

The Shorter Annals of Venice

Translated by William L. North from the edition of H. Simonsfeld, *MGH Scriptores XIV* (Hannover, 1883), pp.70-72. The annals were transcribed from a single codex and were probably written in the early 13th century.

In the year of the Lord 271, the building of the city of Constantinople occurred.

In the year of the Lord 421, the building of Venice occurred.

It should be known that Dominic Silvius ruled as duke for 12 years and waged war with Robert Guiscard and that during this conflict Peter Orseolo was lost. Henry, his son, and Dominic Orseolo, his brother, were betrayed by the emperor, and there they died in prison. Later Vitalis Faletro became doge, and he lived 11 years and 3 months after the aforementioned duke Dominic Silvius had been removed from the position of duke.

Doge Vitalis Michael ruled for five years.

Ordalefus Faletro ruled as doge for 15 years and was killed while fighting in Sclavonia for the honor of all Venice.

In the year of the Lord 700, on the last day of January, in the time of Justinian Particiaci, doge of Venice, occurred the coming of the body of St. Mark the apostle and evangelist, that is to say, it came from Alexandria to Venice.

In the year of the Lord 1062 Domenic Contareus, who was doge of Venice in these times, went to Iadera and captured it.

In the year of the Lord 1080, in the fourth indiction, the Venetians made a hostile naval expedition against Robert Guiscard.

In the year of the Lord 1094, on 25 June, the body of St. Mark the apostle and evangelist was found near a column of this church. Later, on 8 October, the dedication of the church of St. Mark the apostle occurred, while his blessed body was buried in this same year of the Lord 1094.

In the year of the Lord 1096, when Urban [II], the catholic pope, occupied the apostolic see, the glorious Alexis ruled as emperor over the Greeks, Peter ruled the church of Aquileia nova as patriarch, and Henry ruled as bishop of Catalonia (?), there occurred the coming of St. Nicholas the confessor and two other saints to Venice.

In the year of the Lord 1099, in the seventh indiction, in the month of July, the Venetians set forth with their fleet for the sepulcher of Christ.

In the year of the Lord 1105, in the fourteenth indiction, on 28 January, fire came from the home of Henry Geno and burned six churches, namely the churches of the holy apostles, St. Cassian, St. Mary the mother of the Lord, St. Agatha, St. Augustine, and St. Stephen the confessor as well as all of the neighboring buildings. After the sixty-eighth day

In the year of the Lord 1106, on 5 April, fire came from the house of Caucenino de Iemino; the fire burned the church as well as the cenobium, i.e. the monastery, of St. Lawrence, the church of St. Zachary with its cenobium, the churches of St. Severus, St. Proculus, St. Maria Formosa, St. Scholastica, St. Mark along with the duke's palace, St. Bassus, St. Julian, St. Geminianus, St. Moses, St. Maria Jubanicus, St. Angelus, St. Mauritius, St. Vitale, St. Samuel, St. Gregory, St. Agnes, St. Gervasius, St. Barnabas, St. Basil, St. Rafaelus, and St. Nicholas de Dorsoduro. The abovementioned churches number 24 in addition to the adjacent dwellings.

In the year of the Lord 1107, there was a war between Venice and Ravenna, Trevisio, and Padua.

In the year of the Lord 1108, on 3 December, a fleet set forth from Venice against Boamund. The doge at the time was Ordelafo Faliero.

In the year of the Lord 1112, in the month of November, in the sixth indiction, the patriarch Peter went as a legate to the emperor with 14 galleys.

In the year of the Lord 1115, in the month of August, in the eighth indiction, Doge Ordelafo Faliero set out with an army to Dalmatia and captured it, except [for the cities of] Iadera and Belgrade. He then returned to Venice. The following May, he again set out for Dalmatia with knights and ships, and on the day of St. Paul (June 30), the duke himself along with a few knights caused the enemy to flee from the battlefield along with a great multitude of other persons. They then captured Zadar as well as the heavily fortified stronghold within the city, and Belgrade. He also captured the invincible fortress which is called Sebenico, destroyed it down to its foundations, and thus held all of Dalmatia in his powerful grip. The Hungarian counts along with the nobles and many women and children were taken as captives back to Venice.

