

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

RATNI SREBRNJACI

Rezime

Dve su emisije srebrnog novca od 50 para, 1 i 2 dinara koje na sebi nose godinu 1915. sa likom kralja Petra I Karađorđevića iskovane u Pariskoj kovnici. Iskovane za vreme I svetskog rata ove dve emisije srebrnjaka razlikuju se samo u tome što je prva imala naznačeno ime gravera (Schwartz) dok je kod druge emisije ime izostavljeno. Ove kovanice bile su važeće sredstvo plaćanja sve do 28. juna 1931. godine.

Ključne reči: srebrni novac, 1 dinar, 2 dinara, 50 para, 1915. godina, kralj Petar I Karađorđević, Pariska kovnica, prva emisija, druga emisija, graver Schwartz, Narodna banka.

JEL: E42, N24, N44

Srebrni novac od 1 dinara iz
1915. godine - lice

The 1-dinar silver coin from
1915 - obverse



UDC 737.1(497.11)"1915/1931"

doi: 10.5937/bankarstvo1603166P

scientific review article

WAR SILVER COINS

Svetlana Pantelić

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

Summary

There were two issues of silver 50-para, 1- and 2-dinar coins minted in the Parisian minting house marked with the year 1915 and bearing the image of King Petar I Karadjordjević. Minted during the I World War, these two issues of silver coins only differed in that the first one had the specified name of the engraver (Schwartz), whereas the second issue had the engraver's name left out. These coins were used as the official legal tender until 28 June 1931.

Keywords: silver coins, 1 dinar, 2 dinars, 50 paras, 1915, King Petar I Karadjordjević, Parisian minting house, first issue, second issue, engraver Schwartz, National Bank

JEL: E42, N24, N44



Srebrni novac od 1 dinara iz
1915. godine - naličje

The 1-dinar silver coin from
1915 - reverse

Sa likom kralja Petra I Karađorđevića postoji više emisija srebrnog novca, iz 1904, 1912. i 1915. godine. Numizmatičari smatraju da je kovanica od 5 dinara iz 1904. godine jedan od najlepših primeraka srpske moderne numizmatike, poznat po nazivu dvoglavac jer su na aversu predstavljene glave Karađorđa i Petra I. Srebrnjaci iz 1915. godine možda ne spadaju u najlepše primerke sa likom kralja Petra ali su svakako obeležje jednog teškog perioda u istoriji Srbije, koliko teškog toliko i slavnog po hrabrosti srpskih vojnika i umnom i smelom vojevanju nad mnogo većim i moćnijim neprijateljima u I svetskom ratu.

Dve su emisije srebrnog novca iz 1915. godine: prva na osnovu Zakona o kovanju srebrnog novca od 20. decembra 1914. godine i druga na osnovu Zakona o vanrednim kreditima u iznosu od 200.000.000 dinara i kovanju srebrnog i niklenog novca od 30. septembra 1916. Prva emisija kovanica imala je naznačeno ime gravera - Schwartz dok je kod druge emisije ime bilo izostavljeno.

Karakteristike kovanica:

Lice: Desni profil Petra I Karađorđevića sa natpisom "Petar I kralj Srbije". Ispod prvog slova - P nalazi se rog izobilja, znak Pariske kovnice, a ispod poslednjeg slova natpisa - E je baklja kao oznaka glavnog gravera (Henry Patey). Po ivici polja je niz tačkica. Ispod lika kralja je ime gravera Schwartz, ali samo kod prve emisije srebrnjaka.

Naličje: U sredini, jedno ispod drugog se nalaze oznake vrednosti arapskim brojem (50, 1 ili 2), naziv ćirilicom (para, dinar ili dinara) i 1915. godina. Sve je oivičeno vencem od hrastovog i lovorovog lišća sa krunom na vrhu. Po ivici je niz tačkica.

Obod: nazubljen





Coin Characteristics:

Obverse: Right profile of King Petar I Karadjordjević with the inscription "Petar I King of Serbia". Below the first letter P, there is a horn of plenty, the symbol of the Parisian minting house, and below the last letter in the inscription there is a torch, signifying the main engraver (Herny Patey). A series of dots encircles the edge. Below the King's image there is the name of the engraver, i.e. Schwartz, but only in the first issue of these silver coins.

