



Serbian Month

in Great Britain

British
Serbs *part two*

*This catalogue has been produced by the Serbian Council of Great Britain,
on behalf of the Round Table of Serbian community organisations in Britain.*

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Serbian Month in Great Britain Catalogue

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The Serbian Month Catalogue

The Serbian Month Catalogue was first produced in 2018 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Serbian Month in Great Britain. It featured the programme, a summary of Serbian community organisations active in Britain and short biographies of prominent Serbian artists, academics and sports men and women. It was such a success that it was decided it should be a regular feature of Serbian Month.

Last year, the Round Table agreed that the Serbian Month Catalogue should be expanded and have a theme that would be of interest to the Serbian community and the wider British public. The chosen theme was 'British Serbs', with a focus on Serbian communities in Britain, their histories and how they have developed over the years. It also featured articles by young people about growing up in Britain with a Serbian heritage. This year we decided to build on the theme of British Serbs, although perhaps we should call it British and Irish Serbs, since we are including an article about the Serbian community in Ireland. The catalogue covers those Serbian communities who did not feature last year. There are still gaps which we hope to fill so that we have a comprehensive picture by 2023. The catalogue also includes some exciting new sections which we hope shows the richness of our community in Britain and the contribution it has made to Britain and Serbia and also the relationship between Serbia and Britain over the years. These sections cover: ties between the Serbian Royal Family and the British Royal Family; prominent Serbs who lived in Britain; those who studied in Britain and went on to play an influential role back in Serbia; the strong and warm relations that existed between Britain and Serbia, particularly during the Great War; and British Friends of Serbia who have done so much to support Serbia and Serbians.

What we have produced only scratches the surface and covers the period up to WW2, but this is a long-term project which we will build on in future years. We are doing this because no-one has written the history of the Serbian community in Britain. We need to know our history if we are to understand ourselves and celebrate the contribution we make to Britain and we will be able to share this with the wider British public so that they understand us better. We hope that you find these new sections interesting and informative.

We could not have done this on our own and would like to thank those who have contributed so generously to the catalogue. They are Maya Atkinson, Professor Dejan Djokić, the Historical Archive of Belgrade, Živko Jakšić, Mirjana Jovanović-Lazić, Very Reverend Milun Kostić, Very Reverend Nikola Kotur, Nataša Kočiš, Dr David Norris, Professor Slobodan Markovich, Professor Zoran Milutinović, Very Reverend Žarko Nedić, Uroš Parezanović, Mina Radović, Milka Sholaya, Olga Stanojlović, Dr Nada Zečević, and Professor Vladimir Zorić.

Serbian Month in Great Britain 2022
with support from

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs - The Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and
Serbs in the Region.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH
THE DIASPORA AND SERBS IN THE REGION

Serbian Month

Now in its fourteenth year Serbian Month in Great Britain is recognised as one of the most significant festivals of Serbian arts and culture in the Serbian Diaspora, showcasing the artists from Serbia and the British Serbian artists. It is one of the best examples of what the Serbian Diaspora in Britain can achieve when it works together for the good of the community. It has done much to raise the profile of the Serbian community in Britain and Serbia and amongst other Serbian Diaspora communities across the world.

With special thanks to

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs - The Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region for their financial support of Serbian Month, and all the Serbian organisations and individuals who have contributed to this catalogue and the success of Serbian Month in Great Britain.

Serbian Communities in Britain and Ireland

The first Serbian communities in Britain were established after WW2 and have grown with subsequent generations of émigrés, particularly in the 1990s following the break-up of Yugoslavia. Whilst Serbs have dispersed all over the country they have tended to settle in the communities set up by the first generation of émigrés. These articles give a history of those communities we did not feature last year. We are also delighted to be able to include a history of the Serbian community in Ireland and how it has developed over the years, something we know will be of interest to everyone.

London
Bedford
Birmingham
Bradford
Bristol
Canterbury
Cardiff
Corby
Cork
Coventry
Derby
Dublin
Guilford
Halifax
Leicester
Oxford
Reading

**Serbian
Month**

in Great Britain



England

Bradford Parish

The first Serbs who came to Bradford in 1948 were those who did not wish to return to Tito's communist-ruled Yugoslavia. After spending time in camps for Displaced Persons in Italy and Germany they came to Britain under the Voluntary European Workers Programme, which was set up to meet labour shortages in Britain. Those coming to Bradford were mainly sent to work in the mines and textile industry. They had to stay there for three years before being allowed to look for work elsewhere. When people were free to find their own employment and could decide where they wanted to live, the community came together in the bigger cities of Yorkshire, including Bradford.

The Serbs who settled in Bradford had been brought up in the Serbian Orthodox faith and with Serbian traditions; these became even more important to them when far from home. From the very beginning they found priests who could conduct services for them and by 1952 thoughts turned to establishing a church to serve the needs of the Serbian communities in the West Yorkshire towns of Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Halifax and Huddersfield. A committee, chaired by Major Petar Vukadinović, was set up to purchase a church in Halifax, funded by donations from the local Serbian community. After the church in Halifax had been purchased and consecrated, the parish priest for the North of England, Father Valerijan Štrbac, turned his sights to purchasing a church in Bradford to serve the needs of the community there. A church was purchased, and Father Valerian oversaw its adaptation and construction until his death in 1977. The consecration of the Church of the Holy Trinity was carried out by Bishop Lavrentije of the Western Europe Dioceses on the 15 October 1978.

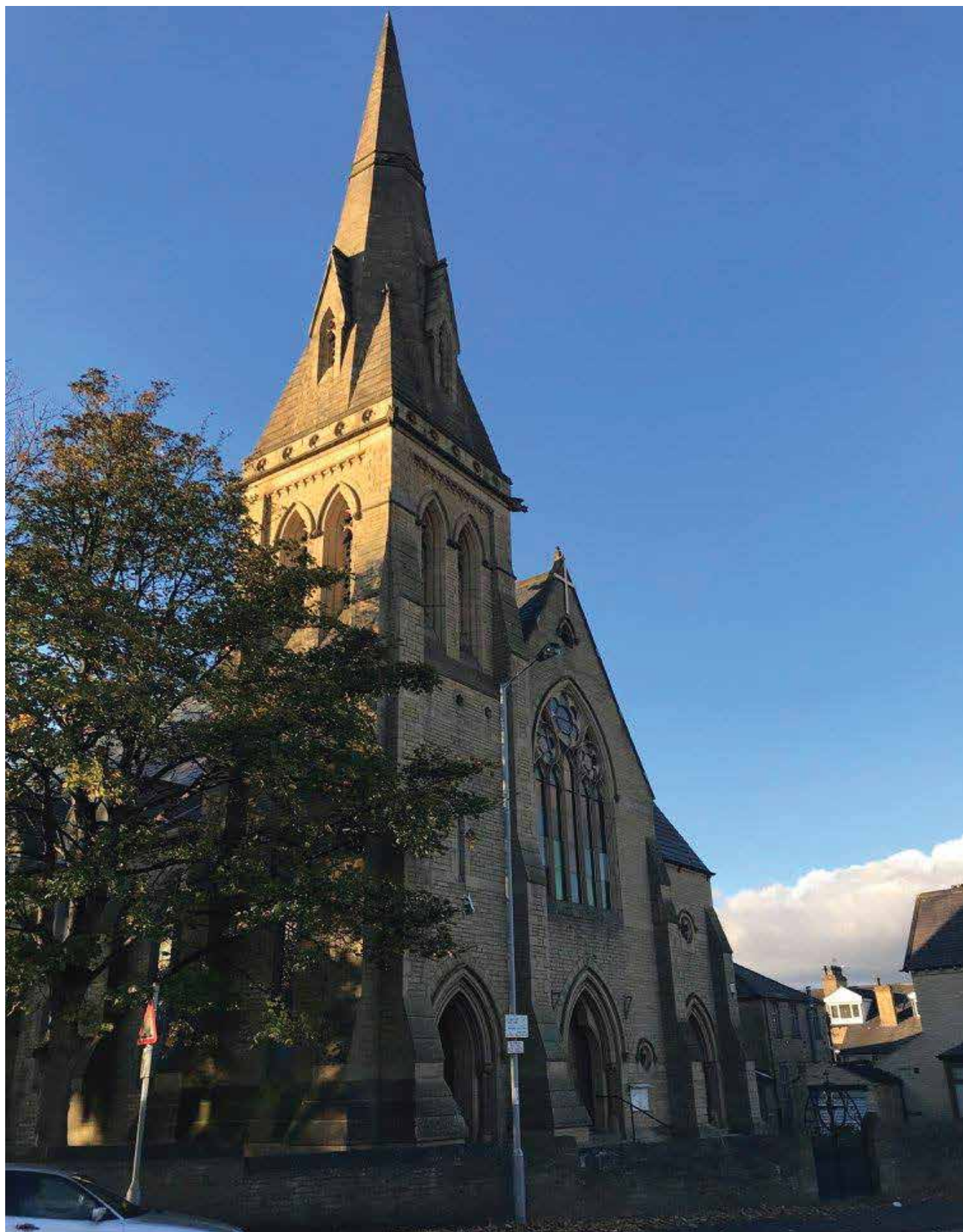
The parish of the Holy Trinity played a central role in the life of the Serbian community in Bradford. The church choir attracted young people who had joined their parents from Yugoslavia. At one point it included three generations from one family.

From the early days the community of West Yorkshire recognised the importance of teaching their children the Serbian language, culture and history. Supplementary classes were taught in Bradford from the 1950s. As the community dispersed further afield, classes were also started in Wakefield. Classes continued in Bradford for 1 to 17 year olds and were eventually taught in English when most of the pupils became second and third generation Serbs. The school continues to teach children from 4 years of age every second Sunday in the church hall.

Since its inception in 1954, the Circle of Serbian Sisters has been an integral part of the community and played a supportive role in all aspects of community life. The Sisters have catered for large weddings, christenings, church feast days as well as fundraising events; the late Sister Olga Mizdrak was famed for sewing clerical vestments for the priests and artifacts for the altars. The Chetnik Circle of Serbian Sisters has also contributed to the community and church in Bradford in a similar way and helped raise funds for the restoration of the church roof.



Almost as soon as the Serbian community was established in Bradford, a folklore group was set up. It started in 1950 and most of the members were displaced persons living in a hostel in Silsden near Kieighley. Other groups were set up in Halifax in the mid-1950s under the auspices of the Association of Serbian Chetniks, including the well-known and respected ensemble 'Oplenac'. In 1976 Father Valerijan wished to continue the folk dancing tradition that had begun in Halifax and established the folklore ensemble 'Morava' with Stevan Jojić as its choreographer.



The current parish priest is the Very Reverend Žarko Nedić. He is also responsible for Scotland and had started up the parish in Ireland before handing it over to Father Mladen Gargović.

Derby parish and the Church municipality

Immediately after the Second World War, the only parish in the whole of Britain which catered for the spiritual needs of the faithful Serbs was St. Sava in London.

As Serbs settled in their jobs, and families from Yugoslavia began to join them, there was a need to create new parishes and church communities throughout Britain.

A new Parish and the Church community was established in Derby in 1952 to serve Serbs living in Derby, Leicester, Stoke on Trent and Donnington. The first Parish priest was Dr Dimitrije Najdanović who was there from the beginning of 1952 until he left for America and after his departure there have been a number of priests including Milenko Zebić, Presbyter Georgije Đokić, until he was elected Bishop of Canada.

Since the founding of the parish in Derby, the faithful have managed to buy a church in Derby and a church in Leicester. These were Anglican churches where, with the permission of the Anglican sister church, Orthodox services were held. A small church hall and house for the priest were also purchased next to the temple in Derby.

In the parish of Derby/Leicester, various events have been celebrated. These include the church celebrations of Saints Apostles Peter and Paul in Derby, Đurđić in Leicester and St. Nicholas in Donnington.

In addition to church celebrations, national events are also celebrated when large number of Serbs and their friends from all over England gather. These include House of Karadjordjević Day, Draža's Day and other national events. They are followed by performances by folklore groups, recitations and plays, with parties and music continuing until late at night.

The current parish priest is Father Boris Medak and the President of the church community is Andja Zrač.

Father Milun Kostić



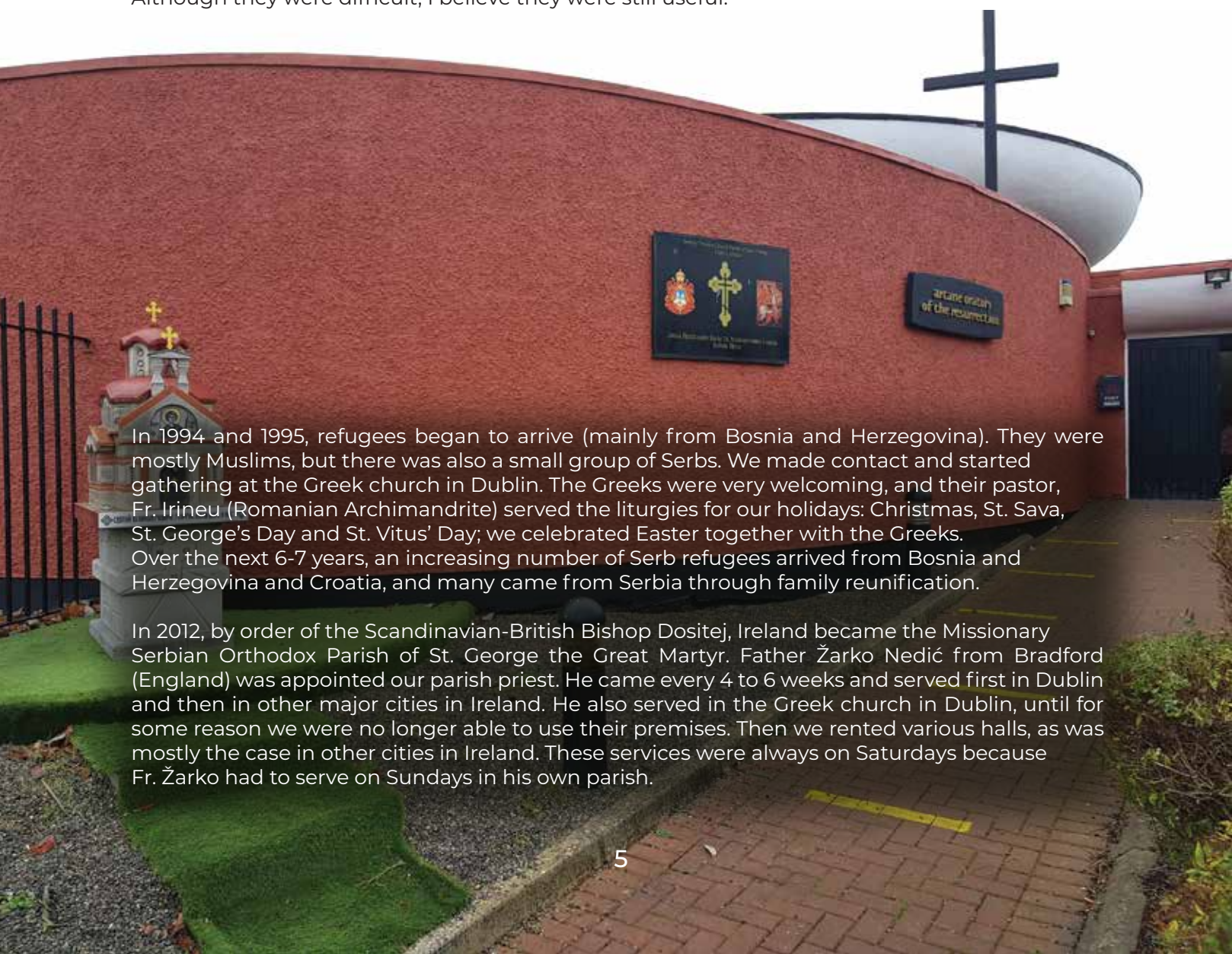
The Serbian Diaspora in Ireland

I moved to Ireland for business in 1969. In the seventies and eighties there were four women from Belgrade who were married to Irishmen. I was one of the two men from Belgrade.

Ireland is a beautiful, gentle country: with its hills, valleys and plains full of rivers and lakes. In many ways it resembles Šumadija (especially the Eastern landscape). The Irish are pleasant people, to a great extent like us: always in the mood for conversation, jokes, and spending time together with drinks and song. Back then they did not know much about Yugoslavia, except for the football team, the resort of Poreč (where they started visiting through Yugotours), and from 1981, Medjugorje (the year when tours from Ireland started).

When the war broke out in 1991, their attitude towards Serbs changed; of course, for the worse. The propaganda in the local media followed that of the world media: 'Serbs are to blame for everything. They are thugs, murderers, etc.' As a predominantly Catholic country, the Irish were on the side of the Croats, but it is interesting that when the war between Croats and Muslims broke out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they were on the side of the Muslims.

In order to try to establish some balance in the media, I and the other Serbian man, along with another fellow Serb (who had arrived with his Irish wife and son in 1991), began to correspond with Ireland's most prominent newspaper, *The Irish Times*. They were fair and published a large number of our letters. I was also invited to several interviews on radio and television. Although they were difficult, I believe they were still useful.



In 1994 and 1995, refugees began to arrive (mainly from Bosnia and Herzegovina). They were mostly Muslims, but there was also a small group of Serbs. We made contact and started gathering at the Greek church in Dublin. The Greeks were very welcoming, and their pastor, Fr. Irineu (Romanian Archimandrite) served the liturgies for our holidays: Christmas, St. Sava, St. George's Day and St. Vitus' Day; we celebrated Easter together with the Greeks. Over the next 6-7 years, an increasing number of Serb refugees arrived from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, and many came from Serbia through family reunification.

In 2012, by order of the Scandinavian-British Bishop Dositej, Ireland became the Missionary Serbian Orthodox Parish of St. George the Great Martyr. Father Žarko Nedić from Bradford (England) was appointed our parish priest. He came every 4 to 6 weeks and served first in Dublin and then in other major cities in Ireland. He also served in the Greek church in Dublin, until for some reason we were no longer able to use their premises. Then we rented various halls, as was mostly the case in other cities in Ireland. These services were always on Saturdays because Fr. Žarko had to serve on Sundays in his own parish.

Father Mladen Gardović moved from Canada to Northern Ireland where he served in the Russian Church Abroad. From March 2015 he took over from Fr. Žarko and began to serve us occasionally in Ireland. When in May 2016 Bishop Dositej appointed him our parish priest, he moved to Ireland. From July our church in Ireland ceased to be 'missionary' and became a parish in the Diocese of Scandinavia-Britain-Ireland. In Dublin we got a Catholic church which was rarely used; in September 2019 we signed a 5-year contract for the permanent use of that church for a small (peppercorn) rent. Through the efforts of our brothers and sisters, the church is beautifully decorated. A complete iconostasis was recently purchased; each icon is a gift from one of our families. We were also gifted the chandelier from two brothers and their families.

