

Inga VILOGORAC BRČIĆ

## NAVISALVIA, THE SAVIOUR OF CYBELE'S SHIP

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Dr. sc. Inga Vilogorac Brčić  
University of Zagreb  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Ivana Lučića 3  
10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
E-mail: ivbrbic@ffzg.hr

**G**reek and Roman literary sources inform us about the tradition of the transfer of Cybele's cult from Pergamon to Rome in 204 BC: the protagonist was Claudia Quinta who helped, by miracle, for Cybele's sacra to arrive in Rome safely. This was the reason for the Romans to worship divinized Claudia Quinta as goddess Navisalvia (*The Saviour of the Ship*) besides Cybele. Three Roman altars, with dedications to the Great Mother and to Navisalvia, are evidence. One of them is decorated with the relief of Claudia's miracle. The story about Claudia Quinta was the model for a series of legends about Christian saints, such as the one of the transfer of St Euphemia's relics to Rovinj. It also inspired numerous artists from the Middle ages to 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Key words:** Great Mother Cybele, Claudia Quinta, Navisalvia, altar, dedication, St Euphemia

According to written sources, towards the end of the Second Punic War (219-202 BC) Sybiline books have foretold that the Romans would win if they bring the cult of the goddess Cybele of Pergamon in Rome. Although the transfer of the cult was officially predicted, it can be explained by the political circumstances at the time. During the First Macedonian War (215-205 BC) against king Philip V, Romans made a covenant with Pergamon king Attalus I. They needed his support to win the war and to insure their popularity in the Eastern world. The alliance with Rome provided security

to Attalus. The transfer of Cybele's cult, therefore, offered to Romans diplomatic and intellectual ties with the Eastern world, especially with Hellenistic culture and religion, and a hope to strengthen the self-awareness and affirmation of national identity: Roman nobility believed in their Trojan origin. Cybele's cult came to Rome on 6th April 204 BC and the goddess was called the Great Mother (*Mater Magna*). She was welcomed by the members of prominent Roman patrician families: Publius Cornelius Scipio Nasica and Claudia Quinta.

Nineteen Greek and Roman writers described or mentioned the arrival of Cybele's cult to Rome.<sup>1</sup> Almost all of them highlighted the heroine of the legend, Claudia, but they didn't always refer to the historically same person. Most of them wrote that the ship with Cybele's *sacra*, which had stuck in the shallow of the mouth of Tiber, was moved by Claudia Quinta, Roman matron, a married woman of noble origin. She was the granddaughter of Appius Claudius Caecus, censor in 212 BC, who built Via Appia, and the daughter of Publius Claudius Pulcher, consul in 249 BC, who commanded the Roman fleet in the First Punic War. Cicero said that she was considered the purest of all matrons (*femina autem quae matronarum castissima putabatur, De har. resp., XXVII*). Livy wrote that among the names of matrons that came to welcome the goddess, Claudia's name was the only significant one (XXIX, 14). Propertius named Claudia Quinta an exceptional servant of the Goddess with turreted crown (*turritae rara ministra deae*) (IV, 11), and Pliny said that she was the proof of piety (*experimentum religionis, VII, 120*). Ovid described her look: her beauty was equal to her sublime origin, but different clothes and hairstyle didn't go in her favor, because she was considered unchaste and falsely accused for a crime. He pointed out that she was brave: always ready to quarrel with the old men who condemned her and she laughed at the false rumors (*Fast., IV, 249-348*). Valerius Maximus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Appian and Minucius Felix also mentioned Claudia Quinta regarding the arrival of Cybele's cult.

