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# ON THE BENEFICIARY INSCRIPTIONS IN THE SOUTH OF THE PROVINCE OF MOESIA SUPERIOR (*The Examples from Kosovo and Metohija*)

**ABSTRACT.** The paper presents data on consular beneficiary stations in Kosovo and Metohija (the south of the province of Moesia Superior). It is about beneficiary inscriptions which were found near roads which intersected Kosovo and Metohija from the north to south areas (*Narona–Scupi*) and from the southwest to northeast areas (*Lissus–Naissus*). Consular beneficiaries were legionaries *legio VII Claudia* and *legio IV Flavia* in these stations. A critical review of the function and the position of consular beneficiaries, who were the guardians of public safety, is given as well.

**KEYWORDS:** beneficiaries, inscriptions, legions, Moesia Superior, Kosovo and Metohija.

A significant number of epigraph statues testifies to the Roman rule in the south of the province of Moesia Superior. The epigraph statues and records on consular beneficiaries in Kosovo and Metohija (*beneficarii consularis*) are highly significant for us (Caver, 1881,

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pp. 379–401; Domaszewski, 1895, p. 98; Domaszewski, 1902, pp. 158–211; Domaszewski, 1904, pp. 14–19; Filow, 1906, p. 89; Čerškov, 1969, pp. 57–58, 96–97; Мирковић, 1971, p. 268; Папазоглу, 1988, pp. 163–164; Фидановски, 1989, pp. 303–306; Mirdita, 2015, pp. 222–229). Besides a highly significant number of found epigraph statues, there is still an open question of the function of consular beneficiaries, which was thoroughly researched for the first time by O. Hirschfeld and A. Domaszewski in 1891 and 1902 (Hirschfeld, 1891, pp. 844–877; Domaszewski, 1902, pp. 158–211). The end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century marks a significant progress with regard to this topic and its research, which can be proved by a number of different academic papers and books with corpora consisting of beneficiary inscriptions even from the province of Moesia Superior (CBFIR 1990; Мирковић, 1971, pp. 263–271; Rankov, 1987, p. 6; Фидановски, 1989, pp. 303–306; Schallmayer, 1991, pp. 400–406; Mirković, 1991, pp. 252–256; Ott, 1995, pp. 82–150; Dise, 1995, pp. 72–85; Dise, 1996, pp. 286–292; Dise, 1997, pp. 284–299; Rankov, 1999, pp. 15–35; Mirdita, 2015, pp. 222–229).

Because it is a general term, it is difficult to determine more precisely the role of the consular beneficiaries, which, even today, opens many scientific discussions on various questions regarding the term. It is thought that the consular beneficiaries were legionaries who were put under the rule of a province's envoy after being transferred from their legions. They reported to the province's envoy directly. According to the epigraph records, it is thought as well that *beneficarii consularis* were used as soldiers who performed numeros and various duties for the province's envoy (Mirković, 1991, pp. 255–256; Schallmayer, 1991, pp. 400–406; Ott, 1995, pp. 82–154; Dise, 1995, pp. 72–85; Rankov, 1999, pp. 27–29; Glavaš, 2013, pp. 64–65; Glavaš, 2015, p. 8; Mirdita, 2015, pp. 222–229; Glavaš, 2016, pp. 10–12). The position of consular beneficiaries on the roads, mostly along the border provinces, points to the fact that their function was a part of the organised administrative system of the province. They spent mostly six months or a year in the stations and left votaries mostly dedicated to Jupiter in religious places in the station compund. These votaries were set there upon their arrival or departure (*expleta statione, exacta statione, accepta missione*) (Nelis-Clement, 1994, p. 252; Dise, 1997, pp. 286–292; Rankov, 1999, pp. 27–29; Glavaš, 2013, pp. 64–65; Mirdita, 2015, pp. 222–229; Glavaš, 2016, pp. 10–12).

