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Ranosrednjovjekovni episkopalni pečat sa Sipra

U radu se analizira episkopalni olovni pečat pronađen 1986. godine na poluotoku Sipru, s naglaskom na njegove tipološke i epigrafske značajke. Na temelju usporedbi i pisanih izvora predlaže se atribucija pulskom biskupu Cirijaku iz 7. stoljeća, pri čemu se takva identifikacija definira kao hipotetska.

Ključne riječi: *Istra, Sipar, rani srednji vijek, olovni pečat, biskup Cirijak, Pula.*

An Early Medieval Episcopal Seal from Sipar

This paper analyses an episcopal lead seal discovered in 1986 on the Sipar peninsula, with emphasis on its typological and epigraphic features. On the basis of comparisons and written sources, attribution to the seventh-century bishop Cyriacus of Pula is proposed, while such identification is defined as hypothetical.

Keywords: *Istria, Sipar, Early Middle Ages, lead seal, Bishop Cyriacus, Pula.*

Među neobjavljenim pokretnim materijalom s poluotoka Sipra, pohranjenim u Arheološkom muzeju Istre, nalazi se i jedan episkopalni olovni pečat (inv. oznaka: AMI NS-4870).[1] Pečat je, zajedno s jedanaest kovanica datiranih u rasponu od kasne Republike / ranog Principata do početka 5. stoljeća, bio pohranjen u vrećici označenoj signaturom *SIPAR 1986*.[2] S obzirom na to da 1986. godine na Sipru nije bilo nikakvih iskopavanja, može se zaključiti da je riječ o skupini površinskih nalaza koje su tijekom povremenih obilazaka lokaliteta prikupili djelatnici Arheološkog muzeja Istre nakon prestanka sustavnih arheoloških istraživanja krajem 1960-ih godina.

Poluotok Sipar obiluje ostatcima arhitekture iz različitih razdoblja organiziranog života na njemu.[3] Ostatke te slojevite arhitekture u velikoj mjeri prate i nadopunjuju brojni pokretni nalazi različitih kronoloških i tipoloških kategorija, pronađeni tijekom sustavnih iskopavanja i rekognosciranja, kako unutar kulturnih slojeva tako i izvan njih, te u okviru površinskih nalaza prikupljenih tijekom kasnijih obilazaka lokaliteta, osobito nakon jačih nevremena kada more erozijom kulturnih slojeva na površinu iznosi dio arheološkog materijala iz izvaljanih slojeva.[4] Takve su okolnosti vjerojatno potaknule djelatnike AMI-ja na povremene obilaske lokaliteta, uključujući i onaj iz 1986. godine.

Inv. oznaka: AMI NS-4870 (sl. 1)
AV: CY/RIA/CI
RV: ┼/–/EPS
Ø 24,1 × 22,4 mm; težina: 24,57 g
Interpretacija: *(Sigillum) Cyriaci episcopi*

Among the unpublished movable material from the Sipar peninsula, kept in the Archaeological Museum of Istria, there is also an episcopal lead seal (inv. no.: AMI NS-4870).[1] The seal, together with eleven coins dated from the late Republic / early Principate to the beginning of the fifth century, was stored in a bag marked with the signature *SIPAR 1986*.[2] Since no excavations were conducted at Sipar in 1986, it may be concluded that this was a group of surface finds collected during occasional visits to the site by staff of the Archaeological Museum of Istria after the end of systematic archaeological investigations in the late 1960s.

The Sipar peninsula is rich in architectural remains from various periods of organized life there.[3] The remains of this stratified architecture are to a large extent accompanied and supplemented by numerous movable finds of different chronological and typological categories, discovered during systematic excavations and field surveys, both within cultural layers and outside them, as well as among surface finds collected during later visits to the site, especially after heavy storms, when the sea, through erosion of cultural layers, brings part of the archaeological material from disturbed layers to the surface.[4] Such circumstances probably prompted the AMI staff to make occasional visits to the site, including the one in 1986.

Inv. no.: AMI NS-4870 (Fig. 1)
AV: CY/RIA/CI
RV: ┼/–/EPS
Ø 24.1 × 22.4 mm; weight: 24.57 g

1 Godine 2019. autorica teksta obavila je prvi od nekoliko ciljanih posjeta Arheološkom muzeju Istre u Puli radi pregleda neobjavljenog pokretnog materijala s lokaliteta te je tom prilikom fotografirala dio nekonzerviranog metalnog materijala. Na omogućavanju pregleda materijala zahvaljujem Darku Komši, a na pomoći i potvrdi pri identifikaciji pečata Mati Ilkiću, Vivienu Prigentu i Ivanu Basiću.

