklopljen 1432. godine. Radoslav je nastavio posloovati s Dubrovačkom Republikom.

U međuvremenu je kanal ozidan do razine tla i preko njega je izgrađen most. Usto, Cavtat je s istoka trebalo opasati zidinama, pa je podignut fortifikacijski pojas s kulama, puškarnicama i ophodnim putom. Uski otvori u zidinama, kakve i danas možemo vidjeti na njihovom očuvanom dijelu, prilagođeni su onodobnoj tehnologiji vatrenog oružja, a dva masivna zidna krila zalazila su u more i tako onemogućivala nepozvan ulazak u



Cavtatske zidine (današnji ostatci), 15. st. / Cavtat town walls (today's remains), 15th ct.



Katastarski plan, 1837. / Cadastral plan, 1837.



Puškarnica »na ključanicu« u cavtatskim zidinama, 15. st. / Keyhole-style loophole (gun slit) in the walls of Cavtat, 15th ct.

Cavtat. S obzirom na to da je Cavtat bio ključno središte sustava evakuacije i obrane Konavala, nakon prvobitnoga kneza ovdje je stalno boravio vojni kapetan s posadom.

Isto tako, Cavtat je planski organiziran unutar zidina: nove parcele raspoređene su pravilno, ulice na potezu sjever-jug okomito presijecaju Priješko. Potonja je, doduše, zadržala blago zakrivljenje uzduž hrpta poluotoka, i to zato što je pratila trasu *decumana* rimskog Epidaura uz kojega je u antici prolazio vodovod iz Vodovađe.

Premda su pojedine parcele bile omeđene visokim zidovima, čime se zapravo ciljalo ostvarenju drugostupanjske fortifikacije, godine 1451. herceg Stjepan Kosača uspio je zauzeti Cavtat. Prije povlačenja dao

je srušiti njegove zidine, pa ih je Dubrovačka Republika trebala obnoviti. Kao i prethodne, ove radove izveli su Konavljani u dobi od 16 do 60 godina života, pod nadzorom državnih povjerenika i inženjera. Premda su gradili vlastitu utvrdnu, odnosno sklonište, njihov rad ipak nije bio dobrovoljan, nego državna obveza usporediva s vojnom službom.

Na utvrđenju Cavtata angažiran je i vrhunski talijanski hidrotehničar i graditelj Onofrio di Giordano de la Cava. Tijekom boravka u Dubrovniku (1436. – 1443.), glasoviti graditelj opravdao je ukazano povjerenje: uspješno je proveo radove na uspostavi vodovodnog sustava u Dubrovniku, na pregradnji Kneževa dvora nakon požara 1435. te na izgradnji obrambenih zidina u Stonu i Cavtatu (1441.).

Zato nije slučajno da se na veduti Dubrovnika u opsežnom djelu Jacopa Filippa Forestija *Supplementum Chronicarum* – onodobnom *bestselleru* s opetovanim i proširenim izdanjima – istaknuto prikazuje i Onofrijeva fontana. Njezin simbolički prikaz (na lokaciji Velike fontane prikazan je lik Male fontane) nalazimo i u kapitalnom djelu Forestijeva suvremenika



Konrada von Grünenberga (1487.). U razdoblju rastuće osmanske prijetnje cavtatske su zidine dodatno ojačane kulama i produženim krilima. Crtež austrijskoga poručnika Johanna Högel müllera iz 1845. zorno prikazuje dio utvrđenja, a čitav fortifikacijski sustav izgrađen na potezu Luka Cavtat (Porto di Ragusa Vecchia) – Uvala Tiha (Valle Tiha) vidljiv je na katastarskom planu iz 1837. godine.

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Cavtatske zidine (ostatci u 19. st.), 15. st. / Cavtat town walls (remains in the 19th ct.), 15th ct.

“ The walls of Cavtat survive today only in part. They weathered wars and turbulent centuries, but were largely demolished or sold off piecemeal in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Even so, the Rector’s Palace and sections of the walls still stand as testament to the fortifications that for centuries guarded the southern gateway of the Republic of Ragusa — and left a lasting mark on the history of Konavle.

