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Museum Hours:

Monday - Friday 10am-4pm
Sunday 2pm-4pm

Groups welcome by appointment. Light lunches served for groups of 15 or more on request.

The Serbian Heritage Museum of Windsor

THE LAND OF MANY CULTURES BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

Exhibit : January 22 - May 2, 1994



The land known as Bosnia Hercegovina has undergone many transformations through the ages to arrive at its present state of unique cultural diversity.

The exhibit guides one through the events of the past in the hope that these events will give a greater insight and understanding into the problems facing Bosnia today.

1. Contrary to the vast majority of reports coming from Western media sources, the Serbian people have also suffered greatly during the present war, which has been raging for nearly two years. The recognition of Bosnian independence by the international community was a major cause of the war because this step was taken before all parties within Bosnia had reached an agreement.

2. The earliest known history of the region is marked by the existence of Illyrian tribes. These eventually fell under the domination of the Roman Empire which was to leave a lasting impact on the area.

3. Eventually, Slavs settled into the area around 600 A.D. During the 12th century, Hungarian dominance prevailed over Byzantine rule and the area became a province of Hungary. However, the medieval period saw the rise of several local rulers, the most significant being King Tvrtko who actually defeated Hungary in the 14th century.

4. The wealth of the medieval period can be seen in many old cities, monuments, and works of art.

5. Gusle, the famous folk instrument.

6. In 1463, the Ottoman Empire began its occupation of the area which would last until the 19th century. During this time, some of the nobility converted to Islam.

7. Evidence of Turkish occupation is shown in many examples of Turkish architecture.

8. Scenes of the landscape and people which reveal the charm and beauty that defines Bosnia Hercegovina.

9. Articles of clothing from a female folk costume.

10. This section is devoted to Milivoje Dragutinovic, the man who liberated Mostar at the end of WWI. The certificate from the city of Mostar honours him for his military efforts.

11. A brief outline of Bosnia's literary past is given here, accompanied by some famous literary figures.

12. Examples of fortresses, which through the ages have stood witness to countless battles.

13. The traditional wedding dress is characterized by fine details and ornamentation.

14. The turn of the century was a time of both glory and suffering for the Serbs of Bosnia. Struggle against Austro-Hungarian rule was eventually achieved after WWI but not without a heavy price.

15. The 20th century brought about drastic changes in the area. After WWI Bosnia Hercegovina merged together with the other Slavic states into the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, later renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. This tenuous arrangement was shattered at the outset of WWII. Bosnia came under the administration of the Nazi puppet state of Croatia, which was responsible for the slaughter of countless Serbs both in Bosnia and Croatia proper. After the war, Tito's communist regime further complicated the situation by granting the Moslems in Bosnia the status of a nationality. This act, coupled with the reduction of the Serb population brought about by the war, in effect reduced the position of Serbs to that of a national minority.

16, 17. Serbian folk costumes from Hercegovina and Bosnia.

18. Short and long jackets from traditional folk costume, Hercegovina.

This exhibit is dedicated to the fallen Serbs of Bosnia - men, women, and children - whose suffering we shall not forget.