2 Među njima jasno prevladavaju kasnoantički novci jer se čak šest kovanica može datirati u razdoblje od sredine 4. do početka 5. stoljeća. Vidi Milošević Zakić, Trbojević 2025, kat. br. 13, 33, 36, 37, 49, 59, 61, 64, 70, 78, 81.

3 Milošević Zakić 2022, str. 22–24.

4 Stratigrafski odnosi na lokalitetu utvrđeni su na temelju situacija u zatvorenim kontekstima, odnosno na osnovi stratigrafskog slijeda u pojedinim prostorijama. Vidi Milošević Zakić, Trbojević 2025, str. 183–196.

1 In 2019, the author made the first of several targeted visits to the Archaeological Museum of Istria in Pula to examine unpublished movable finds from the site. On that occasion, the author photographed part of the unconserved metal assemblage. I am grateful to Darko Komšo for enabling access to the material, and to Mate Ilkić, Vivien Prigent, and Ivan Basić for their assistance and confirmation in identifying the seal.

2 Among these finds, Late Antique coins clearly predominate, as no fewer than six specimens can be dated to the period from the mid-4th to the early 5th century. See Milošević Zakić, Trbojević 2025, cat. nos. 13, 33, 36, 37, 49, 59, 61, 64, 70, 78, 81.

3 Milošević Zakić 2022, pp. 22–24.

4 The stratigraphic relationships at the site were established on the basis of evidence from closed contexts, that is, from the stratigraphic sequence documented in individual rooms. See Milošević Zakić, Trbojević 2025, pp. 183–196.

Opis: Na aversu je legenda CYRIACI raspoređena u tri retka unutar perlastog (točkastog) vijenca, pri čemu su perlice povezane reljefnom linijom. Na reversu je prikazan križ proširenih krakova, ispod kojeg se nalazi legenda EPS. Između križa i legende izvedena je linija proširenih krajeva. Kompozicija je omeđena lisnatim vijencem. Pečat je čitljiv, uz manja oštećenja na gornjem i donjem rubu.

Pečat je bilateralan i na objema stranama ima natpis izveden latinskom kapitalom. Ime nositelja pečata pojavljuje se u genitivu (*Cyriaci*), dok je titula skraćena u obliku EPS, što predstavlja uobičajenu skraćenicu za *episcopus*. Prema V. Prigentu, uporaba olovnih pečata s latinskim legendama u kapitalnim slovima u zapadnim provincijama Bizantskog Carstva, osobito u Italiji, odražava kontinuitet kasnoantičke epigrafske tradicije.[5] Takvi se pečati u zapadnom dijelu Carstva najčešće povezuju s crkvenim okruženjem (biskupima i nadbiskupima) jer je upravo kler bio među rijetkim društvenim skupinama koje su u ranom srednjem vijeku redovito koristile olovne pečate u administrativnoj i crkvenoj korespondenciji.[6] Tipološka obilježja siparskog pečata pokazuju sličnosti s olovnim pečatima patricijâ iz kripte Balbi u Rimu, pronađenima u depozitu datiranom na kraj 7. stoljeća. Na tim je primjercima legenda također izvedena latinskim pismom i organizirana u više redaka, uz osobno ime u genitivu i jednostavnu titularnu oznaku.[7] Slično oblikovanu legendu, s imenom raspoređenim u tri retka te titularom i križem, ima i pečat pape Konstantina I. iz Dumbarton Oaks kolekcije, datiran u vrijeme njegova pontifikata (708. – 715.).[8] Za razliku od primjeraka iz kripte Balbi, na kojima je križ prikazan na objema stranama, na pečatu pape Konstantina I., kao i na siparskom primjerku, križ je izveden samo iznad titularne oznake. Rubna dekoracija u obliku biljnog vijenca ili perlastog (točkastog) ukrasa prisutna je na svim navedenim primjercima, dok siparski pečat pokazuje kombinaciju obaju dekorativnih motiva. U pogledu dimenzija, siparski je primjerak

5 Prigent 2011, str. 215, 220.

6 Prigent 2011, str. 221, 237; Papadopoulou 2021, str. 215–216, T. 9.1; str. 219.

7 Marazzi 2012, str. 259, II.2.1–II.2.2; str. 260–261, II.2.5.

8 Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, *Byzantine Seals Online Catalogue,* https://www.doaks.org/resources/seals/byzantine-seals/BZS.1947.2.1232/view [konzultirano 16. 3. 2026.].

Interpretation: *(Sigillum) Cyriaci episcopi*

Description: On the obverse, the legend CYRIACI is arranged in three lines within a pearled (dotted) wreath, with the pearls connected by a relief line. On the reverse, there is a cross with expanded arms, below which appears the legend EPS. Between the cross and the legend there is a line with expanded ends. The composition is framed by a leafy wreath. The seal is legible, with minor damage to the upper and lower edges.

