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FLAVIJE KLAUDIJE KONSTANTIN KONSTANCIJE III (februar - septembar 421.)

Rezime

Konstancije III je rođen u Naisu verovatno u seljačkoj ili u porodici sitnih posednika. Vojnu karijeru je započeo kao običan legionar ali je zahvaljujući okretnosti, spretnosti i neustrašivosti brzo napredovao. Za vreme cara Honorija podigao se od generala do komandanta rimske vojske. Od 410-420. godine upravljao je onim što je ostalo od zapadnog carstva koga su napadali i osvajali Goti i germanska plemena. U februaru 421. godine proglašen je za savladara Honoriju. Dvor u Carigradu odbija da prizna novog avgusta te Konstancije priprema svoje legije za obračun sa Istočnim carstvom ali dobija groznicu i umire 421. godine. Konstancije III je na zlatnicima i srebrnjacima prikazan šematizovano, u postteodosijanskom stilskom maniru, istaknutih krupnih očiju i aristokratski izdužene glave, kao neustrašivi pobednik. Na reversima dominiraju hrišćanski simboli. Sačuvan je i novac sa likom Konstancijeve supruge Gale Placidije koji je iskovan u Rimu između 425. i 435. godine.

Ključne reči: Konstancije III, Nais, Gala Placidija, Honorije, Rim, Ravena, Valentinijan, Honorija, Ataulf, zlatnik, srebrnjak

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Zlatni novac - Solidus

Kovnica: Ravena

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FLAVIUS CLAUDIUS CONSTANTINE CONSTANTIUS III (February - September 421)



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Summary

Constantius was born in Naissus, probably in a family of farmers or small landowners. He started his military career as a common legionary, but he advanced quickly owing to his dexterity, skillfulness and audacity. During the reign of Emperor Honorius, Constantius rose from a general to the commander of the Roman army. In the period from 410 to 420 A.D. he governed what had left of the Western Empire, invaded and conquered by the Goths and other German tribes. In February 421 A.D. Constantius III was declared the co-ruler of Emperor Honorius. The court in Constantinople refused to acknowledge the new August, which is why Constantius started to prepare his legions for a battle with the Eastern Empire, only to fall down with a fever and die in 421 A.D. The images of Constantius III on his coins are schematized, in the post-Theodosian style, with prominent, large eyes and aristocratic, oval face designating a fearless victor. On the reverse, Christian symbols are predominant. Also preserved are the coins bearing the image of Galla Placidia, minted in Rome between 425 and 435 A.D.

Keywords: Constantius III, Naissus, Galla Placidia, Honorius, Rome, Ravenna, Valentinian, Honoria, Ataulf, gold coin, silver coin

JEL: B11, E42, N23

Golden coin - Solidus

Mint: Ravenna



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Konstancije je rođen u Naisu verovatno u seljačkoj ili u porodici sitnih posednika. Vojnu karijeru je započeo kao običan legionar, ali je zahvaljujući okretnosti, spretnosti i neustrašivosti brzo napredovao. Postao je perfekt u Galiji i u hronici iz tog doba opisan je kao srdačan i druželjubiv. Inače, krasile su ga i druge vrline, bio je snažnog i dostojanstvenog izgleda, uspešan u svakom poduhvatu, vedar i odgovoran, nije bio ohol i nije se odavao raspusnom životu i neumerenim gozbama.

Za vreme cara Honorija podigao se od generala do komandanta rimske vojske. Narednu deceniju sa ovim zvanjem upravljao je onim što je ostalo od zapadnog carstva jer su ga Vizigoti, divlje pleme, već decenijama pustošili da bi 410. godine bez borbi ušli i u Rim. Nakon osam vekova Rim je prvi put pokoren i opljačkan. Nisu se u gradu dugo zadržali, svega tri dana ali je to imalo veliki, nepovoljan uticaj na moral i samopouzdanje njegovih građana. Odlazeći, osim plena, sa sobom su povel i ugledne taoce, među njima i Galu Placidiju, sestru cara Honorija, koja je, najverovatnije, bila mladalačka, prva, ali i jedina ljubav i buduća supruga Konstancija III.

Ranjeno Rimsko carstvo suočilo se i sa upadima nekoliko germanskih plemena: Sveva, Vandala i Alana. Oni su u pojedinim delovima carstva isterali rimsku vojsku i stvarali svoju vlast. Konstancije je sem sa spoljnim morao da se izbori i sa unutrašnjim neprijateljem - Konstantinom III koji se u Galiji proglasio za vladara. Za rimskog konzula Konstancije III je proglašen 414. godine uz obećanje cara Honorija da će mu dati ruku svoje sestre kada bude oslobođena. Gala je tada već uveliko bila udata za Ataulfa, gotskog kralja. Ataulf je 415. godine svrgnut s prestola i mučki ubijen u zaveri.

