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# NOVAC ĐURĐA BRANKOVIĆA (1427-1456)



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## Rezime

Đurađ Vuković-Branković bio je gospodar Kosova 1402-1412. i despot Raške 1427-1456. Ceo svoj život proveo je u borbi, pre svega sa Turcima i Ugima, prihvatajući da bude i dvostruki vazal kako bi spasao sebe i svoju zemlju. Imao je petoro dece, sinove: Grgura, Stefana i Lazara i ćerke: Katarinu i Maru. Smederevo uzima za prestonicu a tvrđavu gradi od 1427-1430. Umro je 1456. a sahranjen u crkvi Krive Reke.

Njegov novac ima najmanji obim i težinu, najčešće sa dvoglavim orlom ili lavom kao heraldičkim znakovima i sa stilizovanim krinovima i pahuljama. Razlikuju se, takođe, i po nastanku: u vreme vladavine na Kosovu, despotovine i obnovljene despotovine.

**Ključne reči:** Đurađ Vuković-Branković, kovnica u Smederevu, rudnik u Rudištima, dvoglavio orao, lav, krin, snežne pahulje, maljušnik, Kosovo, despotovina, Smederevo, Jerina, Mara, Katarina, Grgur, Stefan, Lazar, Murat II, bakarni i posrebreteni novac

**JEL klasifikacija:** N01, N23

*Dinar, Ag, težina 0,50 grama, prečnik 17 mm*

**Lice:** Despotova glava data kao portret.

**Naličje:** Isus Hristos stoji u mandorli. U levoj ruci drži jevanđelje a desnom blagosilja.

Summary

Djuradj Vuković-Branković was the ruler of Kosovo from 1402 till 1412, and the Prince of Raška from 1427 till 1456. He spent his entire life fighting, mostly against the Turks and the Hungarians, accepting even the dual vassalage in order to save himself and his country. He fathered five children, sons: Grgur, Stefan and Lazar, and daughters: Katarina and Mara. After designated the city of Smederevo as his capital, he built the Smederevo fortress from 1427-1430. He died in 1456, and was buried in the church of Kriva Reka.

The coins he minted were smaller in volume and weighed less, in most cases bearing the heraldic images of a two-headed eagle or a lion, or the stylized lilies and snowflakes. The coins can also be differentiated according to the period of minting: during the reign in Kosovo, during his principedom and during the renewed principedom.

**Key words:** Djuradj Vuković-Branković, mint in Smederevo, mine in Rudište, two-headed eagle, lion, lily, snowflakes, „maljušnik“, Kosovo, principedom, Smederevo, Jerina, Mara, Katarina, Grgur, Stefan, Lazar, Murad II, copper and silver-coated coins

**JEL Classification:** N01, N23

*Dinar, Ag, weight 0.50 grams, diameter 17 mm*

**Obverse:** Despot's head presented as a portrait.

**Reverse:** Jesus Christ standing in mandorla. In his left hand he is holding the Holy Gospel, while blessing with his right hand.

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MONEY OF  
DJURADJ  
BRANKOVIĆ  
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Srednji sin Vuka Brankovića, Đurađ Branković, bio je gospodar Kosova od 1402-1412. a despot Raške od 1427-1456. godine. Ceo svoj život, a živio je preko osamdeset godina, pokušavao je na razne načine, vazalstvom, bračnim vezama, pregovorima i oruđem, da spase sebe i svoju zemlju. Povelja u svetogorskom manastiru Esfigmenu slika njegovo lepo i izražajno lice iz 1429. godine sa crnom bradom. Francuski plemić Bertrandan de la Brokijer posetio je 1433. godine despota - "lepog i krupnog gospodina".

Bio je vazal Mađarskoj i Turskoj nadajući se da će dvostrukim vazalstvom svojoj zemlji uštedeti dalju krizu sa željom da vodi iskrenu politiku prema jednoj i drugoj državi. Nesrećan kao vladar bio je još nesrećniji kao otac. Sinove Grgura i Stefana po naređenju Murata II Turci su oslepeli, Katarina se udaje za Urliha Celjskog, Mara 1435. za Murata II a najmlađi sin Lazar 1446. ženi se Jelenom, bratanicom morejskog despota Konstantina Paleologa.

