

FLAVIJE VALERIJE KONSTANTIN (306-337)



Svetlana Pantelić

Udruženje banaka Srbije
svetlana.pantelic@ubs-asb.com

Rezime

Najgorostasniji vladar Rimske imperije sa područja današnje Srbije Flavije Valerije Konstantin rođen je u Naisu (Niš) 27. februara 271. ili 273. godine kao dete iz konkubinatske veze Helene i Konstancija Hlora. Umro je 22. maja 337. godine u blizini Nikomedije odakle je prenet u Konstantinopolj gde je sahranjen u crkvi Svetih apostola. U Rimsku imperiju uneo je mnoge napredne novine. Ukinuo je vojnu zaštitu i pretorijansku gardu, uveo visoke poreze, doneo akt o verskoj toleranciji poznat pod imenom Milanski edikt, zakon o kažnjavanju svih koji primoravaju pripadnike druge vere na paganske običaje i zakon o ukidanju gladijatorskih igara. Na novčićima Konstatin je prikazan kao cesar II Tetrarhije izjednačen sa Herkulom, III Tetrarhije sa Marsom, a u vreme samostalne vladavine najčešće sa Solom. Njegovi portreti na kovanicama dati su najčešće u helenističkom maniru. Lice je mladoliko, snažno, sa pogledom uprtim naviše. Na reversima novca prikazan je car velike snage i veličine koji trijumfuje nad umanjenim i podređenim neprijateljem.

Ključne reči: Rimska imperija, Nais, konkubinat, Helena, Konstancije Hlor, tetrarhija, Dioklecijan, Maksimijan, cesar, Galerije, Konstancije, Nikomedija, verska tolerancija, Milanski edikt, kovanice

JEL: B11, E42, N23



Zlatni novac - Solidus

Kovnica: Siscia (Sisak)

Rad primljen: 20.09.2013.

Odobren za štampu: 23.09.2013.

FLAVIUS VALERIUS CONSTANTINUS (306-337)



Svetlana Pantelić

Association of Serbian Banks
svetlana.pantelic@ubs-asb.com

Summary

The giant among the rulers of the Roman Empire originating from the regions of today's Serbia was born in Nais (today's city of Niš) on 27 February 271 or 273 A.D, in a concubinage of Helena and Constantius Chlorus. Constantine died on 22 May 337, near Nicomedia, after which he was transported to Constantinople, where he was buried in the Church of the Holy Apostles. He introduced many advanced innovations into the Roman Empire. He abolished military protection and dissolved Praetorian Guard; imposed high taxes; passed an act on religious tolerance known as the Edict of Milan; adopted a law on punishing all those who force the followers of other religions to practice paganism, and the law on abolishing gladiatorial games. On the coins, as the Caesar of the second Tetrarchy, Constantine is identified with Hercules, as the Caesar of the third Tetrarchy, with Mars, and during his independent reign, most frequently with Sol. Constantine's portrait on the coins is usually done in the Hellenistic fashion. The face is youthful, strong, gazing upwards. The reverse of these coins features the Emperor of great might and size, triumphing over the miniature and subordinated enemy.

Keywords: Roman Empire, Nais, concubinage, Helena, Constantius Chlorus, Tetrarchy, Diocletian, Maximian, Caesar, Galerius and Constantius, Nicomedia, religious tolerance, Edict of Milan, coins