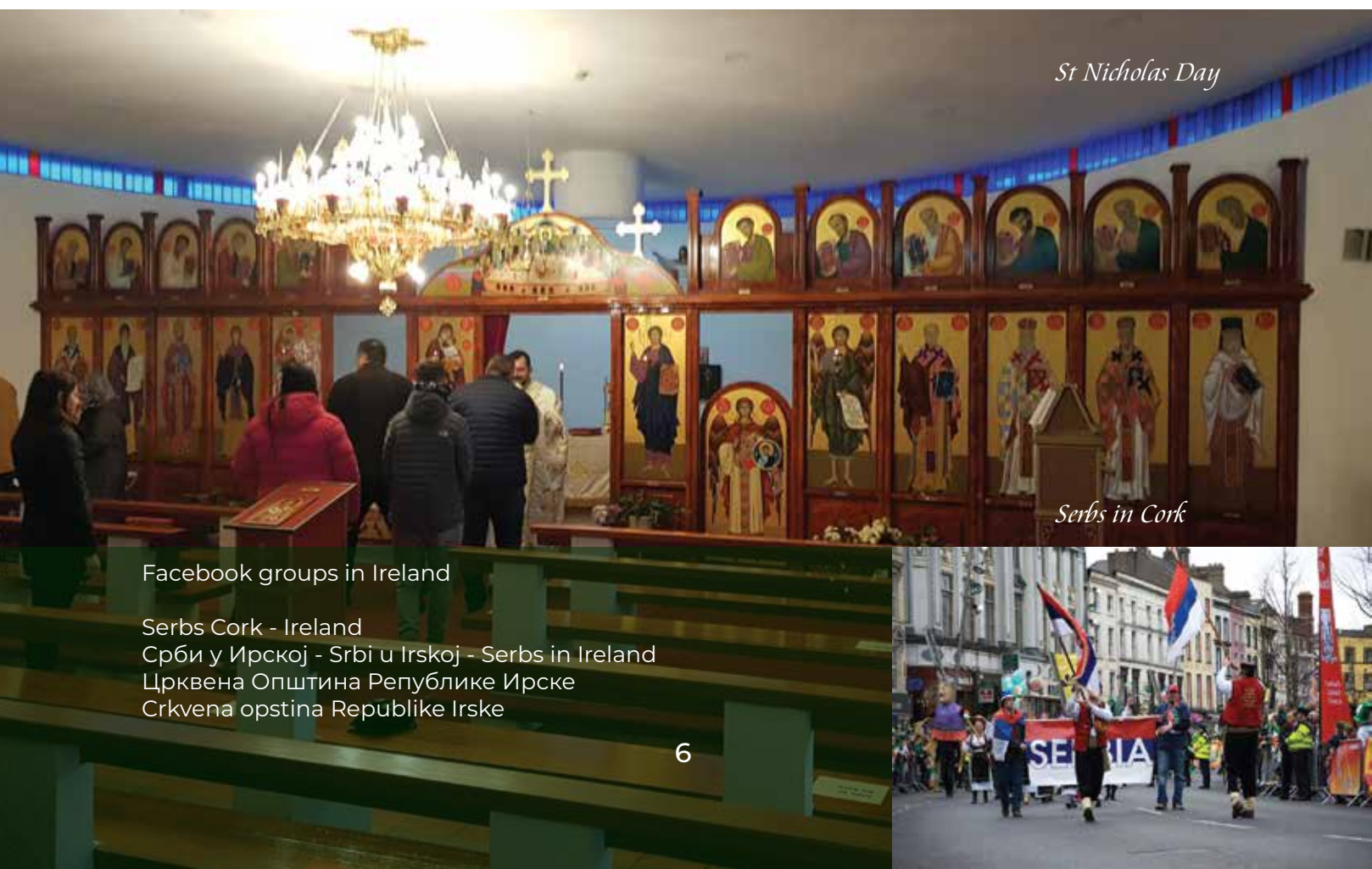
How many Serbs are there in Ireland? It is difficult to give a precise answer, but there are about five thousand (a large number are here with Croatian passports, which makes it difficult to calculate). The vast majority are employed in various professions; some have opened their own companies, many work in information technology (where they are highly valued), a few are professors at universities, a few doctors, and a number in the health professions.

As for moving to Ireland, there are no problems for those with Croatian passports: as citizens of the European Union, they have the right to residence, employment and all benefits. For the citizens of Serbia, it is much harder: they have to find an employer who will offer them a job, the employer has to get a work permit for them (which costs them), and only then can they apply for a visa. For a job in IT and healthcare, it's a little easier, because there is always a demand for labour. As for health professionals (it is assumed that they should have a university degree or relevant college qualification), they must register with the Irish organisation of health workers. The process is quite long and can take up to two years.

We do not have Serbian clubs here. Apart from socialising with each other, many participate in football, basketball and water polo. Quite a number of us attend liturgies, and after the service there are always gatherings with snacks. The parish's Patron Saint's Day is St. George's Day. Every major city has its own day: Cork – Vidovdan, Athlone – St. Sava, etc.

In December 2010 I had the honour of being appointed Honorary Consul in Ireland by Mr Ivica Đačić who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Živko Jakšić, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Serbia in Ireland



St Nicholas Day

Serbs in Cork

Facebook groups in Ireland

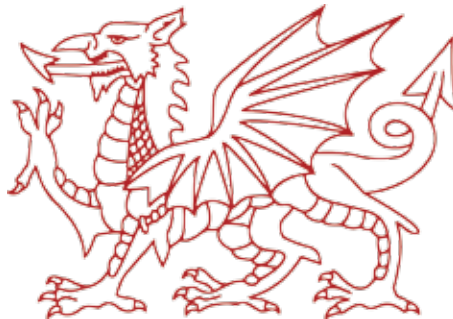
Serbs Cork - Ireland

Срби у Ирској - Srbi u Irskoj - Serbs in Ireland

Црквена Општина Републике Ирске

Crkvena opstina Republike Irske

Wales



Serbian Orthodox Parish of Saint Nicholas Cardiff, Wales

Like all other parishes of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom, the parish of St. Nicholas in Cardiff was created by the arrival of Serbs in that area after the Second World War. Most of those arriving after the Second World War worked in the coal mines of Wales.

Their place of worship was at St Luke's Church, Cowbridge Road East, Victoria Park, Cardiff. Serbian clergy from the United Kingdom took care of their spiritual needs. In the beginning the parish was served by Hieromonk Nikodim Matić, and due to his poor health, it was handed over to Father Malucki and later on to Protopresbyter-Stavrofor Milenko Zebić. At the end of March 1998, Father Zebić handed over the care of his part of the parish to Protopresbyter-Stavrofor Nikola Kotur. For the last six years, Protopresbyter Leonid Smalov has taken care of religious needs.

With the division in the Serbian Orthodox Church in 1963, parallel parishes, with the same name, were created in parishes including Cardiff. The small community was divided. Those who remained with the Serbian Patriarchate, continued to worship in the church of St. Luke using the church hall when necessary. However, a group of parishioners, who supported the Free Serbian Orthodox Church bought a building near the church of St. Luke, with an improvised small chapel. The premises also included a hall with a stage, a kitchen, a small room and a bathroom.

When I arrived in the United Kingdom, in mid-May 1988 I took over the Free Serbian Orthodox Church parish of St. Sava in Ealing, London. According to earlier practice, my duty included the care of the religious life of Serbs in Wales, belonging to the FSOC.

The religious life of the Serbs in Wales that I served consisted of monthly Holy Liturgies, evening prayers at Christmas and Easter and the home blessings (vodica). There were christenings, a couple of weddings and many more funeral services. As far as I know, Father Milenko Zebić also had monthly services in Cardiff.

At the 1992 Meeting the two leaders of the divided Serbian Orthodox Church, His Holiness Patriarch Pavle and His Eminence Metropolitan Irinej, met and reconciliation took place. There were some Serbs from the Free Serbian Orthodox Church in the parishes of Ealing and Cardiff who accepted reconciliation but not unification. However, the majority of parishioners were in favour of unification and followed their priest.

That Serbian community in Wales was mainly made up of mixed marriages and, amazingly, there were Welsh women who converted to Orthodoxy. They attended prayers with their husbands, children and grandchildren and participated in preparations for the parish celebration of the summer slava of St. Nicholas.

Places with a large number of Serbs in Wales are: Cardiff, Newport, Bridgend, Blackwood, Pontypridd, Ystrad Mynach, Pencoed, Cwmbran... and Serbs from Bristol also came to pray in Wales. There were about 80 families.

Father Nikola Kotur

Young British Serbs

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

A Serb in Scotland

Mina Radović

Before I came to Britain, all I knew about this mysterious island in the North Atlantic Ocean was *Lord of the Rings* (my favourite film growing up), Peter Pan jumping off Big Ben, and a beautifully illustrated Serbian copy of *Treasure Island*. I remember the old yellow lights and cobbled streets of Edinburgh on my very first night. I remember seeing a sign – it was 2004 – that trams were coming in 2008. I was excited in my heart, thinking that Edinburgh might one day start to look like my old Belgrade. Even that turned out differently from what I expected, and it was over ten years before the trams finally came.

Edinburgh is surrounded by hills and nature: it really is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. I went to school there, loved my teachers, made my best friends, and tried to do everything I could do to bring the culture and people from where I come closer to them. I wrote school projects on Serbia, Belgrade, and of course my dear Nikola Tesla. I also realised, as I grew up, that society in Scotland has its own challenges.



When there was bullying in primary school (I also went to primary school in Belgrade), I became aware of the danger of aggression, but this was quickly resolved by moving school. At the same time, I realised the paradox of my love for my friends being worrisome for a headteacher who said that I was 'hugging children too much'. Having said that, I did not suffer any discrimination from my teachers and friends about the fact that I was a Serb. I loved my teachers and was well received by them. However, I expected them to know more. For example, none of the teachers knew that we celebrate Christmas on 7 January. My mother was quick to explain it.

The most important thing I learned growing up in Scotland is the central role parents and the Church play in a person's growth into maturity. My mother was my hero; she strengthened and guided me in every way and over every stumbling block. I wrote a poem about her recently in which I talk about her strength and how she hails from the old Banjani tribe – though she is the best example of a Belgradian. I am grateful that she planted our family roots in me: Valjevo, Glina, Kosovo, Morača, and old Herzegovina. This is something I think resonates with all of us who know how strong and loving a Serbian mother is. A good point to remember for both parents and children is that knowing about your family, history, faith and tradition is vital for an inner understanding of who you are. Something else I learned from my own experience, is to ask parents to speak to their children in Serbian at home. We always spoke it at home, and it is good for children to know their language. They will easily pick up English, as I did. I believe that speaking two languages fluently helped me to easily learn a third one, German. (I also had lessons in Greek as a child.)

The most important lesson came from Father John Maitland Moir (1924-2013), our spiritual father and priest of the Edinburgh Orthodox Church of St Andrew. He was there for us in every way imaginable. I was still a child but I remember the older parishioners calling him 'A&E'. He was always there for everyone just as our Bishop Raphael is now. Father John showed us what it means to love. Father John was capable of moving mountains for a person and there was no one who was not important to him. He felt like home for us. Everyone in his presence felt a sense of safety and peace, that whatever happened outside, everything would be good. I hope that parents and our Church, in the spirit of true love, which is the heart of our Orthodox tradition, can continue to provide this to their children, no matter what happens.

Even today I am not sure that integration in a new society is what we need. When you grow up in a different country it does not mean accepting everything blindly but filtering out, to the best of your ability, what is good and what is not. I often found that people coming from our country were quite capable of doing this and could give sound advice in critical moments when other people often got lost. I was blessed to have these filters. I finished my Master of Arts in Film Studies and German at the University of St Andrews – St Andrews is beautiful, situated in a wonderful landscape and by the sea. It offered me a great opportunity to learn and meet people who supported me during my time there. I have never seen the stars so close: they were like a cupola, a low sky, where the moon could be seen behind a chimney and the stars almost in touching distance. I found three stars that always reminded me of my home in Belgrade which those stars overlook. It also reminded me of *The Little Prince*, my favourite book with which I grew up. I am sure that this sounds idyllic, and I am not implying that student life is not without challenges, but it was a gift for me and in spite of any difficulties, a crucial point in my life. I graduated from St Andrews on 28 June – Vidovdan. I wore a kilt in the colours of St Andrew. This was my homage to Father John and also a way of connecting Scotland and Serbia. I can safely say it was more than just a graduation for me.

I am now completing my PhD in London, commuting between London and Edinburgh. Being in London has enabled me to discover one of the pearls of Orthodoxy and art. But that is for another article. I have had placements in Vienna and Heidelberg, as well as in Bologna where I completed the FIAF School for Archiving, Film Restoration and Digitization. I now realise that while home is very much a geographical space, it is also truly the space of the heart. This is why I hope that in my work I will be able to connect and bring together what is best from my native country with the work I am doing now and hope to develop. I would like to work with people from our country who live in the UK as I am sure that together we can 'move mountains'.



**Serbian
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London, Milka Sholaya, 26 years old

Photo by Rii Schroer

I was raised in London by Serbian parents of Bosnian and Montenegrin heritage, speaking 'our language' and going to Saint Sava's church and Sunday school in Ladbroke Grove. Naturally, we visited Baba and Deda every summer. We would often drive to visit family living in towns and cities across Europe, so, in addition to being bilingual, I am well versed in the appreciation of Balkan cuisine. I couldn't imagine a world without Sarma, Pita and Pasulj sa rebrima.

My parents read to me often in 'our language' and especially in Cyrillic. Among my favourites were 'Riznica pesama za decu' by Zmaj (read from a copy gifted to my mum by her cousins in 1975) and 'Mačak Findus i petao' by Sven Nordqvist, translated from Danish: a birthday present from a 'kuma' in Stockholm. However, my favourite was 'Ježeva Kućica' by Branko Ćopić, of which we had many copies and which I very quickly learned by heart. I translated the story into English during the summer before university; trying to make it sing for an English speaking audience. I enjoyed the process so much that I started writing original stories for a young audience.

While studying at boarding school in West Sussex, another link to 'our culture' was listening to Balkan musicians: Oliver, Toše Proeski, Miloš Karadaglić and Nemanja Radulović quickly became favourites of anyone in my vicinity. To this day, my non-Serbian speaking friends can sing the entirety of 'Lagala nas mala' by Tony Cetinski and Toše Proeski, with epic gusto but no idea what the words mean. I remember asking a couple of housemates to write down what they thought the words looked like then reading anglicised spelling and phrases sectioned off in the strangest places: "La ga lanas malaprschla cocodale" (Lagala nas mala, prešla k'o budale).

I have been fascinated by the concept of translating, namely by how words rarely copy and paste from one language to the other. 'Kum/kuma', for example, is one such word that lacks an English counterpoint: not only 'godparent', not always 'maid of honour/best man', more than 'family friend'... Other words translate literally and yet the nuance gets left behind: so we use a completely different word but that rarely feels satisfying and is often accompanied by an explanation/apology. Nevertheless, searching for the right words is a very particular form of mental gym that has continued to fine-tune my instincts when writing in English.

Translating was the keystone of my desire to read English at Cambridge University. I continued to pursue writing; taking short courses at the London Film Academy and the National Film and Television School where I began learning how to write Film. My stories are set in London and revolve around characters with multifaceted cultural identities. I currently write screenplays and teach English, Film and Drama at secondary school. I credit my success in writing and teaching to my bilingual heritage.

Milka Sholaya is a winner of the Daily Telegraph's 2021 Cassandra Jardine Memorial Prize with a following entry.

Dietary requirements?

Granny didn't get the memo.

My grandmother is a culinary genius. Each and every meal, snack and nibble is a gastronomic delight. "Why"? I ask. She claims "Sunshine gets the ball rolling and love takes care of the rest". Cryptic, isn't she? The mysterious and enigmatic ways of the Balkan Granny have served me well in stockpiling anecdotes to regale my western friends with. To elaborate – by "sunshine" she means the glorious setting of the Balkan countryside and "love" refers to her unparalleled skill honed by decades of practicing the ancient wisdom of her Balkan Granny predecessors.

1. Setting. My grandparents live in a small seaside town in the Balkans where the fish at market was caught in the early hours of that morning, the beef is veal from that field over there and the oranges were plucked, leaves and all, from the tree outside the kitchen window. The cheese, butter and milk from grass and herb fed cows, is hand delivered by Ana, whose family have perfected their dairy technique over generations. The mushrooms are collected from the mountain forest that encircles the fjord. Their house even has it's own spring. Everything is locally sourced. But the food I love most, my vice, my love, my Achilles heel, is Granny's homegrown tomatoes.

Growing up in London, I believed that a tomato was a vegetable, a component of a dish but certainly not the star, the Goose, never the Maverick. I was peripherally aware of the "is tomato a fruit or a vegetable" debate but couldn't understand the fuss over the boring little non-starter. The tomato didn't seem to have the chutzpah to claim fruit status. Vegetable = sustenance, fruit = treat.

I looked into it, and according to the Vegetable Research & Information Centre, a vegetable is the edible portion of a plant leaves (lettuce), stem (celery), roots (carrot), tubers (potato), bulbs (onion) and flowers (broccoli). A fruit is the mature ovary of a plant. Or, as my sister learned at nursery: vegetables grow in the ground, fruit grows on trees. A tomato is therefore a fruit. One bite of a Balkan tomato and it all makes sense. A Balkan tomato is a treat, a legitimate snack and has unquestionable fruit status, with its fragrant skin and its sweet, tart, tangy juice. Nothing compares to a Balkan tomato. Thank you, 'sunshine'.

2. Skill. Granny belongs to a generation that valued process. My grandparents built their house from scratch, they made their clothes from scratch and, naturally, they make their meals from scratch. Given the abundance of organic ingredients at their disposal, it would be a sin to even consider the alternative.

I say 'organic', but the word has no resonance with Granny. "Natural, pesticide-free food straight from the source", I explained. "Normal", she replied. To this day, she still thinks I made up 'organic' to mess with her. As a result, she tends not to believe me when I use terms like: vegetarian, vegan, meat-free, gluten-free etc. I tried especially hard to explain the term 'vegetarian' when I invited my vegetarian friend and her vegetarian family to lunch one summer.

"Granny, please prepare something meat-free", I asked.

Granny giggled and replied, "Yes, dear, meat-free and organic."

"Granny, it's no joke. They don't eat meat. They won't eat meat."

"So what do I serve? Vegetables? And have our guests think we don't know how to receive people at our table?"

Communicating across the culture and the age gap, we finally agreed on a sufficiently elaborate meat-free meal. As far as I was concerned, we could have served tomatoes and everyone would have been happy as a clam. No such luck.

"Granny, I'm certain they won't be offended by the lack of meat! Quite the opposite, actually! Please, oh, please stick to the menu." I thought we were on the same page. I should have made sure.

The day of The Lunch. Our vegetarian guests arrive, we take our seats at the kitchen table and lunch smells amazing, just like it usually does. Granny ladles out the soup and I set it before our guests. My friend inhales, frowns and asks if the soup contains meat. I assured her it didn't, convinced it didn't. Granny doesn't speak English but she understood perfectly what we were saying and didn't intervene. My friend wasn't convinced by my protestations. I turned and asked Granny directly. Sheepish, Granny stirred the pot without meeting my gaze.

"Let them try it, they should try it, it's good. Doesn't it smell good?"

Enough said. I took the plates away and juggled apologising to our vegetarians (Have you tried these lovely tomatoes? Did you know tomatoes are a fruit? These certainly are! – Pause for laugh...) and getting Granny to stand down with the meat platter.

"They have never tried my cooking. How could I serve vegetable water? I took the meat out after an hour so it is 'meat-free'. Maybe they like meat. How do they know if they've never tasted Balkan 'organic'? Let them try! Let them try!"

Imagine our terrified vegetarians, listening to this foreign monologue peppered with "Organic! Organic!" delivered by an impassioned chef balancing half a carved kid in one hand and brandishing a knife in the other. Needless to say, our traumatised vegetarians never returned to eat at Granny's table. But, as traumatised as they were, their lunchtime trauma doesn't hold a candle to that of my aunt's at the hands of her Granny. The grannies in my family get stranger further up the family tree. The stranger the granny, the juicier the anecdote.

My aunt Lili spent summers on her grandparents' farm as a child, where her Granny taught her to cook. Balkan cuisine differs from region to region. In the mountains, German influence differentiates the delicacies of the mountain villages from those of the Mediterranean coast. We do sauerkraut and strudel especially well in the Balkan Mountains. Incidentally, Kefir, the yogurt drink newly beloved by the western world, is native to the Balkans. All Balkan grannies harbour a 'mother mushroom' converting a keg of milk into Kefir: ultimate peasant drink – cures any and all ailments, including, but not limited to old age. Imagine the grannies' faces were you to tell them the young people buy Kefir for £20/litre. "Screens have eroded the collective millennial common sense," sayeth the grannies.

Tending to the animals was the foundation of Lili's culinary training. She got along with all the animals except for the rooster, who lived in a coup at the bottom of the garden. They had a special relationship did Lili and Rooster. Rooster would fly onto Lili's shoulder, peck at her head and Lili would cry. Naturally, the cousins convinced little five-year-old Lili that:

1. Rooster could sense how clever Lili was and wanted to eat Lili's brain so that he could become human.
2. Rooster wanted to peck out Lili's brain so that Lili would become a chicken.
3. 'City child brain' was a delicacy among the poultry community.

No wonder my Granny doesn't believe me when I try to teach her things. Clearly this culture of mistrust stems back generations.

Notwithstanding the ambiguous motive, Rooster had a special instinct for making Lili miserable. He plucked Lili's t-shirts from the clothing line and gifted them to his chicken wives. He broke out of his enclosure to screech bloody murder beneath Lili's bedroom window at the crack of every dawn. He punctured Lili's bicycle tyre on more than one occasion and always just before school. Lili spent years building alliances with the other farm animals so she could go about her business protected and undetected. Sometimes it worked, sometimes not. Regardless, Lili fed the tyrant every single day. All summer long. For years.

Once summer, the family gathered in the garden to celebrate Lili's ninth birthday. Imagine a suckling pig on the spit, dripping fat onto a tray of golden roast potatoes and fresh fluffy white bread on the table next to those juicy tomato fruits... But first, as we know, a Balkan lunch begins with soup. The family sits down to eat the non-meat-free soup, chatting and dipping bread. Granny asks Lili's verdict on the soup. Lili shrugs and says it tastes just like always. Was she sure? She was sure.


"But where is Rooster?" asks Granny, a coy little smile playing on her lips.

Little Lili tucks her head under her arms, bracing for a peck. Nothing. Lili looks up at the smiling faces of her nearest and dearest. No Rooster? Granny points to Lili's empty soup dish and says, "Your enemy. Finished."