Reverse: In the middle, one below the other, are the denomination in Arabic numbers (50, 1 or 2), the title in Cyrillic (para, dinar or dinars) and the year of 1915. All this is encircled with the wreath of oak and laurel leaves, with the crown on top. A series of dots encircles the edge.

Rim: reeded

There were a few issues of silver coins bearing the image of King Petar I Karadjordjević, from 1904, 1912 and 1915. The numismatists consider the 5-dinar coin from 1904 to be one of the prettiest pieces in the modern Serbian numismatics, known as "dvoglavac" (eng. two-heads) because the obverse featured the heads of Karadjordje and King Petar I. The 1915 silver coins may not be considered the prettiest pieces featuring the image of King Petar I, but they are certainly a symbol of a rather difficult period in the history of Serbia - difficult yet celebrated by the courage of the Serbian soldiers and the wise and bold battles against the superior and more powerful enemies in the I World War.

There were two issues of the 1915 silver coins: the first one based on the Law on Minting Silver Coins as of 20 December 1914, and the second one based on the Law on Extraordinary Loans amounting to 200,000,000 dinars and Minting of Silver and Nickel Coins as of 30 September 1916. The first issue of the coins had the engraver's name, i.e. Schwartz, signified, whereas the second issue had this name omitted.



Prva emisija

Pred I svetski rat Narodna banka je u rezervi imala oko 8 miliona dinara u srebrnom novcu kao deo podloge za emitovane novčanice da bi ta rezerva pala krajem 1914. na samo 2,2 miliona dinara. Oskudica u sitnom srebrnom novcu verovatno se osećala i pre izbivanja rata ali je ona tada postala alarmantna. Naime, u krajevima koji su pripojeni Srbiji nakon balkanskih ratova 1912-1913. godine stanovništvo se sa nepoverenjem odnosilo prema papirnatim novčanicama Narodne banke a štedelo u srebrnjacima. Takav odnos i diskriminacija jednog u odnosu na drugo sredstvo plaćanja nastali su sa početkom rata i u celoj Srbiji, te je narod požurio da svoje novčanice promeni u kovani srebrni novac. Zbog toga je u ratnom zatišju "krajem 1914. srpska vlada odlučila da od Narodne skupštine zatraži ovlašćenje za kovanje srebrnog sitnog novca u ukupnom nominalnom iznosu od 15 miliona dinara" (Hadži Pešić, 1995)

Pregovori sa francuskim ministrom finansija nakon izglasanog Zakona o kovanju srebrnog novca u Narodnoj skupštini uspešno su završeni i 1. januara 1915. godine Narodna banka je ovlasila srpskog poslanika u Parizu da odobri kovanje novog srpskog novca u Pariskoj kovnici po ponuđenim cenama a Banku Francuske da za njen račun kupuje srebro po ceni od 88 franaka za 1kg finog srebra. U svrhu kupovine srebra Narodna banka je obezbedila 3 miliona franaka ili 120.000 funti sterlinga položivši ček na Banku Engleske. Dušan Šainović, glavni sekretar Narodne banke, kojeg je krajem 1914. Ministarstvo finansija Srbije uputilo u Pariz sa matricama i žigovima srpskog srebrnog novca iz emisije 1912. godine da ih uruči Francuskoj kovnici, obavestio je, sredinom januara, telegramom Narodnu banku da je kupljena prva količina od 20.000 kg srebra po ceni od 87,15 franaka za 1 kg. Pariska kovnica "Administration des Monnaies et Medailles"

već 19. februara 1915. potvrđuje da je primila 12.437,11 franaka za izradu jednog dinara u 700.000 komada, poludinarca u 600.000 komada i za potrebnu ambalažu.