The consular beneficiaries were representatives of the province's envoy when interacting with the local population. That is the reason why every interaction of the locals with the executive power was mostly initiated or done with the help of the beneficiaries. Therefore, the province's envoy showed his presence indirectly on all significant locations determined by him whether they were roads, transport routes, road intersections, mines, border areas or significant urban centers. Since the consular beneficiaries were usually legionaries, their transfer to various provinces had its significance in terms of safety. The number of consular beneficiary stations increased since the Makroman crisis in 190 and the presence along strategic roads in provinces, even in Moesia Superior (Mirković, 1971, pp. 269–271; Фидановски, 1989, pp. 303–306; Schallmayer, 1991, p. 403; Dise, 1995, p. 79; Mirdita, 2015, pp. 222–229; Glavaš, 2016, pp. 10–12).

Therefore, beneficiary stations were placed at the more significant places and stops in the province of Moesia Superior. They got their names depending on the fact who gave them their authority and rights. They were given the right to command smaller military units located at strategically significant points. The main duty of the soldiers who served there was primarily to maintain order and to secure transport. Their presence on different roads was influenced by the need to ensure the safety of those who traveled, transported mine ores, agricultural and other products. Besides their duties to protect and enable the safety of those who traveled, free trade at various road points and customs points, they also collected taxes. Consular beneficiaries had other military and administrative duties and that is why their inscriptions can be seen as related to them. Therefore, researchers should be careful with statues found in bigger cities while everything is much clearer with statues found in villages or outside of military camps (McMullen, 1963, pp. 58–59; Mirković, 1971, pp. 269–271; Фидановски, 1989, pp. 303–306; Schallmayer, 1991, p. 403; Nelis-Clement, 1994, pp. 252; Dise, 1995, p. 79; Dise, 1997, pp. 286–292; Rankov, 1999, pp. 27–29; Glavaš, 2013, pp. 64–65; Mirdita, 2015, pp. 222–229; Glavaš, 2016, pp. 10–12).

The military class of society, which inhabited the area due to the state interests, was a distinct class of the population in Kosovo and Metohija. The low-level officers, consular beneficiaries, and military personnel from Mezija legion were the members of this class. It is thought that they were transferred from *VII Claudia* camp to *Viminacium* and *IV Flavia* to *Singidunum* and to certain other sta-

tions, which were located along the two main roads: *Narona–Scupi* and *Lissus–Naissus*. (Tab. Peut. 468, 469, 557, 558; It. Ant. 338; Čeršković, 1969, pp. 57–58, 96–97; Мирковић, 1971, pp. 268; Папазоглу, 1988, pp. 163–164; Фидановски, 1989, pp. 303–306; Mirdita, 2015, pp. 222–229). The main road which led through the inland of the province of Dalmatia and Moesia Superior, i.e. from Narona to Skoplje (through Gacko, Foča, Novi Pazar, Kosovska Mitrovica, and Priština) was the place where records of consular beneficiaries were found near Novi Pazar, in Slatina village, Kosovska Mitrovica, Vučitrn in the valley of Ibar and Sitnica as well as in Kačanik in the valley of Lepenac (Evans, 1885, p. 74 fig. 39; Вулић, 1931, p. 42 др. 96, 81 № 208, 90 № 209, 91 № 210, 91 № 211, 102 № 223, 133 № 321, 135 № 325, 192 № 513; Čeršković, 1969, pp. 57–58, 96–97; Мирковић, 1971, p. 268; Папазоглу, 1988, pp. 163–164; Фидановски, 1989, pp. 303–306; Mirdita, 2015, pp. 222–229). The other road, *Lissus–Naissus*, was the place where the records were found in Dobružde village, Prizren, as well as two beneficiary inscriptions from *speculatores* from Priština and in Batusa village (Čeršković, 1969, pp. 57–58, 96–97; Мирковић, 1971, p. 368; Фидановски, 1989, pp. 303–306). Thanks to the position of a beneficiary, i.e. to the process of going up the service ladder, they were able to reach the rank of *speculatores*, becoming in that way *principales* in the office of the province's envoy (Мирковић, 1971, p. 268). *Principales* were wealthier than ordinary soldiers because they were paid one and a half or two times more. The members of the province's envoy's unit, i.e. high-level officers such as *cornicularii*, *speculatores*, *beneficiarii consularis*, *frumentarii*, *stratores consularis* received the salary which was double what the ordinary soldiers received (Мирковић, 1971, p. 268; Ferjančić, 2010, p. 135; Matijević, 2012, pp. 69–71).