JEL: B11, E42, N23

Gold coin - Solidus

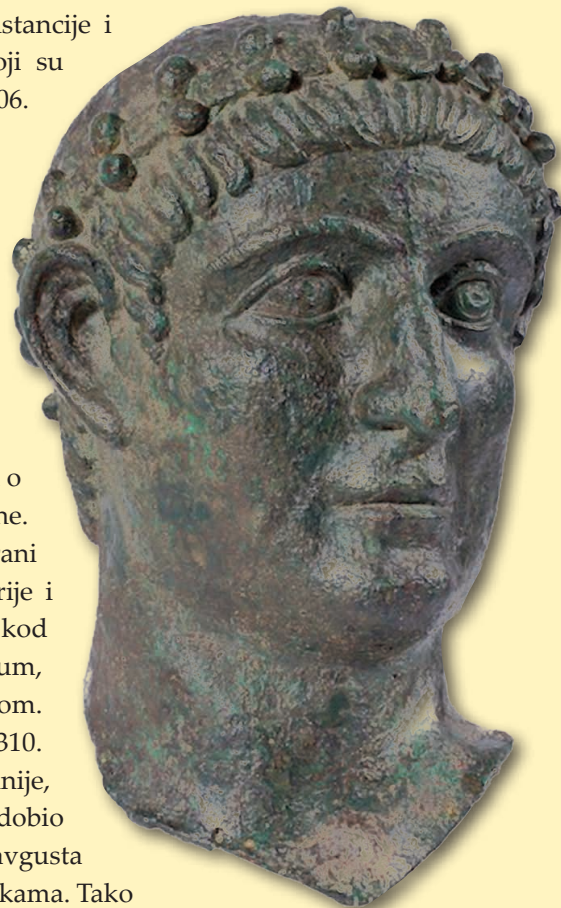
Mint: Siscia (Sisak)



Najgorostasniji vladar Rimske imperije sa područja današnje Srbije rođen je u Naisu (Niš) 27. februara 271. ili 273. godine kao dete iz konkubinatske veze Helene i Konstancija Hlora. Nakon reformi u carstvu kada je uvedeno četvorovlašće - tetrarhija sa dva avgusta: Dioklecijanom i Maksimijanom i dva cezara: Galerijem i Konstancijem, Konstantin odlazi na dvor Dioklecijana u Nikomediji da se uči vojnim i državnim poslovima. U očevoj dvor vratiće se 305. godine nakon uspostavljanja druge tetrarhije kada umesto Dioklecijana i Maksimijana avgusti postaju Konstancije i Galerije. U pohodu protiv škotskih plemena koji su napadali rimsku granicu pomaže ocu koji umire 306. godine u Eburakumu (Jork, Engleska).

Konstantin se jednostrano proglašava za avgusta i traži od Galerija da ga prizna za savladara što ovaj i čini šaljući mu purpurni ogrtač, ali ne prihvatajući to, iskreno smišlja osvetu koju i ostvaruje. Konstantina priznaje samo za cezara, a Severa proglašava novim avgustom. Ubrzo cesar Konstantin počinje da sređuje prilike na području koja su se nalazila pod njegovom upravom. Među prvim i najznačajnijim odlukama je ukidanje edikta o progonu hrišćana i vraćanje njihovih prava i imovine.

U trećoj tetrarhiji 308. godine za cezare su izabrani Konstantin i Maksimin Daja, a za avguste Galerije i Licinije. Ovakav izbor izazvao je nezadovoljstvo kod mnogih: Konstantin nije prihvatio ovakav sporazum, a Maksimin Daja se samostalno proglasio avgustom. Galeriju nije preostalo ništa drugo nego da se 310. godine petorica proglase za avgusta: Galerije, Licinije, Maksimin Daja i Konstantin, dok Maksencije nije dobio zvanično priznanje. Kao i do tada i nakon izbora za avgusta Konstantin se suočavao sa brojnim zaverama i spletkama. Tako je došlo i do sukoba sa Maksencijem kod Milvijskog mosta 312. godine. Iako brojčano slabija, disciplinovanija vojska pod vođstvom sjajnog teoretičara i vojskovođe Konstantina uspešno je ušla u Rim. Konstantin je dočekan kao oslobodilac i dobročinitelj. U život Rimljana uneo je mnoge novine: ukinuo vojnu zaštitu i pretorijansku gardu, uveo visoke poreze i dr. Senat mu je dodelio titulu Maximus Augustus.