In his speech *Pro Caelio* Cicero pointed out two Claudias: Claudia Quinta and Claudia the Vestal virgin, daughter of Appius Claudius Pulcher, and granddaughter of Claudia Quinta's brother, as the examples of integrity (XXXIV). That was probably the reason for Silius Italicus, Statius, Herodian and Julian the Apostate to replace Claudia Quinta with Claudia the Vestal virgin in the legend about Cybele's arrival. Silius Italicus wrote that Claudia was *inlaesi corporis*, wanting to suggest her Vestal service (*Pun., XVII, 1-47*). Statius wrote that she was a virgin (*Vestalis, Silv., I, 246*), Herodian that she was the priestess of goddess Vesta (<sup>1</sup> *fšreia tÁj `Est...aj, I, 11, 3*), and Julian that she was a virgin devoted to the holliest priestly honor, meaning Vestal service (<sup>1</sup> *parqšnoj ferwmšnh t¾n panageštēthn ferwsÚnhn, Or., V, 159 B - 161 B*). On the other side, in the Diodor Siculus's story the main role belongs to the girl Valeria. The story is the same, and the fact that he pointed out the member of *Valerii* in the time when the legend first appeared in the works of other ancient

writers (1<sup>st</sup> century BC) would testify the influence of that Roman family on its formation.

Due to its dramatic nature the story of Claudia Quinta inspired many theater plays which were played during Cybele's festival *Megalesia* (*Ovid. Fast., IV, 326*) in front of the temples or in the Cybele's theatres. It is assumed that a theater play about Cybele's arrival also took place during *Ludi Apollinares* and that perhaps the members of Claudian family paid for it to be performed in memory of their glorious ancestress (FLOWER 1995., p. 175). There is an evidence that the Claudians were inclined to the Cybele's cult, and the main reason would be the legend about Claudia, which further promoted their reputation in the Roman world: a member of their family was meritorious in transferring the cult of the Goddess that was, beside Venus, regarded as the Mother of the Roman people. Therefore the emperor Claudius made Cybele's cult official and reformed it by introducing the March festival and by founding the collegium of dendrophors.

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Scientists discussed if Claudia Quinta was divinized as goddess Navisalvia and worshipped in Rome beside the Great Mother Cybele. They based their opinions on three Roman inscriptions, dated in 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, which note the dedication to the Mother of Gods and to Navisalvia.

The word Navisalvia is made of the noun *navis, is, f.* (the boat) and the feminine of the adjective *salvius, 3.* It derives from noun *salus, utis, f.* (saviour, rescue) and the adjective *salvus, 3.* (saved, safe, healthy). That adjective is not common in classical Latin and it is, beside this inscriptions, confirmed so far only in Roman *tabellae defixionum*, dated 70-50. BC, as part of Proserpina's name (*Proserpina Salvia, CIL I 2520*).

Mommsen concluded that the boat with Cybele's *sacra* was called *Salvia* (*CIL VI 492-494*). He denied possibility that Claudia Quinta bore that name, because it is not recorded that the Roman historical person was deified after death under the name of the place (ship, in this case) of deity to which it refers. Graillot (1912., p. 60), Vermaseren (*CCCA III 218*), L. E. Roller (1999., p. 214) and Scheid (2001., p. 25) agreed with him. Scheid's main argument was interpunction on inscriptions with dedications to Navisalvia.

However, Coarelli (1982., p. 44) listed a number of arguments for the assumption that Claudia Quinta was divinized as Navisalvia. They are based on the important cult monument: altar with figural representation of Claudia's miracle and the inscription which notes the dedication to Cybele and Navisalvia (fig. 1).

<sup>1</sup> Six ancient writers described the arrival of Cybele's cult in detail: Titus Livius (XXIX, 10-11 i 14), Ovid (*Fast., IV, 249-348*), Silius Italicus (*Pun., XVII, 1-47*), Appian (*Hann., 232. 1 - 237. 2*), Herodian (*I, 11, 3-5*) and Julian the Apostate (*Or., V, 159 B - 160 D*). However, the details of that legend are mentioned by Varro (*De l. Lat., VI, 15, P. 3*), Cicero (*De har. resp., 26. i 27, Pro Cael., 34*), Diodorus Siculus (*Bibl., XXXIII, 34, P. 9*), Strabo (*XII, 5, 3*), Propertius (*IV, 11*), Valerius Maximus (*I, 11, 8*), Plinius the Elder (*Nat. hist., VII, 120*), Statius (*Silv., I, 245-246*), Tacitus (*Annal., IV, 64*), Suetonius (*Tib., 2*), Minucius Felix (*Oct., VII, 1*), Arnobius (*Adv. nat., VII, 49, 1*) and Ammianus Marcellinus (*XXII, 9*). For a translation of those fragments to Croatian, as well as their interpretation, see in VILGORAC BRČIĆ 2009.