The seal is bilateral and bears an inscription in Latin capitals on both sides. The name of the seal's owner appears in the genitive (*Cyriaci*), while the title is abbreviated as EPS, a common abbreviation for *episcopus*. According to V. Prigent, the use of lead seals with Latin legends in capital letters in the western provinces of the Byzantine Empire, especially in Italy, reflects the continuity of the late antique epigraphic tradition.[5] Such seals in the western part of the Empire are most often associated with ecclesiastical circles (bishops and archbishops), since the clergy were among the few social groups that regularly used lead seals in administrative and ecclesiastical correspondence in the Early Middle Ages.[6] The typological features of the Sipar seal show similarities with the lead seals of patricians from the Crypta Balbi in Rome, found in a deposit dated to the end of the seventh century. On these examples, the legend is also executed in Latin script and organized in several lines, with the personal name in the genitive and a simple titular designation.[7] A similarly arranged legend, with the name distributed over three lines as well as a title and cross, is also found on the seal of Pope Constantine I from the Dumbarton Oaks collection, dated to the period of his pontificate (708–715).[8] Unlike the examples from the Crypta Balbi, on which the cross is shown on both sides, on the seal of Pope Constantine I, as on the Sipar example, the cross is placed only above the titular designation. Border decoration in the form of a vegetal wreath or pearled (dotted) or-

5 Prigent 2011, pp. 215, 220.

6 Prigent 2011, pp. 221, 237; Papadopoulou 2021, pp. 215–216, Pl. 9.1, p. 219.

7 Marazzi 2012, p. 259, II.2.1–II.2.2; pp. 260–261, II.2.5.

8 Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, *Byzantine Seals Online Catalogue*, https://www.doaks.org/resources/seals/byzantine-seals/BZS.1947.2.1232/view [accessed 16 March 2026].

manji od papinskog (27 mm), a veći od pečata patricija Fotija (21,5 mm) te usporediv s primjercima iz kripte Balbi (npr. pečat patricija Petra: 24,2 mm).[9] Horizontalna linija koja razdvaja križ od titule zabilježena je i na pečatu biskupa Kristofera, datiranom u 9. – 10. stoljeće.[10]

Identifikacija biskupa Cirijaka s konkretnom povijesnom osobom temelji se na pisanim izvorima koji bilježe pulskog biskupa tog imena. Riječ je o pulskom biskupu Cirijaku, čije je ime kao *Cyriacus (Kyriakos) episcopus sanctae ecclesiae Polensis (gr. Polensou) prouinciae Histriae* zabilježeno među 125 biskupa koji su sudjelovali na crkvenom sinodu u Rimu 680. godine.[11] Istog biskupa navodi i F. Babudri u kronotaksi pulskih biskupa.[12] Spomen pulskog biskupa Cirijaka kao mogućeg vlasnika siparskog pečata ostaje, međutim, na razini hipoteze te ne isključuje mogućnost da je riječ o drugom istoimenom biskupu koji je djelovao nešto ranije ili kasnije od spomenutog.

nament is present on all the examples mentioned, while the Sipar seal shows a combination of both decorative motifs. In terms of dimensions, the Sipar example is smaller than the papal seal (27 mm), larger than the seal of the patrician Photius (21.5 mm), and comparable to examples from the Crypta Balbi (e.g. the seal of the patrician Peter: 24.2 mm).[9] The horizontal line separating the cross from the title is also recorded on the seal of Bishop Christopher, dated to the ninth–tenth century.[10]

The identification of Bishop Cyriacus with a specific historical person is based on written sources that record a bishop of Pula by that name. This refers to Bishop Cyriacus of Pula, whose name, as *Cyriacus (Kyriakos) episcopus sanctae ecclesiae Polensis (Gr. Polensou) prouinciae Histriae*, is recorded among the 125 bishops who took part in the church synod in Rome in 680.[11] The same bishop is also listed by F. Babudri in the chronotaxis of the bishops of Pula.[12] The mention of Bishop Cyriacus of Pula as the possible owner of the Sipar seal remains, however, at the level of a hypothesis and does not exclude the possibility that this was another bishop of the same name who was active somewhat earlier or later than the one mentioned.



Sl. 1. Olovni pečat biskupa Cirijaka (foto: E. Trbojević; crtež: S. Juraga)
Fig. 1. Lead seal of Bishop Cyriacus (photo: E. Trbojević; drawing: S. Juraga)

9 Vidi bilj. 7 i 8.
10 Laurent 1963, pl. 125: 927.
11 Bratož 2014, str. 564.
12 Babudri 1908, str. 78.

9 See nn. 7 and 8.
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