Earthquake of 30 April 1279, Umbria-Marche Apennines

STATE OF EARTHQUAKE REVIEW
The bibliography of the catalogue was revised and contemporary memorial sources were found. The research was carried out on the basis of the major collections of sources on medieval history (Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Rerum Italicarum Scriptores first and second series and Fonti per la storia d'Italia). In the light of the testimonies of the sources closest to the event, it is right to sustain that this earthquake is clearly different from the Friulian one of 24 April 1279, or from the one of the Romagna area of 1 May 1279. However, the origin of the confusion between the three earthquakes, and especially between the ones of the Marche area and of the Romagna area can be found in the medieval chronicles of beyond the Alps, that remember them as connected events. In any case, two independent sources, one of the Umbrian area and another of the Romagna area, distinguish the two shocks, and attribute differently localised damage.

The notary Romualdo di Benvenuto, who lived at Foligno between the end of the thirteenth and the middle of the fourteenth centuries, remembered that in 1279 there were strong earthquakes in the area surrounding the Umbrian city. The first one happened on the last Sunday of the month of April (that is, on the 30th day), after vespers («post vesperas»): this time indication should correspond to the middle of the afternoon (very approximately around 14:00 GMT), supposing that the ninth hour had already been moved from halfway the afternoon to midday, and as a consequence the hour of the vespers from one hour before sunset to halfway the afternoon (Billinger, 1892). This «slipping» of the hour was adopted in the monastic cycles in the fourteenth century, but not everywhere and not in the same period. Thus, the doubt regarding the time conversion which is not easily solved, persists.

Pietro Cantinelli, a notary of the Romagna area and direct witness of the event, attests, after having annotated that on 30th April at about the hour of the Vespers («circa horam vesperarum») there was a big earthquake, that in the following night, that is, between 30th April and the 1st May occurred a big earthquake in the Romagna area in the middle of the night («quasi circa horam medie noctis»). A later testimony of the fifteenth century, which only partially depends on the chronicle of Pietro Cantinelli in the «Anales Forolivienses», makes it possible to approximate better the time origin of this shock, as it is written that it happened «at the matins» («in matutinis»), that is, at the moment of the first morning prayer established by Saint Benedict’s rule, that for the period in question corresponds to an interval of time between about 3 and 3:30 in the morning (about between 2:00 and 2:30 GMT).

Thus, despite of their geographical and chronological closeness, the earthquakes of 30th April and of 1st May 1279 must be considered different. The earthquake of 30th April is testified by many chronicles of the Italian area of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The most detailed source contemporary to the event is the chronicle of the Franciscan father Salimbene de Adam, made up in the eighties of the thirteenth century. The author presumably died between the end of 1288 and the beginning of 1289. It is not exactly known where Salimbene was at the moment of the earthquake, he might have been in the same area of the earthquake or he might have received his in-
formation from his brothers. It could be that he moved to Reggio Emilia at the end of 1279. The same information of Salimbene was also reported by the notary of the Reggio area Alberto Milisoli and in a shorter form by another source of the Reggio area, the anonymous «Memoriale potestatum Regensium». Salimbene and Alberto Milisoli refer, next to the damage caused to the Umbria-Marche area, also, though more concisely, to the effects of the shock localised in the Romagna area. Both authors and the anonymous «Memoriale potestatum Regensium» date the two earthquakes to 1st May 1279 without any time indication.

Partially divergent from the previous tradition, the «Annales Veronenses de Romano», written between the thirteenth and the fourteenth centuries, briefly mention the earthquake, recording that the shocks were felt in Rome and Montecassino. A very synthetic, local source for Foligno is the already mentioned notary Bonaventura di Benvenuto. A quick allusion to an earthquake that destroyed many castles in Tuscany and Romagna is found in the «Continuatio Pontificium Italica II», on the life of pope Niccolò III (1277-1280), while in the «Annales Placecentini Gibellini» of the thirteenth century, one can find information regarding, probably, Forli.

In the chronicle of Andrea Dandolo – he lived during the first half of the fourteenth century and was doge of Venice from 1343 till 1354 – next to the information of the earthquake of 24 April 1279, it is mentioned that a shock was felt at Venice on 30th April without any time indication. The same information returns in some handwritten chronicles dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and preserved in the Biblioteca del Museo Civico Correr (Library of the Correr Civic Museum).

News of the seismic event is also reported in some chronicles of the German area. The most detailed is the «Chronica S. Petri Erfordensis moderna» made up at Erfurt by the middle of the fourteenth century. It specifies more precisely – and probably in an exaggerated way – the damage suffered by Nocera, Camerino and Serravalle di Chienti. The «Annales Polono-rum», compiled by the monastery of the GreyFriars of Cracow and dating back to the second half of the fourteenth and the beginning of the fifteenth centuries, record above all the effects of the earthquake on the environment, without explicitly mentioning any locality. There are brief mentions of the earthquake in the «Annales Neresheimenses», written in the monastery of S. Ulrico of Neresheim (diocese of Augsburg), which original core dates back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries with continuations until the beginning of the fifteenth century, and in the «Chronica Elwacense», written in the monastery of the Saints Vitus, Sulpicius and Servilius of Elwangen (in the same diocese of Augsburg), which draws on the previous chronicle. Both chronicles mention effects on the environment which are most likely exaggerated by the distance and the understandable overemphasis of a story which looses its rational descriptive elements.

This earthquake of the Umbria-Marche area, often described together with the one of the Romagna area, is handed down in the erudite historiography of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries: starting from Sigonio (1591) it is recorded by Lili (1649-1652), Tatti (1683), Muratori (1762-1764), De Morani; and by the local historians of the nineteenth century: Acquacotta (1838-1839), Moroni (1840-1879), Peruzzi (1847), Conti (1872), Santi (1879-1884), Gaspari (1883) and Savini (1891). Of this tradition of studies the most interesting is the work by the historian Camerino Camillo Lili (1649-1652), who used the diary of Pietro Antonio Lili, his ancestor who lived two centuries earlier (about the middle of the fifteenth century), and who, next to quoting Sigonio, reports the transcription of a sales act made up between the noble family Bulgarelli and the city of Camerino in 1283. In the document the earthquake of April 1279 is an element of dating.

From Bonito (1691) on, this earthquake has converged in the seismological tradition through the catalogues of Perrey (1848), Mercalli (1883), Taramelli (1886), to finally end in Baratta (1901), a reference study for the PFG Catalogue (1985). After that date were published the catalogues of Paciarotti (1989) and of Conversini et al. (1990), the most recent study on the event is contained in the study done by Costelli et al. (monography of the GNDT, available, 1997).
Earthquake of 30 April 1279, Umbria-Marche Apennines

EARTHQUAKE SOCIAL CONTEXT
Salimbene’s chronicle states that at Camerino a lot of people died, but it does not specify how many. The information of a thousand deaths only in Camerino and five hundred in the castle of Serravalle di Chienti is attested by the «Chronica S. Petri Erfordensismoderna». Probably, this information is exaggerated and must be seen in the light of the strong impact that the seismic event had on the society and culture of the time. The «Annales Polonorum» talk about a Cistercian convent where fifty nuns died: this is probably the monastery of Camerino quoted by the historian Lili, based on the diary of one of his ancestors, in which it is affirmed that all the nuns, except one, died.

