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SUMMARY

AN UNKNOWN SLAVONIAN BANAL DENAR ISSUED BY DUKE STJEPAN OF ANJOU

The author gives his views about a newly-discovered Slavonian banal denar minted at the time of Duke (*herceg*) Stjepan of Anjou. He also gives his opinion of Gerlovics Szilveszter's and Soós Ferenc's theories about this denar in: "*Anjou István herceg szlavón pénzei*".

Several years ago, a formerly unknown specimen of the Slavonia banal denar was found about ten kilometres north of Srijemska Mitrovica. Gerlovics Szilveszter and Soós Ferenc were the first to inform the public of this discovery, in an article published in *Numizmatikai Közlöny*, CVI-CVII (2009-2010). The reverse of this denar, except for the sigla, is identical to that minted for Duke Stjepan of Anjou (1350, 1353-1354), attributed to Ban Nikola Banfi (1353-1356). Its only known specimen is in the collection of the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek. On the reverse both the denars have a crowned helmet facing left, decorated with an ostrich head holding a horseshoe in its beak, flanked by two ostrich feathers. This is the Anjou coat-of-arms, which appears in identical form on Hungarian coins from the time of Charles Robert (1301-1342). The specimen in the Museum of Slavonia has the sigle nI-BY, which we read as: *Nicolaus Banus*, while the newly discovered specimen has the sigle P-E to the left and the right of the helmet. The legend on the obverse sides of both the denars is: M DS P SCLAVONIAM, which should be read as: *Moneta Ducis Stephani Pro Sclavoniam* – Duke Stjepan's money for Slavonia.

The central field of the "first" denar has the fleur de lys, a frequent symbol of the Anjou dynasty, while the central field of the "new" denar are arms in the form of a heart-shaped shield divided in four fields. The upper left field of the shield has four, and

the bottom right field three fleurs-de-lys, while the upper right and lower left field have horizontal stripes representing the Hungarian arms of the Arpads. The above authors identified these arms as belonging to Duke Stjepan, on the grounds of the wax seal on his charter of 12 August 1350, which is kept in the Sopron county archive. This seal shows a mirror image of the fields in the shield. The denar is 15 mm in diameter, the same as the denar in the Museum of Slavonia, its weight is 0.59 g, and its silver purity is 800/1000. The authors mentioned offered four theories for dating the newly-discovered denar. According to the first, they date it to 1350, at the time of Ban Pavle Ugal, so the sigle P-E would mean: the siglum P-Ban Pavle, and the siglum E-Elisabeth, the mother of Duke Stjepan and King Ludovik. According to the second theory, the authors deem that because of their extreme rarity both Stjepan's denars were minted to commemorate his becoming a duke. The third theory starts from the assumption that Duke Stjepan, modelling himself on the monetary reforms of his brother Ludovik I, tried to introduce a new monetary system in Slavonia. The last theory offered by the authors is that the denar was minted starting from 1353, so the sigle would represent: P - monetary Peter Ligerius and E - Endre Kempelini, Chancery Count of the Buda-Ostrogon Chancery.

Of the theories mentioned above, the author deems that the one according to which Ban Pavle Ugal minted the newly-discovered type of denar is the most firmly founded.