It was found at the foot of the Aventine Hill, on the bank of Tiber, at the place of ancient *emporium*.<sup>2</sup> On the front side of the altar is the relief of a boat with a statue of Cybele on a throne. Her head is covered with a veil and her hands rest on tympanon.<sup>3</sup> The statue is presented in aedicula. It is turned towards Claudia who stands on a podium on the shore, in front of the boat. E. Simon<sup>4</sup> and J. Scheid (2001., p. 25) believed that she is dressed in Vestal clothes: her head is covered, and she puts the veil (*suffibulum*) over her hand. She is pulling some kind of rope which bounds the boat. They explained it as a Vestal hair ribbon – *infula*. Simon also believed that the figure on the altar represents Claudia's statue from Cybele's Palatine temple. The poop of the boat is in the shape of feathers and the bow ends with a volute. One paddle of the boat is presented near the poop, and under the boat there are waves. At the sides of the altar Attis' attributes are presented: on the left side a Phrygian cap, on the right side a pedum and cymbals, and on the back there are two flutes.<sup>5</sup>

Under the relief there is the inscription:

MATRI · DEVM · ET NAVISALVIAE  
SALVIAE VOTO SVSCEPTO  
CLAUDIA SYNTHYCHE  
D(ono) D(edit)

*To the Mother of Gods and to the the Saviour of the Ship  
fulfilling the vow to the Saviour  
Claudia Synthychē  
donated as a gift.*

In the first row of the inscription there is a dedication to the Great Mother and to Navisalvia. In the second row there is a vow to Salvia. That must be an abbreviation of the name Navisalvia. In the third row there is the name of the dedicant, Claudia Synthychē, and in the last a donation formula.

Coarelli pointed out that Claudia Synthychē had the same name as the heroine of the legend and that's why she dedicated to Navisalvia twice (1982., 44); the word *Navisalvia* is related to the action of pulling the boat out and refers to the one that performed that action; under the plastic representation of the Mother of Gods there is her name, and under the representation of Claudia Quinta there is the name Navisalvia – Cybele and Claudia are equated and there is no hierarchy between them. Finally, he concludes that the Great Mother of Gods was first worshipped as Navisalvia, just like Isis, Aphrodite or Athena, which were worshipped by sail-



Fig. 1. Altar with figural representation of Claudia's miracle and the dedication to the Mother of Gods and Navisalvia (Courtesy of Museo Montemartini, Rome).

ors and workers at ports as Euploia, Ponthia or Pelagia – goddess that guaranteed safe navigation. Coarelli also assumed that the tradition about Claudia Quinta was introduced later, when it was mentioned for the first time in literary sources (1<sup>st</sup> century BC) – Claudia then took the features of Cybele Navisalvia.<sup>6</sup> On the basis of Suetonius (*Div. Claud.*, 19) Winsor Leach (2007., p. 7) believes that the policy of emperor Claudius had its reflection in the worship of Navisalvia: emperor granted special patronage to ship owners in his campaign to support the grain trade based in his new harbor in Ostia.

