

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

- *Istorija Srba*

Vladimir Corovic

- *Istorija primenjene umetnosti kod Srba.*

Muzej primenjene umetnosti - Beograd

- *Kostim grada i sela na razmedju dva veka-Prizren i okolina 1880-1918*

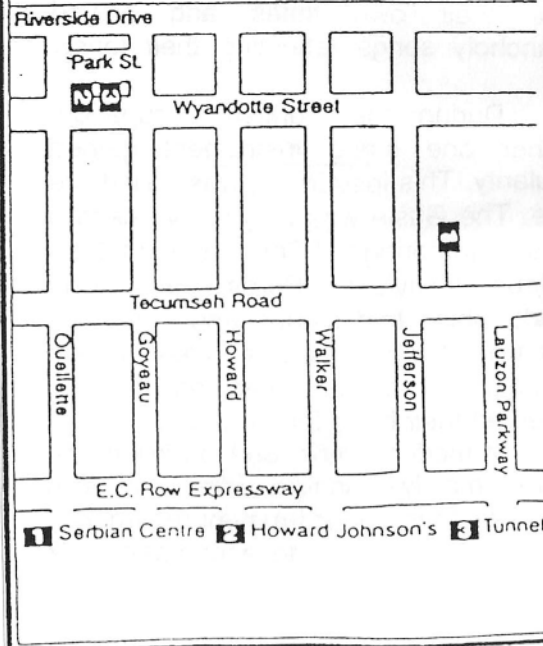
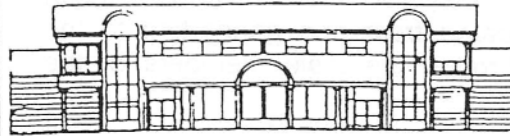
Etnografski muzej u Beogradu,

- Internet

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 Road to # 6770



*Serbian Heritage Museum of
Windsor*

PRESENTS



Exhibit:

RHYTHM NATION

An Expression of our Diversity

June 17 - September 23, 2005

RHYTHM NATION

An Expression of our Diversity

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 9th Century in the region of Kosovo. From there it grew rapidly and became an empire during the 14th 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 19th Century 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.

Language:

Serbs speak the Serbian Language, which is a cousin to the other Slavic Languages. The Serbian alphabet is called Cyrillic. It was named after Cyril, a Greek missionary, who with his brother Methodius converted Serbs to Christianity during the 9th Century.

Religion:

Serbs belong to the Serbian Orthodox Church, which like the Church of England is a national church, having its own head of the church, which is called a Patriarch. The Serbs were converted into Christianity in the 9th Century by two Greek missionaries, Cyril and Methodius. When a Serbian family accepted Christianity the Saint commemorated by the Church on that day became the family's patron Saint; that day each year then became a special observance. It was the birthday of their faith in Christ, perpetuated from one generation to the next through the male members of the family.

Music:

Along with the good healthy food, Serbs enjoy good music, song and dance. The oldest instrument, still popular today is the shepherds flute. During the long hours, while tending their flock, shepherds made their own flutes and played melancholy songs reflecting their lonely life.

During the Turkish occupation, another one string instrument gained popularity. This instrument was called the gusle. The Gusle was played by talented bards at gatherings of Serbs during folk or religious festivities. Bards sang long ballads which told stories about glorious days from Serbian people. They upheld the spirit of the enslaved people and preserved their hope for the future.

In modern times, Serbian folk music is played mainly on the accordion. The violin and the tambura, an instrument resembling a lute, are also used to accompany folk

dances in certain parts of Serbia. The best-known traditional dance among the Serbs is the kolo, which is performed in a circle.

Serbian music contains elements from their old Slavic roots, and the influences from the other nations which are Serbian neighbors today, along with the influence left over from the occupying Turks.

Embroidery:

The origin of Serbian embroidery has its roots in 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, art in the works.

The ornaments and colours are rich and imaginative. They are an expression of women's longing 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.

Art:

Fresco Painting

Interiors of Serbian churches and monasteries were elaborately decorated with fresco paintings. They survived past centuries, times of war and peace.

Fresco painting is a method of painting on freshly applied wet lime-plaster walls with colors made by grinding artists' dry-powder pigments in pure water. The colors dry and set with the plaster to become a permanent part of the wall.