



Svetlana Pantelić

Specijalista za marketing
i informisanje Udruženja
banaka Srbije

NOVAC KRALJA VUKAŠINA MRNJAVČEVIĆA (1365-1371)



Grb Mrnjavčevića sastoji se od šlema, čelenke, plašta i štita sa predstavom na njemu. Iznad čelenke se pojavljuje ženska glava sa krunom i mindušom što je prava osobenost ovog grba. Poput grba, i srebrni dinar kralja Vukašina i despota Uglješe je zanimljiv primer novca na kojem se nazire kombinacija čelenke (znamenja Nemanjića) i krunisano žensko lice (znamenje Mrnjavčevića) što ukazuje na vazalni odnos Vukašina prema Nemanjićima.

Na jednoj vrsti njegovih kovanica, koje je kovao takođe sa bratom povodom Uglješinog proglašenja za despota i preuzimanja namesništva od carice Jelene nad Serskom oblašću, na naličju je monogram cara Dušana kao simbol jedinstva Serske oblasti i drugih raških zemalja. Pojedini primerci druge vrste kovanica su slabog kvaliteta jer su, zbog neadekvatnog kalupa, loše otkovani te se tekstovi na njima teško čitaju. Za neke vrste Vukašinovih kovanica postoji sumnja da ih je on kovao već se misli da su primerci njegovog najstarijeg sina Marka, u narodnim pesmama proslavljenog Marka Kraljevića, vladara sa sedištem u Prilepu.

Dinar, Ag, težina 1,15 grama, prečnik 19 mm

Lice: Natpis u pet redova.

Naličje: Isus Hristos sa zrnastim nimbom. Levo tri a desno četiri zvezde.



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Marketing and PR
Specialist at the ASB

Mrnjavčević's coat of arms depicts a helmet, a helmet plume, a cape and an ornamented shield. Above the plume, there is an image of a woman's head, wearing a crown and an earring, which makes this coat of arms truly unique. Just like this coat of arms, the silver dinar of King Vukašin and Despot Uglješa stands as an interesting example of a coin which features a combination of a helmet plume (insignia of the House of Nemanjić) and a crowned woman's face (insignia of the House of Mrnjavčević), indicating the liege of Vukašin towards the House of Nemanjić.

The reverse of one of his coins - which he also minted together with his brother, on the occasion of Uglješa's coronation as Despot and his taking over the reign over the region of Ser from Empress Jelena - features the monogram of Emperor Dušan, as a symbol of unity of the Ser region and other countries of Raška. Occasional samples of another type of coins are of low quality, because, due to the inadequate mould, they were minted badly, hence the inscriptions on them are read with difficulty. Some types of Vukašin's coins are doubted to have been minted by him, and it is believed instead that they were minted by his eldest son Marko, the celebrated Marko Kraljević of the folk songs, the ruler seated in the city of Prilep.

Dinar, Ag, weight 1.15 grams, diameter 19 mm

Obverse: The lettered edge inscription in five lines.

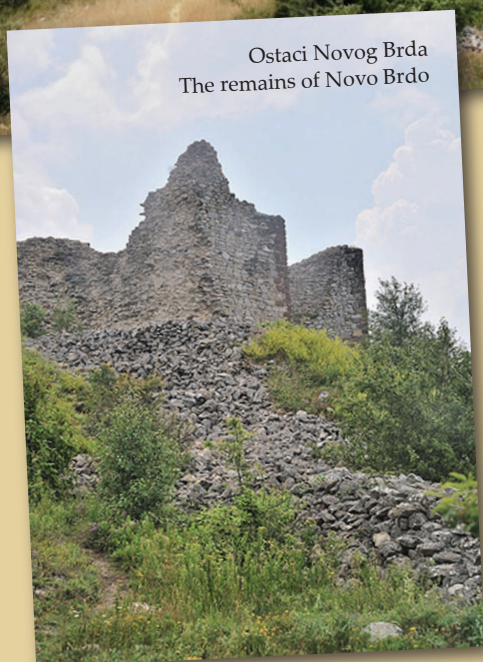
Reverse: Jesus Christ with granular nimbus aureole. On the left side three stars, on the right side four stars.

MONEY OF KING VUKAŠIN MRNJAVČEVIĆ (1365-1371)



Vukašin Mrnjavčević, kralj Srba i Grka, kako se na poveljama obično potpisivao, svoju vlast je proširio na područje Skoplja i Prizrena a na severu sve do Novog Brda i Prištine, gde mu je, po svoj prilici, i bila prestonica.

Prema dubrovačkom istoričaru M. Orbinu (1563-1610) kralj Vukašin je bio sin siromašnog vlastelina Mrnjave iz Livna koji se potom preselio u Blagaj na Buni, pritoci Neretve. Odatle ga je Dušan pozvao na svoj dvor. Braća Vukašin i Uglješa bili su nosioci dvorskih titula peharnika i konjušara. Uglješa potom postaje 1346. Dušanov namesnik u Trebinju a Vukašin 1350. župan u Prilepu.



Ostaci Novog Brda
The remains of Novo Brdo



Vukašin Mrnjavčević, King of Serbs and Greeks, as he usually signed himself on the charts, expanded his rule to the regions of Skopje and Prizren, and in the north all the way to Novo Brdo and Priština, which was, in all likelihood, his capital.

According to M. Orbin (1563-1610), a historian from Dubrovnik, King Vukašin was a son of a poor squire Mrnjava from Livno, which subsequently moved to Blagaj on the Buna River, a confluent of the Neretva River. It was from there that Emperor Dušan summoned him to his court. The brothers Vukašin and Uglješa bore the court titles of a cupbearer and a groom, respectively. In 1346 Uglješa became Dušan's Regent in Trebinje, whereas in 1350 Vukašin was appointed Župan (Prince) in Prilep.





Vukašin značajniju ulogu na dvoru dobija tek kada mu je Uroš V dodelio upražnjenu titulu kralja Raške 1365. godine. To izaziva otpor raške vlastele koja stvara savez protiv Vukašina u koji uvlače i Uroša. Vukašin razbija savez, politički i vojno, a potom 1369. na Kosovu pobeđuje deo velikaša na čelu sa Nikolom Altomanovićem. Tom prilikom car Uroš je zarobljen i od tada gubi svaki uticaj na zbivanja u zemlji. Na zahtev brata despota Uglješe s njim polazi u borbu protiv Turaka. Kod Černomena, na reci Marici, blizu turske prestonice Jedren 1371. godine ginu oba brata Mrnjavčevića, a njihova vojska je potpuno uništena.

Crkva Svetog Nikole, manastir Psača,
St. Nikola's Church, Psača Monastery



Freska kralja Vukašina, manastir Psača,
crkva Svetog Nikole, 1365 - 1371
Fresco painting of King Vukašin, Psača
Monastery, St. Nikola's Church, 1365-1371



It was only when Emperor Uroš V awarded him the title of King of Raška in 1365 that Vukašin started to play a more prominent role in the court. This was met with disapproval by the noblemen of Raška, who formed an alliance against Vukašin, in which they entangled Uroš V himself. Vukašin, however, managed to defeat this alliance, both in political and military terms, after which, in 1369 in Kosovo, he also defeated a group of peers led by Nikola Altomanović. On this occasion, Emperor Uroš was taken prisoner, from that point onwards losing any influence on the events in the country. At the request of his brother, Despot Uglješa, Vukašin went into battle against the Turks. In 1371, near Chernomen, on the Marica River, in the vicinity of the Turkish capital Edirne, both brothers Mrnjavčević died in battle, their armies being completely destroyed.

