

- 16 *Dictionnaire*, s.v. Geddicus.
- 17 The editio princeps of Gregory's *History* had been published in Paris in 1512: Josse Bard, *B.Gregori Turonesis episcopi Historiarum precipue gallicarum. Lib.X.*
- 18 *Dictionnaire de archéologie chrétienne*, s.v. 'Femme'.
- 19 Ibid.

Elegy for an 11th-Century Croatian Church Deliberately Demolished

Sanja Matesic

A church stood here once.
Adopted by the earth and hugged by the sky
for its humility,
it soaked up the sun of nine hundred summers,
each stone permeated with prayer
and the sighs of generation upon generation
of simple, pious women clad in black.
Its air was thick with the wings of angels
carrying comfort and rest.
It was holy and wholesome,
like a loaf of home-made bread
offered freely
to every passing stranger.

But the strangers who came
to claim the soil and the sky
took the gift and broke it
and trampled it underfoot.
And in its place they left
a wound.