In the 15th century, Cavtat represented one of the most ambitious urban and military accomplishments of the Republic of Ragusa, as Dubrovnik was known at that time. Following the purchase of the eastern part of Konavle from the Bosnian duke Sandalj Hranić in 1419, the Republic went on to acquire the western part as well. An immediate assessment of security threats from the east prompted the systematic construction of defensive fortifications on the Rat peninsula — the very site where the Roman city of Epidaurum had stood in antiquity.

As early as 1429, the Ragusan Senate resolved to separate the Cavtat peninsula from the mainland by cutting a canal roughly 20 metres wide. The undertaking was considered urgent and serious: following an on-site survey, a three-member commission drew up a detailed plan for its execution. The urgency was well-founded. After the sale was completed in



Konrad von Grünenberg, *Beschreibung der Reise von Konstanz nach Jerusalem*, 1487.

Konrad von Grünenberg, *Description of the Journey from Constance to Jerusalem*, 1487

1427, the Bosnian duke Radoslav Pavlović refused to accept the loss of the territory and contested Ragusa's right to it. This hostility came to a head in 1430 with open armed conflict, known to history as the War of Konavle. The Republic responded vigorously, appealing to the Bosnian king Tvrtko II Tvrtković, to Sandalj Hranić, to the Hungarian king Sigismund, and even to Venice — and went so far as to offer a substantial reward for anyone who could kill or capture Duke Radoslav alive. Negotiations eventually followed, and peace was concluded in 1432. Radoslav went on to resume commercial relations with the Republic.

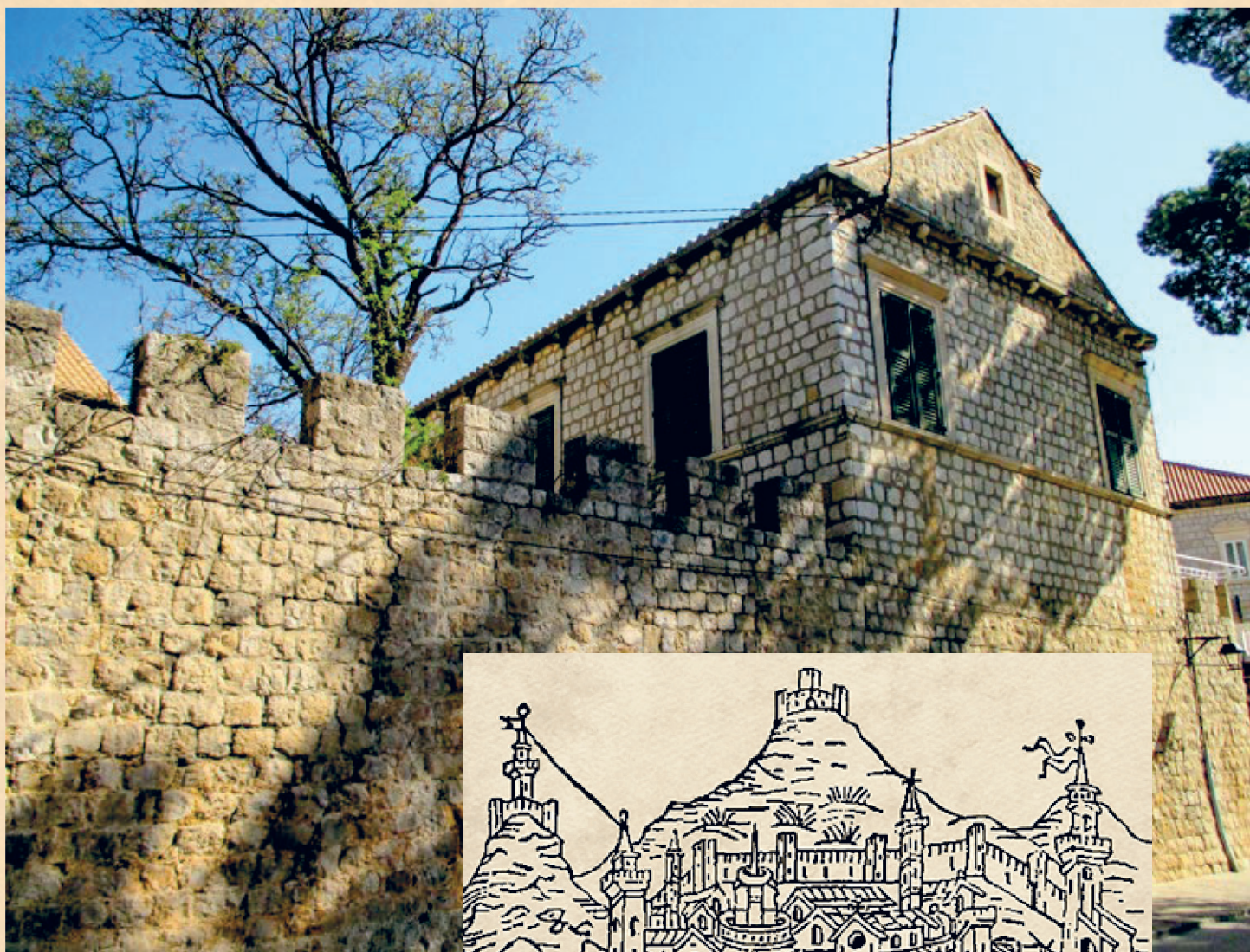
In the meantime, the canal had been excavated and lined with stone to ground level, and a bridge was built across it. Cavtat also needed to be enclosed by walls on its eastern side, so a defensive belt was raised, complete with towers, arrow loops, and a patrol