An enemy? A worthy and beloved adversary! Lili hasn't eaten soup in almost five decades. In fact, she hasn't touched poultry since although she isn't quite a vegetarian. We've seen how un-navigable that is even as a one off.

Needless to say the grannies in my family struggle with dietary boundaries. Ironically, my Granny was recently diagnosed with gluten intolerance. She and her doctor agree to disagree over a slice of home baked bread and fresh forest strawberry jam.

This summer, we have vegan guests. Granny is roasting a lamb she named 'Tofu'. She calls this progress. I suppose we'll have to disagree over a slice of lamb and tomato salad.



HRH Regent Alexander and
HRH Prince Albert in London, 1916

Connections between the Royal Family of the United Kingdom and the Royal Family of Serbia

The connections between the Royal Families of the United Kingdom (House of Windsor) and Serbia (House of Karadjordjević) are over a century old. Starting out as the usual relationship between ruling monarch of two states, they have become closer through family ties and god-parental relationships.

In 2018 an exhibition *Karadjordjevićs and Windsors, Two Royal Families – Historical Ties* was organised at the Royal Palace in Belgrade by Dragomir Acović and Dušan Babac, members of the Privy Council. HRH Crown Prince Alexander, the Head of the Royal Family of Serbia stated: 'The history of the relations between Serbia and Great Britain had its ups and downs, but the history of the relations between the Karadjordjevićs and the Windsors has always been the history of close family ties and friendly relations. I hope that the closeness and understanding between our two families will help our countries to overcome all differences and restore the majestic splendor of their two wartime alliances.'

At the beginning of the 20th century almost all European rulers were related to the British Royal Family, while in Belgrade the Serbian dynasty had practically no relatives among the European rulers. The interests of just a few European countries shaped the entire world at the time, particularly Great Britain with its vast empire. Serbia was still not yet managing to rule itself; the vast territory of the Kingdom of Serbia was still occupied by the Ottoman Empire. While Britain saw an ally in Turkey, Serbia was looking to Austria and Russia for support in its bid for freedom. In both cases, the choice of allies determined the status and importance of the relationships between the countries.

The officers' coup in 1903 worsened the already fragile links between Britain and Serbia. The killing of the last King of the Obrenović Dynasty was not received well by the British Royal Court: relations between Britain and Serbia moved from cold to frozen. It was only several years later, in 1910, when the first connections between the Courts were established at the state funeral of HM Edward VII, the King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India. HM King Peter I and Serbia were represented by HRH Crown Prince Alexander (later HM King Alexander I), an event which was recorded on film. The following year, he again represented Serbia and his father, when he attended the coronation of HM King George V. This helped Crown Prince Alexander re-establish and improve diplomatic relations between the two kingdoms.

The outbreak of the First World War significantly changed the diplomatic situation in Europe. The wartime alliance between the Kingdom of Serbia and Great Britain led to the establishment of much more frequent and closer ties between the two countries, as well as between the two Royal Courts. In spring 1916, Regent Alexander visited England where he was received not only at the highest levels but also with the greatest cordiality. He proposed the first step to ending the war by convincing the Allies of the necessity to equip the Serbian Army and maintain the Thessaloniki Front. Although many disagreed at that point, they were persuaded by the words of the young military commander. His foresight ended the war.

After the Great War, relations between the two Royal Families were raised to a higher level. On 8 June 1922, HM King Alexander I married HRH Princess Maria of Romania, who became Queen of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. She was a great-granddaughter of HM Queen Victoria. This marriage established closer family ties between the offspring of King Alexander I and Queen Maria and the British Royal Family. Many countries sent their envoys to the royal wedding in Belgrade. Representatives were sent by Persia and distant Japan, and even a guest from Austria arrived, with whom Serbia had been at war four years prior. The best man at the wedding was HM King George V of Great Britain, who was represented by his younger son, HM Prince Albert, the Duke of York.



HM King Alexander I and his best man, HRH Prince Albert of Great Britain, on the Royal wedding in Belgrade, 8 June 1922

The following year, on 6 September 1923, their first son was born – HRH Crown Prince Peter. The birth of an heir to the throne who would continue the family line and provide stability to the state was of the greatest importance to the Karadjordjević dynasty, as well as to the Kingdom. The birth of the first son of King Alexander I was therefore a significant event. The Crown Prince's baptism was set for 21 October that year. A few days before the baptism, the esteemed guests from the European royal families started to arrive, among them the Duke of York, who later became HM King George VI, who acted as proxy-godfather on behalf of his father, King George V.

Serbian Month

in Great Britain



*Baptism of HRH Crown Prince Peter, 21 October 1923
HM King Alexander with Royal Family of Romania and HRH Prince Albert*

It is important to emphasise that for Serbian people, 'kumstvo' (a word that jointly represents both relations when somebody is someone's godparent at baptism and/or best man/maid of honour at the wedding) is a sacred relation; it is considered either equal to or sometimes even more important than 'blood relations'.

In March 1941, the Yugoslav government signed the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany, the people of Yugoslavia rebelled and declined the pact. HM King Peter II took his oath as an eligible adult, even though only seventeen years old, to stand up against Hitler. King Peter II, his people, and the country became the victims of Hitler's wrath because of their opposition to the Tripartite Pact. With the invasion of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia by the Nazis and their allies, King Peter II and other members of the Royal Family were forced to leave their homeland and join the other heads of state from occupied Europe who were in London. At that time, King Peter II appealed to the leaders of the world to support the fight of the brave people of Yugoslavia against the Axis powers. He continually strived to get back to his country and be with his people. King Peter II made a tremendous effort to help the people of Yugoslavia in the fight against Nazism. He desperately looked for support for his countrymen and organised meetings with many important world leaders. These included President Roosevelt, Sir Winston Churchill and his godfather King George VI of Britain.

When King Peter II married HM Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark in 1944, it marked the foundation of a new connection between the two Royal Families. Queen Alexandra of Yugoslavia was the niece of the late Duke of Edinburgh, HRH Prince Philip, and a cousin and dear friend of HRH Crown Prince Alexander and the Royal Family. Prince Phillip was the son of the Greek and Danish Prince Andrew, the brother of the Greek King Constantine, the maternal great-grandfather of Crown Prince Alexander. HM King Peter II and HM Queen Alexandra also attended the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Phillip on 20 November 1947.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander, the son of King Peter II and Queen Alexandra, was born in Claridge's Hotel in London in suite 212 on 17 July 1945. King Peter II asked the British government to temporarily declare this hotel suite where the heir of the throne would be born to be Yugoslav territory.

The baptism of Crown Prince Alexander was officiated by Patriarch Gavriilo and Bishop Nikolaj Velimirović (now a Saint in the Serbian Orthodox Church) on 24 October 1945 at Westminster Abbey.

The godparents were the then Princess Elizabeth, now HM Queen Elizabeth II, and her father HM King George VI.

In the decades following World War II, the Royal Family of Serbia was forced to live in exile. This was as a consequence of a decree by the non-democratic communist regime in Yugoslavia. This removed all the rights, including citizenship, from the members of the Karadjordjević Royal Family. Their entire private property was confiscated. Crown Prince Alexander was considered an enemy of the state, although he was not even two years old at the time of the decree.

In 1995, in that same London hotel where Crown Prince Alexander was born, HRH Crown Princess Katherine hosted the fiftieth birthday party for her husband. The celebration was attended by Queen Elizabeth II, together with many other royals. At the birthday celebration, Queen Elizabeth asked the Crown Prince Alexander what his birthday wish was, and he replied: 'To be home with my people in my country.' A wish that finally came true 10 years later on the Crown Prince's 60th birthday, when in 2001 the Royal Family finally returned home to Serbia after decades of enforced exile.

Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine have attended all the major events of the British Royal Family, including the wedding in 2011 of HRH Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge and Catherine Middleton, now HRH The Duchess of Cambridge. They also attended Queen Elizabeth's diamond jubilee in May 2012, where they were guests of Her Majesty.

Crown Prince Alexander has a close relationship with his godmother Queen Elizabeth. He shared with the public the fact that the Queen sent him a handwritten letter for his birthday, where she recalled his baptism and that he was 'a very big baby, and it was hard for her to hold him'.



HM King George VI and HM King Peter II in London during World War II



Baptism of HRH Crown Prince Alexander on 24 October 1945 at Westminster Abbey, Princess Elizabeth, now HM Queen Elizabeth II, HM King George VI and HM King Peter II



HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Crown Prince Alexander, at the Crown Prince's 50th birthday, 17 July 1995, London



Diamond jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth, May 2012, London

When HRH The Prince of Wales visited Serbia in March 2016, he was a guest of Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine. They greeted him in the Royal Palace and presented him with an icon of Saint George, the patron saint of England, and the finest wines from the royal vineyards in Oplenac. Crown Princess Katherine prepared a handmade Serbian shawl and handbag for HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. At the request of Crown Princess Katherine, the Prince of Wales donated to the Princess Katherine Foundation an autoclave sterilizer for the Gynecological Clinic within the Clinical Centre of Serbia. This valuable donation was delivered to the Centre by Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine in the presence of the UK Ambassador to Serbia.

This represents a timeline of the good relationship between the two Royal Families, the House of Windsor and the House of Karadjordjevic, a relationship that is sure to grow even stronger in the future.

'Public Relations, The Royal Palace, Belgrade, Serbia'



*HRH Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales and
HRH Crown Prince Alexander, Royal Palace,
Belgrade, 16 March 2016*

Great British Serbs

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain



Dositej Obradović (1739-1811)

Dositej Obradović was an 18th-century writer and Enlightenment thinker. Born in 1739, he attended a monastic school and joined the orders in 1757. Three years later, however, he ran away from the Hopovo monastery. It was said that Obradović's flight symbolised the beginning of modern Serbian culture in the same way as Prince Rastko Nemanjić's flight from his father's court to a monastery symbolised the beginning of the Serbian Middle Ages in the sphere of Byzantine culture.

Obradović first travelled through Greece, and spent three years in Smyrna – at the time a major centre of Greek culture and learning – studying both ancient and modern Greek, which would help him earn a living throughout his life. The following twelve years he lived in Vienna and several other German towns, giving private tuition in Greek, and studying German and French. Restless and curious, he set sail again, teaching and studying in various places – Slovakia, Italy, Greece, Istanbul, Romania, Poland – with longer study periods at the universities of Halle and Leipzig.

In 1784 he went to Paris, and in 1785 to London, for the sole purpose of learning English so that he could read in the original writers whom he knew through German translations. England impressed him as a promised land of social and intellectual liberties, and of kind and generous people. After three more years of travelling he settled in Vienna and Trieste between 1802 and 1806, where he heard of the uprising of Serbs in the Ottoman empire. Although already sixty-six at the time, Obradović travelled to Serbia to join the uprising, and in Belgrade became the first Serbian education minister. He died in 1811.

Obradović published a number of works which present him as a rationalist thinker, a propagator of Enlightenment values and an opponent of every kind of dogmatism. His best-known work is *The Life and Adventures of Dimitrie Obradovich* (1783), less an autobiography and more a long philosophical treatise pleading for the Enlightenment values, tolerance and freedom from any dogmatism. The second, narrative part of the book is in epistolary form and celebrates friendship and kindness. In his works, Obradović developed a whole programme for cultural reform, based on a critique of tradition and its institutions, on human solidarity which transgresses confessional barriers, and on celebrating rationalism with tolerance. Many of these virtues he found realised in English cultural and political life, branding the English 'the most enlightened nation in Europe'. He translated from English parts of Johnson's *The Rambler* and incorporated in his own work translations from Joseph Addison's *The Spectator* and Lord Chesterfield's *Letters*. To his Serbian translation of Aesop's *Fables* – many of which he also translated into English, as part of his unorthodox method of learning the language – he added as an appendix 'English sayings', a collection of English proverbs and sentences from other writers' works, which in his opinion best propagated the values of rationalism, liberty and kindness.



St Bishop Nikolai Velimirović of Žiča (1881-1956)

A link between Serbia and England

In the most difficult days for Serbia, after it was attacked in 1914 by the mighty Austro-Hungarian Empire, Serbia's Premier Nikola Pašić summoned hieromonk Nikolai Velimirović to Niš, the temporary seat of the Serbian Government, and asked him to go to England and America to plead for support for Serbia and her long-suffering people and to counter Austro-Hungarian propaganda. When Nikolaj asked him 'What shall I tell them?', Pašić replied 'You'll know instinctively what to tell them.'

Nikolai left for England immediately, then travelled on to America, but soon returned to England where he delivered many lectures and sermons in churches, universities, cinemas, clubs and houses. He informed his audiences of Serbia's difficulties in her just struggle against the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which planned to wipe Serbia off the face of the earth. Against all odds, this man of God and a monk succeeded in opening the eyes of churchmen, politicians and people of the mighty British Empire, winning them over to Serbia's cause.

One of Nikolai's first lectures *Serbia's Place in Human History* was immediately published by the Westminster Council for the Study of International Relations as the first volume in a series. Nikolai's words, sermons and lectures about the suffering of the Serbs touched the hearts of his listeners with such force that it led to the setting up of a Serbian Relief Fund in England with Queen Mary as patron, the Bishop of London as president and Seton-Watson as secretary.

The London Times *History of the War* magazine, issue No 3 of 27th April 1915, was entirely devoted to the Serbs and their struggle in the First World War. It carried many illustrations and page two of the magazine was full of appeals for aid to Serbia. The magazine also published instructions on how and where cash donations, blankets, pillows and bedsheets should be sent as well as parcels. In August 1915 monk Nikolai went to America on a lecture tour to Chicago. He won over many Serbs, Croats and Americans: many volunteered to go to the Salonika front to help the Serbian and Allied armies liberate Serbia and create Yugoslavia. No wonder then that a British army commander said after the war: 'Father Nikolai was Serbia's third army.'

On his return, Nikolai continued to make speeches and give lectures across the United Kingdom; many were published in English. His books reveal his wisdom, patience and persistence. Let us quote just the ending of his book *The Soul of Serbia*.

'Serbia is now like a cemetery full of silence, bones and hyenas. However, the last chapter of this great tragedy is not death but Resurrection. I don't believe that Serbia will die for ever. But even if it happens temporarily, I will write on the holy cemetery of my martyr country this most apt epitaph: "*Here Rests England's Loyal Friend* "'

In a sermon, delivered in Canterbury Cathedral in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Nikolai said: 'I am not addressing you in order to teach you but to thank you. I must thank you on behalf of the Serbian nation and me personally'. He went on to say that England had given to the world Shakespeare, Milton, Newton, Hershel, Wellington, Nelson, Cardinal Newman and many others. He expressed his gratitude to the many nurses who had died in Serbia while trying to save Serbian lives, commenting: 'Serbia would rather forget about herself than about the English lives lost in this catastrophe.'

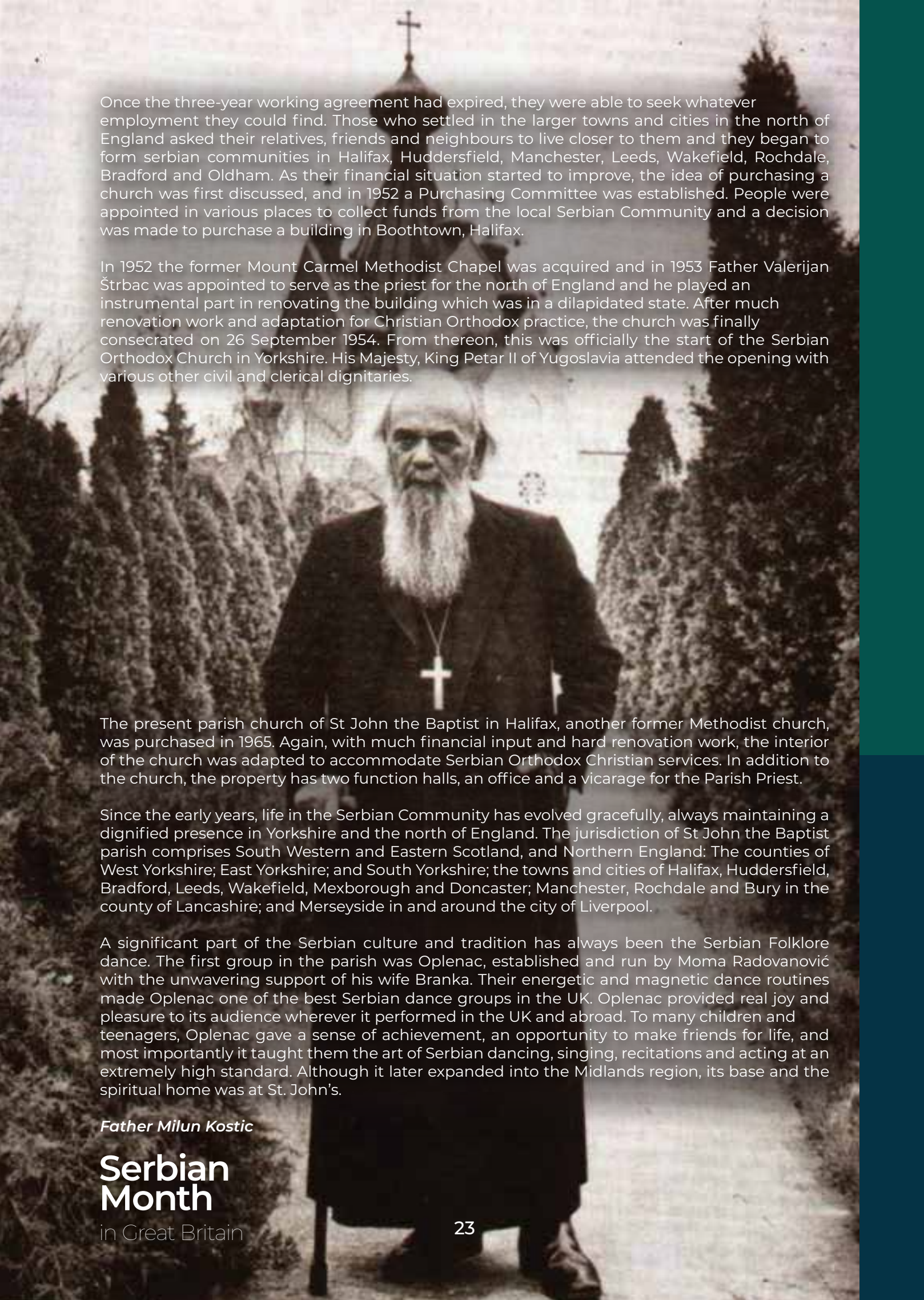
Nikolai continued to meet people and make speeches increasingly winning over the hearts for the Serbs and their cause. Working tirelessly for the good of the Serbian people he stayed in England for four years until 1919 when he was made Bishop of Žiča. One of his most memorable sermons was at St Paul's in London on St Vitus' Day in 1916 when he addressed more than ten thousand people including King George and the elite of British society. I shall quote the opening and closing paragraphs of his sermon:

'Gentlemen and friends, I have come from Serbia, from Europe's deepest night where there is no flicker of light. All the light has vanished from the earth and escaped to the skies and only from above shines on us. Despite that, we who are weak in everything, are now strong in our hope and in our faith that dawn will break out soon. I am grateful to the Archbishop of Canterbury for making it possible for me on St Vitus' Day this 1916th year of Our Lord to address you in this magnificent cathedral of St Paul's in the presence of His Majesty King George and some of the most distinguished English personalities...'

He ended by saying: 'On St Vitus' Day in 1389 Serbian Prince Lazar with his gallant army stood on the ramparts in the field of Kosovo and laid down his life in defence of Christian culture. At that time Serbia's population equalled England's. Now there are ten times fewer Serbs than the English. Where have they gone? They were killed defending Europe. It is now time for Europe to repay this debt to Serbia.'



The Serbian community in the north of England can be traced back to 1948. In December 1947 the first group of Serbs, who decided not to return to communist-ruled Yugoslavia, arrived from a camp in Germany under the Voluntary European Workers Programme, a programme which recruited displaced persons and other refugees from Eastern Europe to work in areas where there were labour shortages. They settled in various parts of the north of England and agreed to spend the three year period of the agreement working in coal mines, textile factories or farms. Those who chose to work in textile factories or coal mines came to Yorkshire. Most of them originated from patriarchal Serbian families and had been brought up in the Christian Orthodox faith and in the Serbian tradition. As soon as they had begun to settle they soon felt the need to organise their spiritual life. They did all this very modestly, with the limited means that they had at their disposal, but always with a strong faith in God, and a firm hope of a better future, which is characteristic of the Serbian people.