Po podacima Narodne banke iz 1920. godine prve količine kovanica prve emisije koje su sadržale: 7 miliona komada od 50 para, 6,5 miliona komada od 1 dinara i 2,5 miliona komada od 2 dinara stizale su u Srbiju od marta do avgusta 1915. godine. U domaćoj literaturi se mogu naći i podaci o nešto većoj količini svih ovih isporučenih apoena, kao na primer kod I. Vučićevića, S. Novakovića i R. Mandića. Pošiljke su stizale preko Marseja u Solun, pre svega ratnim ali i poštanskim brodovima. Ove kovanice puštane su odmah u opticaj i bile važeće sredstvo plaćanja sve do 28. juna 1931. godine.





First Issue

On the eve of the I World War, the National Bank had the reserves amounting to about 8 million dinars in silver coins, as part of the backup for issued banknotes, yet in late 1914 these reserves dropped to no more than 2.2 million dinars. The deficiency of small-denomination silver coins had probably been felt even before the outbreak of the war, but at this point it became alarming. Namely, in the regions adjoined to Serbia in the aftermath of the 1912-1913 Balkan wars, the population was distrustful towards the National Bank's paper banknotes, saving in silver coins instead. Such a discriminatory attitude towards these two means of payment spread across the entire Serbia at the beginning of the war, and the people rushed to convert their banknotes into minted silver coins. Thus, in a calm period "in late 1914 the Serbian Government decided to ask for a permission from the National Parliament to mint the small-denomination silver coins in the total nominal amount of 15 million dinars" (Hadži-Pešić, 1995).

The negotiations with the French Minister of Finance, following the adoption of the Law on Minting Silver Coins at the National Parliament, were successfully completed, and on 1 January 1915 the National Bank authorized the Serbian emissary in Paris to launch the minting of new Serbian coins at the Parisian minting house according to the offered prices, and Banque de France to purchase silver on its account at the price of 88 francs for 1kg of fine silver. For the purpose of purchasing silver, the National Bank provided 3 million francs or 120,000 pounds sterling, having deposited a cheque to the Bank of England. Dušan Šainović, Chief Secretary of the National Bank, who was in late 1914 sent to Paris by the Ministry of Finance to deliver the molds and imprints of the Serbian silver coins from the 1912 issue to the Parisian minting house, in mid-January informed the National Bank in a telegram that the first batch of 20,000kg of silver was already purchased at the price of 87.15 francs for 1kg. Already on 19 February 1915 the Parisian minting house "Administration des Monnaies et Medailles" confirmed that it had received 12,437.11 francs for minting 700,000 pieces of 1-dinar coins, 600,000 pieces of 50-para coins, and the required packaging.

According to the data of the National Bank from 1920, the initial batches of coins from the first issue, containing: 7 million pieces of 50-para coins, 6.5 million pieces of 1-dinar coins, and 2.5 million pieces of 2-dinar coins, were arriving at Serbia from March to August 1915. The data in some domestic references, for instance I. Vučićević, S. Novaković and R. Mandić, speak of somewhat larger amounts of all the delivered coins. The shipments were sent via Marseille to Thessaloniki, mostly by military ships, but also by postal ones. These coins were put in circulation immediately and remained the official legal tender until 28 June 1931.

Druga emisija

U ratnim uslovima ova emitovana količina srebrnika u vrednosti od 15 miliona dinara nije zadovoljila tražnju. Zbog toga, iako bez pravnog osnova jer za to nije bilo odgovarajućeg zakona, Ministarski savet donosi odluku o kovanju novih 15 miliona dinara: 7 miliona komada od 50 para, 6,5 miliona komada od 1 dinara i 2,5 miliona komada od 2 dinara. Kraljevsko poslanstvo Srbije u Parizu obaveštava Šainovića da stupi u kontakt sa Bankom Francuske i kovnicom i naloži im da za novu emisiju srebrnika kupe potrebno srebro, da ona bude po tehničkim osobinama i izgledu ista kao i prethodna emisija ali da se samo ukloni oznaka gravera. Šainović će 25. septembra (po starom kalendaru) 1915. obavestiti Narodnu banku u Kruševcu da je Banka Francuske od Ministarstva finansija Srbije dobila predujam od 3 miliona franaka za kupovinu srebra uz informaciju da Banka Francuske ne može da počne sa kupovinom srebra pre no što francuska vlada ne odobri njegovo kovanje sa bojaznošću da to možda neće biti uskoro jer je Pariska kovnica zauzeta kovanjem francuskih srebrnika.