We agree that Claudia Quinta was divinized in 1<sup>st</sup> century as Navisalvia. In order to confirm that, we would add the following facts and our opinions: in the first row of the first inscription it is pointed to whom the altar was dedicated (*Matri Deum et Navisalviae*) and in the second is the vow to the Saviour (*Salviae voto suscepto*). It is not likely that in such short and representative inscription the word *Salvia* was carved twice by mistake, as Mommsen assumed. It seems that the attribute *Navisalvia* (the Saviour of the Ship) was abbreviated in the current use and that Claudia Quinta, as the Saviour, received vows by herself. It should be mentioned again that Proserpine, the goddess whose myth and cult were closely related to those of Cybele and Attis, was worshipped as Salvia, the Saviour. Finally, when we have in mind that it was believed that the statue of Claudia Quinta, which stood at the vestibule of the Palatine Cybele's temple, remained intact after

<sup>2</sup>Dimensions: 0,87 x 0,59 x 0,51 m. Museo Montemartini, Rome. Literature: CIL VI 492, ILS 4096, VERMASEREN 1977., sl. 30, CCCA III 218, ROLLER 1999., p. 312.

<sup>3</sup>Scene of Claudia Quinta's miracle is presented also on the bronze medallion of the empress Faustina the Elder (diameter 40,5 mm. Date 141–161 AD, Museum of fine arts, Boston). It is believed that the medallion was minted in time when the public interest in preparing the celebration of 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rome's foundation was stimulated (NOCK 1930., p. 253).

<sup>4</sup>"Altar der Göttermutter und ihres schiffes Salviae" in Hellbig, *Führer*, 24-25, p. 1175 (according to WINSOR LEACH 2007., p. 11).

<sup>5</sup>Winsor Leach (2007., p. 7) relates Attis' attributes with the cult reform of emperor Claudius who promoted worship of Attis. She also compares the style of carving to that of the Tomb of the Haterii (1<sup>st</sup> century, Musei Vaticani, Rome).

<sup>6</sup>A support to this assumption Coarelli states terracotta reliefs of Cybele sitting at the boat. Thirteen of them were found so far in Rome and Ostia. Four of them were found in Rome: one at Via Sacra, between the temple of Antoninus and Faustina and the temple of Romulus (CCCA III 202), one at the Velia hill (CCCA III 203), at the Tiber's shore, one outside the St. Pauls gate (CCCA III 350). One of them, which place of find is not known, is dated in 3<sup>rd</sup> century (CCCA III 265) and one was found at Via Ostiensis (CCCA III 431). Eight of them are from Ostia and just one is dated, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century (CCCA III 397).

the two fires which destroyed the whole temple (*Val. Max.*, I, 11. 8 i *Tac., Ann.*, IV, 64; second time at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD), we can assume that for the Romans at that time it represented divinity – the Saviour of the Ship.

Another dedication to Cybele nad Navisalvia is carved into an altar which was found at the same place as the previously described. Scheid (2001., p. 25) presumes that it was the place of the chapel dedicated to Cybele and Navisalvia.<sup>7</sup> The dedicant is the same:

NAVI · SALVIAE ET  
MATRI DEV(m) D(ono) D(edit)  
CLAVDIA SYNTY  
[che...]

*To the Saviour of the Ship and to the  
Mother of Gods donated as a gift  
Claudia Synty-  
che...*

Claudia Synthyche donated an altar to Navisalvia and the Mother of Gods. In this case Navisalvia is mentioned at the first place. The word *Salviae* here is not repeated, and in the partially preserved cognomen of the dedicant there is no letter H after T. Authors of CIL noted *distinguens* between words *Navi* and *Salviae*, but Coarelli, who saw the altar, has doubts about this (1982., p. 43).