Once the three-year working agreement had expired, they were able to seek whatever employment they could find. Those who settled in the larger towns and cities in the north of England asked their relatives, friends and neighbours to live closer to them and they began to form Serbian communities in Halifax, Huddersfield, Manchester, Leeds, Wakefield, Rochdale, Bradford and Oldham. As their financial situation started to improve, the idea of purchasing a church was first discussed, and in 1952 a Purchasing Committee was established. People were appointed in various places to collect funds from the local Serbian Community and a decision was made to purchase a building in Boothtown, Halifax.

In 1952 the former Mount Carmel Methodist Chapel was acquired and in 1953 Father Valerijan Štrbac was appointed to serve as the priest for the north of England and he played an instrumental part in renovating the building which was in a dilapidated state. After much renovation work and adaptation for Christian Orthodox practice, the church was finally consecrated on 26 September 1954. From thereon, this was officially the start of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Yorkshire. His Majesty, King Petar II of Yugoslavia attended the opening with various other civil and clerical dignitaries.

The present parish church of St John the Baptist in Halifax, another former Methodist church, was purchased in 1965. Again, with much financial input and hard renovation work, the interior of the church was adapted to accommodate Serbian Orthodox Christian services. In addition to the church, the property has two function halls, an office and a vicarage for the Parish Priest.

Since the early years, life in the Serbian Community has evolved gracefully, always maintaining a dignified presence in Yorkshire and the north of England. The jurisdiction of St John the Baptist parish comprises South Western and Eastern Scotland, and Northern England: The counties of West Yorkshire; East Yorkshire; and South Yorkshire; the towns and cities of Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield, Mexborough and Doncaster; Manchester, Rochdale and Bury in the county of Lancashire; and Merseyside in and around the city of Liverpool.

A significant part of the Serbian culture and tradition has always been the Serbian Folklore dance. The first group in the parish was Oplenac, established and run by Moma Radovanović with the unwavering support of his wife Branka. Their energetic and magnetic dance routines made Oplenac one of the best Serbian dance groups in the UK. Oplenac provided real joy and pleasure to its audience wherever it performed in the UK and abroad. To many children and teenagers, Oplenac gave a sense of achievement, an opportunity to make friends for life, and most importantly it taught them the art of Serbian dancing, singing, recitations and acting at an extremely high standard. Although it later expanded into the Midlands region, its base and the spiritual home was at St. John's.


Father Milun Kostic

**Serbian
Month**

in Great Britain

Cedomille Mijatovich (1842-1932)

A bridge between two cultures

A portrait painting of Cedomille Mijatovich, an elderly man with a full white beard and mustache. He is wearing a dark blue military-style jacket with gold embroidery on the collar and cuffs, and a red sash. He is adorned with several medals and orders on his chest. The background is a dark, mottled brown.

Mijatovich was a European trained intellectual, a person of high esteem and important accomplishments. He was six times Minister of Finances, and twice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality and Kingdom of Serbia, a diplomat of great experience, Minister of the Kingdom of Serbia in London, Bucharest and Constantinople, and one of the leaders of the Progressive Party. This covers only his state and political duties. In the field of culture, he was also one of the most popular writers of his age in Serbia, some sort of Serbian version of Sir Walter Scott. He was a distinguished historian, a successful intermediary between Serbian and British cultures, the first Serbian newspaper correspondent from London, a prominent translator from English, a leading economic and financial expert, and a well-known spiritualist. He was the second president of the Serbian Academy, and an honorary member of the Royal Historical Society in London.

His Anglophilia was primarily influenced by his marriage with an English lady. In 1864 he married Elodie Lawton (1825?-1908). Before coming to Serbia, she had been very active in the abolitionist movement in Boston. In 1872 her book *The History of Modern Serbia* was published in London and thus she became the first woman historian in Serbia. Two years later she published a collection of Serbian popular tales entitled *Serbian Folk-Lore*. In 1881 she endeavoured to bring various Serbian national poems on the Kosovo battle into one poem and published it under the title *Kossovo*. The Serbian Legation was established in London after Serbia had become a kingdom, and a Serbian Minister was appointed to the Court of St. James in 1883. The second Minister in London was Mijatovich, and he served thrice in that capacity (1884-1886, 1895-1900 and 1902-1903). He left Serbia in 1889 when his Progressive party was subjected to persecutions by their political opponents. Subsequently he spent almost all the remaining years of his life in England. Shocked by the brutality of the May Coup, in 1903, he was the only Serbian diplomat who resigned his post. He continued to live in London until his death in 1932. During the First World War he actively participated in propagating Serbia.

*Portrait of Cedomille Mijatovich,
work of Indian artist Dzehangir Ardeshir Lalkaka,
today at the Serbian Embassy in London*

Great British Serbs

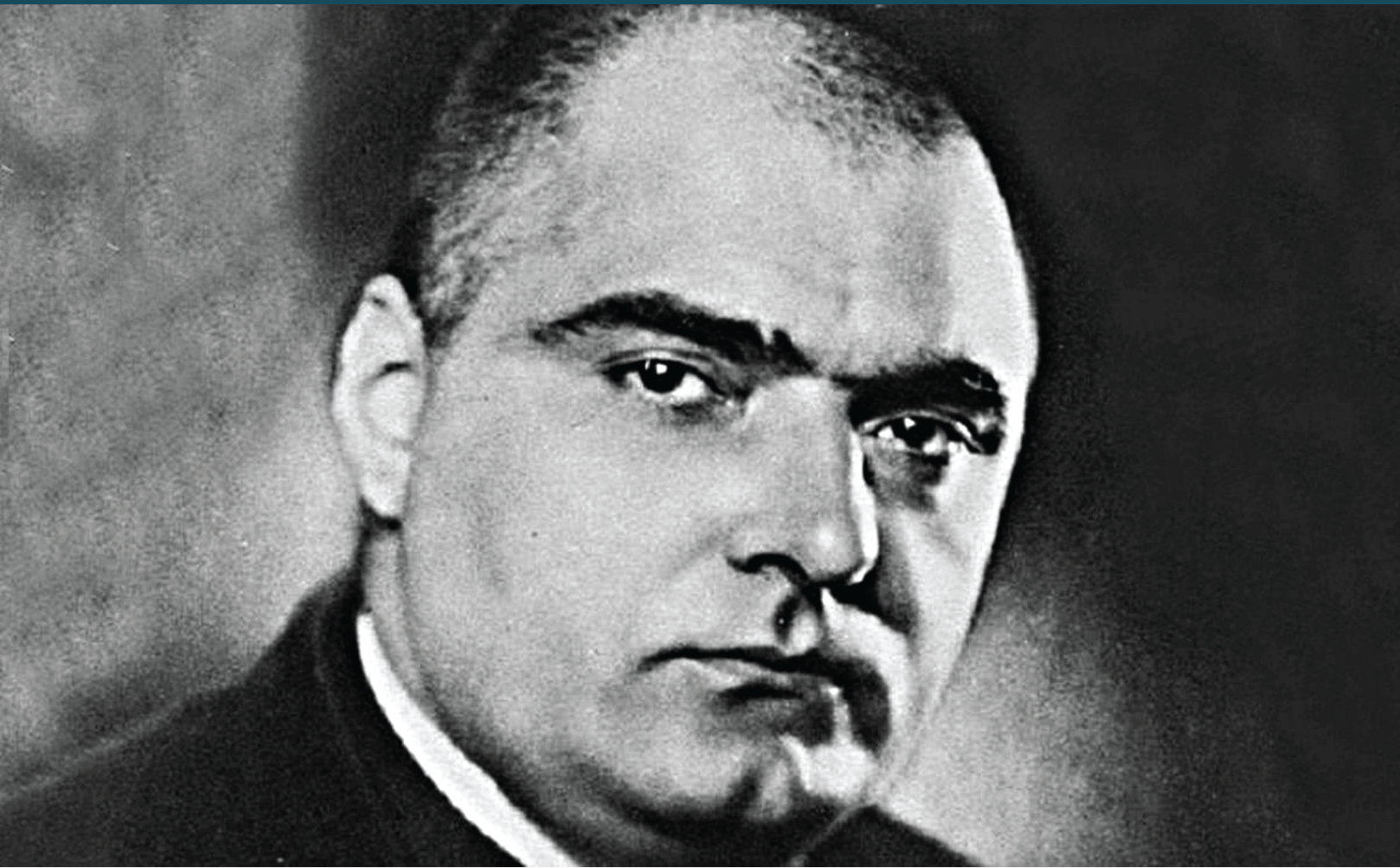
He was the most active and influential Serbian translator from English during the 19th century. The bibliography of his translations includes about a dozen titles. Most of them deal with religious topics, and in particular with sermons of well-known British preachers such as: Dr Spurgeon, Canon Liddon and Dr Macduff. He also translated Bunyan's *Pilgrims Progress* and Dr Brown's *Commentaries to the Gospels*. Particularly influential in Serbia were the following two titles: Lady Georgina Mary Muir Mackenzie and Adelina Paulina Irby's *Travels in the Slavonic Provinces of Turkey-in-Europe* (English edition in 1867, Serbian translation: Belgrade, 1868; this book was translated by the request of Prince Michael Obrenovich), and H. T. Buckle's, *The History of Civilisation in England* (English edition in 1857, Serbian translation: Belgrade, 1871). He also published six books in English as author or co-author. Four of these deal with Serbia: C Mijatovich, *A Royal Tragedy: Being the Story of the Assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga of Servia* (London 1906); C Mijatovich, *Servia and the Servians* (London 1908); Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, Prince Kropotkin, C. Mijatovich, J. D. Bourchier, *A Short History of Russia and the Balkan States* (London: The Encyclopaedia Britannica Company, 1914); Count C Mijatovich, *The Memoirs of a Balkan Diplomatist* (London 1917).

He was the first Serb to contribute to the famous *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. His first entries for the encyclopaedia were published in the Tenth Edition and in the famous Eleventh Edition (1911) he contributed with a lengthy article on Serbia, which was later re-published in a special book. His work *Servia and the Servians* came out in three editions in Britain (1908, 1911, 1915) and two in the US (1908 and 1914).

In the years around the Balkan Wars, he became an unavoidable source of information on Serbia for interested persons in Britain. J. D. Bourchier, a correspondent of *The Times* remarked that 'he is generally regarded by his fellow-countrymen as the most learned man in Servia.' W. T. Stead, who met him during the Peace Conference in The Hague, was so delighted with him that he wrote: 'It was almost worthwhile creating the Kingdom Servia if only in order to qualify Chedomille Miyatovitch for a seat in the Parliament of the Nations.' (*The Review of Reviews*, vol. XIX, 1899). Stead also had such a high opinion of Mijatovich as a diplomat that in 1903 he remarked: 'He is far and away the best known, the most distinguished, and the most respected diplomatist the Balkan Peninsula has yet produced.' (*The Review of Reviews*, vol. XXVIII, 1903) The leading British daily *The Times* covered almost every step Mijatovich took during the 1880s, especially through its Vienna correspondents. At no time before had any Serbian minister, or any Serb at all, enjoyed such sympathies from *The Times* as did Mijatovich in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. When he resigned his tenure as president of the Serbian Royal Academy *The Times* commented: 'Of all the statesmen in Servia, Mijatovitch is probably the one who holds the highest character in foreign countries. He has filled the principal offices in Servia, not only those which are the rewards of party services, by those which are conferred by public consent, if not by public acclamation, on men whose abilities are not judged by mere party conflicts'. (*The Times*, November 12, 1889, p. 5)

By **Professor S. G. Markovich**, University of Belgrade





Dimitrije Mitrinović (1887-1953)

Dimitrije Mitrinović was a remarkable Serbian philosopher, poet, artist, prophet, mystic, cosmopolitan and utopian whose life and work must be viewed through the dramatic events at the start of the twentieth century. These affected all aspects of human life and demanded radical change in how people thought and lived.

He was born in 1887 in the village Donja Poplat in Hercegovina, during the Austro-Hungarian occupation, to parents who were school teachers. He completed his elementary and secondary schooling in Mostar and matriculated in 1907. He studied philosophy, logic and psychology, first at the University in Zagreb, and then in Vienna. In 1913 he continued his studies for a doctorate in modern Art in Munich. There he met many artists from the Balkans and 'The Blue Rider' group which contributed greatly to the development of abstract art. In 1914, whilst in Munich, he tried to set up 'The Fundamentals of the Future', a movement to promote and put into practical terms his vision of a world without war.

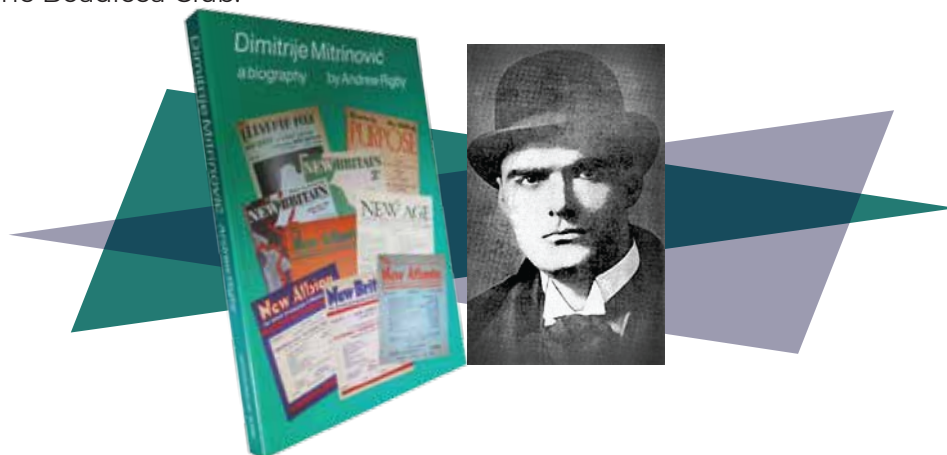
He had been active from an early age in the fields of art and culture and his country's struggle for independence and the unity of the South-Slavs. In 1905 he began publishing poems in many publications. While still at secondary school he started the club Matica dedicated to the support of Serbian writers. He went on to become the youngest editor of the literary journal Bosanska Vila which published many writers from the South Slav regions, including Ivo Andrić. In 1910 he started the monthly journal Zora – the publication of the Society of South Slav students in Vienna. Mitrinović was also politically active; he joined 'Sloboda', a society aimed at liberating Bosnia and Hercegovina from Austro-Hungary and unifying the South Slavs, and 'Mlada Bosna', a revolutionary group with the same aims.

In 1914, at the outbreak of the First World War, Mitrinović fled to London in order to avoid conscription into the Austro-Hungarian army. He set himself up as a private teacher in philosophy and also joined the Serbian Litigation, which worked to get support for Serbia. He continued to promote the idea of South-Slav unity by helping to organise an exhibition of works by Ivan Meštrović in London and Paris. This sought to advance the formation of Yugoslavia. He also collaborated with Nikolaj Velimirović and Niko Župančić in the publication in 1918 of the book *Monuments of the South Slavs*.

When the war ended, Mitrinović decided to remain in Britain. In the interwar years he was concerned with the world order and was a major contributor to the radical journal *New Age*, writing a column on world affairs. Mitrinović believed there was a need for a new stage in human development, 'From individual initiative, through personal alliance to the absolute collective'. This required the recognition of the essential complementary functions of different ethnic, religious and other groups in the world; the need for guidance through intermediation to solve conflicts in society; and the need for personal change to develop individuals as the mediators of society.

Mitrinović founded the English branch of the International Society for Individual Psychology (the Adler Society) in 1927, lecturing on psychology and related subjects. The desire of this group to derive practical results from their psychological studies, and their association with like-minded radical groups, led to the formation of The New Europe Group, aiming at European federation and a re-evaluation of European culture. From this proceeded the New Britain Movement in 1932, with proposals for national changes in society, federation and devolution, reform of the financial system, workers' control in industry through National Guilds, and a House of Industry and House of Culture to supplement the House of Commons. The movement was supported by the journal *New Britain* and its successor *The Eleventh Hour*. The New Britain Movement dissolved in 1935-36 but the New Europe Group continued to be active for many years. Its cultural programme, the Renaissance Club, held lectures and concerts.

From the late 1930s, Mitrinović established (or encouraged the creation of) various organisations for women including the Boadicea Club, Anthrope-Femina of the New Atlantis and the New Boadicea Club. Members organised lectures and studied what they termed 'feminology', the study of women. There was at least one male counterpart group, the Caractacus Club, created as a mirror of the Boadicea Club.



Mitrinović died at the age of 66 leaving a group of devoted followers. They collected all his publications and books which are kept at the University of Bradford library 'Dimitrije Mitrinović and New Atlantis Foundation Library and Archive'.
<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/.../collections/mitrinovic-library-and-archive>

Mitrinović bequeathed a substantial part of his personal collection of 45,000 books to the Belgrade University Library.

He is buried in Highgate cemetery in London.

By **Maya Atkinson**



Serbian Month

in Great Britain

Slobodan Jovanović (1869-1958)

Slobodan Jovanović was a Serbian lawyer and politician who contributed to scholarship with historical and philosophical inquiries as well as literary criticism. He was one of the most prominent intellectuals of his time.

He was born in Novi Sad on 3 December 1869 to politician Vladimir Jovanović and his wife Jelena. He received an excellent education in Belgrade, Munich, Zurich and Geneva, where he graduated with a law degree. From 1890 to 1892 he undertook postgraduate studies in constitutional law and political science in Paris before entering the Serbian foreign service. In 1893 he was appointed political attaché with the Serbian mission to Constantinople, where he remained for a couple years. It was at this time that he began to write and have his articles on literary criticism published in various publications.

He eventually left the diplomatic service in favour of academia and literary pursuits; he became a contributing author and literary critic for several notable newspapers. In 1897 he was appointed professor at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Law. During the Balkan Wars and the First World War he was in charge of the Serbian War Office Press Bureau. He took part in the Paris Peace Conference (1919) as an expert for the Yugoslav Government. In 1920, shortly after the foundation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, he was appointed President of the multi-ethnic constitutional drafting committee. It presented the first draft of what would become the Vidovdan Constitution, the first constitution of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes: it was approved by the Constitutional Assembly on 28 June 1921. The Vidovdan Constitution proclaimed the Kingdom a parliamentary and hereditary monarchy, headed by the Karađorđević dynasty. It instituted a unicameral parliament and proclaimed the equality of all persons before the law, and freedom of speech, assembly, association and the press.

For more than four decades, Jovanović taught at the Law Faculty, gaining a reputation as an authority on constitutional law and Serbian language and literature. He was Rector of the University of Belgrade on two separate occasions and Dean of Faculty of Law. Jovanović joined the Serbian Royal Academy in 1908 and was its President from 1928 to 1931. He was also a correspondent member of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb from 1927.

Jovanović entered political life in 1939 when the Serbian Cultural Club was established; he was appointed as the Club's President.

When a military coup took place in Belgrade on 27 March 1941 and a pro-Allies government was installed, Jovanovic was appointed Deputy Prime Minister. The Axis powers attacked the Kingdoms of Greece and Yugoslavia on 6 April 1941 and soon defeated Yugoslav forces. Together with King Peter II (October 1943–November 1945) and other government ministers, Jovanović left for Jerusalem and Cairo, before settling in London in July 1941. On 11 January 1942 he became Prime Minister of the Yugoslav government-in-exile as Deputy Minister of War. He remained as Prime Minister until 26 June 1943. Following World War II, when the Allies recognised the Communist government of Yugoslavia, Jovanović became President of the Yugoslav National Committee-in-exile. Because of his ties to Draža Mihajlović, in July 1946 he was condemned in absentia by the communist government in Yugoslavia to 20 years' hard labour. He also lost his political and civil rights for a period of ten years, his property was confiscated and he lost his citizenship.

He spent his later years in exile in London until his death in 1958.

He continued to write and his works include *On Totalitarianism* (1952),

Tito and the Western World (1952),

On the New Machiavellism (1952),

A Contribution to the Study of the Serbian National Character (1964)

and *Notes on Problems and Individuals 1941-44* (1976).

In 1951 he founded the Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad and was its first President.

He died on 12 December 1958 and was buried at Kensal Green cemetery. Following his unofficial rehabilitation in 1989, his collected works were published in his home country in 1991. In 2003 his portrait appeared on the Serbian 5000 dinar banknote and his bust stands at the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. In 2011 his remains were exhumed from the London cemetery where they had lain for over fifty years and reinterred in Belgrade with full honours.

A memorial plaque in honour of *Professor Slobodan Yovanovitch, Serbian historian, literary critic, legal scholar, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia* can be found at 39b Queen's Gate Gardens, London, where he lived from 1945 to 1958.

Olga Stanojlovic



A black and white portrait of Miloš Crnjanski, an elderly man with a serious expression, looking slightly to the left. The image is a close-up, showing his face and part of his dark suit and white shirt. The background is a light, neutral color.