Pripreme za kovanje nove emisije srebrnika su prekinute zaoštavanjem stanja u Srbiji zahvaćenoj ratom jer se neprijateljskoj armiji pridružuje i Bugarska. Vojska i stanovništvo povlači se na jug i sa vrhovnom komandom od 25. novembra kreće ka Crnoj Gori i Albaniji do Jadranskog mora da bi se, tokom januara 1916. godine, iz Skadra uz pomoć saveznika prebacili na Krf. Predstavnici Narodne banke za to vreme su se povukli u Kruševac odakle su vozom, u kojem su bili novac, ostale vrednosti i poslovne knjige, krenuli 1. oktobra 1915. u Solun i tu ostali jer do planiranog Bitolja nisu uspjeli da se probiju. Na ratni brod Francuske ukrcavaju se tek 6. decembra. Marsej će biti njihovo odredište gde počinju sa radom u izbeglištvu.

Na Krfu je 18. septembra 1916. usvojen na Narodnoj skupštini Zakon o vanrednim kreditima od 200 miliona dinara i o kovanju srebrnog i niklenog novca. U predlogu ovog Zakona se naglašava da je Vlada pre godinu dana (u septembru 1915.) pripremila zakonski predlog sa ovlašćenjem za kovanje novca kojim

je predviđeno kovanje srebrnika u nominalnom iznosu od 30 miliona dinara i niklenog novca do nominalnog iznosa od 10 miliona dinara ali da su ratne prilike onemogućile njegovo donošenje. Potom je i regent Aleksandar u Solunu, 30. septembra 1916. godine, potvrdio njegovo donošenje.

Na osnovu ovog Zakona iskovana je druga emisija srebrnika, ne u nominalnoj vrednosti od 30 već od 15 miliona dinara i koja takođe nosi oznaku 1915. godine ali bez oznake gravera. Ovoj emisiji pripada i nikleni novac koji na sebi ima oznaku godine 1917.

Francuska vlada je uvažila molbu Srbije da se u Pariskoj kovnici iskuje 15 miliona srebrnog novca. Prva pošiljka u Brindizi stigla je 8. decembra 1916. Od prve do sedamnaeste isporuke prošlo je nešto više od pola godine. Preko Brindizija za Skadar i Drač upućene su prve dve pošiljke kovanica u ukupnoj nominalnoj vrednosti od 1 milion dinara, druge dve, takođe od 1 milion dinara su ostale u Brindiziju do daljeg naređenja a ostale, njih 13, u nominalnom iznosu od 13.000.015 dinara upućene su za Marsej ali se do danas ne zna kuda dalje. Prema podacima Narodne banke Jugoslavije iz Pariske kovnice isporučeno je: 7 miliona komada od 50 para, 6 miliona i 15 komada od 1 dinara i 2,5 miliona komada od 2 dinara. U postojećoj literaturi navodi se znatno manji tiraž druge emisije ovih kovanica. Po mišljenju Jovana Hadži- Pešića ova razlika u količini isporučenih kovanica je nastala zbog neuspješnog transporta morem za vreme rata.

Prve količine kovanica druge emisije počele su stizati u ministarstvo finansija i Narodnu banku u vreme evakuacije iz zemlje i prebacivanja u Grčku. Od ukupne količine ovih iskovanih srebrnika u opticaj je, prema podacima Narodne banke, ušlo 1,5 do 2 miliona dinara. Ovaj srebrni novac opstao je kao sredstvo plaćanja od Kraljevine Srbije, preko Kraljevine SHS do Kraljevine Jugoslavije kada je po osnovu odredbe Zakona o novcu Kraljevine Jugoslavije (objavljenom u Službenim novinama 1-14.5.1931.), prestao to da bude 28. juna 1931. godine.



