



A DRESS FROM THE CURRENT EXHIBIT

Serbian Heritage Museum  
Windsor, Ontario



Exhibit:  
Folk Costumes From Kosovo  
and South Serbia

February 3 - June 18, 2001



## FOLK COSTUMES FROM KOSOVO AND SOUTH SERBIA

The costumes in this exhibit are only a part of the vast multitude of folk dresses in different regions of Serbia. They are a part of the Serbian heritage and express the special esthetic values and tastes of the Serbian people.

The designs of national dress are influenced by a variety of factors: the nature of the geographic environment, its climate, its animal and vegetation worlds, the form of rural economy, social relationships and customs of a given district. The national dress also reflects many historical events, witnessed by the people of the specific region. Each of the costumes possesses its own individuality and its own characteristics.

The folk costumes of Kosovo and South Serbia reflect the golden age in Serbian history during the rule of the Nemanjic Dynasty of kings and emperors who ruled Serbia for 200 years. Kosovo is the location of the first Serbian State. It was the see of the Serbian empire, the see of the Serbian patriarchs, and the centre of the rich and colourful tradition. Kosovo is also the scene of the tragic Battle of Kosovo which triggered the loss of Serbian independence and freedom. It is

not, therefore, unusual to see a switch from the use of colour to the black design.

The costumes in this exhibit are of homemade linen and silk with threads of gold woven through it. It is called the Serbian Filament. "The homemade textile and embroidery of Kosovo are considered to be the most exquisite achievement of folk fine art". (Ethnographic Museum of Belgrade)

Most of the pieces on display come from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are by now considered cherished relics of the past. These valuable costumes are one of a kind and the Serbian Heritage Museum is honoured to house such treasures..

The items in the exhibit are not identified by location and date. The Museum's reference library does not provide this exact information. Photographs of each item have been sent to the Ethnographic Museum of Belgrade for their identification.

This whole collection has been obtained from Mr. Paul Lazic of Calgary through the generous Advance Funding Grant from the Ontario Gaming and Alcohol Commission.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Museum wishes to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Slobodanka Jovanovic, Dusan Jovanovic, Bob Markovich, and the technical assistance of Milica Bozanic Reeve in staging this exhibit.

## HOURS OF OPERATION:

The Serbian Heritage Museum, of Windsor is located at:

6770 Tecumseh Road East.  
Telephone Number: 944-4884.

Temporary Museum Hours:  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday:  
10 AM. to 1:00 PM\*\*

\*\*Museum Hours have been temporarily shortened due to change in Museum staff. Normal hours of the Museum will be resumed when a new Director is appointed.