Miloš Crnjanski (1893-1977)

Miloš Crnjanski deserves his reputation as Serbia's greatest writer of the twentieth century. Born in Csongrád in 1893 (now in southern Hungary), he moved to Belgrade after the First World War where he was soon acknowledged as one of the leading members of the younger avant-garde generation of post-war writers. His early work, a collection of poems *Lirika Itake* (*The Lyric of Ithaca*, 1919) and a novel *Dnevnik o Čarnojeviću* (*Diary about Čarnojević*, 1921), expressed his own experience of the suffering caused by the war and its aftermath. His bitter cynicism and deep disillusionment with the world, coupled with his experimental approach to writing, was deliberately provocative; a stance which both attracted and repelled the reading public in equal measure.

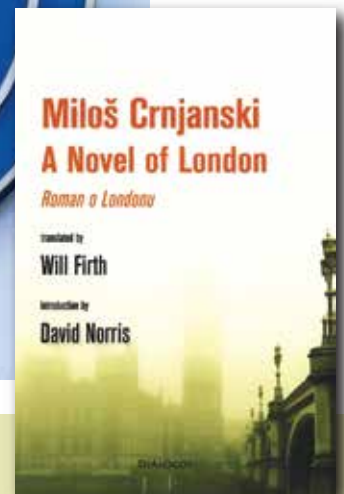
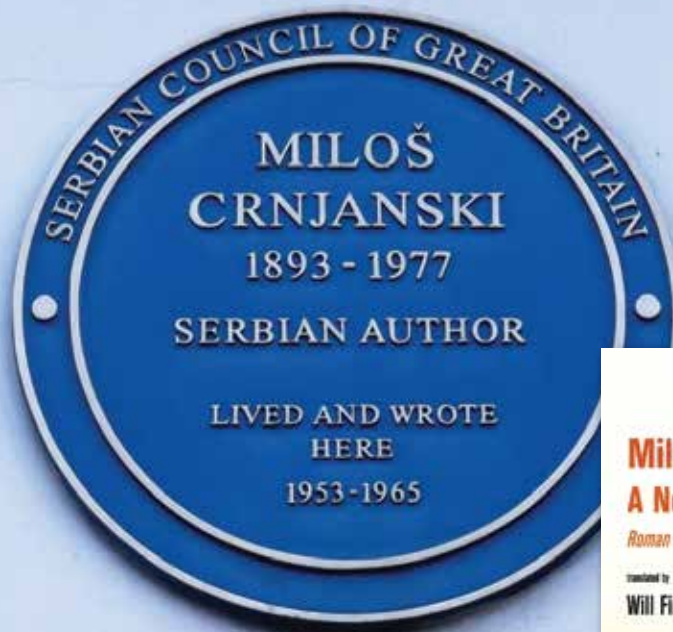
His reputation changed with his next major work, *Seobe* (*Migrations*, 1929), a novel set among the Serbs of Vojvodina in the middle of the eighteenth century, who were forced to seek safety across the Danube in Habsburg lands to escape the terror of the Ottoman Empire. They dream of fighting their way back home but will remain in exile among strangers. Unlike in his earlier works, the historical distance from his subject allowed the author space to explore the multiple ways in which the consequences of a historical catastrophe influence the lives of individuals. The novel was a success and established Crnjanski as a major Serbian writer, akin to other writers of European Modernism.

Crnjanski also changed. He was no longer a rebellious youth, but a man of more conservative opinions making a career in the diplomatic service as press attaché in Yugoslavia's embassies in Berlin and Rome during the 1930s. He was a pro-regime figure, not adverse to attacking opponents who had different views on literature or politics, many of them from Belgrade's left-wing circles.

His activities were noted by communist sympathisers, like Radovan Zogović and Marko Ristić, who occupied important positions after the Second World War.

Yugoslavia was forced to enter the war in 1941 when Crnjanski was serving at the embassy in Rome. He was given diplomatic immunity and made his way to London. He spent the war years working for the Yugoslav government in exile, but in 1945 was unemployed. He was clearly

Great British Serbs



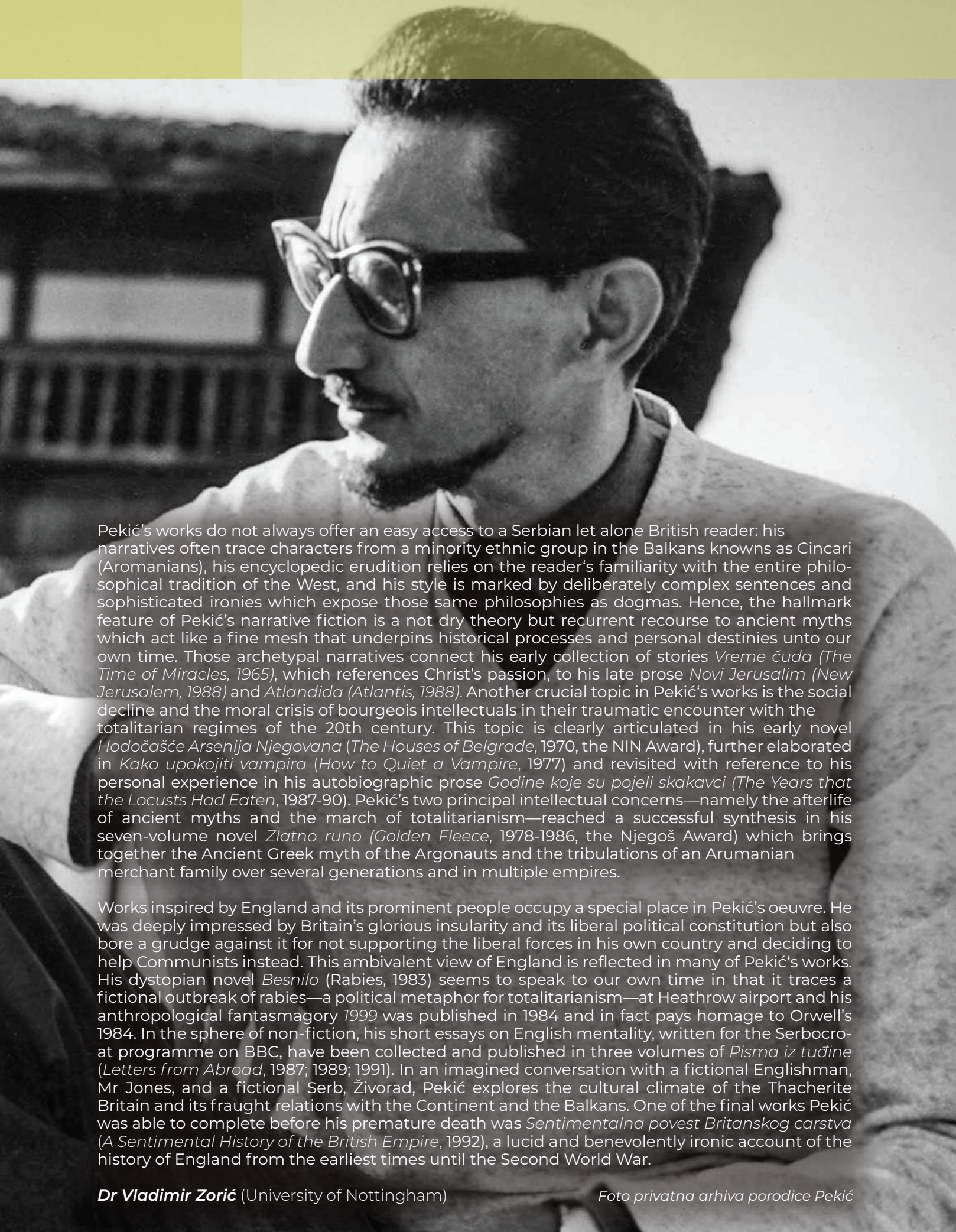
Crnjanski's life in London was unenviable. He found it impossible to integrate into his new surroundings. His English was not up to pursuing a literary career, and there was no interest in translating his works from Serbian. He applied for jobs at the BBC, the British Library and university departments of Slavonic Studies teaching Serbo-Croat, but without success. He turned to the English PEN Centre for help in finding work, as they had helped other refugee writers in London. He received a reply from the Centre's secretary, Mr Herman Ould (letter dated 28 March 1950, held in the Crnjanski archive in the National Library of Serbia) explaining the difficulties he was facing, 'It is really simple. Unfortunately, your own career has been so political that this automatically excludes certain possibilities.' It is generally believed that public institutions in England rejected Crnjanski because of his association with politicians in Germany and Italy during the 1930s. However, the date of Ould's letter suggests another possibility, that the writer's status as *persona non grata* with the authorities in Yugoslavia was not helpful at the crucial time when the British government was trying to establish good connections with the only communist regime to oppose the Soviet Union. Or, perhaps, it was a combination of these two factors. Whatever the reasons, the author whose literary work was based so much on the unpredictable tricks of historical fate became himself one of its victims.

Crnjanski's name was omitted from all publications and textbooks in Yugoslavia. However, by the mid-1950s, the political climate was beginning to change. Literary critics, such as Zoran Mišić and Predrag Palavestra, wrote about his work again for a new generation of readers, emphasising his importance to the development of modern Serbian literature. Some of his earlier works were republished: *Diary about Čarnojević* and *Migrations* in 1956, and *Migrations* with its sequel *The Second Book of Migrations* in 1962. Buoyed up by these encouraging signs, Crnjanski finally returned to Serbia in 1965 to great critical acclaim. His collected works were published in ten volumes in 1966. He kept writing and completed his last novel, *Roman o Londonu* (*A Novel about London*, 1971) in Belgrade. Although the work contains many episodes which actually happened to the author, it is not an autobiography and the hero of the story is a Russian aristocrat exiled abroad since the Russian Revolution. Since his death in 1977, Crnjanski's reputation has continued to grow, with further publications of his collected works and books written about his life and the influence which he has exercised on Serbian literary and cultural development.

Borislav Pekić (1930-1992)

Borislav Pekić was born on 4 February 1930 in Podgorica as an only child in a civil servant family. Owing to his father's frequent administrative reassignments, he spent a happy if somewhat fragmented childhood in different provincial towns of Yugoslavia (Novi Bečej, Mrkonjić Grad, Knin, Cetinje). During the dark days of the German occupation of the country (1941-1944), the family stayed in the relative security of their maternal estate in Bavanište (Banat). After the end of the war, the family moved to Belgrade where Pekić attended the high school (Treća muška gimnazija) and where, alarmed by the totalitarian excesses of Tito's regime, he joined an illegal anti-communist organisation, Savez demokratske omladine Jugoslavije (Union of Democratic Youth of Yugoslavia). In 1948 he was arrested, put on trial and served with a 15-year prison sentence with penitentiary labour. He was released on parole in 1953, went on to study experimental psychology at the University of Belgrade (1954-1958) and married Ljiljana (née Glišić), a young architect from Belgrade. He initially embarked on a career as a screenwriter in Yugoslavia's burgeoning film industry but in 1960s he dedicated most of his energy to narrative fiction. As a member of the young, critically oriented generation of Serbian writers, which also included Danilo Kiš, Mirko Kovač, Dragoslav Mihailović, and Slobodan Selenić, Pekić joined the editorial board of the buzzing literary journal *Književne novine* (*Literary Journal*) but resigned in the aftermath of the largely unsuccessful student demonstrations in 1968. In an attempt to evade the ensuing clampdown on liberal intellectuals, in 1971 Pekić settled with his wife and daughter, Aleksandra, in London; the city would become their permanent home for the best part of the next two decades. In their quest for own corner in the metropolis, the family changed several addresses, from Wembley (14 St Andrews Avenue) to Muswell Hill (6 Grand Avenue) to Belgravia (Lennox Gardens). It is in London that Pekić wrote some of his most ambitious novels but also became well known amongst Serbian émigré community for his incisive cultural analyses which he wrote for the Serbocroat section of BBC Radio (1985-1991). A life-long advocate of intellectual and civic freedoms, in late 1980s Pekić actively participated in the formation of the first post-war opposition party in Serbia, Demokratska stranka (Democratic Party), and spent much of his time in Belgrade attending to the travails of parliamentary democracy. In the same period, he also discharged his duties as a newly elected member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and a founding member of Krunski savet (Crown Council) of Serbia. Sadly, the years of imprisonment, exacting work habits, and chain smoking took a toll on his health and he died of lung cancer on 2 July 1992 in London. His ashes were laid to rest in Belgrade where his memory is honoured with a street in his name and a monument in the city centre.





Pekić's works do not always offer an easy access to a Serbian let alone British reader: his narratives often trace characters from a minority ethnic group in the Balkans known as Cincari (Aromanians), his encyclopedic erudition relies on the reader's familiarity with the entire philosophical tradition of the West, and his style is marked by deliberately complex sentences and sophisticated ironies which expose those same philosophies as dogmas. Hence, the hallmark feature of Pekić's narrative fiction is a not dry theory but recurrent recourse to ancient myths which act like a fine mesh that underpins historical processes and personal destinies unto our own time. Those archetypal narratives connect his early collection of stories *Vreme čuda* (*The Time of Miracles*, 1965), which references Christ's passion, to his late prose *Novi Jerusalim* (*New Jerusalem*, 1988) and *Atlantida* (*Atlantis*, 1988). Another crucial topic in Pekić's works is the social decline and the moral crisis of bourgeois intellectuals in their traumatic encounter with the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century. This topic is clearly articulated in his early novel *Hodočašće Arsenija Njegovana* (*The Houses of Belgrade*, 1970, the NIN Award), further elaborated in *Kako upokojiti vampira* (*How to Quiet a Vampire*, 1977) and revisited with reference to his personal experience in his autobiographic prose *Godine koje su pojeli skakavci* (*The Years that the Locusts Had Eaten*, 1987-90). Pekić's two principal intellectual concerns—namely the afterlife of ancient myths and the march of totalitarianism—reached a successful synthesis in his seven-volume novel *Zlatno runo* (*Golden Fleece*, 1978-1986, the Njegoš Award) which brings together the Ancient Greek myth of the Argonauts and the tribulations of an Arumanian merchant family over several generations and in multiple empires.

Works inspired by England and its prominent people occupy a special place in Pekić's oeuvre. He was deeply impressed by Britain's glorious insularity and its liberal political constitution but also bore a grudge against it for not supporting the liberal forces in his own country and deciding to help Communists instead. This ambivalent view of England is reflected in many of Pekić's works. His dystopian novel *Besnilo* (*Rabies*, 1983) seems to speak to our own time in that it traces a fictional outbreak of rabies—a political metaphor for totalitarianism—at Heathrow airport and his anthropological fantasmagory *1999* was published in 1984 and in fact pays homage to Orwell's 1984. In the sphere of non-fiction, his short essays on English mentality, written for the Serbocroat programme on BBC, have been collected and published in three volumes of *Pisma iz tuđine* (*Letters from Abroad*, 1987; 1989; 1991). In an imagined conversation with a fictional Englishman, Mr Jones, and a fictional Serb, Živorad, Pekić explores the cultural climate of the Thatcherite Britain and its fraught relations with the Continent and the Balkans. One of the final works Pekić was able to complete before his premature death was *Sentimentalna povest Britanskog carstva* (*A Sentimental History of the British Empire*, 1992), a lucid and benevolently ironic account of the history of England from the earliest times until the Second World War.

Dr Vladimir Zorić (University of Nottingham)

Foto privatna arhiva porodice Pekić



Archpriest Miloje Nikolić (1910-1989)

Father Miloje Nikolić was born on 12 April 1910 in Krčedin near Varvarin. After elementary school, he enrolled and graduated from the Serbian Orthodox Theological Seminary in Sarajevo. He was ordained a priest in 1931, and in 1932 he was appointed parish priest in Barajevo near Belgrade.

He was in Barajevo in 1941 during the Second World War and immediately joined the resistance movement under General Draža Mihailović. He was captured by partisans and ordered to dig his own grave, but somehow escaped death. He was then captured by the Germans and imprisoned in the Banjica camp, where he was repeatedly tortured and abused and awaited execution. He was saved by the fall of Italy when executions were stopped and detainees were taken to various European countries. In 1942 Father Miloje was taken to the Nerville Camp in France, where he joined the French Resistance.

When American forces arrived in France, they asked Serbs if they wanted to return to Tito's Yugoslavia or remain refugees. Father Miloje Nikolić chose freedom and arrived in Scotland in September 1944; he moved to London later that year. In London he joined the Serbian Chapel based at Lennox Gardens, where in 1945 Bishop Dionysius appointed him as the parish priest and representative of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Britain.

The Serbian Chapel was moved to 12 Egerton Gardens in Kensington when the lease on Lennox Gardens expired and the chapel of St. Sava was consecrated by the Polish Orthodox Bishop Sava, with the co-service of Archpriests Miloje Nikolić and Radovan Miljković, in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Marija and other dignitaries. This became a Serbian Centre in London; a Serbian Church Board was established to manage it chaired by Slobodan Jovanović.

In 1947, when displaced persons from across European camps arrived to fill labour shortages in key British industries, the number of Serbs increased sharply and the Church Centre in Egerton Gardens could not cope. Father Miloje and the Church Board asked the Anglicans for a church and premises to meet the needs of the Serbian community. Eventually, the Serbs were given the Church of St. Columbus in Lancaster Road to use 'as long as there are Serbs in England'.

Archpriest Miloje and the Board began work on adapting the church of St. Columbus to become the church of St. Sava. Donations were requested and the biggest contributors included the Karadjordjević family. The committee ordered the construction of the iconostasis and commissioned the fresco painter Dušan Mihailović. The church was consecrated on 28 and 29 June 1952. Bishop (now St.) Nikolaj Velimirović came from America. The consecration was also attended by representatives of other churches and Queen Mary, King Peter II, Princes Tomislav and other dignitaries and benefactors.

In the beginning, the London church of St. Sava served the whole of Britain. When it was possible to organise parishes in other cities, further priests were appointed.

House of Bishop Nikolaj

A meeting of clergy some years later, chaired by Archpriest Miloje Nikolić, decided to add a new building – the House of Bishop Nikolaj – adjacent to the church of St. Sava. It was to serve the needs of Serbs, in memory of Bishop Nikolaj, who had died suddenly in America on 18 March 1953.

Great British Serbs

Father Miloje and his Board began the huge task of collecting donations; the Serbs contributed as much as they could. Father Miloje's strong ties with the Anglicans meant they helped financially with the construction of the building. It was completed and consecrated in 1972. The consecration was attended by one of the 'godfathers', Duke Momcilo Đujić, and the hotelier Dragan Lukić who had also donated furniture for the building.

Schism

The unfortunate church schism began in 1963, first in America and later spreading everywhere. However, Father Nikolić and his Board did not sever ties with the mother church in the homeland. Father Miloje said: 'I will defend the Serbian Church from communist tyranny in Yugoslavia. But I will also defend it from schismatic obscenity in the free world. I will cherish and defend the unity of our martyr Serbian Church unless it asks me to give up those ideals for which I remained in a free but cold faraway foreign land.'

This shows how immeasurable was the work of Father Miloje in the Serbian Church and in this country.

New Diocese

When the Holy Synod of Bishops founded a new diocese covering the whole of Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand, they appointed Bishop Lavrentije (Trifunović) as its bishop. He was enthroned in London in 1969 and Father Miloje Nikolić continued to support him in everything as his deputy.

Death of Father Nikolić

The death of Father Miloje Nikolić surprised us all. He fell ill at a lecture in Lambeth Palace and was taken to St. Thomas' Hospital suffering from a brain haemorrhage. He died on 16 April 1989. His funeral service took place on 20 April in the church of St. Sava at the Holy Hierarch's Service. The Bishop and all the priests of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Britain were present, as well as representatives from other Orthodox Churches and the Anglican Church.

The body of this great man and priest, a great labourer in the Lord's field, was buried in the church cemetery in Brookwood, to rest until the general resurrection of the dead.

Glory and praise be to Miloje Nikolić for everything he has done for his Holy Serbian Church and his Serbian people.

Father Milun S. Kostić





Dr Miodrag Al Purković (1907 – 1976)

Dr Miodrag Al Purković was a renowned Serbian historian and President of the Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad. He lived in Britain from 1948 until his death in 1976.

He was born in 1907 in Požarevac, then part of the Kingdom of Serbia. After completing his secondary education at the gymnasium in Požarevac, he moved to Belgrade in 1924 to attend the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade where he studied general history, national and Byzantine history and Yugoslav literature. After completing his university studies, in 1928 he moved to Paris for a year where he worked in the National Library, Sorbonne Library and Slavic Institute. On his return home he focused his attention on his doctoral thesis *Avinjonske pape i srpske zemlje* ('*The Avignon Popes and Serbian Lands*'), which he defended in 1934 and published in Požarevac. His academic success led him to be appointed as an assistant professor of history at the University of Skopje where his academic work on Serbian churches in the old Serbian State, Serbian bishops and Metropolitans of the Middle Ages was published in 1938.