Two inscriptions prove the existence of the station protected by a smaller unit under the command of consular beneficiaries near Novi Pazar. One was saved on an ara (0,84 x 0,32 x 0,28 m), which was found in Novi Pazar Banja, 5 kilometers away from Novi Pazar (Марић, 1956, pp. 356–358; Мирковић, 1971, p. 263). *I(ovi) o(ptimo) m(aximo) / ceterisque / dis deabus / huiusce / loci pro salute / domini nostri / M(arcus?) Ucenteus / b(ene)ff(iciarius) c(onsularis) l(egionis) VII Cl(audiae) / v(otum) s(olvit)*. The inscription dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (ILJug 67 = CBFIR 595). The second inscription was found on an ara (0,99 ? 0,36 ?) built into a wall of St. Peter's Church, 3 kilometers away from Novi Pazar, on the way to Raška (Мирковић, 1971, pp. 263–364). *[I(ovi) o(ptimo) m(aximo)] / ceterisq(ue) / dis dea/busque /*

*huiusq(ue) / loci M(arcus) Victorius / Urcianus b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) / le[g(ionis) VII Cl(audiae)] pos(uit)*. The inscription dates back to the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (CBFIR 596; Мирковић, 1971, p. 264).

An ara (0,36 x 0,30 m) was found in Slatina village near Sočanica with the inscription (Вулић, 1931, p. 102 № 223): *I(ovi) o(ptimo) m(aximo) et Nemesei / reg(inae) Genio / stat(ionis) m(unicipii?) Dard(anorum) / Sep(timius) Vitalis / b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) leg(ionis) / VII Cl(audiae) v(otum) l(ibens) s(olvit)* (ILJug 69 = CBFIR 602). The inscription dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (Mirdita, 1981, p. 270 № 353 (47)). During the construction of Raška-Mitrovica railroad, at the very start of the stop for Kosovska Mitrovica, four votary statues were found. The inscription on the first statue (0,88 x 0,34 x 0,28 m) says (Вулић, 1931, p. 81 № 208): *I(ovi) o(ptimo) m(aximo) / Iun(oni) reg(inae) / Miner(vae) s(acrum) Aur(elius) / Saevinus / Procul(us) / b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) / v(otum) l(ibens) p(osuit)*. The inscription dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (ILJug 1393 = CBFIR 606). The consular beneficiary inscription on the second statue (0,84 x 0,27 x 0,30 m) found in Kosovska Mitrovica says (Вулић, 1931, p. 90 № 209): *I(ovi) o(ptimo) (!) sacrum / ex viso / M(arcus) Ulp(ius) / Viator / b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) / ex fru(mentario)*. The inscription dates back to the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century (ILJug 1392 = CBFIR 607). The consular beneficiary inscription on the third statue (0,80 x 0,32 x 0,29 m) found in Kosovska Mitrovica says (Вулић, 1931, p. 91 № 210): *Nemesei reg(inae) / sacrum pro / salutem (!) / dominor(um) / nn(ostorum duorum) Augg(ustorum) / C(aius) Val(erius) Valens / b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) leg(ionis) IIII Fl(aviae) / v(otum) l(ibens) l(aetus) me[ito] po[suit]*. The inscription dates back to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (ILJug 1394 = CBFIR 605). However, the consular beneficiary inscription found on the fourth statue in Kosovska Mitrovica (0,88 x 0,32 x 0,28 m) says (Вулић, 1931, p. 91 № 211): *Nemesei reg(inae) / sacrum / Ulp(ius) Martia(lis) b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) / leg(ionis) IIII Fl(aviae) / v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)*. The inscription dates back to the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (ILJug 1395 = CBFIR 608). An ara was also found in Vučitrn (0,82 x 0,34 x 0,34 m) with the inscription (Вулић, 1931, p. 42 № 96): *D(is) d(eabusque) / M(arcus) Aurelius / Marcianus / b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) leg(ionis) / VII Cl(audiae) [[Sever(ianae)]] / [[Alexan[drianae]] / v(otum) l(ibens) p(ersolvit) / Agricola et Clemente / co(n)s(ulibus)*. The inscription dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (ILJug 1404 = CBFIR 610).