ADMINISTRATIVE/HISTORICAL AFFILIATIONS AND BOUNDARIES
The most developed of the struck centres was Foligno, a town with «popular» magistrates, that one decade after the seismic event was involved in a lacerating war with Perugia. Nocera Umbra was under the dominion of Perugia from 1202.

MAJOR EARTHQUAKE EFFECTS
The earthquake of 30 April 1279 that occurred at about 14:00 GMT («circum horum vesperrum», or «post vespers» or «immediate post vespers») hit a vast area of the Umbria-Marche Apennines. The terminology used by the sources does not allow an immediate identification and diversification of the damage for the various localities. In any event, the earthquake emerges from the testimonies as a strongly destructive event, with devastating effects on the buildings and on the environment.

The most heavily damaged towns were Camerino, where towers and houses collapsed, and in particular the bell-tower of Holy Mary, the tower of Saint Giacomo and a monastery; and Serravalle di Chienti, where the castle was swept away by wide landslides. There was also heavy damage at Nocera Umbra and in numerous small castles in the mountains, which are not specified (fig. 1). There was also considerable damage at Cingoli, Fabriano, Matelica, San Severino Marche and Spello. At Cerreto di Spoleto the inhabitants of the town held an open-air council, close to the walls of the castle, as staying in the city was extremely risky. This is a sign that the earthquake had probably rendered some of the buildings unsafe.

The area where the earthquake was only felt, extended itself from Rome and Montecassino in the south, to Venice and maybe Forlì in the north. According to the sources, the strongest shocks continued for 14, 15 or 17 days. The vagueness and the imprecision of this information do not allow us to outline a certain chronological seismic sequence.

EFFECTS BY INDIVIDUAL LOCALITY
Cagli
This is one of the localities («castra»), which according to Salimbene de Adam, Alberto Milioli and the «Memoriale postestatum Regensium» suffered heavy damage («dirupta»).

Camerino
Two of the zones in which the city was divided were severely hit («submerso») and, as a consequence, there were many victims, according to Salimbene de Adam, Alberto Milioli and the «Memoriale postestatum Regensium». The «Chronica S. Petri Erfordensis», probably exaggerating the news, records the destruction of all the towers and houses and counts a thousand victims. According to the historian of Camerino, Camillo Lili (1649), who used the diary of Pietro Antonio Lili, his ancestor who lived two centuries earlier (about the middle of the fifteenth century), the bell-tower of Holy Mary collapsed («cecidit»), togetherness with the tower of San Giacomo and a monastery of nuns all of whom died but one. Maybe the «Annales Polonorum» refers to about the same convent; they refer to a Cistercian monastery where fifty nuns died.

Castello di Serravalle
The locality is explicitly mentioned in the medieval sources, recording the name «Serovalles» («Chronica S. Petri Erfordensismoderna», as well as in implicitly as «castrum» (Salimbene de Adam, «Annales Polonorum»). The settlement was destroyed («spianato») by a concurrence of seismic effects on the buildings and on the environment: the damage directly caused by the earthquake was in fact probably aggravated.
Fig. 1. Location of major seismic effects in 30 April 1279 classified using Mercalli-Cancani-Sieberg macroseismic scale. In this map are highlighted 13th century castles built in this area.
by a large land slide which stuck from the dominating mountains that hit the fortified village. All the inhabitants of the castle, that is 500 people, died.

Cerreto di Spoleto
The inhabitants of the town held a council on the side of the mountain, close to the castle walls as staying in the city was extremely risky. According to the local archivist and historian Sansi (1879) this is a sign that the earthquake caused considerable damage.

Cingoli
This is one of the localities (castra), which according to Salimbene de Adam, Alberto Milioli and the Memoriale potestatum Regensium, suffered heavy damage (dirupta).

Fabriano
This is one of the localities (castra), which according to Salimbene de Adam, Alberto Milioli and the Memoriale potestatum Regensium, suffered heavy damage (dirupta).

Foligno
A strong earthquake was felt, as records the notary Bonaventura di Benvenuto, who does not mention any other effects. According to Salimbene de Adam, Alberto Milioli and the Memoriale potestatum Regensium, suffered heavy damage (dirupta).

Forlì
According to the Annales Placentini Gibellini, the shock extended to this city (supposing that the source, with the expression Furinum, refers really to Forlì, whose correct denomination should be Forlivium).

Matelica
This is one of the localities (castra), which according to Salimbene de Adam, Alberto Milioli and the Memoriale potestatum Regensium, suffered heavy damage (dirupta).

Montecassino
The locality is recorded as the extreme limit of the area where the earthquake was felt, according to the contemporary Annales Veroneses de Romano.

Nocera Umbra
More than half of the city collapsed; in particular the monastery of the largest church collapsed (corruius) together with its surrounding buildings, assigned to the canons. Many people died but the bishop was saved, according to the information in the Chronica S. Petri Erfordensis moderna.

Roma
The shock was felt considerably: the table at which the Pope was eating and the entire palace moved in an impressive way, according to the Chronica S. Petri Erfordensis moderna.

San Severino Marche
This is one of the localities (castra), which according to Salimbene de Adam, Alberto Milioli and the Memoriale potestatum Regensium, suffered heavy damage (dirupta).

Serra San Quirico
The local historian Gaspari mentions the earthquake in general, on the basis of the historian of Camerino, Lili, who does not provide any information on the city. At the present state of the research it is deemed opportune not to attribute any value of intensity.

Spello
This is one of the localities (castra), which according to Salimbene de Adam, Alberto Milioli and the Memoriale potestatum Regensium, suffered heavy damage (dirupta).

Venezia
According to Andrea Dandolo an earthquake shock was felt; any other information was not reported. The shock is dated 30 April 1279, but the missing of a time indication leaves some doubt on whether it was really the shock localized in the Umbria-Marche area that was felt, or the one localized in the Romagna area.

