

= Dejan ( magnate ) =

Dejan ( Serbian Cyrillic : ????? ; fl . 1346 ? ca . 1366 ) was a Serbian magnate who served Emperor Stefan Dušan ( r . 1331 ? 55 ) as sevastokrator , and Emperor Uroš V ( r . 1355 ? 71 ) as despot . He was married to Emperor Dušan 's sister Teodora , and possessed a large province in the Kumanovo region , east of Skopska Crna Gora . It initially included the old župe ( counties ) of Žegligovo and Preševo ( modern Kumanovo region with Sredorek , Kozjažija and the larger part of Pčinja ) . Uroš V later gave Dejan the Upper Struma river with Velbužd ( Kyustendil ) . Dejan built the Zemen Monastery , among others , and reconstructed several church buildings throughout his province .

Dejan was one of the prominent figures of Dušan 's reign and during the fall of the Serbian Empire after Dušan 's death . Dejan is the progenitor of the Dejanović noble family , with his two sons , despot Jovan and gospodin Konstantin , also becoming powerful during the fall of the Serbian Empire and the ensuing Ottoman period .

= = Life = =

= = = Origin = = =

Dejan had married Teodora , the sister of King Stefan Dušan , and received the title of sevastokrator in 1346 , upon Stefan Dušan 's crowning as Emperor . Dejan 's origin is deemed unknown . Earlier scholars believed that Dejan was a relative of Jovan Oliver , another magnate in Macedonia , but this is no longer accepted . K. J. Jireček suggested that he was vojvoda Dejan Manjak ( ????? ) , only found mentioned in a 1333 charter , in which Stefan Dušan officially sold Ston and Prevlaka to the Republic of Venice .

= = = Stefan Dušan 's reign = = =

On Easter , 16 April 1346 , Stefan Dušan convoked a massive assembly at Skopje , attended by the Serbian Archbishop Joanikije II , the Archbishop of Ochrid Nikolaj I , the Bulgarian Patriarch Simeon and various religious leaders of Mount Athos . The autocephalous Serbian Archbishopric was raised to the status of a Patriarchate . The new Patriarch , Joanikije II , now solemnly crowned Dušan as " Emperor and autocrat of Serbs and Romans ( Greeks ) " . Dušan had his son Uroš V crowned King , giving him nominal rule over the Serbian lands , and although Dušan ruled the whole state , he had special responsibility for the " Roman " , i.e. Greek lands , in the south . There was a further increase in the Byzantinization of the Serbian court , especially in court ceremonies and titles . From his new position , Dušan could grant titles only possible for an emperor to grant , such as despot , sevastokrator , and žesar . Among the Serbian magnates were :

despot Simeon Uroš , Dušan 's half @-@ brother , governor of Epirus and Acarnania

despot Jovan Asen , Dušan 's brother @-@ in @-@ law , governor in southern Albania

despot Jovan Oliver , Dušan 's close associate , vojvoda and governor in Ovše Pole and left Vardar

sevastokrator Dejan , Dušan 's brother @-@ in @-@ law , governor of Pčinja

sevastokrator Branko , Dušan 's relative , governor of Ohrid

žesar Preljub , Dušan 's son @-@ in @-@ law , vojvoda and governor of Thessaly

žesar Vojihna , Dušan 's relative , vojvoda and governor of Drama

žesar Grgur , Dušan 's relative ( son of Branko ) , vojvoda and governor of Polog

The raising of the Serbian Patriarchate resulted in bishops becoming metropolitans . The Serbian ruler had wide autocratic powers , but was surrounded and advised by a permanent council of magnates ( velikaži or velmože ) and prelates . The court , chancellery and administration were rough copies of those of Constantinople .