Tada Konstancije ponovo pokreće sva moguća sredstva da oslobodi princezu - udovicu i najzad 416. godine zaključuje sa Gotima sporazum da plati 600.000 mera žita i dobije Galu Placidiju. Konstanciju je još godinu dana po Galinom povratku u Ravenu, gde je bio dvorac cara Honorija, bilo potrebno da je privoli da mu postane žena. Venčali su se 417. godine i u braku dobili sina Valentinijana i ćerku Honoriju. U februaru 421. godine car Honorije proglasio je Konstancija III za savladara. Konstancije je tako ispunio obećanje dato Gali da će ponovo postati vladarka. Gala je dobila titulu avguste, sin cezara, a on je postao car. Međutim, dvor u Carigradu odbio je da prizna novog avgusta te je Konstancije počeo da priprema svoje legije za obračun sa Istočnim carstvom. Nakon samo 7 meseci od proglašenja za cara dobio je groznicu i umro 421. godine. Ostavio je carstvo u boljem položaju nego što je bilo kada je 410. godine preuzeo komandu nad rimskom vojskom.

Sin Valentinijan proglašen je za imperatora 425. godine kao šestogodišnjak, ali je do njegovog punoletstva Gala Placidija bila regent carstva. Valentinijan III, koji je bio poslednji znamenitiji vladar zapadnog rimskog carstva, vladao je tri decenije. Hroničari tog vremena smatrali su da je bleđa senka svoga oca i da je nesposoban na svoje ujake. Gala Placidija umrla je 450. godine.



Konzularni diptih Kostancija III
Consular diptych of Constantius III



Constantius was born in Naissus, probably in a family of farmers or small landowners. He started his military career as a common legionary, but he advanced quickly owing to his dexterity, skillfulness and audacity. Soon he became a prefect in Gaul, the chronicles of that time describing him as generous and friendly. Besides that, he was blessed with other virtues, being strong and dignified in appearance, successful in each endeavor, cheerful and responsible, not at all vain and unsusceptible to debauchery and immoderate feasts.

During the reign of Emperor Honorius, Constantius rose from a general to the commander of the Roman army. In the following decade, with this title, he governed what had left of the Western Empire, given that Visigoths, a savage tribe, plundered it for decades only to enter Rome in 410 A.D. without any resistance. After eight centuries, Rome was conquered and pillaged for the first time. They did not linger in the city, staying for only three days, but even that made a large, unfavorable impact on the morale and self-confidence of the citizens of Rome. When they left, in addition to their loot, they took with them some eminent hostages, among them Galla Placidia, the sister of Emperor Honorius, probably the first, childhood love of Constantius III, his only love and his future wife.

The wounded Roman Empire also faced the invasions of several German tribes: Sueves, Vandals and Alans. In certain parts of the Empire they pushed out the Roman army and established their own rule. In addition to his external enemies, Constantius also had to fight off his internal enemy - Constantine III, who proclaimed himself the ruler of Gaul. In 414 A.D. Constantius III was appointed a Roman consul, and the Emperor Honorius promised to give him his sister for a wife as soon as she is freed from captivity. Galla was by then long married for Ataulf, a king of the Goths. In 415 A.D. Ataulf was dethroned and assassinated in a conspiracy.

It was then that Constantius employed all available resources to free the widowed princess, and finally in 416 A.D. concluded an agreement with the Goths to pay 600,000 measures of wheat for Galla Placidia. It took him another year after Galla's return to Ravenna, where the Emperor Honorius's fortress was located, to sway her into becoming his wife. They got married in 417 A.D, and had the son Valentinian and daughter Honoria. In February 421 A.D. the Emperor Honorius declared Constantius III his co-ruler. Thus Constantius fulfilled his promise to Galla that she would be in power again. Galla received the title of Augusta, their son became a Caesar, and Constantius himself became an Emperor. However, the court in Constantinople refused to acknowledge the new August, which is why Constantius started to prepare his legions for a battle with the Eastern Empire. Only 7 months after his appointment as Emperor, he fell down with a fever and died in 421 A.D. He left the Empire in a better shape than it used to be when in 410 A.D. he had taken the command over the Roman army.

