

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Dragica Stojancevic, Slobodanka Jovanovic, Bogdan Chuk, Milena Bandulj and Aleksandra Budisavljevic.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

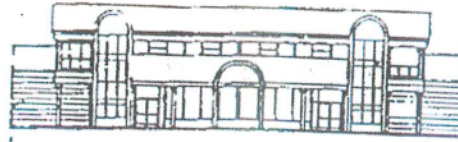
Photographs and information for this exhibit has been obtained from the following books:

*Kostim grada i sela na razmedju dva veka-Prizren i okolina 1880-1918*  
Etnografski muzej u Beogradu,

*Iz zanatske proslosti Balkana -Hristifor Crnilovic prikupljac etnografskog blaga*  
Etnografski muzej u Beogradu.

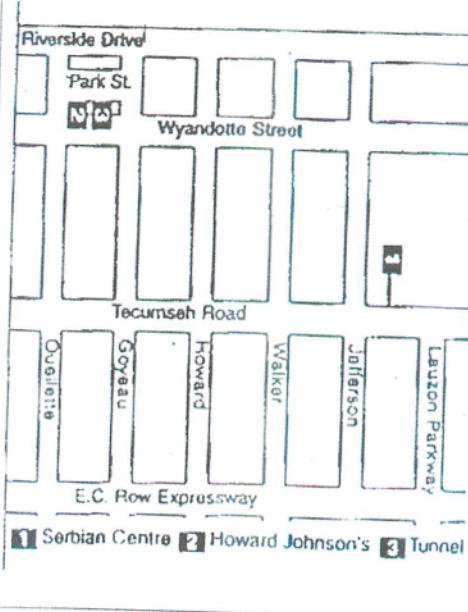
*Kosovska legenda u narodnom stvaralastvu.*  
Etnografski muzej u Beogradu.

**MUSEUM HOURS:**  
Monday to Friday,  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



SERBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
6770 TECUMSEH ROAD EAST  
Windsor, Ontario

From Highway # 401: Exit Essex Road  
# 19 to Tecumseh Road and left on  
Tecumseh Rd. to 6770



## *Serbian Heritage Museum of Windsor*



**EXHIBIT:**

***"FOLK CULTURE OF THE  
SERBS"***

January 22 – May 25, 2007

## **Folk Culture of the Serbs**

Serbia at the present time occupies the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula, in the Southeastern part of Europe.

The first state was established during the 9<sup>th</sup> Century in the region of Kosovo. From there it grew rapidly and became an empire during the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1389, in the decisive Battle of Kosovo, the Serbs lost to the Ottoman Empire which ruled over Serbia for almost 500 years. During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the Serbian uprising against the Ottoman Empire was successful; Serbia regained its freedom and became a kingdom once again. After the First World War Serbia became a part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Since World War II, Yugoslavia was under Communist rule. In 1991/92 the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a multiethnic, multireligious and multicultural state ceased to exist after the unilateral, unconstitutional secessions of the Republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia.

### **Roots and influences**

**Serbian culture** refers to the culture of Serbia as well as the culture of

Serbs in other parts of the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere in the world. It has a strong influence from the peasantry especially in its arts, crafts and music. The nearby Byzantine Empire had a strong influence in the Middle Ages while the Serbian Orthodox Church has had an enduring influence. Serbian culture fell into decline during five centuries of rule under the Ottoman Empire. Following autonomy and eventual independence in the Nineteenth Century, there was a resurgence of Serbian culture in the nineteenth century. Socialist Realism was predominant in official art during the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia but recent decades have seen a growing influence from the West as well as traditional culture.

The origin of Serbian fashion and embroidery has its roots in the ancient Slavic design and it has been deeply influenced by the historical life of the people. So there are traces of Byzantine and also Middle Eastern as well as Central European.

The ornaments and colours are rich and imaginative. They are an

expression of women's lounging for a better life or for sorrow for the fate that has befallen her family or country.

The art of embroidery was handed down from mother to daughter for generations, each generation adding its own taste, artistic skill and innovation. In this way manifesting a collective aesthetic atmosphere, creative tendencies and skill of many generations of anonymous creators originating in the widest popular masses, who made objects used in everyday life but which were, at the same time, of high artistic quality.

Embroidery was used on household items and also on pieces of wardrobe

Originally material for embroidery was home grown, home spun, and home dyed. Today it is different.

The main point of the exhibited artifacts is that they are real handmade of pure natural raw material with national designs and they are either unique or manufactured in small series.

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