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT
From the mountains overlooking the settlement of Castello di Serravalle a large landside broke away which probably hit the fortified village, thus exacerbating the damage caused directly by the earthquake, and obstructed the course of the river below (fig. 2), causing the formation of a lake.
LOCATION AND NATURE OF THE OBSERVED EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Landslide, earth flow, mud flow in Castello di Serravalle
In the medieval sources the locality is mentioned explicitly, by recording its name "Serovallis" ("Chronica S. Petri Erfordensis moderan", as well as implicitly, as "castrum" (castle) (Salimbene de Adam; "Annales Polonorum"). From the dominating mountains a large landslide broke off and probably hit the fortified village, thus worsening the damage caused directly by the earthquake, and obstructed the course of the river below, causing the formation of a lake. The effects outlined by the sources are congruent with the topographical location and the geological knowledge available on the area of Castello di Serravalle. In fact, the locality is situated at the beginning of the valley of the river Chienti and still today one can observe the remaining of a castle, parts of whose walls seem to date back to the end of the thirteenth century. Moreover, the territory is prone to a geological instability in the case of a seismic shock, with the consequent interruption and/or deviation of the course of the river Chienti and the creation or disappearance of small lakes or swamps. An analysis of aerial photos at various scales and different ages, has disclosed on the area some superficial, as well as, deep landslide movements. The deep slides, in general classifiable as complex slidings are wider than the superficial ones and contain either mountain
side detrital deposits as well as substrata of rock. One of these landslides in particular, which started between approximately 950 and 560 m. on the left hydrographic side of the valley, hit the most northern part of the village of Castello di Serravalle. This sliding did not only bring down the detrital covering but also the substratum of rock; in total about one million cubic metres of material that reached the valley floor and temporarily obstructed the course of the river. This might have caused the temporary swamping or formation of a temporary lake of modest dimensions and depth, immediately at the deposits of the landslide. Even if it is not possible to date the landslide, its still very «young» (at least ten centuries) and obvious morphological characteristics indicate that the movement is not that old: it could thus be the one mentioned by the medieval sources, related to the earthquake of 1279. In fact, the type of movement, a collapse of rocky material broken off due to a landslide, and the form of the deposits, localized largely at the foot of the mountainside, are compatible with a seismic trigger, related to the shaking of the mountainside due to an earthquake.

**SEQUENCE OF THE MAIN TREMORS**

Even if the sources show uncertainties and variations as regards the indication of the day on which the earthquake occurred, because of the almost temporal concomitance and geographical proximity of another shock, some chronicles (the one of the notary Foligno Bonaventura di Benvenuto for the Umbrian area, and the one of Pietro Cantinelli for the Romagna area, report precise time indications and distinguish the two shocks: one first shock, localized in the Umbria-Marche area occurred on 30 April 1279 at about the hour of the vespers, or a bit later («circa horam vesperarum» (Pietro Cantinelli), «post vesperas» (Bonaventura di Benvenuto), «immediate post vespas» («Chronica S. Petri Erfurdiensis modernae»), a time indication which should correspond to the middle of the afternoon (very approximately at about 14:00 GMT), supposing that the ninth hour had already been moved from halfway through the afternoon to midafternoon, and as a consequence the hour of the vespers from one hour before sunset to halfway through the afternoon (Bilfinger, 1892); a second shock localized in the Romagna area occurred in the middle of the night between 30 April and 1 May.

---

**List of classified localities**

*Earthquake of 30 April 1279 14:00 GMT*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Local intensity MCS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camerino</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>43080713</td>
<td>13040521</td>
<td>IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castello di Serravalle</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>43035295</td>
<td>12563129</td>
<td>IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nocera Umbra</td>
<td>PG</td>
<td>43064533</td>
<td>12471728</td>
<td>IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cagli</td>
<td>PS</td>
<td>43324527</td>
<td>12390326</td>
<td>VII-VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cingoli</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>43222867</td>
<td>13135873</td>
<td>VI-VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabriano</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>43200776</td>
<td>12541852</td>
<td>VII-VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foligno</td>
<td>PG</td>
<td>42571816</td>
<td>12421313</td>
<td>VII-VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matelica</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>43152069</td>
<td>13003398</td>
<td>VII-VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Severino Marche</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>43134325</td>
<td>13103875</td>
<td>VII-VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spello</td>
<td>PG</td>
<td>42593016</td>
<td>12400524</td>
<td>VII-VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerreto di Spoleto</td>
<td>PG</td>
<td>42490832</td>
<td>12550111</td>
<td>VI-VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roma</td>
<td>RM</td>
<td>41534321</td>
<td>12285656</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montecassino</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>41292340</td>
<td>13484964</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezia</td>
<td>VE</td>
<td>45261526</td>
<td>12200705</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forli</td>
<td>FO</td>
<td>44130017</td>
<td>12025718</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serra San Quirico</td>
<td>AN</td>
<td>43264947</td>
<td>13005445</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table of values of the text
(see details in Guidoboni «Method of investigation, typology and taxonomy of the basic data: navigating between seismic effects and historical contexts», this volume)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>direct source;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe</td>
<td>source chronologically close to the event, but geographically remote;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fi</td>
<td>indirect source;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fn</td>
<td>negative source, used ex silentio;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fa</td>
<td>apocryphal source;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>inventory or list of seismic events prior to the thirteenth century;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rf</td>
<td>inventory containing transcription of source;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>catalogue of earthquakes;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cf</td>
<td>catalogue containing transcription of source;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>seismic bulletin;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St</td>
<td>historiographic contribution;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bs</td>
<td>scientific contribution;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ig</td>
<td>general information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(«quasi circa horam medie noctis») (Pietro Cantinelli). Since at the time of the earthquake the days were divided into canonical hours, the expression «horae medie noctis» does not actually mean «24:00 h» (or 23:00 GMT). It in fact indicates very generally the middle of the night, and hence the precise time cannot be determined more precisely. A later testimony, which only partially depends on the chronicle of Pietro Cantinelli, in the «Annales Forolivienses», makes it possible to approximate better the time origin of this shock, as it is written that it happened «at the minuit» («in matrinum»), that is, at the moment of the first morning prayer established by Saint Benedict’s rule, that for the period in question corresponds to an interval of time between about 3:00 and 3:30 in the morning (about between 2:00 and 3:00 GMT).

According to the sources, the strongest shocks continued for 14, («Chronicon Elwacense», «Annales Neresheimenses») or 15 (or 17) days («Annales Polonorum»). The vagueness and the imprecision of this information prevent an accurate outline of the sequence of the shocks of the Umbria-Marche area or of the Romagna one.

### STATISTICS OF THE TEXTS USED
Total number 42 of which:
- F 13, Fi 4, R 1, C 5, St 15, Bs 4.
- Manuscript sources from: Archives 1, Libraries 2.

### REFERENCES IN ALPHABETIC ORDER WITH CLASSIFICATION OF THE VALUES OF THE TEXT

**Acquarossa C.**

Ancona 1838-1839

**Annales Forolivienses**

Città di Castello 1903-1909

**Annales Neresheimenses**

Hanover 1852

**Annales Placentini Gibellini**

Hanover 1863
Annales Polonorum F

Anonymous Regiensis F

Archivio di Stato di Macerata, Sezione di Camerino, Comune di Camerino, Libro Rosso (1270-1336) F
Archivio di Stato di Macerata, Sezione di Camerino, Comune di Camerino, Libro Rosso (1270-1336), Copy of a deed of sale between the Bolognelli family and the Comune of Camerino drawn up on 9 December 1283. 1283

Baratta M. C
I terremoti d'Italia. Saggio di storia, geografia e bibliografia sismica italiana (anastatic reprint, Sala Bolognese, 1979). Torino 1901

Biblioteca del Museo Civico Correr di Venezia, Manoscritti Cigogna, 1901 F
Biblioteca del Museo Civico Correr di Venezia, Manoscritti Cigogna, 1901. Cronaca della città et Repubblica di Venezia dall'origine fino al 1340, cent. XVII. 0017