In 1354 , when Dejan had finished building the Arhilevica Church of the Holy Mother of God , his

endowment , he asked that some of the villages under his administration be granted to the church ( as metochion ) . According to Stefan Dušan 's charter to Arhiljevica dated 10 August 1354 , sevastokrator Dejan , whom he called his brother ( " ????? ??????? ????????????????????? " ) , possessed a large province east of Skopska Crna Gora . It included the old župe ( counties ) of žegligovo and Preževo ( modern Kumanovo region with Sredorek , Kozjažija and the larger part of Pčinja ) . The granted villages included : village Podležane with hamlets , village Arhiljevica at the church with hamlets , village Izvor , village Ruginci ( Ružince ) , selište ( arable land ) Mokra Poljana ( Mokro Polje ) , village Maistorije , selište Maistorije Krupnici , selište Prusci ( Rusce ) , selište Vrdun , selište Prvevo , selište Deikovo ( Dejlovce ) , selište Vražje ( Vraževce ) , selište Sedlar , selište Mekša and village Glazje ( Glaznja ) . A total of 9 villages , 9 selište and a few hamlets . Based on the charter , Arhiljevica was situated where the granted villages of Podležane , Izvor and Ružinci lay , on the slopes of Jezer ( Kumanovska Crna Gora ) . The fact that Dejan built Arhiljevica rather than renovated it is evidence of his economic strength . Apart from Dejan 's granted villages , Dušan also granted , on his behalf as a gift , the church and village of Gosposdino Polje ( lost ) , village Koznica Križanovska ( Gorna- and Dolna Koznitsa ) and village Strojково ( lost ) , situated in the Velbužd region .

Dejan was one of the prominent figures of Dušan 's reign and during the subsequent fall of the Serbian Empire , after Dušan 's death . Under Emperor Dušan , despot Jovan Oliver , with his brother Bogdan and sevastokrator Dejan , ruled over all of eastern Macedonia . Dejan is not mentioned much in Dušan 's military endeavors , although his reputation and that of his successors suggest that he was involved in most of Dušan 's successes . His prominence beyond Serbia is also evident from the fact that Pope Innocent VI addressed Dejan in 1355 , asking him to support the creation of the union between the Catholic Church and the Serbian Orthodox Church ( such letters were sent to the highest nobility and the church ) .

== = Uroš V 's reign == =

Dejan received the title of despot sometime after August 1355 , either from Emperor Dušan , who died on 20 December 1355 , or from his heir Uroš V , most likely the latter . During the rule of Uroš V , Dejan was entrusted with the administration of the territory between South Morava , Pčinja , Skopska Crna Gora ( his hereditary lands ) and in the east , Upper Struma river with Velbužd ( Kyustendil ) , a province notably larger than he had possessed during Dušan 's life . This province was located in the very heart of the Balkans , and the important Via de Zenta , a trade route connecting the Adriatic with the interior of the Balkans , crossed it . As the only despot , Dejan held the highest title in the Empire ( this had earlier been the veliki vojvoda , Jovan Oliver ) . Dejan 's daughter Teodora married Žarko , the lord of Lower Zeta , in 1356 .

Serbian historian M. Blagojević supported the view in historiography that Dejan also served as logotet ( fl . 1362 ? 1365 ) , mentioned as the envoy of Emperor Uroš alongside Žesar Grgur in the peace talks with the Republic of Ragusa , which had been at war with Vojislav Vojinović in southern Dalmatia . The peace was concluded on 22 August 1362 , in Onogošt ( Nikšić ) , and the Emperor 's charter confirmed the " old laws " and other laws regarding the Ragusans . Dejan and Grgur each received 100 ducats .

Until Vojislav 's death in December 1363 , the Serbian nobles in the Greek lands showed themselves more ambitious , as they held more titles and greater independence ( deriving from their more extensive possessions , and therefore , wealth ) in relation to the nobility of the old Serbian lands . While Vojislav lived , his influence secured the preeminence of the old Serbian nobility . After Vojislav 's death , Vukašin Mrnjavačević , who had previously served Emperor Dušan as a župan ( count , holder of a župa , a " county " or " district " ) of Prilep , quickly gained a decisive influence on Emperor Uroš V . The nobility in the old Serbian lands was not at first alarmed at this , but Vukašin 's ambition and his subsequent power moves woke up the simmering antagonism between the two groups . It was not only Vukašin 's endless ambition that led to his success , as he had plenty of support from other nobles who benefited from him .

