

Serbian Heritage Museum

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MUSEUM HOURS

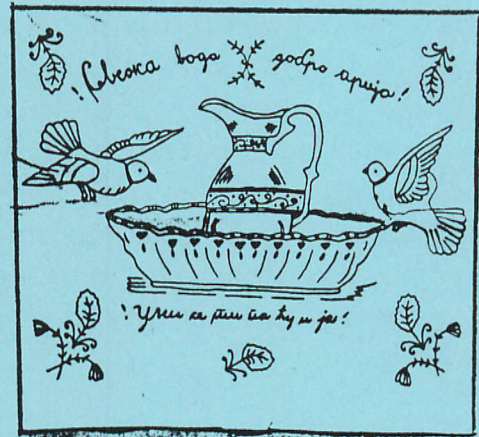
Monday-Friday: 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday: 2 pm - 4 pm

*Groups are welcome
by
appointment*

*Visits may include viewing of fresco
paintings at the Serbian Orthodox
Church "Gracanica". Light lunches
served to groups of 15 or more,
upon request.*

*Serbian Heritage Museum
of
Windsor*



*Serbian
Kitchen
Accessories*

Exhibit:

August 11 - November 8, 1996

Introduction

The exhibit "*Serbian Kitchen Accessories*" is a display of the Serbian folk art pieces - the kitchen accessories, known as "*Kuvarice*". They are decorative embroidered images on cotton, rarely on linen, placed usually above the stove. This wall fashion in the Serbian kitchens and homes traditionally relates to the role of woman and her affection for the needlework.

"*Kuvarice*" capture ordinary life intertwined with women's thoughts. The presence of the visual, vocal and rhetoric elements speaks cheerfully not only about preparing food for loved ones but also about love, nature and qualities of life. Inscribed morals enhance those benefits.

Food relates very much to the rejuvenation and good health. It is in the kitchens where long hours in preparing, cooking and serving has nonetheless left room for other more artistic expressions Serbian woman biases with; in this case it is the wall hanging embroidery. Sometimes she presents urban ambiance other times rural.

The origin of "*Kuvarice*" goes back to the beginning of the century and were popular in all parts where Serbs lived. The oldest ones were embroidered in one colour while multicolored combination came later.

There are 61 pieces on display from the Museum collection and 30 from the private collections of the Serbian families.

It is divided in several sections according to the themes "*Kuvarice*"-s speak about. The first one is about *water*, second is *love letters*, third *cooks' duties*, fourth section is about *fruits*.

Acknowledgement:

The Serbian Heritage Museum gratefully acknowledges the loans from Stana Loncar, Mileva Bandulj, Dusanka Djordjevic, Mirjana Vujanovic. They enabled Museum to enrich the presentation of the Serbian folk culture in Windsor.

Special thanks to the volunteer Srdjan Miskovic.

has related to the village and farming in many fundamental ways. A great deal of genuine accessories were hand made while in the most recent times industrial cooking sets replaced them.

SECTION IX

Accessories made of wood are as characteristic feature in the Serbian homes as are ceramic. They also have decorative element but not less functional.

SECTION X

Kitchen accessories made of copper were in use in the southern parts of Serbia and Bosnia. They were used to cook larger quantities of soups, for baking pitas or as mixing bowls.

The exhibit has ten (I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X) sections. Each tells a story about the particular accessories, their use, content and role.

SECTION I

In everyday life water has a particular role Serbian people relate to: it is its freshness, quality, hygiene and often in old times a lack of it. Enough reasons for Serbian women to enclose it into their Kuvarice.

SECTION II

Love notes have many forms of telling something to a dear person. It is through bird songs as much as it is through a kolo dance or all of the mentioned and Kuvarice.

SECTION III

Cook's duties play important part in any domestic organisation. Diligence, neatness and tasty food were praised qualities and examples of virtues.

SECTION IV

Romantic urban interior scenes are the connotations of moods and music. They sometimes speak about loneliness and cry for the far away sweetheart.

SECTION V

Gardens were very much part of the home and family activities. Mild climate and outdoor life brought many sweet fruits onto the tables of the Serbian homes.

SECTION VI

Urban table accessories are more sophisticated in the choice of silver cutlery, porcelain, crystal delicate napkins, or table cloths. The entire arrangement and well - coordinated colours were essential in the Serbian cities also, refined food and atmosphere.

SECTION VII

Ceramic dishes played not only decorative but also functional part when preparing or serving food. It was considered to preserve the taste of many specific Serbian dairy products.

SECTION VIII

A rural realm is present in the Serbian kitchen accessories. Life