Biblioteca del Museo Civico Correr di Venezia, Manoscritti Cigogna, 2108-2109 F
Biblioteca del Museo Civico Correr di Venezia, Manoscritti Cigogna, 2108-2109. Cronaca veneta o storia dal 421 al 1752, cent. XVIII. 0018

Bilfinger G. Bs
Die mittelalterlichen Hymnen und die modernen Stunden. Ein Beitrag zur Kulturgeschichte. Stuttgart 1892

Bonaventura di Benvenuto F

Bonito M. R
Terra tremante, o vero continuazione de' terremoti dalla Creazione del Mondo sino al tempo presente (anastatic reprint, Sala Bolognese 1980). Napoli 1691

Boschi E., Guidoboni E., Ferrari G. and Valensise G. C

Cantinelli Pietro F

Castelli V., Monachesi G., Stucchi M., Coppa P., Molin D. and Zerra A. Bs

Chronica S. Petri Erfordensis moderna [1072-1335] F

Chronicon Elvacense [1-1477] F

Conti A. St
Camerino e i suoi dintorni. Camerino 1872

Continuatio Pontificum Italice II [1276-1285] F

Conversini P., Lolli O., Molin D., Paciello A. and Pagliacci S. Bs
Ricerche sulla sismicità storica della provincia di Perugia, Quaderni Regione dell'Umbria, n.s., Collana Sismica, vol. 1b. Perugia 1990
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaspari D.</td>
<td>Memorie storiche di Serrasanguirico nella Marca d’Ancona.</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Roma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giuliani G.</td>
<td>Memorie spettanti alla storia, al governo ed alla descrizione della città e campagna di Milano ne’ secoli bassi raccolte ed esaminate dal Conte Giorgio Grimaldi, nuova edizione con note ed aggiunte (anastatic reprint), Milano 1974-1875.</td>
<td>1856-1857</td>
<td>Milano</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilio C.</td>
<td>Dell’Hicstoric di Camerino, 2 vols.</td>
<td>1649-1652</td>
<td>Macerata</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercalli G.</td>
<td>Vulfani e fenomeni vulcanici in Italia (anastatic reprint), Salò Bolognese, 1981.</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Milano</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moreschini M.</td>
<td>Ragionamento storico-filosofico sul tremuto accaduto in Camerino il 28 luglio 1799.</td>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Camerino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mononi G.</td>
<td>Dizionario di erudizione storico-civilestica da San Pietro sino ai nostri giorni specialmente intorno ai principali santu, beati, martiri, padri, ai sommi pontefici, cardinali e più celebri scrittori ecclesiastici, 103 vols. + 6 of indexes.</td>
<td>1840-1879</td>
<td>Venezia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muratori L.A.</td>
<td>Annali d’Italia del principio dell’era volgare sino all’anno 1750, 12 vols.</td>
<td>1762-1764</td>
<td>Lucca</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paleari R.</td>
<td>Memorie sismiche suoseverianiti.</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>San Severino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peruzzi A.</td>
<td>La storia d’Ancona dalla sua fondazione all’anno MDXXXII, 2 vols.</td>
<td>1847</td>
<td>Bologna</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sansi A.</td>
<td>Storia del comune di Spoleto dal secolo XII al XV secoli, da alcune memorie dei tempi posteriori, 2 vols.</td>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Foligno</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savini P.</td>
<td>Storia della città di Camerino, 2nd ed.</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Camerino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigonio C.</td>
<td>Historiarum de Regno Italiae libri viginti [-1580].</td>
<td>1591</td>
<td>Frankfurt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Earthquake of 30 April 1279, Umbria-Marche Apennines


Tatti P.L. St Dagli annali sacri della città di Como [...] Decade seconda. Milano 1863

BASIC TEXTS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CRITICAL VALUE

Direct source = F


<p. 24> 1279. Vigilia sanctorum apostolorum Philosophi et faciob terre mortu factus est in terra Tuscanaeiam per 14 dies, et terre morto cossane terra aperirex os suam absolvit civitatem Arcieze et ... villas; oppida immensa duodevique perevision. Deinde infra diem pentecostes et octavam eius illius diei quibusquis evissum esset in civitatatem ... et parum civilitatem destrexit ingenuam, et non plus numerum 323 ibidem existit sunt.

[translation] 1279. On the eve of the Apostles Philip and James [30th April] an earthquake occurred in Tuscan territory for 14 days and when the earthquake ceased the earth opened its mouth, engulfed the town of Arcieze and ... villages; large towns and cities were ruined by the flood. Later between the day of Pentecost [21st May] the eighth of that [16th July], a fierce blaze broke out in the town [...] and in that same place men numbering 323 were burnt.


<p. 571> 1279. de mensie Mutilis mola castro et loca in marchia Anconae diluvio inegabil submersa sunt usque ad Furtimun, et magna pars illius civitatis, ita quod homines et bestie nongenti et parvi interempti sunt.

[translation] 1279. In the month of May many castles and places in the marches of Ancona were destroyed by an unspeakable scourge to Forli, and much of that town, so that men and beasts large and small were killed.


[translation] 1279. [...] The same year in Italy on the eve of Mark the evangelist [24th April] there was a strong earthquake which destroyed seven towns.

<p. 644> 1279. [...] Eodem anno in Yelonia, in vigilia beati Marci evangelistae factus est ter mor-tus terre, ex quo subversus sunt septem civitates. In montibus autem circa Bononiam cecidit ras sacquinensis in maxima quantitate, presidente Romana ecclesia domino Nicolao papa III qui vocabatur Ioannes Gagatano, Miserabilissime autem terra absolvit civitates, quae descendentes in abyssum cum suis habitatoribus, et audiebat vox clamantium per quattuor dies de abysso: Misericordiam, misericordiam, Deus. Montes eciam duo convenerunt in saeculo; inter quos fluebat fluvius, qui in alta conclusus montibus, quod nullo nemobis habens fecit lucum circa se, ad secauntia nullaria et amples, massa subvertere. Aliquos eciam castra in montibus sita, operiens se terra per natum terre, qui steter 15 diebus, ipsa castra cum montibus absorbuit, aliquos montes maxinos in planiscens dedeiceas terre pentitus coequent et in populo iracon fecit miserabilissim. Nam in quodam castro Cistercensi antiquaginta soreos occidit: et tanta multa mola facta sunt.