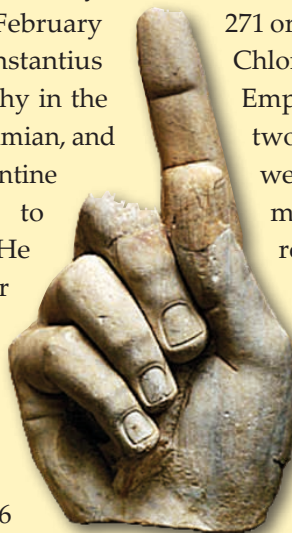


Konstantinova vizija, Dan Lorenzo Bernini, 1654-70.
The Vision of Constantine, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, 1654-70





He giant among the rulers of the Roman Empire originating from the regions of today's Serbia was born in Nais (today's city of Niš) on 27 February of Helena and Constantius introducing Tetrarchy in the Diocletian and Maximian, and Constantius, Constantine in Nicomedia to diplomatic skills. He court in 305, after second Tetrarchy, Galerius replaced Maximian in their a quest against the the Roman borders, who died in 306 (England).



271 or 273 A.D, in a concubinage Chlorus. Following the reforms Empire – with two Augusti: two Caesars: Galerius and went to Diocletian's court master the military and returned to his father's the establishment of the when Constantius and Diocletian and positions of Augusti. In Scottish tribes attacking he assisted his father, in Eburacum (York, England).

Constantine unilaterally declared himself Augustus, asking from Galerius to recognize him as his co-ruler, which Galerius did, by sending him the purple cloak, but without actually accepting this, all the while successfully plotting against Constantine. He recognized Constantine only as Caesar, appointing Severus as the new Augustus. Soon enough, Caesar Constantine started to introduce regulations in the regions under his reign. Among the first and most important decisions he made was the abolishment of Edict on Persecution of Christians, and restitution of their rights and property.

In the third Tetrarchy, in 308, Constantine and Maximinus Daia were appointed Caesars, and Galerius and Licinius Augusti. Such a selection caused dissatisfaction on many sides: Constantine did not accept this agreement, whereas Maximinus Daia unilaterally declared himself Augustus. In 310, Galerius was left no other choice but to appoint the five of them as Augusti: Galerius, Licinius, Maximinus Daia and Constantine, whereas Maxentius did not receive official recognition. Both before and after his appointment as Augustus, Constantine was facing numerous conspiracies and schemes. It was what led to the battle with Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge in 312. Outnumbered, but better disciplined army, led by the excellent strategist and commander Constantine, successfully entered Rome. Constantine was welcomed as liberator and benefactor. He introduced many novelties into the lives of Romans: abolished military protection and dissolved Praetorian Guard, imposed high taxes, etc. The Senate awarded him the title of Maximus Augustus.



U Rimskom carstvu 313. godine bila su trojica careva: Konstantin, Licinije i Maksimin Daja. Oni su se te godine sastali u Mediolanumu (Milano, Italija). Tom prilikom Konstantin i Licinije su usvojili akt o verskoj toleranciji poznat pod imenom Milanski edikt. Nakon sukoba kod Hadrijanopolja (Jedrene, Turska) između Maksimina Daje i Licinija, poraženi Daja je izvršio samoubistvo. Iako je sada carstvo bilo podjeljeno samo na dva dela: Konstantinovo zapadno i Licinijevo istočno, mira nije bilo. Dok je Konstantin uvodio verski red, Licinije se sve više priklanjao paganstvu, kažnjavajući hrišćane na razne načine. Zbog toga je Konstantin organizovao Veliki sabor 314. godine u Arelatu (Arl, Francuska) na kome su podržani hrišćani. Dva cara su sve izražajniji sukob pretočili i u vojni. Bitka se odigrala nedaleko od Sirmijuma (Sremska Mitrovica, Srbija) 316. godine. Licinije je bio poražen i morao je da se povuče. Nakon novog sukoba u Bugarskoj, sklopili su mir 317. godine u Serdiki (Sofija, Bugarska) proglašivši svoje sinove za cezare: Konstantin Krispa i Konstantina II, a Licinije maloletnog Licinija II.