In 1941 he was imprisoned by the Germans because of his status as a reserve officer. As a prisoner of war, he was held at the officers' camp, Oflag VI S in Osnabruck, where he often delivered lectures on Serbian history to other prisoners. At the end of the war he decided not to return to Yugoslavia. From January 1947 to January 1948, he was employed as a member of the civil security services in Osnabruck, before moving to Britain. From January 1948 to January 1949 he held history classes on the Serbian Church in the Seminary for Serb pupils at Dorchester College near Oxford. He then moved to London where he became Archpriest Miloje Nikolić's right-hand man and was secretary of the St Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Council in London, initially the only spiritual centre for Serbs in Britain.

Dr Purković was President of the Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad from 1972 until his death in 1976. During his time in office, thirty-eight lectures were held, of which he gave five, which were published in the Association's magazine *Zvornik*. In 1976 the Association also published Slobodan Jovanović's *Notes on Problems and Individuals, 1941–1944*.

Dr Purković pursued his academic interests while in Britain and continued to make an important contribution to the understanding of the political and cultural history of the Serbs in the Middle Ages. Whilst in London he wrote many books and articles for different magazines. His books include: *Do you Remember* (1956), *Princesses in the House of Nemanjić* (1956), *The Daughters of Prince Lazar* (1957), *The History of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Trieste* (1960), *Serbian Patriarchs in the Middle Ages* (1976), *Prince and Despot Stefan Lazarević* (1978), *The history of Serbs, the political and cultural history of the Middle Ages [until the fall of Zeta in 1499]* (1985), *The Priors of the Middle Ages* (Belgrade 1999), *Heroes of Serbian folk songs* (1986).

In recognition of his importance as a historian and his role as President of the Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad there is a blue plaque in his honour at the Bishop Nikolai Community Centre in Lancaster Road, London, where he lived from 1972 until his death in 1976.

Olga Stanojlović

Kosta St Pavlović (1905- 1988)

Kosta St. Pavlović was born in 1905 to a prominent Belgrade family. He finished Elementary and Secondary schools in Paris, where his father was a diplomat. He completed the First Belgrade Gymnasium and then graduated from the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. He was in the diplomatic service from 1928 until 1945. He served in Brussels and Luxembourg and at the beginning of the WWII he was working in Bucharest. After arriving in London, he was chosen to be the Chief of the Cabinet of the Prime Ministers Dušan Simović, Slobodan Jovanović and Miloš Trifunović until 1943, when the Serbian Government transferred to Cairo. Soon after he started to work as the First Secretary of the Yugoslav Embassy in London. After the war he completed postgraduate magisterial studies at the University of Cambridge and was the librarian in the Slavic Library. In 1961 he was proclaimed to be a permanent member of the Faculty for Contemporary and Medieval Languages and permanent member of the Regent House of the Cambridge University and the Selvin College.

He was the General Secretary of the Yugoslav National Defence, honorary member of the French Institute in London and a member of the Polish Society for Science and Literature. He published articles in various Serbian, French, Belgian and American magazines. He collaborated on the Encyclopedia Britannica published in 1963. He was one of the founders of the Liberation newspaper. With the assistance of the British Academy of Science, he published 28 articles and research studies on Yugoslav-British relations during the Second World War and 30 literary portraits under the title *As I Knew Them*. He was president of the Association of Serbian Writers Abroad and a long-time President of the Church Municipality of London. He died in Southampton in 1988.

In 2005 Kosta's son, Stevan K Pavlović, professor emeritus of Balkan Studies at the University of Southampton, gave Kosta Pavlović's legacy to the Historical Archives of Belgrade. It consisted of abundant archival material and his diaries. He kept these diaries from 1930 until 1933 (at the beginning of his diplomatic career) and from 1940 until 1954.



The diary notes of Kosta Pavlović are not entirely unknown. In 2011 his son prepared his father's notes to publish under the title *War Diary 1941-1945* (the book includes the period from 14 May 1941 until 10 March 1945). The book was published by *Službeni Galsnik* and the publishing company Otkrovenje. The Historical Archives of Belgrade published the diaries that follow the *War Diary*. The London Diary starts on Saturday, 10 March 1945 when Pavlović made the final decision not to return to his Motherland. It ends on the last day of 1946.

Using diplomatic sources and meetings, as well as the British press, Pavlović analyses and discusses the activities of Serbian emigrants and the family Karadjordjević as well as the events in postwar Yugoslavia. These notes reveal the destiny of his contemporaries – Slobodan Jovanović, Draža Mihailović, Branko Lazarević, Ilija Šumenković, Mladen Žujović, Milan Gavrilović, as well as other foreign diplomats and prominent European politicians. These political events are mingled with personal experiences, memories from his childhood and nostalgia for his family and Motherland. These diaries represent a significant source of information for researchers and experts in this period, as well as for wider audience.

Historical Archives
of Belgrade

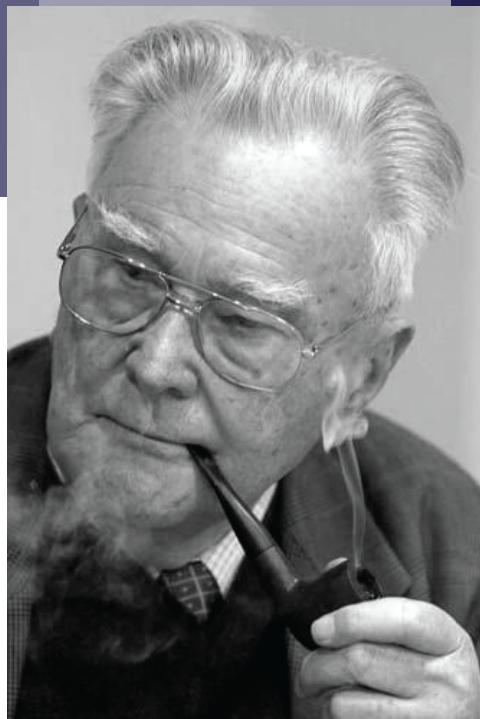


Desimir Tošić (1920-2008)

Serb politician and commentator

Desimir Tošić was a Serb politician who lived in Britain between 1958 and 1990. At the end of Communist rule, he returned to Yugoslavia to help re-establish the Democratic Party (DS), of which he was one of the best-known members, as well as its vice-president for a while.

Leader of the DS youth section in the late 1930s, Tošić provided a rare link with the original Democratic Party of Ljuba Davidović and Milan Grol. This might explain why he was tolerated by the new party leadership in the 1990s, in spite of his outspoken criticism of Serbian nationalism and of the influential Orthodox Church, and despite his not being part of the inner circle of the opposition leader, and later prime minister, Zoran Djindjić. Elected to the federal Yugoslav parliament in 1992, Tošić joined a breakaway group of the DS which stood on the sidelines from the mid-1990s, until it returned to the party fold in 2004.



As an émigré, Tošić was opposed to the Communist regime of Marshal Tito, but he was no ideological or vindictive anti-Communist. Unlike most Serb émigrés, he never advocated a return to the ancien régime and argued that Communists had genuine support in the country. In the 1970s, he wrote that when changes eventually took place, they should be carried out, initially at least, together with reformed Communists. This is indeed what happened across most of east-central Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s, but not in Serbia, where Slobodan Milosević took control of the renamed ruling party.

Born in 1920 in Bela Palanka, southern Serbia, in what was then the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Tošić was the son of a civil servant. He moved to Belgrade in order to complete his education. The capital was politically highly polarised at the time, but Tošić joined the centrist Democrats. The Second World War and the German invasion interrupted his studies at Belgrade's Law Faculty.

During the war and the German occupation, Tošić supported General Mihailović's resistance movement, as did many of his fellow Democrats. As a Mihailović supporter, he was arrested by the Gestapo in 1943 and sent to work in Germany. He survived the war only to find himself a refugee in France. There he met his future wife Coral, with whom he settled, eventually, in her native Britain.

First from Paris and then London, Tošić gathered like-minded Serb refugees around a group that called itself *Oslobodjenje* – "Liberation". He edited the *Nasa Rec* ("Our Word") monthly between 1948 and 1990, with contributions from among others, the dissidents Milovan Djilas and Mihajlo Mihajlov, and academics including the historian Stevan Pavlowitch and the economist Ljubo Sirc. The group also published books, including the first Serbo-Croat edition of Milovan Djilas's *Conversations with Stalin* (1986). Tošić was the driving force of the organisation which spread itself across Western Europe, North America and Australia. Its activities were self-funded, as western institutions were careful not to antagonise Tito's regime.

Tošić was a believer in a democratic and federal Yugoslavia, as well as in a united Europe. He was an early member of Jean Monnet's European Movement and was also among the founders of the Democratic Alternative in 1963 – a group of pro-Yugoslav Bosniak, Croat, Serb and Slovene émigrés that called for the democratisation of Yugoslavia.

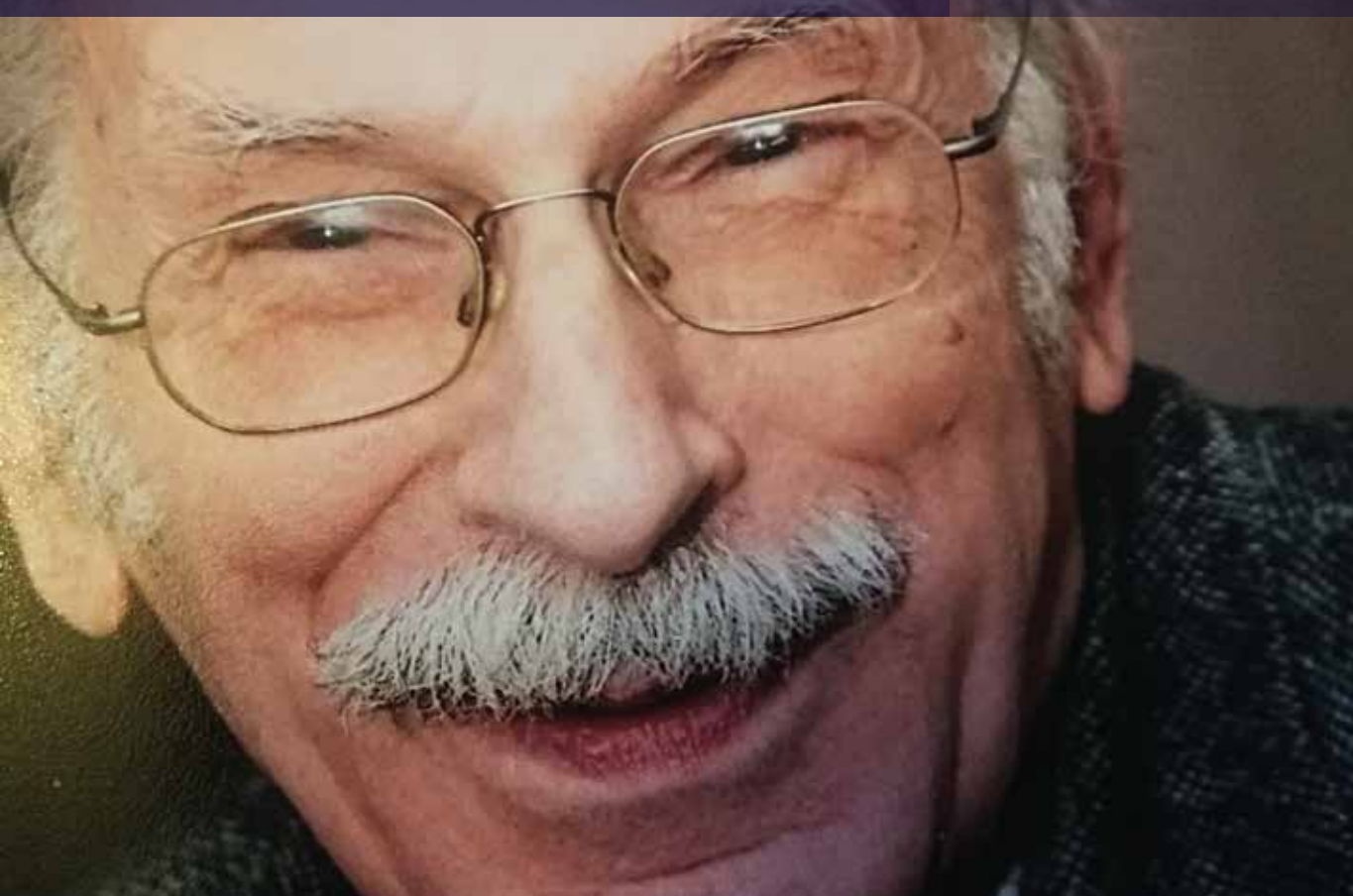
He returned there on the eve of its violent break-up and chose to remain in Serbia, where he became a distinguished voice against war and nationalism. Although advanced in years, he regularly published books and articles, gave interviews and took part in debates. His numerous writings offered fresh, non-nationalist perspectives on Serb-Croat relations, on the Second World War and on Yugoslav Communism. Tošić opposed Serb policies in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo, but also spoke out against the 1999 Nato bombing of Serbia.

A Serb patriot who criticised Serbian nationalism, Tošić was an unconventional figure. He was a Christian and an Orthodox believer who publicly confronted the Serbian Church for promoting nationalism. Although formally a politician, he was an enlightened educator whose ideas often clashed with the party line, despite his overall loyalty to the DS.

His critical thinking, sharp words and warm smile will be missed – by family and friends but especially by Serbian society, still emerging from the traumas and upheavals of the past several decades.

Obituary which appeared in the Independent on 4 March 2008 by **Professor Dejan Djokić**

Nenad Petrović (1925-2014)



Nenad Petrović was a Serb who cherished a deep love and interest in his native country despite spending the majority of his life in exile. He was a devout parishioner of St Sava, the Serbian Orthodox Church in London, and its most generous benefactor. He was a committed democrat and a deeply cultured man who continued to write articles on a wide range of both cultural and political issues until well into old age.

Nenad Petrović was born in Zagreb on 30 May 1925, to a father, Vojislav, who was born in Doboj and an officer in the army, and to a mother, Nadežda, a teacher from Glina. It is generally known that Nenad had a twin brother Predrag, who tragically died at a very young age.

Nenad's father left Bosnia in order to enlist in the Serbian army during WWI and joined the famous volunteer corps of Vojvoda Vuk. He emerged from the war decorated with several medals for bravery and became an officer in the Yugoslav army reaching the rank of colonel.

As his father's occupation involved frequent moves, Nenad attended primary schools in four different republics of the former Yugoslavia – Croatia (Zagreb), Montenegro (Podgorica), Bosnia (Sarajevo) and Serbia (Belgrade). After completing his secondary education at the Third Boy's Grammar School in Belgrade in 1944, he joined the Resistance because of his patriotic upbringing and loyalty to his country. It was with great difficulty that he managed to cross the regions of Raška and Bosnia only to fall ill with typhus, which resulted him in being sent to a hospital in Slovenia.

He left Yugoslavia after he was discharged from hospital and was sent to the internment camp in Eboli before moving to the Lammie camp, near Naples in southern Italy. He served as an interpreter and translator for the Yugoslav units under the British Army. After the Allies withdrew from Italy he was moved to a camp in Germany and finally arrived in Britain in 1947 under the European Voluntary Workers scheme where he was sent to work as a farm labourer in the south-west of England. When free to seek his own employment, he got a job as an administrative clerk for Lyons & Co. Whilst working there he also managed to study politics and economics in London.

As a patriot and a scholar, Nenad served both his Church and his people. For more than 20 years, he was secretary of the St Sava Serbian Orthodox Parish in London and later its president from 1985 to 1988. The Church was his second home and we priests and others were his friends and kin, which is why he left his vast library to the St Sava Church in London. The library and the financial gifts he bequeathed to the Church show him to be a generous philanthropist and the greatest donor in the history of the parish.

Nenad did much in both cultural and national fields. In 1964 he became a member of the Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad (which was founded by Slobodan Jovanović in 1951). He was secretary of the Association from 1977 to 1986 and subsequently became its president. In Belgrade in 1989 he was elected an honorary member of the Association of Writers of Serbia.

As a writer and journalist, Nenad was associated with numerous newspapers and magazines around the world. This included the weekly Voice of Canadian Serbs to which he was a regular contributor from 1964 to 1974. He also contributed to the Parisian Savremenku and Dialogue, and the Australian Slozi. The two-volume Katena Mundi which was edited by Dragoslav Dragić Kijuk was published in Belgrade at a time when the authorities were glad to welcome his extensive article about Slobodan Jovanović. Ljudi govore, a Canadian journal of literature and culture, published an interview with Nenad Petrović in issues 9 and 10 along with his essay on Jovan Dučić. The Review of the Study Centre for Yugoslav Affairs in London published two of his articles, the first in 1965, in English, entitled 'Yugoslav Communist Party Congresses since the War' and the second, 'The Fall of Aleksandar Rankovic', in 1967.

Nenad also published a number of books. These include The Two Faces of Communism in Yugoslavia which was published in 1964 and The Daughter of Marx, a critical historical review of Eleanor Marx and the beginnings of socialism in England, published in 1973. In 1998 he published in Serbia a book of essays From the life of the London Political Emigrants describing Russian, German and French emigration. In 2000 the Association of Writers of Serbia published his book Essay on Sense and Aberrations within the context of the library 'Diaspora' which was exhibited here in London a few years ago.

Importantly, Nenad kept a diary throughout his life. Because they are of such historical importance they have been digitised by the British Library. His War Diaries, which are of significant interest, will be published in the near future.

Nenad was also a member of a number of political organisations and associations and wrote articles for their publications. At one point he was secretary of the expatriate committee of Liberal International. He was also a member of the Oslobođenje Association from 1956 up until it was disbanded in 1994. He was one of the editors and contributors to the monthly Naš Reč and a member of the editorial board of Naše Delo. He was also a member of the Democratic Alternative which published two of his books Democratic Yugoslavia and For a new social and political morality. He also wrote The Awakening of Nationalism under Communist Regimes and an article for the journal Democratic Reform (which was edited by Vane Ivanović and Aleksa Đilas) entitled 'Nationalism and Democratic Reform' (1982).

Nenad knew London and its cultural events very well; always ready to act as a guide for anybody or for any excursion and I believe that no one could describe the city as vividly as he. Nenad was a man of great knowledge and culture and a true gentleman. He was never presumptuous. He lived modestly but would willingly pay for books, magazines and newspapers.

With his death, our Church and community in this country has lost a faithful member, a good, respected and exemplary man and friend.

Father Milun Kostic

Prominent Serbs who studied in Britain

Bringing the cultures of England and Serbia closer

Serbia and Britain enjoy a history of cultural relationships, with many distinguished people from both countries contributing. Two of the most influential figures in bringing the English language and literature closer to the Serbian public are Professor Borivoje Nedić and Professor Vladeta Popović.



Serbian students in Oxford in 1917



Borivoje Nedić (1900–1987)

Borivoje Nedić was one of the 300 children (mainly boys) who came to Britain with the help of the Serbian Relief Fund during World War I. The Fund was set up to find places of safety for young people who were victims of the desperate situation in Serbia. The agreement with the Serbian government was that they would become the future generation of an independent Serbia, whose ranks had been so grievously depleted during the Great War. The Serbian children were quick to adapt and soon excelled in their studies winning academic prizes and excelling in sport. After the war all these children returned to Serbia.

Borivoje Nedić completed his secondary education in Oxford in 1918 and graduated from Cardiff University in 1922. He continued his studies at Belgrade University. He dedicated his career to bringing the cultures of Serbia and England closer through his teaching, translating, publishing and public activities.

His teaching career started in Skopje in 1923 where he also founded and edited the journal *Mesečni pregled*, later renamed *Južni Pregled*. Until World War II he was professor of English in Subotica, Banja Luka, Vršac and Belgrade, including the Military Academy in Belgrade, and director of the theatre in Banja Luka. Between 1945-6, Professor Nedić was head of the Department for Theatre at the Ministry for Education and deputy director of drama at the National Theatre in Belgrade. From 1946 to 1952 he was editor of the publishing house 'Prosveta'. He went on to teach English literature at Belgrade University from 1952 to 1966. He published essays and literary criticisms and compiled several anthologies of English and American literature.

Professor Nedić was one of the founders of the Shakespeare society in Belgrade. In 1964 he spearheaded the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. This took place all over the country, at schools, universities and theatres and included British performances.

The most significant part of his career was devoted to translating. In 1950 Professor Nedić was awarded 'Sedmojulska nagrada' for his translation work; the following year he was one of the founders of the Society of Translators of Literature which he headed from 1962-63. He translated numerous English and American novels, studies, essays and plays, including Fielding, Bacon, Defoe, Elliot, Wilde, Galsworthy, Maugham, Huxley, Twain, London, Sinclair, Wilder and Poe. He made an enormous contribution to the translation of theatre plays include Galsworthy, Singh, seven Shakespeare plays (*Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Winter's Tale*, *As you like it*, *Henry VIII*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*) and three by Bernard Shaw (*Pygmalion*, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, *Saint Joan*).