[translation] 1279. [...] The same year in Italy, on the eve of blessed Mark the evangelist [24th April] there was an earthquake three times, which destroyed seven towns. Moreover, in the hills around Bologna large quantities of red rain fell, while pope of the Roman church was Nicholas III whose name was Giovanni Gaetano. Moreover, unfortunately the earth engulfed some towns, which descended into the abyss with their inhabitants, and the voices of the imploring could be heard for four days from the abyss: «Mercy, Mercy, God». Two hills were also joined into one; between them there ran a river, which was thus closed between the hills which having no bed formed a lake around it for sixty miles and more, sweeping everything away. Even some castles on the hills, as the earth opened due to the earthquake which continued for 15 days, these same castles were knocked down with the hills; some very high hills were completely flattened into fields with a miserable slaughter of the people. In fact in a certain Cistercian convent fifty nuns were killed: such calamities truly occurred.
<p>645> 1279. [...] Eodem anno in Vithalia in vigilia beati Marci evangeliistae fuit tergo mutus ex quo subverse sunt septem civitates. Miserabilitur aeterni terrae absorbuit civitates, quia deseruerunt in abyssum cum habitabitis suis et eudebat vox clamantium de abysso per quam morit caelum. Montes eciam duo convenuerunt in unum, inter quos fluebat fluvius, qui ina fuit montibus coniunctus, qui nullum neanum habebit hicum circa se ad 60 millia et multas, omnium subvertens. Multi eciam castra in montibus stria, aperent se terra per motum terrae quae stetit 17 diebus, ipse castra cum montibus absorbuit, aliquos montes maximum in plani pecem deduxit, terrae pestis cequerit et eaque populo maxima miserablem facta est.</p>

[translation] 1279. [...] The same year in Italy, the eve of blessed Mark the evangelist [24th April] there was an earthquake which destroyed seven towns. Moreover, unfortunately the earth engulfed some towns, which descended into the abyss with their inhabitants, and the voices of the imploring could be heard for four days from the abyss. Two hills were also joined into one; between them there ran a river, which was thus closed between the hills which having no bed formed a lake around it for sixty miles and more, sweeping everything away. Even some castles on the hilltops, as the earth opened due to the earthquake which continued for 17 days, these same castles were knocked down with the hills; some very high hills were completely flattened into fields with a miserable slaughter of the people.

Anonymous Regiensis


[translation] In the same year [1279], seventh proclamation, on the feast of the apostles Phillip and Giacomo, on the kalends of May [1st May] in the Ancona Marche there was such a great earthquake, for which two parts of Camerino were engulfed, and many people of both sexes died, Fabriano, Matelica, Cagli, San Severino and Cingoli, all these castles were destroyed. Likewise Nocera, Foligno and Spello, and in short all those castles, which are located in those hilly parts suffered much damage.

Bonaventura di Benevento

<pp. 15> MCCCLXXXIX. [...] Fuerunt magis terremotus et primus terremotus magna vi fuit die dominico post vesperas ultimae mensis aprilis.

[translation] 1279. [...] There were strong earthquakes [in Foligno] and the first earthquake of great strength on the last Sunday of the month of April [the 30th] after vespers.

Cantelini Pietro

<pp. 30-31> MCCCLXXXIX. [...] Eodem anno, die dominica ultima mensis aprirtis, circa hominum saxo vaseorum, fuit magnus terremotus. In nocte vero sequenti, advenit die luna kalendaren madii, quasi circa horum medie noctis, fuerunt terremotus magni, et specialiter unus magis fuit, proprius quod gentes plurimam innumeram; nam, ex forca eius, multa castra in montibus corruerunt, et coagulata sunt, et multa gentes mortue sunt sub castris et moris castriorum, qui corruerunt. Et tunc mortuus est Bonibus filius Bonifici de Sosena, in Castiglione, cum pluribus aliis, qui erant cum eo. Simul et filii fratris Guarnierii filii dominorum comitiis Gaiose de Castrorcio, qui erant in castro de Fantella, cum mater ipsum et tota eorum familia, mortui sunt proprius consequassatione turris et castris predicti. Et multa alie gentes infinitem mortuos sunt, dicta occasione, in multis paribus mundi, proprii domini et aedificia, qui corruerunt, et plurimum ecclesiae simulier destructae sunt propriorum fortu in dicti terremotus.

[translation] 1279. [...] The same year, the last Sunday of the month of April [the 30th], at the hour of vespers there was a strong earthquake. On the following night in truth, reaching the day of Monday, the first of May, in the middle of the night, there were strong earthquakes, especially one which was very great, for which people were much afraid; in fact, due to its strength, many hillside castles collapsed and were ruined and many people died under the castles and under the walls of the castles which collapsed. To be precise Banbo the son of Bonifice of Sisenna died in Castiglione, with many others who were with him. Likewise the followers of friar Guarniero, the followers of count Gacesio of Castroceno who were staying in the castle of Fantella, with their mother and
the whole family, died due to the destruction of the tower and the above-mentioned castle. And many other persons without limit died, on that occasion, in many parts of the country because their homes and buildings collapsed; and many churches were likewise destroyed by the force of the said earthquake.


(transl.) The miracle of the earthquake. The Fourth Sunday after Easter, when it was the eve of Philip and James, just after vespers in the town of Camerino and in the town of Nocera, which are located in the Ancona Marcia exactly seven days away from Rome, there was a great earthquake, so strong that in Camerino all the towers and houses collapsed and more than a thousand men died. In the town of Nocera the monastery of the main church collapsed with all the buildings and all the canon’s houses, more than half of the said town; and innumerable people died but the bishop was saved. Nocera was stoned on a hill, and it faced another hill; and a castle was situated between one hill and the other; there here were exactly five hundred guests, and it was called Seravalle. These hills were pitched against each other and they covered that castle which was in the middle, with all the people within. And now it is so flattened, as if there had never been any building there. And in the areas surrounding those two towns there are other castles, in which because of the same earthquake many men died. And in those regions it is held to be a great prodigy. In Rome they had felt that earthquake to some extent and the pope was at that hour at dinner and the table at which he was dining, and the whole palace moved miraculously. And believe for certain, this is the hidden judgement of God.


In «Deo cantate», quando fuit vigilia apostolorum Philippi et Iacobi terrae motus fuit in terra Tuscania per quattuordecim dies, et terrae motu cessante terra apertens os subsumi ab iis civitatem Arcezze, et ... oppida, villas, et innumerabiles diluvio perierant. Deliberatos diei pestesoces et octavum eius ignis durissimus evadit in civitatem, et parum civilitas destruxit ingerent, et homines recenti et viginti tres ibidem evasit.

(transl.) 1279. The eve of the Apostles Philip and James [30th April], the earthquake in Tuscan territory occurred, for 14 days, and when the earthquake ceased, the earth opened its mouth, engulfing Arcezze and... innumerable villages, villas were destroyed in the flood. Later on between the day of Pentecost [21st May] and the eighth of that [16th July], a fierce blaze broke out in the town [...], and destroyed an enormous part of the town, and in that same place 323 men were burnt.


(Hiatus tempore ex terrae motu inimio multa castella Toscana et Romandiae corrumpérunt cum magnó hominum insecútor.)

(transl.) In his times under Pope Nicholas III, 1277-1280] due to the enormous earthquake many castles in Tuscany and Romagna were destroyed with great fright for men.