Mir je kratko trajao, te dolazi do ponovnog sukoba zbog Licinijeve agresije prema hrišćanima. Konstantin izdaje 323. godine zakon o kažnjavanju svih koji primoravaju pripadnike druge vere na paganske običaje. Novi rat sa Licinijem traje tri godine da bi 324. godine Konstantin ušao kao pobednik u Vizant. Od te godine on je jedini vladar Rimskog carstva. Licinije beži u Nikomediju gde je nakon godinu dana zajedno sa sinom ubijen pod optužbom da je protiv Konstantina spremao ustanak.

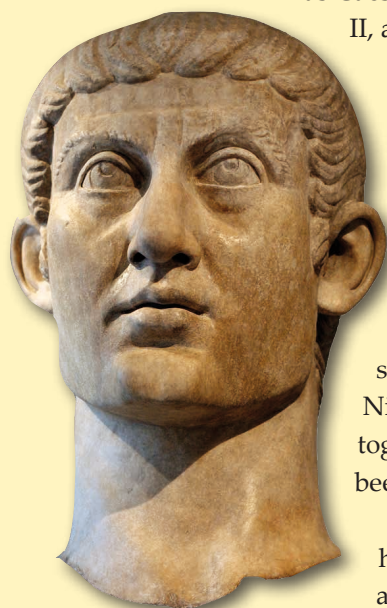
Prvi vaseljenski sabor u Nikeji održan je 325. godine, na kome Konstantin donosi Zakon o ukidanju gladijatorskih igara. Od 324. do 335. godine prenosi postepeno vlast na svoje sinove. Konstantin II je ranije (317. god.) dobio titulu cezara i upravljao je Galijom, Britanijom i Španijom. Konstancije II poslat je u Antiohiju odakle je upravljao Azijom i Egiptom, a Konstans I Afrikom, Italijom i Panonijom iz Milana. Svog bratunca Dalmacija takođe je proglasio cesarom da bi iz Niša nadgledao granicu na Dunavu. Konstantin umire 22. maja 337. godine u blizini Nikomedije odakle je u zlatnom kovčegu prenet u Konstantinopolj gde je sahranjen u Crkvi Svetih apostola.



Konstantin
Arch of



The Roman Empire was in 313 ruled by three Emperors: Constantine, Licinius and Maximinus Daia. That year they met in Mediolanum (Milan, Italy), on which occasion Constantine and Licinius adopted an act on religious tolerance, known as Edict of Milan. After the battle at Adrianople (Edirne, Turkey) between Maximinus Daia and Licinius, the defeated Daia committed suicide. Although the Empire was now divided into two parts only: the Constantine's West and the Licinius's East, there was no peace. While Constantine was introducing religious order, Licinius increasingly leaned towards paganism, punishing the Christians in various ways. This is why in 314 Constantine organized the Great Synod of Arelate (Arles, France), when Christians were largely supported. The increasingly prominent conflict of the two Emperors finally escalated into war. The battle took place near Sirmium (Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia) in 316. Licinius was defeated and had to retreat. After another battle in Bulgaria, they made peace in 317 in Serdica (Sofia, Bulgaria), declaring their sons as Caesars: Constantine his sons Crispus and Constantine II, and Licinius his underage son Licinius II.



The peace, however, did not last long, and a new conflict ensued due to Licinius's aggression towards the Christians. In 323 Constantine passed a law on punishing all those who force the followers of other religions to practice paganism. The new war against Licinius lasted three years, after which, in 324, Constantine victoriously entered Byzantium. From that year onwards, he was the sole ruler of the Roman Empire. Licinius fled to Nicomedia where, a year after, he was assassinated together with his son, under the accusation that he had been plotting to start an uprising against Constantine.

