

When the volleys shake the Sutivan waterfront on the Feast of the Assumption and that of St. Roko (St. Roch) some startled onlookers are horrified, while others direct their gaze towards the top of the pier and go to see what is happening. It is likely that neither group knows that this is a living tradition of this place, deeply rooted in its history and also a revival of a famous Brač anecdote. We will explain it all in this story:

The church of St. Roko on the hill of the same name above the town was built in 1623 after Sutivan was visited on several occasions by the "Black Death", an epidemic of plague that ravaged the world at that time. The people of Sutivan made a prayer to St. Roko to protect them from that plague and vowed that in his honor, on August 16 every year, a procession and a feast be held, an occasion which is still one of the recognizable traditions of Sutivan. As the procession descended from the hill to the parish church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, groups of men on the seashore would fire volleys from "mužari" (small handheld cannons) and invite people to the procession and to Holy Mass.

This custom is present in various forms and on various holidays in other parts of Croatia. The shooting lasted until 1926, when one of the gunners, miner Jerolim Jere Ture Jutronic-Zuvinic, died in an accident. Since then that tradition has ceased to be observed and only children's device for making loud noises (called "tondin") was used.

After 70 years, Roko Zuanić Anakleto, churchman, custodian of Sutivan's sacral heritage and holder of the papal decoration Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, decided in 2006 to revive this tradition and in his family company Lagena, with the help of friends, made a small replica of an 18th century naval cannon and formed a company of men known as the "Gunners of St. Roko". Since then, the company has marked a series of festivities throughout Dalmatia with their cannonades, such as "Potezanje Mrduje" (Pulling of Mrduja) in Milna, the 400th anniversary of the parish of Pučišća, "Dana u vali" (Days in the bay) in Stari Grad (Old Town) on Hvar, the traditional boat regatta "Rota Palagružana" (Palagruža Route) in Komiža, the appointment of the Bishop of Hvar, Msgr Petar Pavić and



many others. This beautifully made "Sutivan cannon", 50mm in caliber, weighs 246 kg with a stand, and the barrel alone, made of Beller steel weighs 130 kg. All the work, production of fittings, turning, sandblasting and phosphating of pipes, was performed in the Lagena company, which otherwise constructs innovative technical solutions for underwater oil

extraction, for which it is known around the world. The wooden pedestal and accompanying equipment for loading the cannon were made by Sutivan master carpenter Josip Bepo Lukšić, and the sides of the cannon were painted by the famous Sutivan painter Nenad Vlajčić with motifs of the Assumption and St. Roko.

The "Sutivan cannon" was joined by another, the "Brač Island cannon", which actually brought to life one of the most famous Brač anecdotes about the "fig tree trunk cannon" with which the people of Brač shot at the Omiš pirates, in their fortified town at the mouth of the Cetina river. Legend has it that the island of Brač, often attacked by pirates from neighboring Omiš, was preparing to defend itself with firearms, but in the absence of steel, it was decided to make a wooden cannon from a solid fig tree trunk.

During the first attempt to fire a large stone cannonball at Omiš, the cannon exploded and killed several Brač artillerymen standing around it. The survivors said in amazement: "When there are so many of us killed here just imagine what damage must have been done on the other side!" A week later, a man from Brač went to Omiš on business and came across a funeral procession. Upon his return to Brač, he reported: "They are still burying them!"

It was this well known joke that would greet the Gunners of St. Roko on tours outside Brač, and motivated by that, Roko Zuanić decided to turn the joke into an advantage for the second time, as he had already done with the Sutivan "Cat in the bell tower". He again collaborated with the master carpenter Josip Lukšić and painter Nenad Vlajčić to make another replica of a historical weapon whose barrel is clad in wood, with a massive pedestal painted with motifs of St. Juraj (St. George), the patron saint of the island of Brač. This replica



represents the legendary "Brač wooden cannon". It is of the same caliber as the previous one, with a total weight of 260 kg, including a 140 kg barrel. Both cannons are filled with black gunpowder and a non-hazardous charge made of low specific gravity material and fired with a secure percussion capsule system by pulling a rope.

If you want to see and hear them live, in Sutivan they fire their volleys on August 15th and 16th on the Feasts of the Assumption and that of St. Roko and interpret the history and traditions of Sutivan and the island of Brač in a vivid and thunderous way.

