

PREGRŠT NEDOUMICA OKO NIKLENOG NOVCA IZ 1917. GODINE

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Rezime

Zakon o vanrednim kreditima u iznosu od 200 miliona dinara i kovanju srebrnog i niklenog novca iz 1916. godine bio je pravni osnov za kovanje niklenog novca od 5, 10 i 20 para Kraljevine Srbije na kojima se nalazi 1917. godina kao godina kovanja. Pojedini autori smatraju da je kovan u Pariskoj kovnici, drugi da je kovan svakako u Francuskoj ali u za sada nepoznatoj kovnici. Ima i autora koji u skorašnjoj literaturi ističu mogućnost njegovog kovanja u američkoj kompaniji (*The Gorham Company*) u Providensu na Roud Ajlandu. Ove kovanice imale su sve osobine novca od nikla Kraljevine Srbije iz 1883, 1884, 1904. i 1912. godine.

Iako je prema Zakonu ministar finansija bio ovlašćen da iskuje 10 miliona dinara ovog niklenog novca iskovano je 5 miliona komada od svakog apoena u ukupnoj nominalnoj vrednosti od svega 1.750.000 dinara. Jedinstveno mišljenje je da je u Srbiju nakon rata stigla samo neznatna količina ovog niklenog novca što se objašnjava kao posledica potapanja brodova koji su nosili srpske kovanice iz kovnice. Objašnjenje se jedino razlikuje odakle su ti brodovi plovili ka Krfu, iz Amerike ili Francuske.

Ovaj novac prestao je da bude zakonsko sredstvo plaćanja 30. novembra 1931. godine.

Ključne reči: nikleni novac, para, Kraljevina Srbija, 1917. godina, Pariska kovnica, Providens, Francuska, SAD, Krf

JEL: E58, N14

Kovanica od 5 para iz 1917. godine - lice

The 5-para coin from 1917 - obverse



NUMEROUS DILEMMAS SURROUNDING THE 1917 NICKEL COINS

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Summary

The Law on Extraordinary Loans Amounting to 200 Million Dinars and the Minting of Silver and Nickel Coins in 1916 was the legal basis for minting the 5-, 10-, and 20-para nickel coins of the Kingdom of Serbia featuring the year 1917 as their minting year. Some authors believe that these coins were minted in the Minting House in Paris, whereas the others agree that they were certainly minted in France, but in a still unidentified minting house. There are authors who in recent reference literature underline the possibility of their minting in the USA Gorham Company, in Providence, Rhode Island. These coins had all the characteristics of the nickel coins of the Kingdom of Serbia from 1883, 1884, 1904 and 1912.

Although, according to the Law, the Minister of Finance was authorized to mint 10 million dinars of these nickel coins, only 5 million pieces in each denomination were actually minted, in the total nominal value of just 1,750,000 dinars. The general opinion is that after the war only a small amount of these nickel coins reached Serbia, because the ships transporting the Serbian coins from the minting house sank on their way. The only varying aspect in this explanation is the location from which the ships were sailing towards Corfu, i.e. from the USA or from France.

These coins stopped being legal tender as of 30 November 1931.

Keywords: nickel coins, para, Kingdom of Serbia, 1917, Minting House in Paris, Providence, France, USA, Corfu

JEL: E58, N14



Kovanica od 5 para iz 1917. godine - naličje

The 5-para coin from 1917 - reverse

Zakon o vanrednim kreditima u iznosu od 200 miliona dinara i kovanju srebrnog i niklenog novca iz 1916. godine bio je pravni osnov za kovanje niklenog novca od 5, 10 i 20 para Kraljevine Srbije na kojima se nalazi 1917. godina kao godina kovanja. Po ovom Zakonu (čl. 6.) ministar finansija je bio ovlašćen da može iskovati i pustiti u saobraćaj do 10 miliona komada ovog niklenog novca.

Pregršt je nedoumica oko ovog niklenog novca koga među numizmatičarima ima veoma malo kao što ima malo i podataka o njemu, njegovom kovanju, iskovanoj i dopremljenoj količini. Najveći broj nedoumica nastao je gubitkom arhivske građe jer je kovan u vreme ratnih neprilika.

Prva nedoumica odnosi se na kovnicu gde je ovaj novac kovan. Dve su pretpostavke: da je kovan u Francuskoj ili Americi. Pojedini autori smatraju da je kovan u Pariskoj kovnici, drugi da je kovan svakako u Francuskoj ali u za sada nepoznatoj kovnici. Ima i autora koji u skorašnjoj literaturi ističu mogućnost njegovog kovanja u američkoj kompaniji (*The Gorham Company*) u Providensu na Rod Ajlandu pošto Pariska kovnica nije bila u mogućnosti zbog preopterećenosti emisijama svojih kovanica i ratnim prilikama da kuje novac za Srbiju.