A significant ara was found on the aforementioned *Lissus–Naissus* road in Prizren (0,42 x 0,12 x 0,17 m) with the inscription (Вулић, 1931, p. 135 № 325). *[I(ovi) o(ptimo)] m(aximo) / [M]iner[vae Her]/[cu]li Ne[mesi] / [- - -]ul(- - -) Fi[rmus?] / b(ene)ff(iciarius) [co(n)s(ularis)?] / [leg(ionis)] IIII Fl(aviae) f(elicis) [- - -] / pos(uit)*. The inscription dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century (ILJug 1439; Mirdita, 1981, p. 261 № 300 (4)). However, the authors of corpora for the beneficiary inscriptions for the province of Moesia Superior read it *[I(ovi) o(ptimo)] m(aximo) / Miner(vae) [Her]/[cu]li Ne[pt(uno)] / [- - -]ul(ius) Fl[avius?] / b(ene)ff(iciarius) [co(n)s(ularis)] / [leg(ionis)] IIII Fl(aviae) [fel(icis)] / [- - -]* (CBFIR 597). As we already said, significant is the previously found ara (0,62 x 0,25 m) with the inscription in Dobruždi or Škoza village that was later transferred to Žur village near Prizren (Вулић, 1931, p. 133, № 321). *I(ovi) o(ptimo) m(aximo) / P(ublius) Ael(ius) Ing(enuus) b(ene)ff(iciarius) / co(n)s(ularis) le/g(ionis) VII Cl(audiae) / v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens)*. The inscription dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century (ILJug 1444 = CBFIR 598). According to the records, an ara was found on *Lissus–Naissus* road (0,92 x 171 x 0,30 m) in Gračanica near Ulpiana, with the inscription: *C(aius) Dom(itius) Licinianus / filius b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) / foro posuit*. It dates back to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (CBFIR 580). An ara (0,19 x 0,25 m) with the inscription of the beneficiary with the rank of *speculator* from Ulpiana was also found (Вулић, 1931, p. 192, № 513). *- - -] / [- - -]anu[s] / [sp]ecul(ator) leg(ionis) / [II]II Fl(aviae) S(ever(iana)e?) / v(otum) [s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito)]* (ILJug 1419). The inscription dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century (Mirdita, 1981, p. 248 № 217 (16)). As significant as all the previously mentioned is the inscription found in Batus village, south of Vučitrn (Čerškov, 1969, p. 57, 65; Мирковић, 1971, p. 266; Фидановски, 1989, p. 306; Mirdita, 2007, p. 36). *I(ovi) o(ptimo) m(aximo) / [-]VPP / d(is) d(eabusque) et Gen[io] / stationis / pro s(alute) d(omini) n(ostri) Imp(eratoris) / [[Severi Ale]]/[xandria]] Aug(usti) / Valerianus / specul(ator) leg(ionis) IIII / [F](aviae) S(ever(iana)e) A(lexand(iana)e) v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibenis) m(erito) Aug(usto) / Severo Alexand(ro) Aug(usto) / [II] et Aufid(io) Marcello / [II co(n)s(ulibus)]*. (CIL III 8173). The inscription dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (Mirdita, 1981, p. 252 № 241 (40)). *Speculators* were members of envoy's personnel taken from the province's legions. Their main duty was to help the envoy in implementing justice into certain provinces and the area (Nelis-Clement, 2000, p. 117). They also performed intelligence duties, i.e. they were responsible for the flow of different pieces of information within, as well as the outside, of the province,

