

## **The Gnalić shipwreck: Microcosm of the Late Renaissance world**

### **Abstract:**

In the early 1960s, local divers discovered an outstanding shipwreck site, near the small island of Gnalić at the south-western entrance of the Pašman Channel. Subsequently, several archaeological interventions in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and one in 1996, rescued part of the archaeological remains of a large merchantman, dated to the late 16th century. The extent of the site and the excellent preservation of the ship remains and its cargo make it one of the most interesting post-mediaeval shipwrecks known. In the summer of 2012, an international, interdisciplinary expedition returned to Gnalić, with the intent to determine the condition of the hull, verify the quantity of the artefacts remaining on the bottom that required recovery and conservation, and perform a proof of concept to support a full-scale excavation of the shipwreck. Research in the Venetian archives revealed the owner and the name of the ship and many interesting details of its amazing story. Lost in 1583 during a voyage between Venice and Constantinople, loaded with cargo of various origins, the material remains and the recovered history of *Gagliana grossa* represent a cross-section through the Late Renaissance European and Mediterranean world.

**Keywords:** Gnalić, shipwreck, *Gagliana Grossa*, 16th century, Venice, Constantinople, Late Renaissance, Biograd na Moru