It is not known for certain when Dejan died , as no Serbian or foreign sources have been found with

information that could give historians clues to which year he died . S. Mandić said it may have been as early as 1358 , and that Vukašin , who until then was veliki vojvoda , took Dejan 's place as despot , and in turn Jovan Uglješa became veliki vojvoda . V. Ćorović believed it to have been sometime after the death of Vojislav ( 1363 ) . M. Rajčić concluded that it was between 1366 and 1371 , as he believed Jovan Oliver to have held his lands at least to 1366 , and based on that the Pčinja pomenik ( memorial book ) said that Dejan had died after Jovan Oliver ( this is refuted by S. Mandić ) . S. Mandić also believed that it was unlikely that Dejan took monastic vows before his death , as his children were still young . His wife Teodora took monastic vows as Evdokija and lived in Strumica and Velbužd , and she would until her death sign as basilissa ( Empress ) , as did : Ana @-@ Marija , the wife of Jovan Oliver ; Marija , wife of despot Toma Preljubović ; and Jefimija , the wife of Uglješa .

Dejan built and reconstructed several churches and monasteries throughout his province , including the Zemen Monastery and the lost Arhilevica Church . His two sons Jovan and Konstantin later became rulers of his domain .

= = Aftermath = =

After the death of Dejan , his province , except for the Ćupe of Ćegligovo and Upper Struma , was appropriated to nobleman Vlatko Pasković , whose hereditary land was Slavište directly to the south . Vukašin Mrnjavać , of whom there are no notable mentions until 1365 , became more powerful ( ultimately the most powerful nobleman in Macedonia ) after the deaths of Vojislav Vojinović , Dejan and despot Jovan Oliver ( whose status in Macedonia was very high ) , as Vukašin 's rise would have been unlikely during the lifetime of these men . Vukašin 's younger brother Jovan Uglješa is also thought to have participated in the dismemberment of Dejan 's province , as he used this chance to take the provinces which bordered on the oblast ( province ) of Ser ( Serres ) . No one looked to the young sons of Dejan who would later become very important . Dejan 's death benefited Vukašin and Jovan Uglješa , not so much in territorial expansion ( which is not so sure ) , but because Dejan 's disappearance ended any stronger candidate to counter the Mrnjavać family .

Like his father before , Dejan 's eldest son Jovan received the title of despot from Emperor Uroš . He and his brother later received most of Jovan Oliver 's lands . It is not known why Jovan Oliver 's sons did not inherit his lands . Serbian historian V. Ćorović attributed this to turmoil and disorder , though it is not known what extent it developed to and what the consequences were . Earlier scholars believed that the Dejanović were relatives of Jovan Oliver , although this is no longer accepted . The Dejanović brothers ruled a spacious province in eastern Macedonia , in the southern lands of the Empire , and remained loyal to Uroš V until his death . Emperor Uroš V died childless on December 2 / 4 , 1371 , after many of the Serbian nobility had been killed in the Battle of Maritsa against the Ottomans earlier that year . This marked an end to the once powerful Serbian Empire . Vukašin 's son Marko , who had earlier been crowned Young King , was to inherit his father 's royal title , and thus became one in the line of successors to the Serbian throne . Meanwhile , the nobles pursued their own interests , sometimes quarreling with each other . Serbia , without an Emperor , became " a conglomerate of aristocratic territories " , and the Empire was thus divided between the provincial lords : Marko Mrnjavać , the Dejanović brothers , Ćura I Balšić , Vuk Branković , Nikola Altomanović , and Lazar Hrebeljanović . In the new redistribution of feudal power , after 1371 , the brothers despot Jovan and gospodin ( lord ) Konstantin greatly expanded their province , not only recreating their father 's province , but also at least doubling the territory , on all sides , but chiefly to the south . The brothers ruled on the left riverside of the Vardar , from Kumanovo to Strumica . In 1373 , two years after Maritsa , the first mentions are made on the events in the province of the Dejanović brothers , as well as their mutual relation . As Marko had done , also the Dejanović brothers recognized Ottoman sovereignty . Although vassals , they had their own government . Their state symbol was the white double @-@ headed eagle and they minted coins according to the Nemanjić style .

= = Family = =

Dejan and Teodora had three children :

Jovan ( ca . 1343 ? ca . 1378 ) , despot under Emperor Uro? ; vassal of the Ottoman Empire since 1373 until his death in 1378 .

Konstantin ( fl . 1365 ? 95 ) , gospodin under Emperor Uro? ; succeeded his brother as vassal of the Ottoman Empire from 1378 until his death in 1395 .

Teodora ( fl . 1356 ? 71 ) , married firstly gospodin ?arko ( in 1356 ) , then ?ura? I Bal?i? ( after 1371 ) . She had a son with ?arko , Mrk?a ( born 1363 ) .

= = Annotations = =