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## ON BENEFICIARIES' INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE SOUTH OF THE PROVINCE OF DALMATIA (*A few examples from the area of east Herzegovina*)<sup>2</sup>

**ABSTRACT.** The paper presents data on consular beneficiaries' stations in the area of east Herzegovina (the south of the province of Dalmatia). It addresses the beneficiaries' sacrificial votaries from the municipium Diluntum situated on the *Aquileia–Dyrachium* main road. Legionaries *legio XIV Gemina* and *legio I Italica* served as consular beneficiaries in the previously mentioned area. The paper also presents comprehensive critical insight with particular reference to the function and position of consular beneficiaries who were keepers of public security during the Principate and later.

**KEYWORDS:** beneficiaries, legions, Diluntum, Dalmatia, east Herzegovina.

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<sup>2</sup> The paper presents the results of research conducted under the Project № III 47023 *Kosovo and Metohija between national identity and European integration*, which is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

This paper was submitted on August 15, 2017 and accepted for publication at the meeting of the Editorial Board held on September 19, 2017.

The rule of the Roman Empire in the south of the province of Dalmatia left a significant number of epigraph statues behind, among which were proofs of consular beneficiaries (*beneficarii consularis*) (Domaszewski, 1902, p. 158–211; Domaszewski, 1904, p. 14–19; Bojanovski, 1988, p. 66–67; Zaninović, 2007, p. 181–182; Glavaš, 2013, p. 63–65; Самарџић, 2015, p. 143–170, 279–280; Glavaš, 2016, p. 1–48). However, besides a significant number of found statues, there was still an open question of the function of consular beneficiaries. This question was first addressed comprehensively by Hirschfeld and Domaszewski in 1891 and 1901 when they offered an overview of Roman road network linking it to the position of consular beneficiaries' stations (Hirschfeld, 1891, p. 844–877; Domaszewski, 1902, p. 158–211). A significant progress in the research of this topic was registered at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the publication of various academic papers and monographs which presented the corpus of beneficiaries' inscriptions in 1990 (Rankov, 1987, p. 6; CBFIR 1990; Schallmayer, 1990; Schallmayer, 1991, p. 400–406; Mirković, 1991, p. 252–256; Ardevan, 1994, p. 199–204; Ott, 1995, p. 82–150; Dise, 1995, p. 72–85; Dise, 1996, p. 286–292; Dise, 1997, p. 284–299; Rankov, 1999, p. 15–35).

A short and informative overview of the functions of consular beneficiaries for Dalmatia and Pannonia with the epigraph material from Bosnia and Herzegovina was given by Bojanovski (Bojanovski, 1988, p. 360–364) while beneficiaries' stations in Novi Pazar and Sirmije were researched by Mirković (Мирковић, 1971, p. 263–271; Mirković, 1991, p. 255–256). Academic papers written by Zaninović were based on hypotheses given by Domaszewski and focused only on the Dalmatae-controlled part of Dalmatia (Zaninović, 2007, p. 181–184); Matijević discussed in his papers consular beneficiaries and their statues found on the territory of Salona (Matijević, 2012, p. 67–82) while Glavaš, using the epigraph material and the existing records of sacrificial votaries, stated possible consular beneficiaries' stations in Dalmatia (Glavaš, 2013, p. 63–76; Glavaš, 2015, p. 27–40; Glavaš, 2016, p. 1–48).

It is difficult to determine more precisely the role of consular beneficiaries mostly due to generalized use of the term which resulted in ongoing academic discussions over many questions concerning the very definition of it even today. The consular beneficiaries are seen as legionaries who were being transferred from their original unit and placed under the province vicegerent's jurisdiction. The most numerous ones were the province vicege-

rents with one beneficiary per legion centurion. According to the epigraph records, *beneficarii consularis* were also seen as soldiers used for doing various kinds of duties for the province vicegerent (Mirković, 1991, p. 255–256; Schallmayer, 1991, p. 400–406; Ott, 1995, p. 82–154; Dise, 1995, p. 72–85; Rankov, 1999, p. 27–29; Glavaš, 2013, p. 64–65; Glavaš, 2015, p. 8; Glavaš, 2016, p. 10–12). The position of consular beneficiaries on the road networks, mostly along border provinces, also proves that their function was a part of organised system in the province administration. They would mostly have spent six months in certain stations and left sacrificial votaries, usually devoted to Jupiter, at the shrine inside the station. They were left there to honour their arrival or departure (*expleta statione, exacta statione, accepta missione*) (Nelis-Clement, 1994, p. 252; Dise, 1997, p. 286–292; Rankov, 1999, p. 27–29; Glavaš, 2013, p. 64–65; Glavaš, 2016, p. 10–12).