The first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea was held in 325, when Constantine passed the Law on abolishing gladiatorial games. In the period from 324 to 335 he gradually transferred the power onto his sons. Earlier (in 317) Constantine II was awarded the title of Caesar and ruled over Gaul, Britannia and Hispania. Constantius II was sent to Antioch, from where he ruled over Asia and Egypt, whereas Constans I ruled over Africa, Italy and Pannonia from Milan. Constantine also appointed his nephew Dalmatius a Caesar, so that from Nais he could supervise the border at the Danube. Constantine died on 22 May 337, near Nicomedia, after which he was transported in a golden coffin to Constantinople, where he was buried in the Church of the Holy Apostles.



Constantin luk, Rim
Constantine,
Rome



Rimljani nisu imali jedinstven monetarni sistem, novac je kovan na raznim stranama, nije postojao centralizovan trezor i bilo je svega i svačega u tom ogromnom carstvu koje se protezalo od Britanije do Mesopotamije. U Konstantinovo vreme uveden je čvrst i jedinstven monetarni sistem, koji je bio tako dobro postavljen da se punih sedam vekova nije znalo šta je inflacija. Bilo je nekih inflatornih udara, ali tek u 11. veku počinje izvesno opadanje... (Popović, 2013)

Najpoznatija novčanica iz Konstantinovog vremena je zlatni solidus. „Između 309. i 310. godine Konstantin je iskovao zlatnik solidus čija je težina iznosila 4,55 grama (proizašla iz zakonske kovničke stope od 72 komada iz jedne litre zlata od 324,72 grama) sa finoćom kovanja od 98% (Morison, 2007)“ (Stojanović, 2013: 38).

Na novčićima Konstantin se kao cesar II Tetrarhije izjednačava sa Herkulom, III Tetrarhije sa Marsom, a u vreme samostalne vladavine najčešće sa Solom. Na nekim primercima na aversima je prikazan Konstantin zajedno sa Solom, dok je najčešće na aversu Konstantin a na reversu Sol.

Konstantinov portret na kovanicama dat je najčešće u helenističkom maniru, kao što se uočava sličnost i sa prikazima Aleksandra Makedonskog. Lice je mladoliko, snažno, sa pogledom uprtim naviše. Na reversima ovog novca prikazan je car velike snage i veličine koji trijumfuje nad umanjenim i podređenim neprijateljem.

Iz doba Konstantina postoje i zlatnici sa likom njegove majke Helene.




Freska Bitka na Milvijanskom mostu, Konstantinov hol, Rafaelove sobe, Vatikan
Fresco painting Battle of the Milvian Bridge, Hall of Constantine, Raphael's Rooms, Vatican



Uoči bitke kod Milvijanskog mosta Konstantinu i njegovim vojnicima na nebu, pored sunca, ukazao se svetlosni znak u obliku krsta sa rečima: „u ovom znaku ćeš pobediti“ (IN HOC SIGNO VINCES). Ovaj Hristov monogram izvezen na vojničkoj zastavi nosili su Konstantinovi vojnici u bitci protiv Meksencija, a i Konstantin na svom šlemu.

The night before the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, Constantine had a vision of a cross of light in the sky, with the inscription: “in this sign thou shall conquer” (IN HOC SIGNO VINCES). This Christogram was embroidered on the banner carried by Constantine’s soldiers in the battle against Mexentius, and Constantine himself bore it on his helmet.



The Romans did not have a uniform monetary system. Instead, coins were minted in various places, there was no centralized treasury, and all kinds of things were happening in this vast empire ranging from Britannia to Mesopotamia. During Constantine's reign a solid and uniform monetary system was introduced, which was so well founded that for the following seven centuries there was no mention of inflation. There were some inflationary pressures, indeed, but it was not until the 11th century that certain deterioration was felt... (Popović, 2013).

The most famous coin from the age of Constantine is a gold solidus. "Between 309 and 313 A.D. Emperor Constantine minted a gold solidus coin weighing 4.55 grams (resulting from the legally prescribed minting rate of 72 pieces from one pound of gold of 324.72 grams), with the minting finesse of 98% /Morrison, 2007/." (Stojanović, 2013: 38).

