



Institute for Historical Studies, Centre for Venetian History and Cultural Heritage

Pokrajinski arhiv Koper

Kapodistriassov trg 1, 6000 Koper/Capodistria, Slovenia

5th July 2018, 10.00 a. m.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

on

**Venetian Cultural Heritage: Representations of Power and
Identity in the Northern Adriatic**

Participants:

Borut Klabjan, ZRS Koper, Slovenia

Nancy Wingfield, Northern Illinois University, USA

Claudio Povolo, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italy

Darko Darovec, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italy

Salvator Žitko, Zgodovinsko društvo za južno Primorsko, Slovenia

Programme:

9:30 Welcome coffee and registration

10:00–12:00 Workshop and discussion

12:30 Lunch

15:00–18:00 Thematic excursion

The Venetian Republic decisively shaped the development of the Northern Adriatic since most of this region had been gradually incorporated into Venetian maritime empire during the Middle Ages. Venetian rule lasted until the Republic was destroyed by Napoleon Bonaparte at the end of the 18th century, the legacy of the maritime republic, however, extended much further. During the 19th century, a time of rising nationalism and nation states, monuments, representative buildings and even architectural styles acquired a distinct national connotation, as the promoters of nationalist ideology translated their own ideological presuppositions deep into the past, ascribing the cultural activity a meaning that at the time of its emergence was not immanent.

A key example of visual and symbolic representation of this process in the Northern Adriatic is the cultural heritage of the Venetian Republic. Although the Venetian cultural heritage was partly a result of the consolidation of the political power of the Republic in this territory and of the emphasis laid on municipal self-government during the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period, it was, in the contexts of the 19th and 20th century nationalisms, represented in a way that enabled a (re)creation of national identity: it served as an argument in support of the continuity of an Italian character of this region. The workshop therefore focuses on the ascertainment and identification of the various uses and exploitations of Venetian cultural heritage in collective identity formation processes occurring in this region.