Although there is no abbreviation L for *liberta* on the inscription, we assume that the dedicant was a freedwoman of Claudii,<sup>8</sup> imperial family. Since Claudia Synthyche dedicated twice to the Mother of Gods and to Navisalvia, divinised Claudia Quinta, we can assume that she was an important member of religious community which worshipped Phrygian Goddess. The main reason was the fact that she was freedwoman of imperial family who, as we have already pointed out, was especially inclined to worship of the Great Mother of Gods. Greek cognomen Synthyche (*SuntŪch*) means "happy" (litteraly "with good fate"). Claudia Synthyche was probably of Greek origin. She may have been from Asia Minor, if we take into account the dedication to Phrygian goddess.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, the third inscription with the dedication to Cybele and Navisalvia is carved into an altar which was found at an unknown place in Rome. On its left side an *urceus*, and on its right side a *patera* is carved:<sup>10</sup>

MATRI · DEVM  
ET · NAVI · SALVIAE  
Q(vintvs) · NVNNIVS  
TELEPHVS · MAG(ister)  
5 COL(legii) · CVLTO(rvm) · EIVS  
D(e) · S(vo) · D(ono) · D(edit)

*To the Mother of Gods  
and to the Navisalvia  
Quintus Nunnius  
Telephus, the head of  
5 collegium of her followers,  
donated as a gift of his own.*

The dedicant donated to the Mother of Gods and to Navisalvia at his own expense. Here Navisalvia's name is separated by *distinguens* (*Navi · Salviae*). Quintus Nunnius Telephus probably was a *libertus* of Nunnii family. *Nunnius* is the nomen of Etruscan origin (Schulze 1904., p. 229). It is not commonly recorded name (*RE* 1937., 1473-1474, *EDH*, *EDR*, *EDCS*) and we found another freedman of Roman Nunnii in 1<sup>th</sup> century, Quintus or Gaius Nunnius Alexander, who dedicated twice to Iuppiter Sabazius (*CIL* VI 429-430). *Telephos* (T»lefoj means "far-shining") is cognomen of Greek origin: that was the name of mythic figure, son of Heracles, king of Mysia. Therefore we assume that Quintus Nunnius Telephus was from Asia Minor.<sup>11</sup> He was the head of the collegium of Cybele's followers, *cultores*.<sup>12</sup> Suetonius (*Otho*, 8) testifies that *cultores* participated in mourning of Attis's death during Cybele's March festival. On the basis of this Garth (1984., p. 1332-1333) believes that *cultores* were an ordinary community of Cybele's followers, but at some subsequent stage they assumed the responsibility for some particular role in the cult. It is also testified that they doubled as a funerary society with collegium of *dendrophori* (*CIL* IX 3826-3827). Since it is pointed out in this inscription that collegium of *cultores* worshipped one goddess (*eius*), and that was surely Cybele, it could be an argument for those who believed that Cybele was worshipped as Navisalvia. However, the conjunction *et* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row of the inscription clearly testifies that the dedication referred to two deities.

We can conclude that dedicants to Cybele and Navisalvia were probably *liberti* of Eastern origin, perhaps from Asia Minor. It is sure that Telephus was prominent Cybele's follower, the head of one cult *collegium*. Claudia Synthyche, who dedicated twice to

<sup>7</sup> Museo archeologico al Teatro Romano in Verona. Literature: *CIL* VI 493, *ILS* 4097, *CCCA* III 219.

<sup>8</sup> The Sabinus Attius Clausus (6<sup>th</sup> century BC) was predecessor of Claudians.

<sup>9</sup> WINSOR LEACH (2007., p. 7) listed three funeral inscriptions which mention the name of Claudia Synthyche. She debates which one of them is related the dedicant to Cybele and Navisalvia.

<sup>10</sup> Dimensions: 40 x 15 cm. Museo San Michele, Capri. Literature: *CIL* VI 494, *ILS* 4098, *CCCA* III 303.

<sup>11</sup> Coarelli assumed that he was from Pergamon (1982., p. 44)

<sup>12</sup> It is testified by several epigraphic evidences (*CCCA* IV 75, *CIL* VI 494, *CIL* IX 3826-3827), such as collegium of religiosi, who also worshipped the Great Mother (*CIL* IX 1542, *CIL* VI 2264), and had the magister as their head. In Salona there are also epigraphic evidences of collegium of Cybele's followers, similar to the *cultores* and religiosi. It is called *cognatio Matris Magnae* and it had its own sanctuaries and common treasury (*CIL* III 8675, *AE* 2001, 1606, *AE* 1925, 61, *AE* 1994, 1348).



these divinities, was loyal freedwoman of imperial family which promoted Great Mother's cult emphasizing Claudia Quinta's role in its establishment in Rome.