In the year of the Lord 1116, on 3 January, in the tenth indiction, there was a terrible earthquake in which churches with their bell towers as well as innumerable dwellings, towers, forts, and a huge number of old and new buildings crumbled. Furthermore, the mountains were destroyed by rock-slides and the earth opened up in many places and issued forth sulphurous waters. And on that day, the church of St. Hermachorius and St. John the Beheaded burned along with many of their dwellings.

In the year of the Lord 1120, in the middle of December, the church of St. Peter, our episcopal see, burned along with the entire episcopal residence and a large number of adjacent dwellings. This happened on Friday around night time; on Saturday, Bonifacio Faliero was consecrated priest and on Sunday he was ordained bishop.

In the year of the Lord 1122, in the month of August, in the fifteenth indiction, the Doge Dominic Michael set forth with a large force of ships and cavalry to the sepulcher of Christ. Later [continued in the next year's entry]

In the year of the Lord 1125, in the month of June, in the third indiction, he returned to Venice after victory over the Saracens was achieved and the city of Tyre had been captured. The duke also triumphed over ten cities in Crete and destroyed certain cities in Dalmatia, taking many Hungarian nobles and Dalmatian counts as captives.

In the year of the Lord 1147, in the month of April, a great quarrel arose between Henry Dandolo, the patriarch, and Peter Polani, the doge, together with all of Venice. Because of this dispute, the

aforementioned patriarch was thrown out as were all his kinfolk and many clerics.

In the year of the Lord 1149, in the month of October, a fire came from the enclosure of St. Maria the mother of the Lord and burned 13 churches including the church of St. Raphael.

In the year of the Lord 1159, the Venetians set forth with a great force for Zadar and captured it.

In the year 1161, there was a great disagreement between the emperor of Germany and all its lands and Venice with the result that he besieged Venice. As a result, the patriarch of Aquileia along with all of his dukes and counts came in order to capture the island of Grado. But the aforementioned patriarch and his magnates, as well as many noblemen, were captured by the Venetians and taken back to Venice as captives.

In the year of the Lord 1167, in the month of December, in the fifteenth indiction, on the third day before the festival of St. Luke (Dec.10), three legates of the emperor of Greece arrived with three galleys. After the third day of this festival, fire came from the solarium of St. Salvator and burned the church of St. Luke, St. Patrinianus, St. Benedict, St. Gabriel, St. Samuel, St. Barnabas and St. Basil along with the neighboring buildings, though a few did survive. On another day, legates from the king of Hungary arrived and, in the name of this king, betrothed his granddaughter, Queen Maria, to count Nicolai, the son of Vitalis Michael, the duke.

In the year of the Lord 1168, in the month of November, in the second indiction, six galleys set forth from Venice and captured five galleys from Ancona and all of the people on board. From this group, Jacobus da Mulino and Wicardinus were hung from the mast.

In the year of the Lord 1171, in the month of March, in the fourth indiction, on the day of St. Gregory (March 12), the emperor Manuel [I] ordered all the Venetians who were in any part of Romania, to be seized along with all their possessions and ships. In this same year, in the month of September, one hundred galleys set forth with Doge Vitalis Michael for the lands of Romania.

In the year 1173, a military force left Venice for Ancona.

In the year 1177, on 24 March, in the time of the Doge Sebastian, pope Alexander, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, abbots and priors entered Venice. And on the day of the Annunciation of the Holy Virgin Mary, he was received with great glory. And in this same year, on 23 July, the emperor Frederick, dukes, counts and princes came to Venice with a great multitude of persons from all nations. And on the feast of St. James the Apostle he was honorably received with the kiss of peace by the lord pope Alexander before the doors of the church of the blessed Mark, and he remained in the palace of the lord duke until 18 September. The abovementioned pope Alexander left Venice on 16 October.

In the year of the Lord 1187, in the month of July, a Venetian army set forth for Zadar and returned in September of the same year.

In the year of the Lord 1188 a certain Turk by the name of Saladin captured the Holy Sepulcher, Acre and many other cities. As a result, Frederick set forth against him with more than one hundred thousand men; of these forty thousand were noble knights; and the emperor died with his army. The Venetians set forth to the aid of the Holy Sepulcher with a great fleet, knights, and a large body of people.

In the year of the Lord 1195, in the month of August, the Venetians with their galleys and ships set forth against the Pisans; but immediately after docking at Pola, they discovered the men of this city to be in rebellion against them. So they seized this city and took away all their moveable wealth and property. And in this same year they captured three Pisan ships with all their cargo and brought them back as captives to Venice.