Consular beneficiaries were seen as delegates, i.e. representatives of the vicegerent of the province of Dalmatia when doing their field work, i.e. in direct contact with local population. Therefore, all contacts between the population and central authority were largely initiated or done with the help of beneficiaries. In this way, the province vicegerent showed indirectly his presence on all significant places identified as such by him whether the places were correspondence routes, supply routes, transport routes, mine routes, border areas, or important urban centres. Given the fact that the consular beneficiaries were, by rule, legionaries, their placement into certain provinces had its own significance also from the aspect of security. Therefore, ever since the Marcoman crisis in 190, the number of consular beneficiaries' stations grew as well as their presence along strategic *Aquileia-Dyrrachium* transport route in the province of Dalmatia (Schallmayer, 1991, p. 403; Dise, 1995, p. 79; Glavaš, 2016, p. 10–12).

Therefore, beneficiaries' stations were found on more prominent places and points in the province of Dalmatia. The main duty for soldiers who served in these stations was to take care of order and safety, principally, in traffic. Consular beneficiaries performed also other military and administrative duties and that is why their votive inscriptions could be interpreted as related to those duties. That is why caution is necessary when researching statues found in bigger cities whereas the research of statues found in villages and outside military camps is much clearer (Domaszewski, 1902, p. 158–211; Sticotti, 1913, p. 157, 173; Schallmayer, 1991, p. 403; Nelis-

Clement, 1994, p. 252; Dise, 1995, p. 79; Dise, 1997, p. 286–292; Rankov, 1999, p. 27–29; Glavaš, 2013, p. 64–65; Самарџић, 2015, p. 177; Glavaš, 2016, p. 10–12).

Three epigraph statues of consular beneficiaries were found on the territory of east Herzegovina, in Stolac and its surrounding area. The location of the centre of Roman municipium *Diluntum*, according to the hodological research, was precisely in Stolac. Even though there are no specific data stating this, it is considered that *Diluntum* was ranked as municipium during the Flavian Dynasty, i.e. during Hadrian's reign (from 117 to 138) at the latest according to smaller number of found epigraph records containing only imperial *Flavii* and *Aelii* (CILIII 8431; CIL III 12776; ILJug 117; ILJug 1740; Tab. Peut. 468; It. Ant. 338; Truhelka, 1892, p. 350–365; Fiala, 1893, p. 511–517; Patsch, 1900, p. 166–172; Pašalić, 1960, p. 65–66; Sergejevski, 1962, p. 111–113; Marić, 1973, p. 109–135; Marić, 1973a, p. 175–235; Шкриванић, 1975, p. 50; Vojanovski, 1988, p. 99–102; Atanacković-Salčić, 1979, p. 7–40; Paškvalin, 1999, p. 47–63; Самарџић 2015, p. 99–102, 121–131, 162–179; Glavaš, 2016, p. 28).

There was the consular beneficiaries' station on Aquileia-Dyrrachium road in the Roman *Diluntum*. Three epigraph statues of consular beneficiaries were found there, two containing the mention of the members of Legio XIV Gemina and one containing the mention of the member of Legio I Italica. The first inscription devoted to deity whose name was not preserved says: [- -] / *Sextus / Caese[r?]/nius Romanus / b(ene)ff(iciarius) c(o)ns(ularis) leg(ionis) XIII G(eminae) / v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)* (CIL III 8435=CBFIR 486). Legio XIV Sextus Caesernius Romanus beneficiary's sacrificial votary dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The second inscription says: *Marti Aug(usto) / T(itus) Ael(ius) Firmi/nus b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) / leg(ionis) XIII G(eminae) / v(otum) s(olvit) m(erito) l(ibens)* (CILIII 8431=CBFIR 485). Legio XIV Titus Aelius Firminus beneficiary's sacrificial votary dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The third inscription says: *I(ovi) O(ptimo) M(aximo) / Iul(ius) Hercu/lanus / be(neficiarius) co(n)s(ularis) leg(ionis) / I Ital(icae)* (CIL III 14631=CBFIR 487). Legio I Iulius Herculanus beneficiary's sacrificial votary dates back to the turn of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The significance of these votive statues reflects itself in the fact that they prove there was the consular beneficiaries' station in Stolac (and its surrounding area) (Truhelka, 1892, p. 350–365; Patsch, 1900, p. 166–172; Pašalić, 1960, p. 65–66; Imamović, 1977, p. 94, 136–139, 267; Atanacković-Salčić, 1979, p. 9; Самарџић, 2015, p. 177; Glavaš, 2016, p. 28).