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A reflection of the legend about Cybele's arrival to Rome can be seen in the latest known source about her cult. It is in the work of Gregory of Tours (*Lib. de glor. confess.*, 76). He wrote that in the 5. century bishop Simplicius baptized people in Autun. There he met the procession of Cybele's followers who were dancing and singing. They had the statue of the Goddess on the cart. Simplicius prayed that God would enlight them and then he threw the Goddess's statue over the cart. The cattle that was harnessed to the cart nailed to the ground and it couldn't move, even after whipping and sacrificing. The followers concluded that there is nothing divine in the statue if it doesn't raise by itself and order that cattle moves. The miracle that the followers expected, similar to the one that happened in Ostia seven centuries earlier, didn't happen this time: since the cattle couldn't move, Cybele's followers recognized the true faith, they rejected the cult of pagan goddess, and they were baptized. This late antique and early Christian legend denied the miracle that happened when Cybele's cult arrived to Rome.

Also, the popular legend about Claudia Quinta was a model in Christian hagiography. A series of legends about the transmission of Christian relics derived from that pagan story. In these Christian legends there is also a motive of holy object that had an obstacle in its way to the place of resting. The problem is mostly solved by innocent people, virgins or children. One legend refers to the Croatian historical background and the translation of the sarcophagus with the relics of St Euphemia, a Chalcedon martyr, to Rovinj. It has been known from an illuminated codex from the 14<sup>th</sup> or

15<sup>th</sup> century (*Translatio corporis Beatae Euphemiae*).<sup>13</sup> St Euphemia died at the time of Emperor Diocletian. According to the legend, her sarcophagus from the Chalcedonia's shore plunged by itself into the sea and sailed to Rovinj. There it stood at the shore below the fort. People couldn't draw it back to the sea, wanting to store the martyr's relics on the Island of prayers (Island of St Catherine). St Euphemia appeared to a widow and told her how to move the sarcophagus to the fort of Rovinj. At her command, the widow harnessed two heifers free of blemish, which helped in transferring the relics, while the people of Rovinj were amazed and delighted.

The parallels between stories about Claudia Quinta and the transfer of St Euphemia's relics are obvious: the sarcophagus of the Eastern saint, just like the boat with the statue of Eastern pagan goddess, was stuck and only a chaste woman, the widow, like the matron Claudia, succeeded in moving it. According to Ovid, a heifer free of blemish (yoke and bull) was sacrificed after Cybele's boat moved towards Ostia (*Fast.*, IV, 335) and two such heifers in the legend about St Euphemia moved her sarcophagus. So, the pagan Roman legend about the Claudia Quinta's miracle preceded the emergence of this and other similar Christian legends about transfers of local martyrs' cults. It probably happened at the time of pagan conversions to Christianity: Cybele's followers denounced the pagan cult, but not the fabulous legend about Claudia Quinta, which they adapted to the new religion and passed it in the following centuries.<sup>14</sup>

Echoes of Claudia Quinta's legend may also be found in artistic achievements of later historical periods. For example, Boccaccio devoted to her a chapter in his work *De mulieribus claris*, and she was also the inspiration for a number of painters and sculptors from the Middle ages until 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>15</sup> They all read the ancient literary sources trying to vividly express Claudia's chastity, pride and beauty.

<sup>13</sup> National library in Pula, sign. 539561 (Križman 2004., 22-30).

<sup>14</sup> Cybele's cult had many common features with the Christian cult during the late Empire. After the legalization of Christianity and the prohibition of pagan cults a number of Christian churches was built at the holy spaces of pagan temples: the new religion had to replace the old one and to offer to its followers the spiritual support that they needed. Very often the churches dedicated to Blessed Virgin Mary were built at the spaces of former Cybele's temples.

