



## THE NORTHEASTERN ALPS EARTHQUAKE OF JAN. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1348: A (NEW) DISCUSSION OF HISTORICAL SOURCES

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There are several recent historico-seismological studies on the 25 January 1348 northeastern Alps earthquake. The most important are Hammerl (1994) and Guidoboni-Comastri (2005). Though relying almost entirely on the same sources, these studies interpret them in widely diverging ways, particularly for what concerns the identification of the affected localities. This leads each study to draw a different scenario of the macroseismic effects of the 1348 earthquake, with strong consequences on the definition of its epicentral parameters.

The 1348 earthquake occurred at a difficult time (political upheavals and the “Black Death” pandemic), but above all it struck a “multiethnic” and “multilingual” area. The difficulties experienced by the researchers who interpreted the historical sources for the 1348 earthquake are a direct consequence of the complexities of these historical circumstances.

The circulation of information on the 1348 earthquake was very wide and implied the translation of earthquake accounts and place names in several languages and dialects.

For these reasons, identifying with any degree of certainty the localities affected by the 1348 earthquake is a complex and tricky task. This paper highlights the problems connected with the correct identification and location of the place names mentioned in the key historical sources available on the 1348 earthquake, in order to reach a better understanding of this particularly significant seismic event and to build a new macroseismic scenario.

### REFERENCES

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