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Priča o stivanskim topovima

gromoglasna tradicija

The Story of the Sutivan cannons

thunderous tradition



Kada odjeknu plotuni koji zatresu stivansku rivu na blagdane Vele Gospe i sv. Roka neki se od zatečenih ljudi zgroze a neki sa zanimanjem usmjere svoj pogled prema vrhu lukobrana i odu vidjeti što se to događa. Ni jedni ni drugi vjerojatno ne znaju da se radi o živoj tradiciji ovoga mjesta duboko ukorijenjenoj u njegovu povijest a također i o oživljavanju jedne od najpoznatijih bračkih anegdota. Pojasnit ćemo to sve u ovoj priči:



Plotuni uoči procesije Vele Gospe

Crkva sv. Roka na istoimenom brežuljku iznad mesta sagrađena je 1623. godine nakon što je Stivan u nekoliko navrata pohodila "crna smrt", epidemija kuge koja je u ta vremena harala svijetom, a Stivanjani su se zavjetovali sv. Roku da ih čuva od te pošasti i u njegovu čast 16. kolovoza svake godine održavali procesiju i svetkovinu koja je i danas jedan od prepoznatljivih stivanskih običaja. Dok bi se procesija spuštala s brežuljka do župne crkve Uznesenja Marijina skupine muškaraca bi na morskoj obali ispaljivale plotune iz *mužara* (malih ručnih topova) i pozivali ljudi u procesiju i na Svetu Misu. Taj je običaj u raznim oblicima i na razne blagdane prisutan i u drugim dijelovima Hrvatske. Trajalo je to pucanje sve do 1926. godine kada je jedan od topnika, miner Jerolim Jere Ture Jutronić-

Žuvinić nesretnim slučajem smrtno stradao. Nakon toga je ta tradicija bila prekinuta, a pucalo bi se samo *tondinima i garburom*.

Nakon 70 godina Roko Zuanić Anakleto, crkovinar, skrbnik stivanske sakralne baštine i nositelj papinskog odlikovanja Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, odlučio je 2006. oživiti tu tradiciju i u svojoj tvrtki Lagena uz pomoć prijatelja izradio u manjem mjerilu repliku mornaričkog topa iz 18. st. te оформio družinu "Topnici sv. Roka". Družina je svojim plotunima obilježila od tada niz svetkovina diljem Dalmacije poput "Potezanja Mrduje" u Milni, 400. g. Župe Pučića, "Dana u vali" u Starom Gradu na Hvaru, regate "Rota Palagružana" u Komiži, imenovanje hvarskog biskupa msgr Petra Pavića i mnoge druge.



Start manifestacije «Potezanje Mrduje»

Taj predivno izrađeni "Stivanski top" kalibra 50mm težak je sa postoljem 246 kg, a samo cijev izrađena od Belleroovog čelika teži 130 kg. Svi radovi: izrada okova, tokarenje, pjeskarenje i fosfatizacija cijevi izvedeni su u tvrtki Lagena koja inače konstruira inovativna tehnička rješenja za podvodno crpljenje nafte po čemu je poznata širom svijeta.



Stivanski top sa prikazom Vele Gospe

Drveno postolje i prateću opremu za punjenje topa izradio je stivanski marangun Josip Bepo Lukšić a stranice topa oslikao je poznati stivanski slikar Nenad Vlajčić motivima Vele Gospe i sv. Roka. 2016. "Stivanskom" se topu pridružio i drugi: "Brački top" koji je zapravo oživotvorio jednu od najpoznatijih bračkih anegdota o "topu od smokve" kojim su Bračani gađali omiške gusare tj. njihov utvrđeni grad na ušcu

Cetine. Legenda kaže da se otok Brač, često napadan od gusara iz susjednog Omiša pripremao za obranu vatrenim oružjem ali u nedostatku čelika odlučeno je napraviti drveni top od čvrstog smokvinog debla.



Plotun za vrijeme procesije sv. Roka



Plameni plotun za blagdan Vele Gospe 15. kolovoza



Top na provleute daje znak za početak «Potezanja Mrduje»



Brački top sa prikazom sv. Jurja koji ubija zmaja

SLOBODNA DALMACIJA

Kad stivanski topovi grme, mužari šute, a bračke kanonade na Velu Gospu i Sv. Roka, 15. i 16. kolovoza, čuju se i u Omišu

Galerija

Poznati Bračani, srednjovjekovni stivanski topovi, učestvuju u tradicionalnom blagdanu Vele Gospe i Sv. Roka.



Reportaža o stivanskim topovima u Slobodnoj Dalmaciji 2019.

MANJE POZNATI IZRAZI:

Tondin, naprava kojom se za božićne i novogodišnje blagdane puca udarcem iste o zid, sastoji se od komada punog željeznog profila (duž. 5 do 10 cm) u kojem je sa jedne strane izbušena udubina u koju se stavlja prah, smjesa sumpora i klore, otvor se začepi poklopcem, sa prikladnom rukom tondinom se udara o zid i tako izaziva eksploziju

Garbura, karbid, šupljikava smjesa koja u dodiru s vodom stvara eksplozivni plin, služi i za osvjetljenje

Marangun, drvodjelac, stolar