His son Valentinian was appointed Emperor in 425 A.D, as a six-year-old boy, but until he came of age, Galla Placidia was the Regent of the Empire. Valentinian III, the last notable Emperor of the Western Roman Empire, ruled for three decades. The chronicles of his time considered him to be a bleak shadow of his father, incompetent after his uncles. Galla Placidia died in 450 A.D.

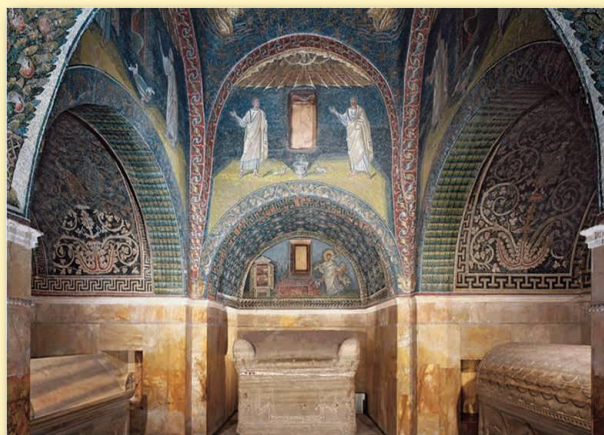


Sarkofag Konstancija III u mauzoleju Gale Placidije, Ravena
Sarcophagus of Constantius III, mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Ravenna

Konstancije III je na novcu prikazan šematizovano, u postteodosijanskom stilskom maniru. Istaknute krupne oči i aristokratska izdužena glava kao da svedoče o neustrašivom pobjedniku u boju i patriciju. Na reversima dominiraju hrišćanski simboli. Kovanice su najčešće od zlata, ali ih ima i od srebra.

Interesantno je da je o srebrnom novcu sa likom Konstancija III pisao i poznati hrvatski pisac i numizmatičar August Šenoa. U tekstu naglašava da je dobio lep, dobro očuvan novac od najfinijeg srebra koji je nađen u Sisku. Smatrao je svoj novčić za numizmatički unikat jer je znao za ovu kovanicu u zlatu ali ne i od srebra. Potom ga detaljno opisuje: poprsje gleda na desnu stranu, na glavi vladara je venac od dva reda bisera koji je ukrašen vrh čela draguljem, a na potiljku ta biser kruna ima dve vrpce koje se završavaju kuglicama. Vladar ima na sebi plašt, oko vrata vije mu se niz bisera. Glava je vrlo lepo i plastično urađena, lepše nego što to biva kod novca iz tog doba. Na reversu data je cela figura vladara u stojećem stavu okrenuta na desno. Desnom rukom drži zastavu, a levom boginju Viktoriju. Levu nogu je podigao i gazi sužnja koji pred njim na zemlji leži poleđice. I avers i revers imaju kružni natpis: D N CONSTAN - TIVS P F AVG i VICTORI - A AVGGG.

Sačuvan je i novac sa likom Gale Placidije koji je iskovan u Rimu između 425. i 435. godine. Na aversu je dat njen desni profil, a na aversu dominira veliki krst, simbol hrišćanstva.



Mauzolej Gale Placidije, Ravenna / Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Ravenna

The images of Constantius III on his coins are schematized, in the post-Theodosian style. Prominent, large eyes and aristocratic, oval face designate a fearless victor on the battlefield, and a Patrician. On the reverse, Christian symbols are predominant. The coins are usually minted in gold, but sometimes in silver.

Interestingly enough, the silver coins bearing the image of Constantius III were written about by the famous Croatian writer and numismatist, August Šenoa. In his texts he underlined that he had acquired a nice, well-preserved coin made of the finest silver, found in Sisak. He considered his coin to be a numismatic rarity, because he had been aware of such coins in gold, but not in silver. This is followed by a detailed description: the bust is turned right; the ruler's head is adorned by a wreath made of two rows of pearls and a gemstone at the centre of his forehead; at the back of his head this pearl-crown is tied with two ribbons ending in pellets. The ruler is wearing a cape, with a string of pearls around his neck. His head is depicted in a beautiful and realistic manner, more beautiful than is typically the case in coins from that age. The reverse presents the entire figure of the ruler, standing, turned right. In his right hand he is holding a banner, and in his left the goddess Victoria. His left leg raised, he is stepping on a slave sprawled on the ground in front of him. Both obverse and reverse feature a circular inscription: D N CONSTAN - TIVS P F AVG and VICTORI - A AVGGG.

Also preserved are the coins bearing the image of Galla Placidia, minted in Rome between 425 and 435 A.D. The obverse depicts her right profile, whereas the reverse is dominated by a large cross, the symbol of Christianity.



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