<sup>15</sup> Illuminators of Boccaccio's medieval manuscripts, Neroccio dei Landi, Andrea Mantegna, Il Garofalo, Lambert Lombard, Ludovico Gimignani, Johann Rudolf Byss, Sylwester Dawid Mirys (see VILOGORAC BRČIĆ 2009). In their works the pagan Mother of Gods was often represented with iconographical elements of the Christian Mother of God.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AE	<i>L'année épigraphique: revue des publications épigraphiques relatives à l'antiquité romaine / fondée en 1888. par René Cagnat; Mireille Corbier directeur, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France 1889-.</i>
CCCA	<i>Corpus cultus Cybelae Attidisque, I-VII, Leiden 1977-1989.</i>
CIL	<i>Corpus inscriptionum Latinarum</i>
EDCS	<i>Epigraphik Datenbank Clauss-Slaby: Baza podataka latinskih natpisa. <a href="http://www.manfredclaus.de/">http://www.manfredclaus.de/</a> (posjet 17. 6. 2012)</i>
EDH	<i>Epigraphische Datenbank Heidelberg: Baza podataka latinskih natpisa. <a href="http://uniheidelberg.de/institute/sonst/adw/edh/">http://uniheidelberg.de/institute/sonst/adw/edh/</a> (posjet 17. 6. 2012)</i>
EDR	<i>Epigraphic database Roma. Baza podataka latinskih natpisa. <a href="http://edr-edr.it">http://edr-edr.it</a> (17. 6. 2012)</i>
EPRO	<i>Études préliminaires aux religions Orientales dans l'Empire Romain</i>
ILS	Dessau H., <i>Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae</i> , Berlin 1892-1916.
RE	<i>Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> , ed. August Friedrich von Pauly, Georg Wissowa, Stuttgart, J. B. Metzlersche Verlagsbuchhandlung 1893-1980.

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## SAŽETAK

**NAVISALVIA - SPASITELJICA LAĐE SA SVETINJAMA MAJKE BOGOVA**

Inga VILOGORAC BRČIĆ

Grčki i rimski literarni izvori iznose pojedinosti predaje o prijenosu kulta velike Majke Bogova, frigijske Kibe, iz Pergama u Rim 204. g. pr. Kr.: Pergamski kralj Atal II. dao je rimskim poslanicima božičine svetinje te su ih ukrcali u lađu koja je doplovila do Ostije. Ondje je, pak, zapela u pličini ušća Tibera i nije se mogla pomaknuti. Ugledna matrona Klaudija Kvinta, nepravredno optužena da nije bila čestita te da je počinila prijestup, zamolila je božicu da čudom dokaže njezinu nevinost te je sama pokrenula lađu. Njezinom su zaslugom Kibeline svetinje sretno stigle u Rim. Stoga su Rimljani uz Veliku Majku Kibelu štovali i diviniziranu Klaudiju Kvintu koju su nazivali Navisalvijom (*Navisalvia*) – Spasiteljicom Lađe. O tome svjedoče tri rimska žrtvenika s posvetom Majci Bogova i Navisalviji. Klaudija Sintihe posvetiteljica je dva žrtvenika. Na jednom je likovni prikaz lađe s Kibelinim kipom, koju povlači slavna Klaudijevka. Posvetitelj trećeg žrtvenika je Kvint Nunije Telef, predstojnik kolegija štovatelja Velike Majke. Oboje posvetitelja bili su oslobođenici istočnjačkog podrijetla. Predaja o Klaudiji Kvinti odrazila se u kronološki posljednjem zapisu o Kibelinu kultu Grgura iz Toursa (6. stoljeće), a bila je i predloškom nizu svetačkih legendi. Jedna je vezana uz hrvatski povijesni prostor i prijenos relikvija kalcedonske mučenice Eufemije u Rovinj, a zabilježena je u pulskom kodeksu iz 15. st..