walkway. The narrow openings in the walls — still visible today on the surviving sections — were designed to suit the firearm technology of the period. Two massive wall wings extended into the sea on either side, making it impossible to enter Cavtat without authorisation. As Cavtat was the key hub of Konavle's evacuation and defence system, a military captain and his garrison were permanently stationed there, alongside the civil governor.

The town within the walls was also carefully planned: new plots were laid out in a regular grid, with streets running north-south and cutting perpendicularly across the main thoroughfare, Prijeko. Prijeko itself retained a slight curve along the spine of the peninsula — following the line of the Roman *decumanus* of Epidaurum, alongside which an ancient aqueduct from Vodovađa had once run.

Although individual plots were enclosed by high walls — a deliberate measure intended to create a secondary line of fortification — in 1451 Duke Stjepan Kosača nonetheless managed to seize Cavtat. Before withdrawing, he ordered the walls demolished, leaving the Republic of Ragusa to rebuild them. As with the original construction, this work was carried out by the men of Konavle between the ages of 16 and 60, under the supervision of state commissioners and engineers. Although they were building their own fortress and place of refuge, their labour was not voluntary — it was a civic obligation, comparable to military service.

The celebrated Italian hydraulic engineer and master builder Onofrio di Giordano de la Cava was also engaged in the fortification of Cavtat. During his years in Dubrovnik (1436–1443), this renowned builder more



Palača cavtatskog kapetana (Knežev dvor) s ostatkom zidina na zapadu, 1555. – 1558.

The Captain's Palace (Rector's Palace) with remains of the western town walls, 1555–1558.



Giacomo Filippo Foresti da Bergamo, *Supplementum chronicarum orbis ab initio mundi*, 1490.

than justified the trust placed in him: he successfully completed the construction of Dubrovnik's water supply system, the reconstruction of the Rector's Palace following the fire of 1435, and the building of defensive walls at Ston and Cavtat (1441).

It is no coincidence, then, that Onofrio's Fountain features prominently in a view of Dubrovnik published in Jacopo Filippo Foresti's wide-ranging work *Supplementum Chronicarum* — a bestseller of its day, reprinted and expanded several times. A symbolic depiction of Onofrio's Great Fountain, showing an image of the Small Fountain, can also be found in the

major work of Foresti's contemporary Konrad von Grünenberg (1487). As the Ottoman threat grew, the walls of Cavtat were further strengthened with additional towers and extended wings. A drawing by Austrian lieutenant Johann Högel Müller, made in 1845, clearly depicts part of the fortifications, while the entire defensive system — stretching from Cavtat Harbour (*Porto di Ragusa Vecchia*) to Tiha Cove (*Valle Tiha*) — is visible on a cadastral plan dating from 1837.

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