Drugom nedoumicom se mogu tretirati tehničke osobine (sastav legure, težina, veličina i dozvoljena ostupanja od tih mera) i izgled ovog novca jer Zakonom nisu bili propisani niti postoji objava ili dokument iz perioda njegovog kovanja sa ovim podacima. Pomoć u njihovom definisanju predstavlja podatak da su ove kovanice imale sve osobine novca od nikla Kraljevine Srbije iz 1883, 1884, 1904 i 1912. godine.

Treću nedoumicu predstavlja moguće postojanje ovog novca iskovanog u zlatu. Pojedini numizmatičari smatraju da je njima mesto u katalogima dok drugi ističu da ove zlatnike nisu nikada videli i da je nelogično da se u u ratnim, neprimerenim, teškim prilikama kuje ovakav novac.

Četvrta nedoumica se naslanja na prethodnu i govori o mogućem kovanju ovog novca i u srebru. Ipak, većina upućenih smatra da se postojanje srebrnog novca iz 1917. godine dovodi u sumnju jer evropske kovnice i sastavljači svetskih kataloga u svojoj dokumentaciji ne pominju te nominale. Treba istaći da, ako su i iskovani zlatnici i srebrnjaci, oni ne predstavljaju zvaničan novac jer za njihovo kovanje nije bilo pravnog osnova i nisu nikada bili u opticaju.

Iako je prema Zakonu ministar finansija bio ovlašćen da iskuje 10 miliona dinara ovog niklenog novca, iskovano je 5 miliona komada od svakog apoena u ukupnoj nominalnoj vrednosti od svega 1.750.000 dinara.

Peta nepoznanica je zašto je došlo do ovoga: da li ministar nije iskoristio pravo koje mu je zakon davao ili kovnica nije stigla da iskuje sve planirane količine.

Iako se po dostupnoj literaturi zna količina iskovanog niklenog novca iz 1917. nepoznanica, šesta po redu je nedoumica koliko je tog novca stiglo u zemlju po završetku rata. Jedinstveno mišljenje je da je u zemlju stigla samo neznatna količina niklenog novca od 5, 10 i 20 para. Njihova mala količina objašnjava se kao posledica potapanja brodova koji su nosili srpske kovanice iz kovnice. Objašnjenje se jedino razlikuje odakle su ti brodovi plovili ka Krfu, iz Amerike ili Francuske.

Srpski novac od 5, 10 i 20 para iz 1917. godine prestao je da bude zakonsko sredstvo plaćanja 30. novembra 1931. godine.



The Law on Extraordinary Loans Amounting to 200 Million Dinars and the Minting of Silver and Nickel Coins in 1916 was the legal basis for minting the 5-, 10-, and 20-para nickel coins of the Kingdom of Serbia featuring the year 1917 as their minting year. According to this Law (Article 6), the Minister of Finance was authorized to mint and release into circulation 10 million dinars of these nickel coins.

There are numerous dilemmas surrounding these nickel coins, which are extremely rare among the numismatists, just like the information about their minting, minted and shipped amounts is scarce. The largest number of dilemmas arose after the relevant archived materials were lost, because the coins were minted in times of war.

The first dilemma refers to the minting house in which these coins were minted. There are two assumptions: it was either minted in France or in the USA. Some authors believe that these coins were minted in the Minting House in Paris, whereas the others agree that they were certainly minted in France, but in a still unidentified minting house. There are authors who in recent reference literature underline the possibility of their minting in the USA Gorham Company, in Providence, Rhode Island, because the Minting House in Paris was unable to mint the coins for Serbia because it was burdened by minting its own coins and by the war circumstances.

The second dilemma concerns the technical characteristics (alloy structure, weight, size and allowed deviations from these measures) and the appearance of these coins because they were neither prescribed by the Law nor is there a statement or a document from the period of their minting to specify all this. Some assistance in defining them is provided by the fact that these coins had all the characteristics of the nickel coins of the Kingdom of Serbia from 1883, 1884, 1904 and 1912.

The third dilemma is the possible existence of these coins minted in gold as well. Certain numismatists believe that their place is in the catalogues, whereas the others emphasize that they have never seen these golden coins and that it makes no sense for them to be minted during the inappropriate and tough circumstances of war.

The fourth dilemma, similarly to the previous one, refers to the possible minting of these coins in silver. Nevertheless, the majority of experts doubt the existence of silver coins from 1917 because the European minting houses and compilers of the world numismatist catalogues do not mention these denominations in their documents. It must be underlined, however, that even if such golden and silver coins were actually minted, they were never legal tender given that their minting was without any legal basis and that they were never released into circulation.