Vladeta Popović (1894-1951)

Vladeta Popović was born in 1894 in Paraćin. After finishing secondary school in Kragujevac, he enrolled at the University of Belgrade in 1913. His university degree was in German language and literature with world literature and the theory of literature as subsidiary subjects. He began his study of English by attending classes given by James Wiles, a lecturer in the Department of German, who taught an introductory English course.

The First World War interrupted Popović's student days; he joined the famous student battalion that crossed Albania. After being wounded at the Battle of Kajmakčalan in September 1916, he was released from military duties. Thanks to the invitation of Sir Adolphus Ward, Master of Peterhouse College, he was offered a place to continue his university studies at Cambridge, where he spent three years studying English and French.

Awarded his BA degree in 1921, Popović returned to Belgrade to work as a teaching assistant in the University's Department of Comparative Literature. It is evident that he was highly respected because in January 1923 the Ministry for Education instructed the University to appoint him as one of three members of the Committee for International Intellectual Co-operation.

Popović returned to Britain to pursue his doctoral studies at the University of London. This was completed in 1925 with his thesis entitled *Shakespeare in Serbia*. In 1928 it was published for the Shakespeare Association by Oxford University Press. He married Mary Stansfield in the same year, a fellow student from his Cambridge days. They moved to Belgrade where Mary Stansfield-Popović became a lecturer for English language teaching in the Department of German at Belgrade University.

On 30 July 1929 the Department for English was formed with Dr Popović as Assistant Professor and its first Head of Department. This marked the foundation for the systematic teaching and study of English language and literature in Serbia and Yugoslavia. In 1929/30 just five full-time students enrolled in the Department, with an additional fourteen students who chose English as an optional subject. Teaching together, Popović and Mary gradually developed a four-year degree course for English. By 1935/6, the numbers of students in the first year increased to fifty, with about one hundred students enrolled on the eve of the Second World War. By this time sixty-eight students had already graduated from the Department.

Popović's research led to the publication of many works of outstanding value relating to English literature. His PhD dissertation *Shakespeare in Serbia* and his later book *The Life and Works of William Shakespeare* represent the first important contribution to the study of the subject in Yugoslavia. His books *Through English Literature and Bernard Shaw and other Essays* encompassed the lives and works of some of the most distinguished English poets not well known to the Serbian public at that time. His comparative study of Milton and Njegoš, among others, contributed to the greater awareness of connections between the literary cultures of Serbia and England.

Appointed Associate Professor in 1938, Popović was the driving force behind the Department. Believing that students should have the opportunity to develop all their abilities, he organised sports clubs and a dramatic society. Following a request from students in 1932, a debating society was formed at the student halls of residence. He was also concerned about the welfare of students, many of whom had to work to earn money, which impacted on their studies. He arranged excursions for students, usually at the end of the summer term, including a trip to England in July 1939. The Department's Student Society organised many cultural events, one of the most significant marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Byron. In addition to his teaching and academic work at the University, he also gave many public lectures presenting principal British authors to audiences in Belgrade and at cultural centres across the country. He was a member of many international organisations, including the PEN club, the International Student Service and the World Association for Adult Education.

In 1941, when Germany attacked Yugoslavia, people well known for their support of English culture were among the first victims of the occupying forces.

This included Popović and Mary Stansfield-Popović. He was sent to the infamous concentration camp in Dachau, and his wife to an internment camp in Liebnau. Although both survived the war, Vladeta Popović's health was destroyed, and he died soon afterwards in 1951.

Vladeta Popović's work in the development of English studies in Serbia has been of significant value and he has bequeathed a lasting legacy. As founder of the first Department of English Language and Literature he lay the ground for the systematic studies of English culture.

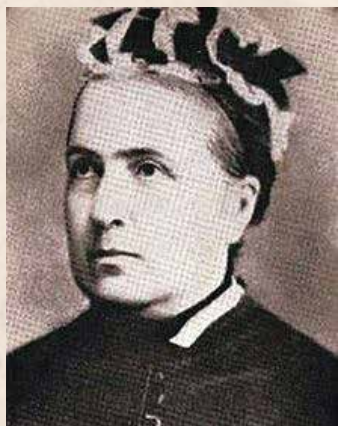
His teaching, academic research, public lectures, and his success in international collaboration set an example that was cherished by all his colleagues and students. His work was continued by his widow and by his students who continued their studies and took up lecturing positions in the Department.

Maya Atkinson

British Friends of Serbia

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

Adeline Paulina Irby (1831-1911)



In the 19th century the most popular Briton among Serbs, apart from Gladstone, was Adeline Paulina Irby (1831–1911), better known as 'Miss Irby'. She and Georgina Muir Mackenzie (1833–1874) had written an influential travelogue in 1866, *Travel in Slavic Provinces of Turkey-in Europe*, describing how Christian Slavs lived in the Ottoman Empire.

In 1866 she also established a school for Christian girls in Sarajevo as she was very much saddened by the utter illiteracy of Christian girls in Bosnia. She was originally assisted in her endeavours by Georgina Muir Mackenzie, her co-author and fellow traveller.

She made huge humanitarian efforts to help Bosnian Serb refugees during the Eastern Crisis of 1875-78. To assist refugee children, she established dozens of schools in Slavonia and then in the area of Knin, with her new associate Pricilla Johnston (1841–1912), with whom she worked until 1885. Miss Irby's biographer called the two ladies 'the angels of mercy'. Together with Pricilla Johnston she was seen by British women as one of the leaders of the Agitation of 1876 in favour of Balkan Christians. Miss Irby's appeals resulted in the collection of £60,000, 'enabling her to organise a comprehensive system of relief in the most stricken and inaccessible districts'. Thousands of lives of starving Serbian refugees from Bosnia were saved thanks to the efforts of these two women.

Together with her associate Pricilla Johnston she was seen by British women as one of the leaders of the Agitation of 1876 in favour of Balkan Christians. Her numerous letters to *The Times* and *The Daily News* indeed helped the cause of the Agitation.

After the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1878) she returned to Sarajevo and re-established her school. It provided several levels of education, the highest of which was the preparation of future female teachers. The school operated until her death in 1911. Her school was imbued with Serbian national feelings and girls were taught to be good Orthodox Christians. The school annoyed Austro-Hungarian authorities in Bosnia and it was only her influential family connections and friendship with Gladstone and other British dignitaries that prevented the authorities of the Habsburg Empire from closing it down. Her school enjoyed financial support from many individuals and organisations from Britain including Gladstone himself; Miss Irby also invested a lot of her own money. Like many other British women involved with the Balkans, Miss Irby was a strong supporter of extending the franchise to women in Britain.

She was so popular among Serbs that her funeral in Sarajevo turned into a pan-Serb gathering with special envoys sent by the Kingdoms of Serbia and Montenegro. R W Seton Watson noted that her name in Serbia became 'a household word'.

Ordinary people called her plemenita ('the noble one') and as Ivo Andrić wrote 'she was known by that name until her death – and after her death'.

Professor S. G. Markovich, University of Belgrade

Serbia and Britain as war allies in the Great War

Against all odds Serbia and Britain found themselves as allies in 1914. During the course of the Great War, Serbia gained increasing admiration from Britain and its people.

a) British doctors and nurses and the emergence of British-Serbian friendship

Serbia's unexpected successful resistance to Austro-Hungarian armies in the autumn of 1914 made a huge impression in Britain. The British were alarmed when news of poor sanitary conditions and epidemics in Serbia reached them. The typhus epidemic peaked in the first months of 1915 when almost 400,000 people contracted the disease and at least 160,000 died from it. The small medical staff available in Serbia (some 450 doctors) was no match for the epidemic. Foreign medical missions came to assist. By March 1915, there were 14 foreign medical missions: 6 British, 4 American, 3 Russian and 1 Greek. Sixty-four per cent of the personnel were British, with the biggest contingent coming from Scotland.

Assistance came via the British Red Cross Society, the Serbian Relief Fund Committee (SRF) and the Scottish Women's Hospitals Committee (SWHC) based in Edinburgh. The SWHC consisted largely of suffragists and suffragettes who were in bitter dispute with the British government over female suffrage. The Serbian and French governments accepted their assistance which had previously been rejected by the British government. The first unit of the SWHC arrived in Serbia at the end of 1914.

By June 1915, there were 17 British medical missions in Serbia (including 4 SWH and 5 SRF) with over one thousand foreign medical workers. The British medical units brought hundreds of tons of medical equipment, materials and medication. Thanks to the efforts of the missions, thousands of lives were saved. In April 1915 a hospital was established in Serbia by Mrs St. Clair Stobart: by October over 20,000 patients had been treated.

It is impossible to name all those who deserve recognition, but they include Dr Elsie Inglis (1864–1917), Dr Isabel Emslie Galloway Hutton (1887–1960), Dr Elizabeth Ross (1878–1915), Dr Grace Eleanor Soltau, the Hon. Mrs Evelina Haverfield (1867–1920) and Dr Katherine S MacPhail (1887–1974).



A crucial role was played by the previous British minister in Belgrade, Sir Ralph Paget. In April 1915 he was appointed commissioner for all the British medical units in Serbia; he was also the chairman of the International Commission for the Prevention of Typhus Epidemics in Serbia. The British War Office sent the special British Military Medical Mission headed by Colonel Hunter. His arrival in Niš in March 1915 'represented the beginning of the systematic, well organised and led efforts'. The wife of Sir Ralph Paget, Lady Paget, was instrumental in securing humanitarian aid and initiated the opening of a sanatorium and an orphanage.

British nurses became a symbol of the Serbian-British alliance during the Great War. Forty lost their lives in Serbian war zones or on the Salonika/Macedonian Front. It was Dr Elsie Inglis who, together with Lady Paget, became the personification of the British-Serbian alliance. She is remembered both as a humanitarian worker who died helping Serbs and other Allies and as an advocate of women's rights. She was the founder of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (SWH) staffed by women only. She left for Serbia in the spring of 1915 to serve as the commissioner of the SWH units. The SWH established hospitals in Kragujevac, Mladenovac, Lazarevac and Valjevo, and Dr Inglis soon earned the nickname 'Serbian Mother from Scotland'. Her repeated courage meant that she was the first woman to be decorated with the Order of the White Eagle by Prince Regent Alexander. In February 1916 she returned to Britain and took an active part in the preparations to celebrate the Kossovo Day in Britain in June-July 1916. Dr Elsie Inglis died on 26 November 1917 and was mourned by Serbian soldiers, diplomats and the royal family.

Besides doctors and nurses, several women from Britain and its Empire excelled in military activities. Flora Sandes (1876–1956) was the only British woman to reach the rank of a military petty officer and take part in active combat during the Great War. In April 1916 she was given the rank of sergeant in the Serbian Army. She was wounded during the Serbian offensive on Bitolj/Monastir, for which she received the Karageorge Star with Swords in November 1916, and automatically awarded the rank of sergeant-major. In June 1919 she received the rank of second lieutenant and thus became the first female to become an officer in the Serbian/Yugoslav Army. Finally, in

September 1926 she became a reserve captain in the Yugoslav Army. Another sergeant in the Serbian Army was Olive Kelso King (1885–1958), an Australian woman who joined the Scottish Women's Hospitals in mid-1915. A year later she became an ambulance driver for the Serbian Army. She received eight British and Serbian military decorations and was engaged together with her father, Sir George Kelso King, in post-war relief work in Serbia.

The contribution of these British humanitarian workers made a strong impression on Serbia and even a century later street names, busts and memorial plaques (as well as postage stamps) are a testament to their work.

b) Visit of Prince Regent Alexander to London in April 1916 and the celebration of the Kossovo Day

Sympathy for Serbia was turned into admiration in the autumn of 1915 with Serbia's Flag Day. During the Great War some allied nations were celebrated in Britain by their 'flag days'. It was an occasion for British relief agencies to collect funds to assist the population of Britain's allies. The Serbian Flag Day was held on 22 September 1915 and three million flags were sold. Father Nikolai Velimirovich said, 'It was a real joy for me to look at everybody in London, in the Centre of the World, with a Serbian flag on the breast. A few years ago nobody in this great town did know even that there is a nation with the name "Serbs". What a change.'

Further evidence of Serbia's increasing esteem in British eyes was the official visit of Prince Regent Alexander to London in 1916, which exceeded all expectations. On 1 April *Times* wrote 'the reception accorded the Crown Prince outside the station was magnificent, and no foreign visitor has been more warmly received'. Although not a reigning monarch, the British King as a 'special mark of friendliness' received the Prince at 'the earliest possible moment'.

Pro-Serbian euphoria reached its climax during 'Kossovo Day in Britain'. The Kossovo Day Committee was established in the first months of 1916 with the idea of marking the Kossovo Day in Britain 'as a tribute to the heroism of the Serbians' since they could not celebrate it in Serbia due to its occupation by the Central Powers. The main initiators of the Committee were Dr Elsie Inglis and R W Seton-Watson. The Committee included two Serbian members (father Nikolai Velimirovich and Milan Ćurčin). A shop was opened at 50 Parliament Street, Whitehall, where people could buy pamphlets and other materials. The Kossovo Day celebrations were synchronised with similar celebrations in France.

On 25 June and 2 July services were held in several Church of England churches. On 2 July, father Nikolai Velimirovich delivered an address at St. Margaret's, Westminster. A 'Solemn Memorial Service for all the Serbs and British who have laid down their lives for the Allies' cause in Serbia' was held on 7 July at St. Paul's Cathedral. Posters advertising the service were placed all around London with the heading, 'Think of Serbia, Pray for Serbia, Restore Serbia'. The same message appeared in various newspapers. The congregation at St. Paul's was addressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and included the British Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, ambassadors and humanitarian workers. The emotional climax of the service was the singing of the Serbian anthem by 300 Serbian boys. 'It reminded the congregation that if that hymn were sung in the St. Paul's in England to-day it was because it could not be sung in the land of which it expressed the aspirations.'



The educational element of the celebration included inviting British schools to take part in the celebration of the Kossovo Day. More than twelve thousand British schools sent positive replies. In most of these schools a specially written address by R W Seton-Watson entitled 'Serbia, Yesterday, To-day, and Tomorrow' was read out. Twenty-five thousand copies were published. Additionally, many films, lectures, meetings and exhibitions were organised all around Britain. Leading London theatres played the Serbian national anthem and 30,000 copies of the anthem were printed. The University of Oxford organised a special lecture on 22 June, followed by a special public meeting four days later.

The celebrations provoked such interest that the specially prepared pamphlets had to be printed in huge numbers. 50,000 copies of Seton-Watson's pamphlet Serbia's War of Liberation were printed and 85,000 copies of the Kossovo Day Circular. The Committee ensured that the events were covered by all leading British media and subsequent press cuttings included 408 items from all around Britain. The 1917 and 1918 celebrations of the Kossovo Day were more moderate.

c) Cultural envoys posted to Britain

The Serbian Government also endeavoured to influence British public opinion. On 13 May 1915 Prime Minister Pashich informed his Minister Plenipotentiary in London that he was sending envoys to Britain and explained the nature of the mission: 'England is the state where I believe the most energetic action needs to be organised both for the sake of informing the public about our country, its needs, characteristics, wishes and hopes, and for the sake of working on the realisation of our unification with the Croats and Slovenes. This is the kind of work that demands many and very different forces.' For this purpose, the Serbian Government financed the stay of several cultural envoys in Britain during the war. They included three prominent intellectuals: Professor Pavle Popović, Professor Bogdan Popović and father Nikolai Velimirovich.

Pavle Popović was particularly diligent and was entrusted with supplying the British press with Enemy Extracts, summaries of what the press of the Central Powers wrote about occupied Serbia. He also delivered a series of lectures and published many articles on Serbia.

The most successful promoter of Serbia in Britain was father Nikolai Velimirovich. He became an immensely popular preacher and had the honour of delivering two sermons at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1917 and 1919.

Another person who contributed greatly to promoting Serbia and the Yugoslav cause was the Croatian sculptor from Dalmatia, Ivan Meštrović. He was described by the British press as 'The Serbian Rodin' and 'The Prophet of Serbian Renaissance'.

His exhibitions in London led to exceptionally favourable impressions of him, of Serbia and of the future Yugoslav state.

d) The United Kingdom and the Salonika (Macedonian) Front

Serbian and British soldiers spent two and half years together on the Salonika Front, which fostered mutual respect and understanding of each other's cultures. British humanitarian organisations, churches and individuals were unequivocal in their efforts to support both Serbian soldiers on the Salonika Front and Serbian PoWs who were held in prisoner camps of the Central Powers. Help from Britain was often the only assistance they received. In addition to hospital staff from Britain, stationary hospitals were also established on the Salonika Front by New Zealand and Canada. Serbian soldiers also received aid, including clothes, medication, books and prayer-books specifically prepared for them by the Church of England. It is precisely this huge humanitarian assistance and financial support from the British people, unconnected to any long-term economic interests 'that gives Great Britain a special place among Serbia's Allies'.

At the Salonika Front Serbs came into contact with many British associations, journalists and humanitarian workers. The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) made contact with Serbian soldiers on the Front and provided facilities to Serbian Orthodox military chaplains to hold services. It also organised lectures and parties for Serbian soldiers and distributed free books. The YMCA also supported Serbian schoolboys and students who were in Britain during the war.

The two main pro-Serbian and pro-Yugoslav organisations in Great Britain during the Great War were the Serbian Relief Fund (SRF) and the Serbian Society of Great Britain (SSGB).

On 23 September 1914 the Serbian Relief Fund was established by Sir Valentin Chirol, Sir Arthur Evans and RW Seton-Watson. The Bishop of London accepted the presidency of the SRF and in January 1915 Queen Mary agreed to become its patroness. At the same time, Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, the First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill, as well as the leader of the opposition Bonar Law became its vice-presidents.

The Serbian Relief Fund provided huge humanitarian aid to Serbia, including 5 medical units during the typhus epidemic. A sixth unit was sent to Corfu in 1916 and then transferred to the Salonika/Macedonian Front in September 1916. The Fund was also involved in organising celebrations for the Kossovo Day in 1916. It also provided assistance to the Serbs who had survived the retreat through Albania in the autumn of 1915, remembered by Serbs as 'Albanian Golgotha' when thousands of soldiers and many youngsters lost their lives during the retreat or died of exhaustion in its aftermath.

The Serbian Ministry of Education and Government decided to send young men of school and early university age to complete their education in Entente and neutral countries. Some were exempted from military service. The largest groups went to France; by mid-March 1916 there were 3,000 Serbian schoolchildren and students in France, and by the end of the war 3,286 (including 100 girls). The Serbian Relief Fund also arranged for Britain to accept more than 350 Serbian schoolboys and students to continue their schooling and university studies in Britain.

A special sub-committee for Serbian Children was formed and Gertrude Carrington Wilde, a British Catholic, was its driving force. She secured a Treasury grant from the British Government to finance a programme of Serbian educational hostels throughout Britain. The Serbian schoolboys and students who benefitted from the scheme remember her as 'srpska majka' (the mother of the Serbs).



The 352 Serbian boys were accepted by British schools and universities in England, Scotland and Wales. They were placed in 16 British cities and towns: 9 in England (Birmingham, Cambridge, Leeds, London, Maidenhead, Manchester, Oxford, Ramsgate, and Reading), 4 in Scotland (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow) and 3 in Wales (Aberystwyth, Bangor and Cardiff). The main groups stayed in Oxford and Cambridge; by November 1917 there were 40 Serbian schoolboys in Oxford and 42 in Cambridge.

In October 1918, with the assistance of the National Brotherhood Council, a philanthropist organisation of Nonconformists, 97 Serbian orphans came to Britain. A new home for them was located in Faversham, Kent. They stayed there for three years until 1921. A further 70 boys and girls from Serbia found refuge in Britain and were assisted by the War Refugees Committee. This means that the number of Serbian students, schoolboys and orphans who came to Britain during the Great War was over 500.

The Serbian Relief Fund continued to operate until 1924. From March 1924 the SRF allowed the transfer of 5.47 million Yugoslav dinars for the construction of 'The English-Serbian Children's Home (Nish)' on the estate of the Monastery of St. Pantaleon. In November 1926 the English-Serbian Children's Home for poor children was opened in Niš, in the presence of Mrs Carrington Wilde.

The SRF raised more than one million pounds for Serbia during the course of the Great War. This is equivalent to around £100 million in 2021. This aid was donated primarily by ordinary citizens, not by the state (although there was occasional assistance). It was primarily a private initiative channelled through the 'British friends of Serbia' and other like-minded individuals and groups. This shows the dedication that had developed throughout the British Empire to assist Serbia.

The Serbian Society of Great Britain (SSGB) was established in September 1916 but was officially inaugurated on 20 October 1916. Its aims were essentially to promote Serbia and the future Yugoslav state. SSGB pointed out that before the war there was 'dangerous ignorance' about many European questions. They claimed that Serbia had equal strategic importance to Britain as Belgium as Serbia was the European gate to the East.