Second Issue

In the times and circumstances of war, the issued amount of silver coins, worth 15 million dinars, did not meet the demand. Thus, although without a proper legal basis, since there was no relevant law, the Ministerial Council passed the decision about minting another 15 million dinars, i.e. 7 million pieces of 50-para coins, 6.5 million pieces of 1-dinar coins and 2.5 million pieces of 2-dinar coins. The royal emissaries of Serbia in Paris instructed Mr Šainović to contact Banque de France and the Parisian minting house, informing them to purchase the necessary silver for the new issue of silver coins, which should be the same as the previous one in terms of its technical characteristics and appearance, except for the engraver's name which should be omitted. On 25 September 1915 (according to the old calendar) Šainović informed the National Bank in Kruševac that Banque de France received the advance payment of 3 million francs from the Serbian Ministry of Finance, but announced that it cannot start purchasing silver until the French Government approved the minting of coins, fearing that this might not be soon given that the Parisian minting house had been busy minting the French silver coins.

The preparations for minting the new issue of silver coins were discontinued when the military position of Serbia deteriorated after the enemy's forces were joined by Bulgaria. The army and the people retreated to the south, and on 25 November together with the chief commanders started for Montenegro and Albania towards the Adriatic Sea, only to get transferred to Corfu in the course of January 1916 from Shkodër, assisted by the allies. Meanwhile, the representatives of the National Bank retreated to Kruševac where on 1 October 1915 they embarked on a train, carrying money, other valuables and business books, to Thessaloniki, which is where they stayed, unable to reach their planned destination, i.e. Bitolj. It was not until 6 December that they embarked on a French military ship. Their destination was Marseille, where they launched their operations in exile.

On 18 September 1916 in Corfu, the National Parliament adopted the Law on Extraordinary Loans worth 200 million dinars and on Minting Silver and Nickel Coins. The draft of this Law

underlined that one year ago (in September 1915) the Government prepared the draft containing the authorization to mint coins, which prescribed the minting of silver coins in the nominal amount of 30 million dinars, and nickel coins in the nominal amount of 10 million dinars, after which the military circumstances made it impossible for this draft to be adopted. Subsequently, on 30 September 1916 in Thessaloniki, Prince Regent Aleksandar confirmed its adoption.

Based on this Law the second issue of silver coins was minted, not in the nominal value of 30, but 15 million dinars, also featuring the year 1915, yet no engraver's name. This issue includes the nickel coins featuring the year 1917 as well.

The French Government accepted the request of Serbia for 15 million dinars in silver coins to be minted in the Parisian minting house. The first batch arrived in Brindisi on 8 December 1916. It took a bit over six months to deliver seventeen batches. The first two batches in the total nominal value of 1 million dinars were sent via Brindisi to Shkodër and Brač, the other two, also worth 1 million dinars each, stayed in Brindisi until further notice, and the remaining 13 batches, in the nominal value of 13,000,015 dinars, were sent to Marseille but their further whereabouts remain unknown until today. According to the data of the National Bank of Yugoslavia, the Parisian minting house delivered: 7 million pieces of 50-para coins, 6 million and 15 pieces of 1-dinar coins and 2.5 million pieces of 2-dinar coins. The existing reference literature says that the volume of the second issue of these coins was much lower. According to Jovan Hadži-Pešić, this difference in the amount of delivered coins occurred due to the unsuccessful transportation by sea during the war.

The first amounts of the second issue coins started to arrive at the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank during the evacuation and transportation to Greece. Out of the total amount of these minted silver coins, according to the National Bank's data, only 1.5 to 2 million dinars actually entered the circulation. These silver coins remained legal tender in the Kingdom of Serbia, the Kingdom of SCS, and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, when they were withdrawn pursuant to the provision of the Law on Money of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (published in the Official Gazette 1-14.05.1931), on 28 June 1931.