De Romano Annales Veronenses [1259-1306] (cent. XIV, copy cent. XV), ed. C. Cipolla, in Antiche cronache veronesi, tome 1, «Monumenti Storici pubblicati dalla

[p. 422] Jurem eodem anno [1279], die dominico ultimo mensis Aprilis, de nocte ventibus Kalendis madõ, fuit terremotus magnus in partibus Romaniensi, Marche Anconitanae, et quasi asperis ad civitatem Romanum et Casinum: parietur bene LXII. inter villas, castra et alia loca in illis partibus, et magna multitudine hominum et animalium parietur igitur

[translation] Likewise in the same year [1279], the last Sunday of the month of April, there was a great earthquake in the regions of Romagna, the Ancona Marche, and almost reaching the cities of Rennes and Cassino [Montecassino]. 63 buildings including villas, castles and other places in those regions were ruined and a great number of men and women died there.

Miliolus Albertus


[translation] In the year of Our Lord 1279, seventh proclamation, on the feast of the blessed apostles Philip and James, that is the kalends of May [1st May], under pope Nicholas III [1277-1280] there was such a large earthquake in the Ancona Marche, due to which two parts of Camerino were engulfed and many people of both sexes died. Fabriano, Matelica, Cagli, San Severino and Cingoli, all these castles were destroyed. Likewise Nocera and Foligno and Spello. In short, all the castles located in those hilly parts suffered much damage. Likewise three hills, between which two lakes and a castle had been artificially built, were joined into one and formed only one hill; and the lake and river, due to the overflow of whose waters a lake was formed, were completely dried up. Thus a castle was completely destroyed. In Romagna and in the hills between Florence and Bologna many castles and buildings were destroyed and many people of both sexes were suffocated. In fact, such great fear invaded all those parts, that they dared not stay at home, not even the lord cardinal legate Latino, in the Ancona Marche and elsewhere many peace treaties were made and out of fear and apprehension of the imminent danger.

Salimbene de Adam


[translation] In the same year on the feast of the apostles Philip and James, that is the kalends of May [1st May], under pope Nicholas III [1277-1280] there was such a large earthquake in the Ancona Marche, due to which two parts of Camerino were engulfed and many people of both sexes died. Fabriano, Matelica, Cagli, San Severino and Cingoli, all these castles were destroyed. Likewise Nocera and Foligno and Spello. In short, all the castles located in those hilly parts suffered much damage. Likewise
three hills, between which two lakes and a castle had been artificially built, were joined into one and formed only one hill; and the lake and river, due to the overflow of whose waters a lake was formed, were completely dried up. Thus a castle was completely destroyed. In Rome and in the hills between Florence and Bologna many castles and buildings were destroyed and many people of both sexes were suffocated. In fact, such great fear invaded all those parts, that they dared not stay at home, not even the lord cardinal legate Latino, in the Arno Marche and elsewhere many peace treaties were made and «out of fear and apprehension» of the imminent danger.

Indirect source = Fi


<p. 32> MCCLXXVIII. [...] Magnus terremotus kllándose maiçi, in matri nis: et arces in montanis coamere, et multe gentes perierunt ex hedificiis cornenithus.

[translation] 1279. [...] A strong earthquake on the first of May in the morning; and castles on the hillside were destroyed and many people died because of the buildings which collapsed.

<p. 34> Es anno, die domunico, ultima mensis aprilis, circa horam vesperrum, filu magnum teremotus. In nocte vero sequent, advenerint die lare kallenderam maiçi, quasi circa hora medio noctis, fuerunt teremoti majgni. Nam ex foria ejus multa castra in montanis concusserunt et quapiammin gente mortue sunt.

[translation] That year, Sunday, on the last day of April, around the hour of vespers there was a great earthquake. On the following night in truth, reaching the day of Monday, the first of May, at around midnight, there were strong earthquakes. In fact, due to their force many castles in the hillside were destroyed and many people died.

Dandulus Andreas

<p. 326> Hoc anno [1279], die XXIIISI aprillis, maximum terremotum in Venecia et quasi per totum

Yulanum, et, die ultimo eiusdem mensis, eodem clades renovata est.

[translation] This year [1279], on 24th April, there was a great earthquake in Venice and almost all over Italy, and on the last day of the same month that scourge recurred.

Inventory or list of seismic events prior to the nineteenth century = R

Bonito M.
Terra tremante, o vero continuazione de’terremoti dalla Creazione del Mondo sino al tempo presente (anastatic reprint, Sala Bolognese, 1980), Napoli 1691


Ancona, and two parts of Camerino, afflisse Fabriano, Matellica, Calli, Foligno, ed i contorni». Nella pag. poi 193 s'umisce con l'opinione de' sudetti scrivendo in tal forma: «Nell'anno 1279. Il Terremoto fece l'unione de' tre Monti in Umbria con assorbierti due Laghi interposti tra loro, ed il Flume, che faceva esti Loghi». Nella medesima pag. dice: «Nell'anno 1279 scappò una fialda della Montagna di Folterona, ed un'altra dal Monte d'Ancona caduta in mare». Nella pag. poi 195 trattando della forza de' Terremoti, che sogliono abbassar le Terre soggiunge così: «Come sottomisero due delle tre parti di Camerino al prino di Maggio dell'anno 1279».

[translation] In Lombardy and in Romagna Earthquakes appeared in the year 1279 on the first of May. In the Ist. Eccl. vol. 13 in said year num. 17, Bzovio states that they arose so violently that they frightened everyone. Camerino collapsed in two parts, crushing many of the living; three Hills fell, and a Lake and a Castle were engulfed. In Romagna and in the hills between Bologna and Florence many Villages were ruined and the terrified people fled to safety in the Countryside, among them also Latino Orsino Cardinal Legate. «In Lombardy and in the remaining parts of Italy, in this year on the first of May, the earth shaken by a terrible and highly dangerous earthquake filled the souls of everyone with an unusual fear. Two parts of the dwellings of Camerino collapsed and many men and women were crushed by the mass of ruins. Three hills, among which there were two lakes and a castle, were entirely unified, and lakes and the same castle were also engulfed in a chaos in the earth. In Romagna and in the hills between Bologna and Florence many buildings collapsed and many men perished. Struck by this fear, the survivors decided to put themselves in God's hands and they encamped in the fields, among them Latino Orsino Cardinal Legate encamped likewise.»

The Author of the Text, who cites Bzovio is Sigon. «de Reg Ital...» who with the same phrase taken from Bzovio refers such success, which I apologize for repeating. Girardi embellishes this event in his «Diario», making use of the day's crisis, of which on the first of May he gives this account. «It was a great earthquake, by which Hills were seen to collapse and villages and lakes were engulfed. Between Bologna and Florence many Villages and Buildings were ruined with the death of many.»

Sardo mentions this event in the «Discorsi» in different places, one on page 190, expressing many towns which succumbed to the calamity, thus: «In the year 1279, on the first of May it destroyed Ancona and two parts of Camerino, hit Fabriano, Matellica, Calli, Foligno and the surrounding areas». On page 193 thereafter, he agrees with the opinion of the above sources writing thus: «In the year 1279. The Earthquake united three hills in Umbria engulfing two Lakes lying between them and the River, which made them Lakes of them». On the same page, he writes: «In the year 1279 a slope of the Hill of Flaterona was detached and another from Monte d'Ancona fell into the sea». Then on page 195, referring to the strength of Earthquakes, which engulf the earth he adds: «Just like two of the three parts of Camerino on the first of May in the year 1279».

