

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

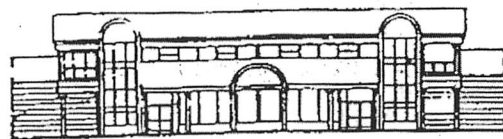
-“Ziča” – authors: MILAN KASANIN, ĐURĐE BOSKOVIĆ and PAVLE MIJOVIĆ.

Also, some information is found on the INTERNET

MUSEUM HOURS:

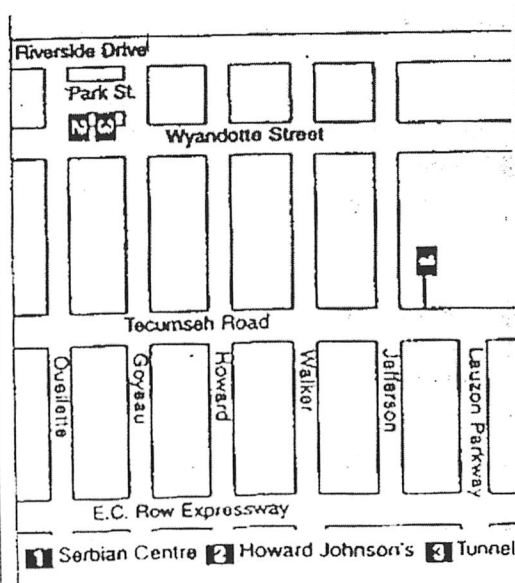
Monday to Friday,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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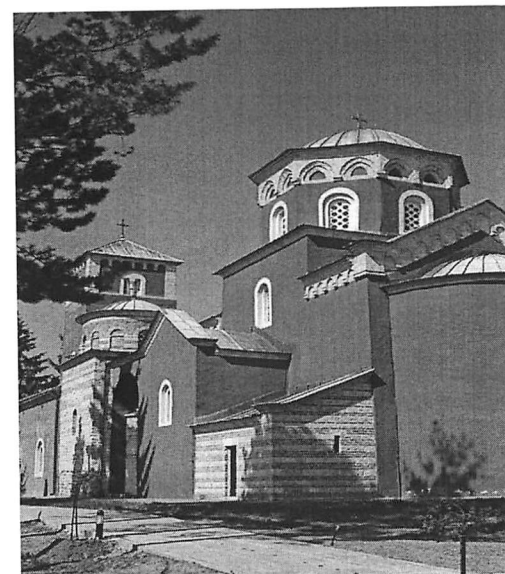


SERBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE
6770 TECUMSEH ROAD EAAS
Windsor, Ontario

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



Serbian Heritage Museum of Windsor



(Monastery Zica)

PRESENTS:

**“8 CENTURIES OF THE
MONASTERY ZICA”**

July 17, - October 27, 2006

Monastery Zica

This year will be the 800th-year anniversary of the building of Zica Monastery, our great holy shrine and the first seat of the autocephalous Serbian Orthodox Church in the time of St. Sava.

The foundation of the Serbian King Stefan Nemanjic, the First-Crowned, monastery Zica was built between 1208 and 1230.

In 1219 Stefan's final inauguration as head of the Serbian State marked the beginning of a new era not only in Serbian history, but in the history of the entire Balkan Peninsula.

Stefan's first attempt at obtaining the regal crown from Pope Innocent III failed, but his persistence paid off in 1217. That year Sava sent to Rome his disciple Methodius, who won Pope Honorius' blessing for the coronation.

At an assembly in the monastery of Zica, Sava crowned his brother Stefan with the crown he had brought from Rome.

In 1217 Stefan became the first king of Serbia (Stefan the First Crowned) and Serbia became a kingdom.

St. Sava founded this monastery as the first patriarchate in Serbia and it became the place of coronation of Serbian kings beginning with Stefan, the First Crowned, St. Sava's brother.

At the Monastery Zica seven Serbian kings were crowned. Stefan First-Crowned, Radoslav, Vladislav, Uros, Dragutin, Milutin and Stefan Decanski.

Zica became the first seat of the Serbian Archbishops. The church, dedicated to the Ascension of Our Lord, displays the features of the Raska School. The ground plan is shaped as a spacious nave with a large apse at its eastern end. The central space is domed. The church was built of stone and brick. Architecturally, the Byzantine spirit prevails.

In its basic features, the architecture of Zica, which has undergone considerable changes, belongs to the oldest school of Serbian medieval architecture. The interior fresco decoration dates from various periods.

There are three layers of paintings, each being a separate entity. The earliest frescoes were painted immediately after the first archbishop Sava's return from Nicaea (1219), but only in the choir portions of these have been preserved.

Towards the end of 13th century Zica was burned and consequently deserted. Renovation was carried out during the time of Archbishops Jevstatije II (1292-1309), and Nikodim (1317-1337), when the refectory was adorned with frescoes, the church

covered with a leaden roof, and a tower erected. The new frescoes were painted during the reign of King Milutin, but they have suffered serious damage, too. Fragments have survived on the east wall of the passage beneath the tower (composition of King Stefan and his son Radoslav), in the narthex, nave and side-chapels.

Like the entire Serbian people, the monastery endured especially great sorrows during World War II. While tens of thousands of Serbs were being executed in neighbouring Kraljevo, Kragujevac, while hundreds of thousands languished in Ustashe concentration camps and the fires of war consumed up to 1 million Serbs.

Zica also suffered greatly under bombardment. Part of the North wall of the Cathedral was destroyed to its foundation, with the loss of its medieval frescoes. Nonetheless, Bishop Nikolai immediately commenced reconstruction. He was not able to complete the work: he was arrested and confined to the Dachau concentration camp together with another holy confessor, Patriarch Gavril. forced to leave his native land after the War, he moved to America.

At this point, a new period in Zica's life began: for the first time in its history, Zica became a women's monastery because under the Communists regime it was easier to open a women's monastery