Kada je Ugrima predao Beograd za upravni centar uzima Smederevo i ubrzano gradi 1427-30. tvrđavu. Gradnja je zahtevala ogromne napore, finansijske i ljudske. Taj pojačani namet pripisan je u narodnoj književnosti bezobzirnosti Đurđeve druge žene Jerine Kantakuzin. Gubeći Rašku i Smederevo a želeći da se skloni od Murata II odlazi u Dubrovnik. Kralj Vladislav, erdeljski vojvoda Jan Hunjadi i Đurađ organizuju uspešan protivudar 1443-44. na Muratovu vosku. Đurađ dobija nazad svoje teritorije i oslepljene sinove. Umire 1456. godine i biva sahranjen u crkvi Krive Reke.





Djuradj Branković, middle son of Vuk Branković, was the ruler of Kosovo from 1402 till 1412, and the Prince of Raška from 1427 till 1456. He spent his entire life, and he lived over eighty years, resorting to different ways - vassalage, marital ties, negotiations and wars - of saving himself and his country. A charter from 1429 preserved at the Esphigmenou Monastery in Mount Athos depicts his beautiful and expressive face covered in black beard. In 1433, the French nobleman, Bertrandon de la Broquière, paid a visit to the Prince - "a handsome and sturdy gentleman".

He was a vassal of Hungary and Turkey, hoping that this dual vassalage would save his country from a further crisis, and wishing to lead an honest policy towards both above countries. Ill-fated as a ruler, he was even more unfortunate as a parent. At the order of Sultan Murad II, his sons Grgur and Stefan were blinded, his daughter Katarina married Ulrich of Celje, in 1435 his other daughter Mara married Sultan Murad II, and in 1446 his youngest son Lazar married Jelena, niece of the Morea Prince Constantine Palaiologos.

After he handed Belgrade over to the Hungarians, he designated the city of Smederevo as his capital and built the Smederevo fortress from 1427-1430. The construction required enormous efforts, both in terms of finances and in terms of labour power. The increased tolls were ascribed in the folklore literature to the cruelty of Djuradj's second wife, Jerina Kantakuzin. Having lost Raška and Smederevo, and wishing to flee from Murad II, Djuradj went to Dubrovnik. In 1443-1444 King Vladislav, Duke of Erdelj Jan Hunjadi (John Hunyadi) and Djuradj organized a successful counter-attack against the Murad's army. Djuradj won both his territories and his blinded sons back. He died in 1456 and was buried in the church of Kriva Reka.



**R**od Đurđa Brankovića su naglašena tri perioda kovanja: (1) dok se kao oblasni gospodar Kosova borio sa ujakom Stefanom za ličnu nezavisnost; (2) period kada je kao ujakov naslednik bio na čelu despotovine do njenog pada 1439. godine; (3) u obnovljenoj despotovini od 1444. godine.

Srpski novac u vreme despota Stefana Lazarevića i Đurđa Brankovića ima najmanji obim i težinu. Ova vrsta novca danas se zove obola a u narodu su poznati kao maljušnici.

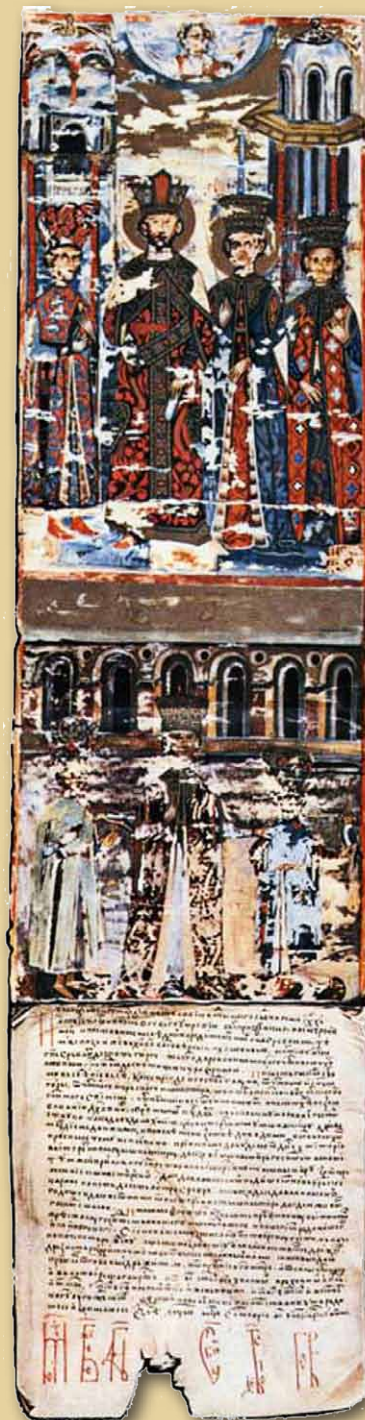
Na više vrsta novca Đurđa Brankovića njegovo ime je umetnički obrađeno.