Catalogue of earthquakes = C

Baratta M.
I terremoti d'Italia. Saggio di storia, geografia e bibliografia sismica italiana (anastatic reprint, Sala Bolognese, 1979), Torino 1901
<p. 39> [177] 1279, April 30. Romagna, Marche [...]
A Forli sul crepuscolo del 30 aprile e poi circa la mezzanotte due scosse si furono da far diracchiare parecchie case distese nella regione montuosa, causando la morte a molte persone: Anche Galeata (Roccia S. Cassiano) ebbe a sofferir danni giacché fu scosso fino alle fondamenta il monastero di S. Ellero. Questo terremoto si propagò per le Romagna, le Marche e per lo Spoletino recando da per tutto danni prossimissimi. In Camerino rimase diraccio l'ulisse campanile di S. Mario, la torre di S. Giacomo ed un monastero sotto cui rovine persero tutte le monache, ma sola eccettuata: caderei pure due terzi dei retti con mortalità di persone: fu abbattuto un castello nel piano di Fiumanita (Camerino), anche Castel Ralmond (Camerino) ebbe a risentire vari danni e così pure Brigeilha; parecchi castelli furono distrutti fra cui quello di Castiglione nella valle del Lamone, fra le cui rovine molti restarono sepolti. Il terremoto fu sentito a Foligno, a Nocera, a Spello, a Fabriano, a Capri, a Matelica ed a Cingoli: in modo più lieve anche a Venezia. Ancona non andò immune da danni: a Cereto di Spoleto le scosse devono essere state abbastanza forti giacché risulta che gli abitanti del comune tennero un consiglio sul declivio della montagna presso le mura del Castello, perché dentro si correva gran rischio della vita. La violenza dell'urto sotterraneo produsse molti effetti permanenti nel suolo, giacché i crinniti ricordano varì frammenti allora visibili ed alatri fenomeni, fra i quali che tre moniti e due laghi restarono del tutto assorbiti.»

[translation] In Forli at dusk on 30th April and then at around midnight two shocks so strong as to destroy several castles in the hilly region, causing the deaths of many people: Galeata (Roccia S. Cassiano) also suffered damage since the foundations of S. Ellero monastery were shaken. This earthquake spread over Romagna, the Marche and to the Spoletino area causing severe damage everywhere. In Camerino the
high bell-tower of St. Mary’s and the tower of S. Giacomo were destroyed together with a convent under whose ruins all the nuns perished, except one: two thirds of the roofs also collapsed killing people: a castle was knocked down in the plains of Flaminia (Camerino), Castel Raimondo (Camerino) was also damaged as well as Brisighella; several castles were destroyed including that of Castiglione in the vallum of Lamone, among whose ruins many remain buried. The earthquake was felt in Foligno, Nocera, Spello and Fabriano, Cagli, Matelica and in Cingoli; more lightly in Venice too. Ancona was not left undamaged; In Cereto di Spoleto the shocks must have been quite strong since the inhabitants of the municipality held a meeting on the slopes of the hills near the walls of the castle, because within they risked their lives. The violence of the impact had many permanent effects on the landscape, as chroniclers record different landslides which occurred and other events, among which three hills and two lakes were completely engulfed.

[p. 626] 1279, Ronaguna, Marche.
Fr. Salimbene Parmense nella sua molte voce cita "Chronaca" (pag. 273-274) scrive a proposito di questo terremoto descritto al n. 177, che due parti di Camerino furono distrutte con molti morti: che Fabriano, Matelica, Cagli, S. Severino, Cingoli furono rovinate e costi pure Nocera, Foligno e Spello; che nella Romagna e sui monti fra Bologna e Firenze molti castelli furono distrutti con grande periclo di uomini.

[translation] Fr. Salimbene Parmense in his much cited "Chronaca" (pages 273-274) writes about this earthquake described under n. 177, that two parts of Camerino were destroyed with many deaths: that Fabriano, Matelica, Cagli, S. Severino and Cingoli were ruined as were Nocera, Foligno and Spello; that in Romagna and on the hills between Bologna and Florence many castles were destroyed with many lives lost.

Merealli G. Vulcani e fenomeni vulcanici in Italia (anastatic reprint, Sala Bolognese, 1981), Milano 1883

Il Muratori parlando di quest’anno (nelle "Antiquit. Ital.", Diss. 46) scrive: "Avvenvero grandi terremoti. Il primo fu in domenica dopo i venerdì nell’ultimo giorno di aprile; e negli "Annali d’Italia" al primo di maggio dell’anno presente una terribile scossa di terremoto si senti per quasi tutta l’Italia. Il maggior danno che esso recò, fu nel Marca d’Ancona, dove due parti di Camerino andarono a terra, e vi perirono molte persone. Fabriano, Matelica, Cagli, San Seve-

rino, Cingoli, Nocera, Foligno, Spello ed altre terre ne risentirono un grave nocimento". Il Sigonio narra, che il castello Orbe nelle Marche, fu sommerso con tre monti e con tre loghi. Nel Lo Maggio vi furono terribili scosse anche a Padova.

[translation] Year 1279, in the Marche, in Umbria and in Romagna.
Referring to this year (in the "Antiquit. Ital.", Diss. 46), Muratori writes: "Great earthquakes occurred. The first was on Sunday after vespers on the last day of April; and in the "Annali d’Italia" on the first day of May of the current year a terrible earthquake shock was felt almost all over Italy. The worst damage it caused was in Ancona Marche, where two parts of Camerino fell to the ground and many people perished. Fabriano, Matelica, Cagli, San Severino, Cingoli, Nocera, Foligno, Spello and other villages were severely damaged. Sigonio narrates that the Orbe castle in the Marche was engulfed with three hills and three lakes. On 1st May there were also terrible shocks in Padua.

Historiographic contribution = St

Conti A.
Camerino e i suoi dintorni, Camerino 1872


[translation] The bell-tower [of the church of S.Giacomo in Camerino] had already been ruined in 1279 because of a terrifying earthquake.

[p.104] Un altro [terremoto] è del 1279 equidistantemente nell’ultimo d’aprile [il 30] in cui, dice il Lili si scosse la terra per un grande e non più intero terremoto. Il duca di Spoleto, la Marca e la Romagna ne riportarono grandi danni; ma più di tutti sentirono quel colpo la città e lo stato di Camerino. Direttrici in quel di il campanile all’altissimo di Santa Maria, la torre di S. Giacomo e un monastero di monache le quali perirono tutte, trattene un. Carlo Sigonio ricorda che oltre la caduta di due terzi di tetti della città era caduto un Castello ("Orbe") e sommerso con tre monti e tre loghi.