On the coins, as the Caesar of the second Tetrarchy, Constantine is identified with Hercules, as the Caesar of the third Tetrarchy, with Mars, and during his independent reign, most frequently with Sol. In some samples, the obverse depicts both Constantine and Sol, but most often the obverse features only Constantine, and the reverse Sol.

Constantine's portrait on the coins is usually done in the Hellenistic fashion, certain similarity being observed with the depictions of Alexander the Great. The face is youthful, strong, gazing upwards. The reverse of these coins features the Emperor of great might and size, triumphing over the miniature and subordinated enemy.

From the times of Constantine there are also gold coins bearing the image of his mother Helena.



Helena, majka Konstantina Velikog
Helena, mother of Constantine the Great



MILANSKI EDIKT

POŠTO SMO SE NAS DVOJICA, JA, KONSTANTIN AVGUST I JA, LICINIJE AVGUST, SREĆNO SASTALI U MILANU I POŠTO SMO RAZMOTRILI SVE ŠTO SE ODNOSILO NA JAVNO DOBRO, MEĐU SVIM STVARIMA KOJE SU NAM SE ČINILE KORISNE U MNOGO ČEMU ZA SVE, ODLUČILI SMO DA DAMO PREDNOST I STAVIMO NA PRVO MESTO ONO ŠTO SE TICALO POŠTOVANJA BOGOVA I POBOŽNOSTI I DA DOZVOLIMO U ISTO VREME I HRIŠĆANIMA I SVIMA DRUGIMA SLOBODU DA U POBOŽNOSTI SLEDE RELIGIJU KOJU ŽELE, TAKO DA SVE ONO ŠTO NA NEBU POSTOJI BUDE BLAGONAKLONO PREMA NAMA I SVIMA ONIMA KOJI SU POD NAŠOM VLAŠĆU. DANAS SMO, DAKLE, DONELI SPASONOSNU I PRAVIČNU ODLUKU DA APSOLUTNO NIKOME NE BUDE USKRAĆENO PRAVO DA IZABERE I SLEDI BOŽJU SLUŽBU HRIŠĆANSKE RELIGIJE I DA SVAKOM BUDE SLOBODNO DA UM SVOJ OKRENE ONOJ RELIGIJI ZA KOJU SMATRA DA JE U SKLADU SA NJEGOVIM STAVOM, TAKO DA TO BOŽANSTVO NAMA BUDE BLAGONAKLONO, BRINE O NAMA I PRUŽI NAM SVOJU BRIGU I ZAŠTITU. SLEDEĆI Taj PRINCIP, SLOŽILI SMO SE DA DONESEMO OVAJ RESKRIPT DA BI ONO ŠTO SE NALAZI U NAŠIM PRETHODNIM ODLUKAMA KOJE SE TIČU HRIŠĆANA I KOJE SU UPUĆENE TVOJOJ POBOŽNOSTI, A ČINI SE POTPUNO SUPROTNO I STRANO NAŠOJ BLAGOSTI, BUDE UKINUTO I DA U ISTO VREME SVAKO OD ONIH KO IMA SPOMENUTO OPREDELJENJE DA ČUVA HRIŠĆANSKU RELIGIJU, MOŽE SLOBODNO I PROSTO DA GA ZADRŽI BEZ TEŠKOĆA...



CUM FELICITER
CONSTANTINUS
ETIAM EGO LICINIUS
MEDIOLANUM CINI
UNIVERSA QUAE A
SECURITATEM PUBLI
IN TRACTATU HABE
CETERA QUAE VID
HOMINIBUS PRO
PRIMIS ORDINANDA
QUIBUS DIVINIS
CONTINEBANTUR
CHRISTIANIS
POTESTATEM
QUAM QUIS
QUICQUID <
CAELESTI. N
QUI SUB POT
CONSTITUTI, PLA
POSSIT EXISTERE
CONSILIIUM SALUBR
RATIONE INEUNDUM
UT NULLI OMN
ABNEGANDAM PUT
OBSERVATIONI
VEL EI RELIGION
DEDERET QUAM IPS
ESSE SENTIRET,
NITAS,
LIBERIS MENTIBUS
OMNIBUS QUAE
SICUTI QUAE
NEM
U
OFFIC
TIA
<CONTINENTUR,
STR
ESSE IDEBANTUR, <



