

- 16 - Olivera Stojadinovic, *Azbuka II*
- 17 - Vuk Djurickovic, *Baroque Alphabet*
- 18 - Teni Svenda, *Prayer*
- 19 - Zoran Ilic, *Alphabet in Air*
- 20 - Djordje Zivkovic, from *The Divine Comedy* by Dante
- 23 - Vuk Djurickovic, *Spontaneous Letters*
- 24 - Djordje Zivkovic, from *Book of Michelangelo* by Milos Crnjanski
- 25 - Vuk Djurickovic, *Cyrillic in Blue*
- 26 - Slobodan Miladinov
- 27 - Stjepan Fileki, *Decorative Majuscule of the 16th Century*
- 28 - Stjepan Fileki, *First Serbian Primer*
- 29 - Stjepan Fileki, *Study of Penmanship*
- 30 - Teni Svenda, *Symphony of Letters*
- 31 - Djordje Zivkovic, *Alphabet in Red*

To Mrs. Rada Bulat whose mother's embroidered alphabet in 1911, at the age of 12, in Osijek, loaned her work for this exhibit.

The books on display are courtesy of the University of Toronto Library and the private collection of Mr. Damjan Krnjevic - Miskovic and Svetlana Miskovic.

**Acknowledgement:**

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Nikola Ajdacic  
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**Serbian Heritage Museum**

6770 Tecumseh Road East  
 Windsor, Ontario  
 N8T 1E6  
 Tel: (519) 944-4884  
 Fax: (529) 974-3963

**MUSEUM HOURS**

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Sunday: 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

*Groups are welcome by appointment*

*Visits may include viewing of fresco paintings at the Serbian Orthodox Church "Gracanica". Light lunches provided for groups of 15 or more people.*

Въ краснихъ мира сего въспитал  
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 Serbian Heritage Museum  
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 ПОДЪСТЕОВАЛЪ ЕСИ И ЧЕМАЮЮ ВЪТЪЧЬСТ  
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 HISTORY  
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 CYRILLIC ALPHABET  
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 ТАТЪ БОЖЬСТЕНИХЪ ЦРЬКВЬ РАСУДИВЪ  
 НЕ СЪТРИМО БИТИ СРЪДЦУ ТВОЕМУ  
 ЕТИ ХРИСТИАНИ ВЪТЪЧЬСТВІА ТИ ШЕ  
 АДАЕНИМЪ БИТИ ИЗМАНАТЕНИ АЩЕ АН  
 СЕГО НЕ ПОЛУЧИШИ ВСТАВИТИ ТЛЪН  
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 Exhibit: January 21 - March 22, 1996  
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 ПИТИ СЕ СЪ ВОИ НЕБЕСНАГО ЦАРА ТЪМ  
 ЖЕ И ДВѢ ЖЕЛАЕНЕ ПОЛУЧИЛЪ ЕСИ И

## INTRODUCTION

Cyril and Methodius were two Greek Orthodox missionaries. They lived in the 9th century. At that time, Serbs and other southern Slaves settled on Balkan Peninsula becoming the closest neighbours to Byzantium. Cyril and Methodius understood their language and as scholars, realized that teaching Slaves literacy in their own language was the mission. Along with the students Cyril and Methodius set to translate gospels and other religious books from Greek onto the language Slaves spoke.

The missionaries developed two alphabets for such purpose: *Glagolic* and *Cyrillic*. These alphabets intermingled and with time and natural development of the language, Cyrillic became dominant while complex Glagolic slowly disappeared.

The first known Slavic language was Old Slavonic. This language was spoken among clergy and nobles in Serbia, Russia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania (until 18th century). Earliest documents in Cyrillic were inscriptions, epigraphs, gospels and other religious books. Samuilo's inscription is the oldest document from 993.

Further in the process of the language development each group of the Slavic people changed and adopted proposed Cyrillic signs, according to the locality of the sounds (*for ex. soft consonants varied*)

In the 19th century, in Serbia, Vuk Stefanovic Karadzic reformed Serbian language embracing authentic terms and sounds ordinary Serbs spoke. He published the first Serbian Dictionary in 1818 in Vienna. By that he officiated modern Serbian spoken and written language and established the rule: *the way you speak, read and write*. Now, the Cyrillic alphabet was a modified form of Old Slavonic with 30 symbols representing 30 pronounced sounds among Serbs.

As much as an acknowledgement of the founders of Cyrillic alphabet, reformers of the language, linguist theorists or scientists, encountering calligraphers, the scribes of our past and present time is demonstrated in this exhibit. The ability to coordinate eye and hand with mind requires integrity of inner vision for which calligraphers have significant place in the history. Even in the age when developed technology prints dozens of pages in no time, a stroke of brush or pen

remains to be an authentic touch of life.

The Serbian Heritage Museum is grateful to the University of Toronto Library, the Director Librarian of the Slavic Section Mrs. Sofija Skoric, Prof. Ralh Bogert, University of Belgrade - Academy of Applied Arts, Prof. D. Stjepan Fileki, and artists whose calligraphy is on display:

- 1 - Miroslav Cenic, from *Signs by the Wayside* by Ivo Andrsi
- 2 - Teni Svenda, *Azbuka* (Alphabet)
- 3 - Olivera Stojadinovic, *Ethetal Collage*
- 4 - Teni Svenda, *Greetings*
- 5 - Miroslav Cenic, from *Hamlet*
- 6 - Danijela Paracki, from *Jefimija's Praise to Prince Lazar*
- 7 - Vukan Ciric, *Black and Silver*
- 8 - Radomir Levajac, *Azbuka* (Alphabet)
- 9- Olivera Stojadinovic, *Azbuka* (Alphabet)
- 10 - Vuk Djurickovic, *Azbuka* (Alphabet)
- 11 - Vuk Djurickovic, from *The Gardiner* by Rabindranath Tagore
- 13 - Predrag Dragovic, *Story of St. Sava* by Matija Beckovic
- 14 - Radomir Levajac, *Hymn of Love*
- 15 - Djordje Zivkovic, from *J'accuse* by Emil Zola