[translation] Another [earthquake] was in 1279 equally on the last of April [30th] when, Lili relates the earth shook from a large and not more intense earthquake. The Duchy of Spoleti, the Marche and Romagna suffered enormous damage; but most of all the quake was felt by the town and state of
Camerino. The high bell-tower of St. Mary’s was destroyed together with the tower of S. Giacomo and a convent of nuns all of whom died except one. Carlo Sigonio recalls that in addition to the collapse of two thirds of the roofs in the town a Castle (Orb or) had fallen and was engulfed with three hills and three lakes.

Gaspardi D.
Memorie storiche di Serrusquaritrice nella marca d’Ancona, Roma 1883

Translation: The great earthquake of the last day of April in 1279 had already occurred (note 2 Lili. Istoria di Camerino, parte II, p. 46) when I know not which of the last days of April or by the workers of the Monastery of San Vittore di Chiusi near Pierosara, some men from Serra in December 1282 damaged as a reprisal and devastation for a good two times the possessions of the Monastery, for which they were condemned in their absence by the judge of the Marches, who resided in Cingoli.

Giulini G.
Memorie spettanti alla storia, al governo ed alla descrizione della città e campagna di Milano ne’ secoli bassi raccolte ed esaminate dal Conte Giorgio Giulini, nuova edizione con note ed aggiunte (ananastic reprim, Milano 1974-1975), Milano 1856-1857

Translation: I do not know if Milan felt very strongly that earthquake shock which on the first day of May 1279 caused extremely severe damage in Italy; but seeing as our writers do not speak of it it does not seem to have been much felt.

Moreschini M.
Ragionamento storico-filosofico sul tremuto accaduto in Camerino il 28 luglio 1799, Camerino 1802


Translation: The most memorable, however, and accurately authenticated by the authority of History, was that which shook Camerino in the year 1279, as disclosed by the work of the famous Historian of this City Camillo Lili. On the last of April of said year, he writes [Lili Hist. di Camerino, p. 2, book 2, page 46] the Earth shook due to a great, and not more intense Earthquake; the Duchy of Spoleto, the Marche and Romagna were the most severely damaged, but more than all of them, the City and the State of Camerino felt the quake. On that day the high bell-tower of St. Mary’s and the Tower of S. Giacomo were destroyed together with a convent of nuns all of whom died except one.

From the diary of P. A. Lili. But in the annals of Lombardy, the terrible effects of this Quake in Camerino and its state were described in more detail. Carlo
Sigionio observed in them that in addition to the destruction of two thirds of the roofs of the Town, a Castle had been destroyed and three hills engulfed with two Lakes. In the same year 1279 the first of May the earth was shaken by a very strong and extremely dangerous trembling, such that all souls were filled with consternation by the unusual fright. Two parts of Camerino collapsed, and crushed many people of both sexes due to the vast number of ruins. Three hills, between which were located two lakes and a castle, suddenly collided, the lake and the same castle were engulfed by the chasm in the earth. The Castle destroyed by the earthquake [the name of the ruined Castle is Orbe located at the confluence of two small Rivers at a distance of about two miles from Fiuminata] belonged to Nobles Bulgarelli, or Marciano towards Fiuminata twelve miles away from the city.

Savini P.
Storia della città di Camerino, 2nd ed, Camerino 1895

<p. 64> Un'orribile terremoto nell'aprile dell'anno 1279, scosse il Ducato di Spoleto, la Marca e la Romagna, recando da per tutto danni e devastazioni grandissime, ma più d'ogn' altra parte né esseri Camerino ed il suo stato. L'ultimo di aprile rimase per esso divoracato all'assalto compiangente di S. Maria, la torre di S. Giacomo ed un monastero, in cui perirono tutte le monache tranne una sola che potè salvarsi. Due terzi de' tetti caddero con gran mortalità di persone, ed un castello nei piani di Fiuminata, tre monti e due laghi restarono del tutto assorbiti: i quali siti poi nell'anno 1283 furono per 2200 lire venduti alla città [di Camerino] da' signori Bulgarelli.

[translation] A terrible earthquake in April in the year 1279 shook the Duchy of Spoleto, the Marche and Romagna, causing damage and severe devastation everywhere, but more than in any other part it was felt by Camerino and its state. On the last of April it destroyed the high bell-tower of St. Mary's, the tower of S. Giacomo and a convent in which all the ruins died except one who saved her life. Two thirds of the roofs collapsed with great loss of life, and a castle in the plains of Fiuminata, three hills and two lakes were completely engulfed: such sites then in the year 1283 were for 2300 liras sold to the town [of Camerino] by the Bulgarelli lords.

Moroni G.
Dizionario di erudizione storico-eclesiastica di San Pietro sino ai nostri giorni specialmente intorno ai principali santi, beati, martiri, padri, ai sommi pontefici, cardinali e più celebri scrittori ecclesiastici. 103 vols. + 6 of indexes, Venice 1840-1879

<vol. 74, p. 130> Nel 1279 questo flagello [il terremoto] afflisse Foligno.

[translation] In 1279 this scourge [the earthquake] afflicted Foligno.

Muratori L.A.
Annali d'Italia dal principio dell'era volgare sino all'anno 1750, 12 vols., Lucca 1762-1764


[translation] Moreover on the first day of May of the current year [1279] a terrible Earthquake shock was felt almost all over Italy. The most damage that it caused was in the Ancona Marche, where two parts of Camerino fell to the ground and many persons perished. Fabriano, Matelica, Cagli, San Severino, Ciogoli, Nocera, Foligno, Spello and other Regions suffered severe damage.

Sigionio C.
Historiarum de Regno Italice libri viginti [.1580], Frankfurt 1591

with consternation by the unusual fright. Two parts of Camerino collapsed, and crushed many people of both sexes due to the vast number of ruins. Three hills, between which were located two lakes and a castle, suddenly collided, the lake and the same castle were engulfed by the chasm in the earth. In Romagna and on the hills between Bologna and Florence, the castles and many buildings fell to the ground and crushed many men. The remainder deranged by such fear decided to live in the open and forthwith built shelters in the fields and among the others the legate Latino also lived like that.

Schiavina G.
Annales Alexandrini, ed. V.F. Pongiglione, in «Historiae Patrisiae Monumenta» tome 11, SS. 4, cols. 1-660, Torino 1863


[translation] In the same year, in many places in Lombardy, the earth was shaken by a terrible quake, everywhere many houses either collapsed completely, or were terribly damaged, and reduced to ruins [by this calamity].

Tatti P.L.
Degli annali sacri della città di Como [...] Decade seconda, Milano 1683

S'aprirono tre monti, tra' quali v'erano due Laghi, e un Castello, che incontinenza sprofondarono. Le case, che di continuo ciascuno, sforzarono molti popoli a ritirarsi dalla Città, e habitare alla campagna sotto i padiglioni.

[translation] Italy was greatly frightened by a new earthquake, which was felt on the first day of May [1279] in different parts, and with the ruins of many buildings crushed a large number of persons who were under them.
Three hills opened, between which there were two Lakes and a Castle, which immediately were engulfed. The houses, which collapsed continuously, forced many people to leave the town, and live in the countryside under shelters.