Petar I - Oslobodilac

Petar I Karađorđević uspešno je vodio Srbiju u borbi za oslobođenje zemlje u I balkanskom ratu protiv Turske i u II balkanskom protiv Bugarske. Zbog godina i narušenog zdravlja predaje, u leto 1914. godine, svoja kraljevska ovlašćenja prestolonasledniku Aleksandru. Samo mesec dana kasnije Austrougarska objavljuje rat Srbiji. Nakon bitaka na Ceru i Kolubari, gde je srpska vojska porazila brojčano daleko snažnijeg neprijatelja, kralj Petar sa narodom u zbegu i desetkovanom vojskom povlači se preko neprijateljske albanske teritorije. Preživевši albansku golgotu i kao očevidac velikog stradanja svog naroda od mraza, gladi, umora i iscrpljenosti, dočekao je oslobođenje i stvaranje Kraljevine SHS. Kralj Petar, omiljen među vojskom i u narodu nazvan Oslobodiocem, umro je 16. avgusta 1921. godine i sahranjen na Oplencu.



King Petar I - Liberator

King Petar I Karadjordjević successfully guided Serbia through the battles for liberation of the country during the First Balkan War against Turkey and the Second Balkan War against Bulgaria. As an elderly man, due to his weak health, he transferred his royal duties to Prince Regent Aleksandar in the summer of 1914. Only a month later Austro-Hungary declared war against Serbia. Following the battles at Cer and Kolubara, where the Serbian army defeated the bigger and more powerful enemy, King Petar with the people and his decimated army retreated through the hostile Albanian territory. Having survived the Albanian Golgotha and having witnessed the major sufferings of his people from the cold, hunger, fatigue and exhaustion, he lived to see the liberation and creation of the Kingdom of SCS. King Petar, loved both by the army and the people, and nicknamed the Liberator, died on 16 August 1921 and was buried in Oplenac.

Kralj Petar I osmatra bojište,
Samson Černov, 1914.

King Petar I watching
the battlefield,
Samson Černov, 1914





Narodna banka na novoj adresi: Palata Mulo u Marseju



“Uskoro ni Solun nije bio više dovoljno siguran, pa je odlučeno da se Narodna banka prebaci u Francusku. Bančine vrednosti su utovarene 6. decembra na jedan francuski torpiljer, koji je prispeo u Marsej 16. decembra

1915. godine. Za bančine kancelarije zakupljen je bio u toj varoši lokal sa šest odeljenja u palati Mulo (Moullot) na Trgu berze, dok su veće vrednosti bančine smeštene u marsejsku filijalu Bank de Frans. Za to vreme počeli su pristizati u Marsej i članovi bančine uprave. Na dan 1. maja 1916. godine guverner je zakazao prvi sastanak bančine uprave na francuskom tlu, kome su prisustvovali: guverner Đorđe Vajfert i članovi uprave Luka Čelović, Marko Stojanović, Tihomilj J. Marković, Manojlo D. Klidis i Mata Jovanović”. (Narodna banka 1884-1934.)

National Bank on the New Location: Moullot Palace in Marseille

“Soon enough Thessaloniki was not safe either, and it was decided for the National Bank to be transferred to France. On 6 December the Bank’s valuables were loaded on a French military ship, which arrived at Marseille on 16 December 1915. For its offices, the Bank rented six rooms in the Moullot Palace (on the Stock Exchange Square) in this city, while the more precious valuables were deposited at the Marseille branch of Banque de France. In the meantime, the members of the Bank’s administration started to arrive at Marseille as well. On 1 May 1916 the Governor scheduled the first meeting of the Bank’s administration on the French soil, which was attended by the Governor Georg Weifert and the following members of administration: Luka Čelović, Marko Stojanović, Tihomilj J. Marković, Manojlo D. Klidis and Mata Jovanović.” (National Bank 1884-1934)



Literatura / References

1. Ilić Z. (2008) Sudbina srpskih vladara prikazanih na novcu (Balkanska tragedija), Numizmatički časopis Dinar, br. 30/2008. Srpsko numizmatičko društvo u Beogradu
2. Hadži-Pešić J. (1995) Novac kraljevine Jugoslavije 1918-1941, Beograd, Narodna banka Jugoslavije
3. Dugalić V., Mitrović A., Gnjatović D., Hofman G., Kovačević I., (2004) Narodna banka 1884-2004, Beograd
4. Dugalić, V. (1999.) Narodna banka 1884-1941, Zavod za izradu novčanica, Beograd
5. Narodna banka 1884-1934, Zavod za izradu novčanica, Beograd