which were sent to Rome as important messages to the emperor. They were the officers who had a highly significant role in the province administration and who were members of *officium consularis* (Čerškov, 1969, pp. 57, 65; Мирковић, 1971, p. 266; Mirdita, 1981, p. 252 № 241 (40); Фидановски, 1989, p. 306; Mirdita, 2007, p. 36). A votary ara was also found in Stari Kačanik near Kačanik with the consular beneficiary inscription (Evans, 1885, p. 74 fig. 39; Čerškov, 1969, p. 69; Papazoglu, 1969, p. 173; Mócsy, 1970, p. 243; Mócsy, 1974, p. 254; Mirdita, 2007, p. 29). *Deo / Andino / sac(rum) Tib(erius) / Cl(audius) Certus / b(ene)ff(iciarius) co(n)s(ularis) leg(ionis) VII / Cl(audiae) v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibens) m(erito) / Clem(ente) et Prisc(o) co(n)s(ulibus)*. The inscription dates back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century (CIL III 8184 = ILJug 1430 = CBFIR 581).

**CONCLUSION** As we can see, *beneficarii consularis legionum*, mostly *beneficarius legionis VII Claudiae* and *legionis IV Flaviae*, were the most numerous in Kosovo and Metohija (Moesia Superior), but there are those whose legions were not mentioned. The aforementioned inscriptions prove that the consular beneficiary stations were found mostly along the main roads, on significant road intersections, and mine areas in this region. It is thought that smaller military units were situated in these stations whose main duty was to ensure the road safety and to control the transport of goods. Apart from this, it is believed that one of the duties of these consular beneficiaries was to collect the taxes. Consular beneficiaries were low-level officers among the envoy's personnel who were in charge of smaller military units in stations on the roads. The beneficiary stations were very frequent on the roads in the south of the province of Moesia Superior (Kosovo and Metohija) and the beneficiary inscriptions are more frequent when compared to the other parts and roads in the province. It is presumed that the consular beneficiary inscriptions, i.e. the beneficiaries from *VII Claudia* legion near Novi Pazar were responsible for the discovery of an unknown station located around the place where the epigraph statue was found or near the city itself. It is believed that the reason for placing beneficiary stations near Novi Pazar was the fact that the road led to the southeast and to the mine area called Rogozna and DD municipium (today's Sočanica). Many traces of the mine ore exploitation in the ancient times were discovered near Novi Pazar and Kosovo. There were rich deposits of copper, iron, and silver in Rogozna and Kopaonik. It is therefore believed that the frequency of the consular beneficiary

stations was higher on the roads in the south of Moesia Superior (Kosovo and Metohija) because of the need to protect the roads and transport of ores from the robbers. The military unit near Slatina also protected the road which connected mines near Sočanica with the main road. A few consular beneficiary inscriptions were found between Kosovska Mitrovica and Vučitrn and that is why there is a possibility that an intersection of the aforementioned main roads was there (Narona-Novi Pazar-Skoplje, Lissus-Naissus) or the possibility that the local roads intersected with main roads. Many significant local roads were interconnected with the road between Kosovska Mitrovica and Kačanik. The beneficiary station near Kačanik protected the entrance into the Kačanik ravine and customs station near today's Runjevo. *VII Claudia* legionaries near Škoza village controlled the crossing over the Beli Drim river. It is believed that the road which crossed Drim near Škoza village probably went through today's Prizren and the beneficiary inscription from the second Moesia Superior legion, *IV Flavia*, was left by those who lived in the station there. All the epigraph beneficiary statues from the south of Moesia Superior date back to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