Although, according to the Law, the Minister of Finance was authorized to mint 10 million dinars of these nickel coins, only 5 million pieces in each denomination were actually minted, in the total nominal value of just 1,750,000 dinars.

The fifth dilemma is why this happened: did the Minister fail to use the right entitled to him by the Law or did the minting house have no time to mint the entire planned amount?

Although the available references specify the amount of minted nickel coins from 1917, the sixth dilemma concerns the amount of that money that actually reached the country after the war. The general opinion is that only a negligible amount of the 5-, 10-, and 20-para nickel coins reached Serbia. This is explained by the fact that the ships transporting the Serbian coins from the minting house sank on their way. The only varying aspect in this explanation is the location from which the ships were sailing towards Corfu, i.e. from the USA or from France.

The Serbian 5-, 10-, and 20-para coins from 1917 stopped being legal tender as of 30 November 1931.



Zlatnik Petar sa šapkom

Još jedna kovanica je sa 1917. godinom - zlatnik od 20 dinara sa likom Petra I Karađorđevića. Na ovom zlatniku dat je retko viđen lik Petra sa bradom i kapom na glavi zbog čega je nazvan „Petar sa šapkom“. Ova kovanica se samo uslovno može nazvati novcem jer je njeno kovanje bez zakonskog osnova i nije nikada bila u opticaju.



Petar with a Šapka Golden Coin

Another coin marked to have been minted in 1917 is the 20-dinar golden coin bearing the image of King Peter I Karadjordjević. This golden coin features the rare image of Petar with a beard and a hat, which is why it was nicknamed “Petar with a Šapka” (a type of military hat worn by army officers). This coin can be referred to as money only conditionally because its minting was without any legal basis and it was never released into circulation.



U Enciklopedijskom katalogu *Metalni novac kovan na području bivše Jugoslavije od 1700. godine do danas* Ranko Mandić u tekstu pod nazivom „Beleška o ratnom kovanju srpskog novca 1917. godine“ ističe da je nikleni novac iz 1917. godine kovan u SAD i da je redak zbog krađe jednog džaka ovih kovanica u njujorškoj luci. O tome je američki numizmatički časopis *The Numismatists* iste te godine (1917), u oktobarskom broju, na str. 443, doneo kratku vest, između ostalog: „Dok se novac srpski, sa godinom izdanja 1917. prevezio do parobroda u Njujorku, jedan džak tog novca bio je ukraden. Taj su novac, kažu, kupovale njujorške numizmatičke prodavnice u manjim lotovima, pre nego što se saznalo da se radi o kradenoj robi“.

In the encyclopedic catalogue *Metal Coins Minted on the Territory of Former Yugoslavia Since 1700 Until Today*, in the text titled “A Note about the Military Minting of the Serbian Coins in 1917”, Ranko Mandić underlines that the 1917 nickel coins were minted in the USA and are rare due to the theft of one bag of these coins in the New York port. That same year (1917) the American numismatic journal *The Numismatists* in its October issue, on the page 443, briefly reported about this, stating, among other things, that: “While the Serbian coins issued in 1917 were transported to the steamship in New York, one bag of them was stolen. That money was said to be purchased by the New York numismatic stores in smaller lots, before it was discovered to be stolen goods.”



5 para - 1917.

Težina - 3 gr

Prečnik - 17 mm

Sastav - 25% nikl i 75% bakar

5 paras - 1917

Weight - 3 grams

Diameter - 17 mm

Structure - 25% nickel and 75% copper

10 para - 1917.

Težina - 4 gr

Prečnik - 20 mm

Sastav - 25% nikl i 75% bakar

10 paras - 1917

Weight - 4 grams

Diameter - 20 mm

Structure - 25% nickel and 75% copper

20 para - 1917.

Težina - 6 gr

Prečnik - 22 mm

Sastav - 25% nikl i 75% bakar

20 dinars - 1917

Weight - 6 grams

Diameter - 22 mm

Structure - 25% nickel and 75% copper



Karakteristike sve tri kovanice

Lice: u sredini je grb Kraljevine Srbije, a po ivici je niz tačkica.

Naličje: u sredini arapski broj koji označava vrednost (5, 10 i 20) a iznad njega je kružni natpis „Kraljevina Srbija 1917“. Ispod broja je naziv novca - para. Tekst je dat ćirilicom. Po ivici je niz tačkica.

Obod: gladak

Graver: nepoznat

**Characteristics of All
Three Coins**

Obverse: Coat-of-arms of the Kingdom of Serbia in the center and a series of dots encircling the edge.

Reverse: The Arabic number denoting the value (5, 10, or 20) in the center and above it the circular inscription "Kingdom of Serbia 1917". Below the number is the name of the coin - i.e. para. The wording is in Cyrillic. The edge is encircled by a series of dots.

Rim: Smooth

Engraver: Unknown.

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