**CONCLUSION** Our findings on consular beneficiaries' stations in the Roman province of Dalmatia are based on accidental proofs while the found consular beneficiaries' stations have not been thoroughly researched archeologically until today, not even one. Not very large number of consular beneficiaries' sacrificial voluntaries (over fifty) have been found so far in the province of Dalmatia. The consular beneficiaries' stations in this area were mostly situated along main correspondence routes, significant transport routes, and mine areas.

It is considered that eight consular beneficiaries' stations were placed on important Aquileia–Dyrrachium transport route. The consular beneficiary's station in the Roman Diluntum was a part of this transport route. Three epigraph statues of consular beneficiaries were found there; two mentioning the members of Legio XIV Gemina and one mentioning the member of Legio I Italica. Legio XIV Titus Aelius Firminus beneficiary's sacrificial votary (*Titus Aelius Firminus*) and Legio XIV Sextus Caesernius Romanus beneficiary's sacrificial votary (*Sextus Caesernius Romanus*) date back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century while Legio I Iulius Herculanus beneficiary's sacrificial votary (*Iulius Herculanus*) dates back to the turn of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. It is believed that the consular beneficiaries' station was located, by rule, in the immediate area surrounding the centre of Roman community, which is an additional evidence for researchers to position the centre of the Roman municipium Diluntum in Stolac.

It was considered previously that consular beneficiaries' stations could be placed solely near communities which had been ranked as municipium. Today, however, thorough analysis proves that is not the rule.

ABBREVIATIONS		
ANU BiH		Akademija nauka i umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine, Sarajevo.
GZM		Glasnik Zemaljskog muzeja u Sarajevu, Sarajevo.
ZPE		Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik, Bonn.
ILJug		Inscriptiones Latinae quae in Iugoslavia inter annos MCMII et MCMLXX repertae et editae sunt, Ljubljana.
CBI		Centar za balkanološka ispitivanja, Sarajevo.
CBFIR		Corpus der griechischen und lateinischen Beneficiarier Inschriften des Römischen Reiches, Stuttgart.

CIL Corpus Inscriptiones Latinarum, Berolini.

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ГЛИГОР М. САМАРЏИЋ

УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ У ПРИШТИНИ СА ПРИВРЕМЕНИМ СЕДИШТЕМ  
У КОСОВСКОЈ МИТРОВИЦИ, ФИЛОЗОФСКИ ФАКУЛТЕТ  
КАТЕДРА ЗА ИСТОРИЈУ

РЕЗИМЕ

О БЕНЕФИЦИЈАРСКИМ НАТПИСИМА СА ЈУГА ПРОВИНЦИЈЕ ДАЛМАЦИЈЕ  
(НЕКОЛИКО ПРИМЈЕРА СА ПОДРУЧЈА ИСТОЧНЕ ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ)

У раду се презентују подаци о станици конзуларних бенефицијара са подручја источне Херцеговине (југ провинције Далмације). Ријеч је о бенефицијарским завјетним жртвеницима из муниципијума Дилунтума на магистралној цести *Aquileia-Dyrrachium*, гдје су пронађена три епиграфска споменика конзуларских бенефицијара: на два су споменути припадници XIV легије *Gemina*, а на једном припадник I легије *Italica*. Жртвеници конзуларних бенефицијара XIV легије, Тита Елија Фирмина (*Titus Aelius Firminus*) и Секста Цезернија Романа (*Sextus Caesernius Romanus*), датирају се у II вијек, док се жртвеник конзуларног бе-

нефицијара I легије Italica, Јулија Херкулана (*Iulius Herculanus*), датира на прелаз из II у III вијек. Сматра се да су станице конзуларних бенефицијара по правилу биле смјештене у непосредној близини самог средишта римског насеља па је то додатни аргумент истраживачима за публикацију центра римског муниципијума *Diluntum* у Столац. Такође, дајемо опширан критички осврт на функцију и положај конзуларних бенефицијара који су били чувари јавне сигурности у вријеме принципата и касније.

Кључне речи: бенефицијари, легије, Дилунтум, Далмација, источна Херцеговина.



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