Literatura / References

1. Fritzsche (1844), *Lactantius*, Opera II, Leipzig, pp. 288-289.
2. Jovanović, Aleksandar (2006), *Tlo Srbije zavičaj rimskih careva*. Beograd: Princip Bonart Pres.
3. Lopandić, Duško (2007), *Purpur imperije - Rimski carevi sa prostora Srbije i Balkana*. Beograd: Book&Marso.
4. Munro & Bramhall (1898), *Translations and Reprints*, IV, Philadelphia, pp. 29-30.
5. Novaković, Relja (1999), *Srbini rimski car*, Izdavačko-prometna agencija „Miroslav“.

EDICT OF MILAN

WHEN I, CONSTANTINE AUGUSTUS, AS WELL AS I, LICINIUS AUGUSTUS, HAD FORTUNATELY MET NEAR MEDIOLANUM (MILAN), AND WERE CONSIDERING EVERYTHING THAT PERTAINED TO THE PUBLIC WELFARE AND SECURITY, WE THOUGHT THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS WHICH WE SAW WOULD BE FOR THE GOOD OF MANY, THOSE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE REVERENCE OF THE DIVINITY OUGHT CERTAINLY TO BE MADE FIRST, SO THAT WE MIGHT GRANT TO THE CHRISTIANS AND TO ALL OTHERS FULL AUTHORITY TO OBSERVE THAT RELIGION WHICH EACH PREFERRED ; WHENCE ANY DIVINITY WHATSOEVER IN THE SEAT OF THE HEAVENS MAY BE PROPITIOUS AND KINDLY DISPOSED TO US AND ALL WHO ARE PLACED UNDER OUR RULE. AND THUS BY THIS WHOLESOME COUNSEL AND MOST UPRIGHT PROVISION WE THOUGHT TO ARRANGE THAT NO ONE WHATSOEVER SHOULD BE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE HIS HEART TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION, OR OF THAT RELIGION WHICH HE SHOULD THINK BEST FOR HIMSELF, SO THAT THE SUPREME DEITY, TO WHOSE WORSHIP WE FREELY YIELD OUR HEARTS, MAY SHOW IN ALL THINGS HIS USUAL FAVOR AND BENEVOLENCE. THEREFORE, YOUR WORSHIP SHOULD KNOW THAT IT HAS PLEASSED US TO REMOVE ALL CONDITIONS WHATSOEVER, WHICH WERE IN THE RESCRIPTS FORMERLY GIVEN TO YOU OFFICIALLY, CONCERNING THE CHRISTIANS, AND NOW ANY ONE OF THESE WHO WISHES TO OBSERVE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION MAY DO SO FREELY AND OPENLY, WITHOUT ANY DISTURBANCE OR MOLESTATION. WE THOUGHT IT FIT TO COMMEND THESE THINGS MOST FULLY TO YOUR CARE THAT YOU MAY KNOW THAT WE HAVE GIVEN TO THOSE CHRISTIANS FREE AND UNRESTRICTED OPPORTUNITY OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP...

6. Petrović, Jasminka (2013), *Mali veliki Konstantin*, Beograd: Narodni muzej Beograd.
7. Popović, Gordana (2013), „Intervju sa akademikom Ljubomirom Maksimovićem“, *Politika*, 21.9.2013.
8. Radić, Radivoj (2012), *Trijumf hrišćanstva: Konstantin, Niš i Milanski edikt*, Beograd: Službeni glasnik.
9. Stojanović, dr Biljana (2013), „Međunarodne valute od tetradrahme do evra“, *Bankarstvo* br. 3, 2013, str. 36-60.



Freska Krštenje Konstantinovo, Konstantinov hol, Rafaelove sobe, Vatikan
Fresco painting The Baptism of Constantine, Hall of Constantine, Raphael's Rooms, Vatican