Dvoglavi orao sem kod despota Olivera i Stefana Lazarevića nalazi se i na jednoj vrsti novca despota Đurđa. Takođe, od heraldičkih oznaka na većini njegovih kovanica, po prvi put, se javlja lav porodice Branković. On je i na svim gradskim vrstama kovanim za vreme ovog vladara i njegovog sina despota Lazara Đurđevića.

Na novcu Đurđa Brankovića susrećemo i stilističke novine renesansnog karaktera: cvet krina, snežnu pahuljicu i dr. kao i njegov realistički portret poput portreta na kovanicama cara Dušana i kneza Lazara.

Falsifikovani novac izrađivan je i u kovnicama u vreme despota Đurđa Brankovića, o čemu postoje i arhivski podaci. Među tim bakarnim a posrebreanim primercima najčešći su lični i gradski novci despota Đurđa Brankovića.

Kovnice novca postojale su u Smederevu, prestonici Đurđa Brankovića, sa vrlo brojnim emisijama i u rudarskom centru Rudišta.



Povelja Đurđa Brankovića, 1430. godine, manastir Svetog Pavla

Chart of Djuradj Branković, 1430, St Paul's Monastery



Esfigmensku povelju izdao je despot Đurađ Branković 11. septembra 1429. godine na molbu monaha manastira Esfigmena na Svetoj Gori da postane novi ktitor ovog manastira. Povelja je izrađena u manastiru Žiči. Na njoj je naslikan despot Đurađ sa despoticom Jerinom i njihovo petoro dece.

The Esphigmenou Chart was issued by Prince Djuradj Branković on September 11th 1429, when he was asked by a monk from Esphigmenou Monastery on Mount Athos to become the new patron of this monastery. The Chart was produced in Žiča Monastery. It depicts Prince Djuradj with Princess Jerina and their five children.



Here are three periods of coin-minting during the reign of Djuradj Branković: 1) while, as a regional ruler of Kosovo, he fought against his uncle Stefan for personal independence; 2) the period when, as his uncle's successor, he ruled the principedom until its fall in 1439; 3) the period of the renewed principedom starting from 1444.

In the times of Prince Stefan Lazarević and Prince Djuradj Branković, the Serbian coins were the smallest and the lightest. This type of coin is today called "obola", and it also goes by the name of "maljušnik" (tiny).

Several types of coins minted in the time of Djuradj Branković bear his artistically rendered name.

The two-headed eagle, in addition to the coins of Prince Oliver and Stefan Lazarević, can also be found on one type of coins of prince Djuradj. Moreover,

among the heraldic images inscribed in the majority of his coins, for the first time we can also find a lion as the symbol of the family of Branković. This symbol can also be found in all municipal coins minted during the reign of this ruler and his son prince Lazar Djurdjević.

The coins of Djuradj Branković also feature some stylistic innovations in the renaissance style: blossom of a lily, a snowflake, etc, along with his realistic portrait, such as the portrait found in the coins of Emperor Dušan and prince Lazar.

During the reign of Prince Djuradj Branković, counterfeit coins were also minted in the

official mints, according to some data found in the archives. Among these copper and silver-coated samples, the most frequent are personal and municipal coins of Prince Djuradj Branković.

Coin-mints, which minted profuse issues of coins, were to be found in the city of Smederevo, the capital of Djuradj Branković, and in the mine centre of Rudište.



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