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ABBREVIATIONS	ANU BiH	Akademija nauka i umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine, Sarajevo.
	ZPE	Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik, Bonn.
	ILJug	Inscriptiones Latinae quae in Iugoslavia inter annos MCMII et MCMLXX repertae et editae sunt, Ljubljana.
	It. Ant.	Itinerarium Antonini, Berlin.
	SKA	Српска краљевска академија, Београд.
	CBI	Centar za balkanološka ispitivanja, Sarajevo.
	CIL	Corpus Inscriptiones Latinarum, Berolini.
	CBFIR	Corpus der griechischen und lateinischen Beneficiärer Inschriften des Römischen Reiches, Stuttgart.
	Tab. Peut.	Tabula Peutingeriana. Stuttgart.

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ГЛИГОР М. САМАРЏИЋ

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

РЕЗИМЕ

О БЕНЕФИЦИЈАРСКИМ НАТПИСИМА СА ЈУГА ПРОВИНЦИЈЕ ГОРЊЕ МЕЗИЈЕ  
(ПРИМЈЕРИ СА КОСОВА И МЕТОХИЈЕ)

У раду се презентују подаци о станицама конзуларних бенефицијара са југа провинције Горње Мезије (Косово и Метохија). На овом подручју најбројнији су били *beneficarii consularis legionum*, и то *beneficiarius legionis VII Claudiae* и *legionis IV Flaviae*, али било је и оних уз које се појам „легија“ не спомиње. Натписи са Косова и Метохије потврђују да су се станице конзуларних бенефицијара (локалних полицијских официра) налазиле дуж главних комуникацијских праваца, на важним саобраћајним раскрсницама и у рудним областима. Сматра се да су у овим станицама биле смјештене мање посаде војника чији је основни задатак био да обезбјеђују сигурност саобраћаја на путевима и контролишу транспорт робе. Поред тога, њихова обавеза била је

и прикупљање и чување пореза у природи. На путевима на југу провинције Горње Мезије (Косово и Метохија) бенефицијарне станице биле су веома честе, а натписи бенефицијара бројни у односу на друге дијелове и путеве у провинцији. Сматра се да је разлог постављања бенефицијарне станице у околини Новог Пазара био у томе што је пут водио даље на југоисток према рудничкој области Рогозне и муниципијуму *DD* (данашња Сочаница). Наиме, на локалитетима око Новог Пазара и у косовској области откривени су бројни трагови експлоатације руде у антици и отуда је густина станица конзуларних бенефицијара на путевима на југу Горње Мезије настала из потребе обезбјеђења саобраћаја и транспорта из рудника од разбојника. Такође, војна посада код Слатине штитила је пут који је повезивао руднике код Сочанице са магистралном саобраћајницом. Између Косовске Митровице и Вучитрна нађено је неколико натписа конзуларних бенефицијара, па постоји могућност да се ту налазила раскрсница два главна пута (Нарона–Нови Пазар–Скопље, Лисус–Наисус) или су се пак са главном комуникацијом укрштали локални путеви. На траси пута између Косовске Митровице и Качаника увезивао се низ путева локалног значаја. Бенефицијарна станица код Качаника обезбјеђивала је улаз у Качаничку клисуру и царинску станицу код данашњег Руњева. Припадници легије *VII Claudia* код села Шкоза контролисали су прелаз преко Белог Дрима. Сматра се да је траса пута која је код овог села прелазила Дрим вјероватно ишла преко данашњег Призрена те да натпис бенефицијарија друге Горњомезијске легије, *IV Flavia*, потиче од посаде станице на том мјесту. Сви епиграфски споменици бенефицијарија са југа Горње Мезије датују се од краја II до средине III вијека.

Кључне речи: бенефицијари; натписи; легије; Горња Мезија; Косово и Метохија.



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