Church aid was primarily channelled through the Church of England, but Cardinal Bourne was also very supportive of Serbian efforts, as well as various Presbyterian and Nonconformist schemes.

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In 1918 Rev. Canon W H Carnegie helped establish 'The Serbian Church Students' Aid Council' with the Archbishop of Canterbury as its president and the Archbishops of York and Dublin as vice-presidents. The aim of the Aid Council was to help 'a certain number of carefully selected Serbian Church students to complete their preparation for ordination at an English university'. By July 1918 the Council was supporting 11 Serbian students at Oxford, and 28 younger seminarians at Cuddesdon College near Oxford. This programme was the result of the activities of father Nikolai Velimirovich, initiated in 1917 through his collaboration with Rev. Leighton Pullan, and endorsed by the Archbishop of Serbia. Some of the prominent figures of the Serbian Orthodox Church after the Great War were among the beneficiaries of this programme; it resulted in a strong Anglophilic line within the Serbian Orthodox Church in the inter-war period.

The Archbishop of Canterbury supported Serbia in many of his sermons and addresses. In late 1917 the Church of England organised the printing of a 104-page Molitvenik (prayer book) in Serbian and Cyrillic. It was 'a gift of members of the Church of England to the Church of Serbia' for the Serbian soldiers on the Salonika Front. *The Times* announced that 10,000 copies of the prayer book were to be sent to Salonika and Corfu.

The names of activists and institutions in Britain and throughout the British Empire (particularly in Australia and Canada) which supported Serbia in 1914–1918 is too long to mention. The same applies to various authors who published books on Serbia. Therefore, one can only agree with the opinion of a subject specialist, that the years of the Great War were 'the period of the closest affinity of the two peoples'.

Extracts from *British – Serbian Relations From the 18th to 21st Centuries*,
Edited by By Professor S. G. Markovich, University of Belgrade
Link to full study <https://www.academia.edu/38612608>

Organisations



**Schools,
institutions,
associations,
networks and
media**

The Round Table

The Round Table network was established some years ago to encourage cooperation and collaboration between Serbian community groups and organisations across the UK and Ireland (UK&I) and to provide a forum to discuss issues of interests and importance to the Serbian community. Over the years the main priorities of the Round Table have been the promotion of the teaching and learning of the Serbian language and Serbian Month, now in its fourteenth year and recognised as being one of the most significant festivals of Serbian arts and culture in the Serbian Diaspora. Other issues the Round Table has addressed includes the organisation of an event to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of NATO's war on Yugoslavia, using the census to help identify the number of Serbs living in the UK, submitting proposals for the use of the proposed Creative Embassy in London and protesting against the disenfranchisement of Serbian voters in Britain in the elections in Serbia. The Round Table has continued with the practice of electing two people to represent the community to, but at the moment there is only one representative, Lazar Vuković. During the pandemic the Round Table has continued to meet virtually and this has enabled more people from outside of London to participate in meetings.

For further information contact the Round Table Steering Group on rtsteering-group@google.com.

Britic



Britic is an online magazine for Serbs in Britain.

We are the editors; Aleks Simić and Stan Smiljanić.

Britic shares stories from our communities here in the UK. We also present a news wall of the very best Serb-interest stories from sources across the world. Our What's On guide is a comprehensive listing of the biggest events in towns and cities nationwide. All of this is available without subscription at www.britic.co.uk.

We are independent of any political affiliation and publish opinion pieces across a wide spectrum of views. Britic is as old as Serbian Month itself, which we regard as a world-class forum for our arts and culture. When we founded the magazine, we wanted to engage our whole community of every generation in a debate about what it means to be a Serb in Britain today. We share opinions and stories about our identity and culture in the hope you can see something of yourself reflected too. We've recently revamped the site - we hope you like it. We'll keep on improving. Once or twice a week we send our eBritic newsletter to thousands of email addresses. We welcome new writing talent and invite anyone to suggest a story.

Just email us at editor@bricit.co.uk.



Serbian Schools

Teaching in the St Sava Church School from September 2021



The Saint Sava Church School in London will celebrate its 60th anniversary in May 2022. Hundreds of pupils have learnt the basics of the Serbian language, Orthodox faith, Serbian culture, history and tradition in the last six decades. The school has been one of the cornerstones of the Serbian community in London.

Following significant changes in education delivery worldwide caused by the current pandemic and also Bishop Dositej's initiative of April 2021, from September 2021 the Church School is offering both in person and online teaching delivery and is operating in both Britain and Ireland. The last couple of years have demonstrated the importance of in-person teaching and it therefore remains the main focus of Saint Sava Church school teaching strategy. Currently in-person teaching is taking place in London and Cork (Ireland), but the intention is to open more classrooms in other cities in Britain and Ireland. For those pupils unable to travel to the classrooms the school is providing online teaching. As more pupils are coming from families where Serbian is not often spoken, the school has established a partnership with Azbukum Centre of Novi Sad, Serbia, which has developed a syllabus suitable for such pupils. It is important to stress that reading and writing in Cyrillic remains the foundation of the school curriculum.

The Saint Sava School is teaching children aged 5 to 12. Complementary to it is the Azbukum course aimed at children 12 to 17 and organised by the Round Table of Serbian Organisations. The school's goal is to expand teaching and learning of Serbian language, religion and culture in all parishes across Britain and Ireland and to work with other related initiatives to offer the best possible educational experience to pupils and their parents.

Parents can enroll their children and get more information about the School by emailing info@spclondon.org.uk or by calling the church office at 020 7727 8367.

Further information

Teaching for children aged 5-12:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRJJ0_AOWVE&t=7s

The Round Table Working Group on the Serbian Language and the Azbukum Centre's Serbian Language courses

The Round Table Working Group was set up to promote the teaching and learning of the Serbian language in Britain, to standardise the way it is taught and to obtain a recognised qualification in Serbian at GCSE and A Level. The Working Group has taken forward these priorities by entering into a partnership with the Azbukum Centre for Serbian Language and Culture in Serbia to deliver their Serbian language courses at beginner, GCSE and A Level. The courses offer qualifications which are accredited by the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and are recognised across Europe and beyond. Students on the course can receive a Certificate of Knowledge of the Serbian Language and Confirmation of Attendance, official documents which can be used for registration at universities in Serbia, and throughout the world or used to show knowledge of Serbian when applying for employment. The programme for learning Serbian as a non-native or second language is designed for students of Serbian heritage aged between 12 and 17 years of age. It is delivered online and so can accept students from across the UK. The programme is delivered over one academic year and is designed to accommodate different linguistic abilities.

For further information contact olga.stanojlovic@btinternet.com.

Visit: <https://serbiancouncil.org.uk/serbian-language/>

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MuyhBkKvJp0>



Dopunska Škola in Great Britain

By joining Serbian organisations, Serbs in Britain maintain connections with their home country, their language, culture and traditions. Also, many try to teach their children Serbian culture, customs and language.

From October 2019, after a break of twenty years and in response to requests from parents, a 'Dopunska Škola' began teaching Serbian once again and is making a significant contribution to the learning of Serbian in Britain. This was made possible thanks to the support of the Serbian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, Science and Technological Development and also the Serbian Embassy in Britain.

The Dopunska Škola's programme of elementary education in the Serbian language began being taught to thirty pupils of Serbian origin with temporary or permanent residence in Britain, whose parents had expressed an interest for this form of teaching. The programme has been successful and the number of pupils increased to 120 in the following cities: Corby, Leicester, Bedford, London, Manchester, Birmingham, Kent, Basingstoke, Bristol, and Windsor.

Classes are conducted both face to face and online and are free of charge. From the start of this school year a distance learning pilot programme for the Diaspora was set up. Its goal is to include students in the education programme for whom it is not possible to set up a viable group due to the small number of students involved and who live too far from an established teaching group. Approximately 13 students will be able to attend distance learning classes taught by Vida Milojković.

There is evident progress being made at all levels.

The school also has a very good relationship with the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia as exemplified by the visit to the school in London by Aleksandra Joksimović, the Serbian Ambassador to Britain. The pupils and parents expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with the school and thanked the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development for re-establishing the programme after twenty years.

Among the numerous activities organized, those that stand out were the ones that met with a great response and a high level of interest and were also covered by the media.

An RTS cross country run was organized for the first time in Great Britain in the 2020/2021 school year.

During extracurricular activities each student designed their own T-shirt, including the name of the school and the venue on the front and their name and number on the back. A good atmosphere and competitive spirit marked this event.



**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

The end of the calendar year was marked by a one-hour New Year's show performed by the school's students. The magical journey with Santa Claus was welcomed by many delighted parents, friends and relatives. In keeping with tradition, Santa Claus distributed presents to the children.

We also celebrated birthdays.



The Saint Sava's Academy will soon take place and will be celebrated with a live performance.

Thanks to the funds of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the school will be able to create its first library collection, helping students to become more familiar with their Serbian cultural heritage.

Cooperation with schools and organizations in Serbia has continued, which contributes to pupils' integration into the Serbian national milieu.



The school collaborates with the charity organization Raymond Nicolet Trust.

RNT raises funds for children in Serbia who need help.

The pride of our programme lies with our pupils who in addition to their normal commitments are completing the work set by the 'Dopunska skola'. The pupils gladly learn the Serbian language and are interested in the history, culture and traditions of Serbia.

Srpskaonica School in Reading

"Srpskaonica" is a Serbian language school for children from Berkshire or nearby areas. The school was established in 2013 and classes are held in Reading. It was founded, first and foremost, to meet the growing need for children of the Serbian community in Berkshire to learn as much as possible about the language, culture and tradition of their native country. This goes hand in hand with the wish to work together to contribute to the preservation of our national identity in the UK. Children attending the school are usually between the ages of 5-16. Classes are organized in 4 groups, mainly based on the age of the children. Lessons were taught online during the pandemic and this continues to be the case for some groups but others are now being taught face to face.

For more information about the school and its day-to-day activities, please follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/srpskaonica>.



Serbian School at the Church of the Holy Trinity Bradford

From the early days the community of West Yorkshire recognised the importance of teaching their children the Serbian language, culture and history. Supplementary classes were taught in Bradford from the 1950s.

Parents are invited to bring their children to our Sunday school which runs every second Sunday in the church hall school room from 11.00-12.30. We have children from 4 years upwards. We learn a combination of: Cyrillic, Serbian vocabulary, history and faith. If you would like any further information or are interested in joining us, you can contact us on the following:

Parish priest, Father Zarko Nedic 07768 582251
Teacher, Dr Marija Krlic 0791 3652166

Oxford Church School

At the beginning of the school year in October 2018 the Church School in Oxford re-opened on the initiative of Bishop Dositej. The school operates under the auspices of the Oxford Parish Council, and thanks to the unselfish hard work and of the school co-ordinators, Mr Bojan Prodanović and Mr Dušan Parojčić, with the enthusiastic support of Otac Stefan, after he took over from Otac Nikola when he retired.

When the school restarted there were over twenty students, of various ages and different levels of knowledge of the Serbian language. In the 2019/20 school year there were 11 students, divided into three age groups – pre-school, first year and third year. They were taught by two dedicated teachers, Dobrila Kostić and Mirjana Lazić, supported by parents who act as teaching assistants when they can.

The school has remained closed during the pandemic but hopes to re-open for the next academic year.

If you are interested in your children attending this school please contact Dušan Parojčić 07872 575-202 or Bojan Prodanović 07838 084-101.

Azbooka Education Centre, Redhill Surrey

Azbooka Education Centre aims to promote and teach Serbian and other South Slavic languages, literatures and cultures that emerged from Serbo-Croatian Language and a geographical region of former Yugoslavia. Whilst respecting our differences, we aim to work on our linguistic and cultural similarities that connect us.

We offer online sessions via Zoom application to small groups or to individuals. Our 45 minutes long lessons provide students with exciting and varied content, including ekavian and ijekavian variants of the language, cyrillic and latin alphabet, extensive, dual vocabulary, phrases, clear grammatical explanations and rigorous language drill with homework included. This approach ensures that our students, across UK, Europe and USA, receive an inclusive, enriching learning experience, as well as solid knowledge and ability to speak and understand Serbian language and its variants. Tuition and materials are tailored to meet individual needs of our students and adapted to their age and pace of learning.

We welcome all language learners, but especially beginners and learners of Serbian as a Foreign Language. Our groups do not exceed four students. The first session is free and the fee for following tuition sessions starts from £5-£20, depending on number of students. Sessions are conducted on Saturdays at times agreed with students. Fees are payable either half termly or on pay as you go basis via UK bank transfer.

On Saturdays, at 1pm, UK time, we offer conversation sessions FREE OF CHARGE to those who would like to practice speaking with the other students. We aim to provide a variety of educational and cultural topics, including literature, tradition, customs, music or films, for those who want to practice and expand knowledge of the language and region.

Contact us via Azbooka Education Centre FB page or via our website contact page if you are interested in learning with us and for further details.

Email: info@azbookaeducationcentre.com
Phone number: 07815901156



Find out more, including examples of our lessons for different levels at the website below or use the contact page to get in touch: <https://azbookaeducationcentre.com/>.

The Saint Sava church choir

The Saint Sava church choir was established in 1952 through an initiative of Mrs Maria Rozdyanko. She had been conducting the choir until 1968. Mr Djordje Neshic took over the role for a short period after Mrs Rozdjanko had left. When he moved from London, Mrs Milica Jović became the conductor. From 1983 to 2006, the St Sava choir was led by Mrs Aleksandra Sasha Smiljanić. Her family has been the backbone of the choir for all these years. Mrs Bratislava Barac-Djukić was in charge from 2006 until 2012. Her expertise and hard work improved the choir's repertoire and they recorded their first CD during that period. The St Sava choir is currently led by Zorka Maksimović.

Despite all the changes in members, the choir has been active for more than 60 years, with the same aim: to sing during St Liturgies, and to help priests together with the faithful to praise Our Lord. Today, the choir has 7 members and sings on Sunday Liturgies.

A regular practice session is on Friday at 7pm at 89 Lancaster Road, London, W11 1QQ. We currently seek experienced, musically-trained male singers. For all additional information you can contact Zorka Maksimović after the Liturgy or by sending an email to crkva@spclondon.org.uk.



Folklore



Folklore Ensembles Rastko and Nemanja

The Folklore Ensemble Rastko had its origins in the St. Sava Orthodox Church in London aims to bring young people together to nurture folk dancing, which is an important part of the rich cultural tradition of the Serbian people.

During its existence Rastko has achieved great success in Britain as well as in Europe, Canada, America and Australia by performing at various celebrations and festivals.

Rastko participated in the European Folk Dance Festival in Banja Luka in May 2018 and celebrated an important and significant 35th Anniversary in November 2018. In addition to preserving, nurturing and promoting the growth of folk dancing, Rastko achieves what it does by hard work and practises every Sunday from 3pm for children from 6 and over.

The "Nemanja" ensemble is part of the church of "St. Sava" in London and aims to bring together adults who like to dance and socialize. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday nights. "Nemanja" performs regularly at various celebrations and events, nurturing and keeping alive our folk dances that have deep roots in our tradition. If you love dancing and want to learn, please join us. All are welcome!

For further information, please contact the choreographer and director Mrs. Nada Grkinić on 07984247963.



Folklore Group Oplenac

Oplenac has continuously performed for 74 years with different generations of dancers, the ensemble has grown to include members from four more cities including Birmingham, Leicester, Bedford and Derby. The current generation of Oplenac have been performing for over 20 years, and will be celebrating their 20th anniversary this year on Saturday 25th June 2022 at the Vidovdan celebrations in Peterborough. Although our members were born in Britain, their roots stem from Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia and of course Britain. We have endeavoured to keep our traditions alive through our folklore, consequently Oplenac has a wide repertoire which includes dances from Serbia, Vojvodina & Macedonia to Vlaška and Pirot.

Facebook page:
Folklorna grupa Oplenac – Engleska





Folklore Ensemble 'St. Eliah' Corby

The folklore ensemble 'St. Eliah' Corby gathers all those who are interested in nurturing Serbian customs and traditions, therefore enabling the development of creativity in the field of art and culture.

Over the years we have performed in many towns here in England, including Serbian events as well as taking part in charity and competition events here in Corby. Also our groups have performed in Disneyland Paris and in Thessaloniki Greece where they had a great and unforgettable experience. Anyone interested, of any age is welcome to join us.

We also opened a web page with Local Giving for gift aid donations to our organisation www.localgiving.com/serbiandance.



The Circle of Serbian Sisters Kosovo Maiden – London

The Circle of Serbian Sisters, in London, works with dedication and selfless nobility to fulfill its mission, inspired by benevolence and selfless giving. We work relentlessly and diligently to encourage the good in people. Through our charitable work, over the last fifty years, we have raised significant funds for various worthwhile causes – our people in Serbia, the Republika Srpska, Kosovo and Metohija, our children, the old and helpless, also our Church, Church school, folklore group 'Rastko' as well as the people of our Diocese.

Guided by respect for our national traditions, language, customs, and national identity, we have spread our orthodox faith and spirit among the population through support for other churches and monasteries, especially the Saint Sava Cathedral, Vracar, where the name of our Circle is carved on the endowment plaque. The Circle now has about seventy members, most of whom are elderly retired ladies. We would like to encourage younger ladies to join and continue with this worthwhile charitable work.

The Circle of Serbian Sisters is keen to build 'bridges' with other Serbian organisations and societies to work together on shared initiatives for the benefit of the Serbian people. This will enable us to attract new and younger members. This joint cooperation would do much to promote all our organisations and societies through sharing experiences. This would do much to safeguard our traditions and address the strategic issues facing our community in the UK.

For further information contact us and write to kss@spclondon.org.uk.



**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

Srpska Biblioteka u Londonu – The Serbian Library in London

Since 2011 our collection of books in the Serbian language has been an integral part of the International Collection of books at the Fulham Library; it has now been enriched with new books from Narodna biblioteka u Beogradu and the complete collection of Harry Potter books in the Serbian language, a gift from the J.K. Rowling's office.

Our events and face to face activities have been restricted since the Covid pandemic started, but we have held online presentations and Zoom meetings which are available to be watched on the website: www.theserbianlibraryinlondon.co.uk. These include videos of talks about The Serbian Written Cultural Heritage Through Centuries, also discussions with authors at the Mini Book Fair last year and some other events. We invite all people interested in our literature to contact us serbianlibrary@gmail.com.

Srpska biblioteka u Londonu je osnovana 2010. godine a 13. januara 2015. godine je registrovana kao neprofitna organizacija (9386650). Sedište biblioteke kao stalne kolekcije srpskih knjiga i dela iz srpske književnosti je u Fulham biblioteci i čini deo svetske literature biblioteka sa opštine Hammersmith i Fulham. Vlasnik knjiga je Srpska Biblioteka u Londonu a administracija, izdavanje i prijem knjiga su obaveza LBHF biblioteka. Ova saradnja je uspešna i predstavlja jedinstven dogovor između LBHF biblioteka i jedne lokalne organizacije Srpske biblioteke u Londonu.

Vesna Petković, osnivač i Olga Gaković ko-osnivač su bile prvi direktori i odbor Srpske biblioteke u Londonu. Olga Gaković (+2018), advokat iz Beograda je bila i pisac i pesnik. Srpska biblioteka organizuje godišnji mini sajam knjiga svake poslednje subote u februaru i dodeljuje nagrade pobednicima godišnjeg konkursa za Poeziju i Prozu. Gosti sajma su renomirani pisci i pesnici.

Eighth Annual Memorial Service for Women in Foreign Medical Missions in Serbia during the Great War



Since 2014 we have been organising annual memorial services for women in foreign medical missions, who risked and sacrificed their lives in Serbia and other fronts during the Great War.

Centenary celebrations mainly commemorated battles of the Western Front leaving some nations, fronts, heroes and heroines almost forgotten. The annual memorial services for the unsung heroines of the Great War, held at the St Sava Church are unique events in Britain.

In their desire to help the war effort and prove their worthiness thousands of British women, undeterred by the government's decision to keep them far from the front line, joined the British Red Cross, Royal Army Medical Corps, Scottish Women's Hospitals, V.A.D.s, Mabel Stobart's units, St. John's Ambulance units and other organisations. They found themselves in the middle of the worst war tragedies and many died. Memorials and graves scattered across Europe (particularly in Serbia) are a constant reminder of their heroism and determination.

We remember those women who sacrificed their lives during the Great War, those buried in Kragujevac, Valjevo, Niš, Bajina Bašta... and those who continued to support the Serbs after the war ended, like Katherine MacPhail, Evelina Haverfield, Isabel Emslie Hutton and Lady Paget.

We also remember Serbian women who put themselves in harm's way for their country and to ease the suffering of its people. Soldiers, like Milunka Savić, Vasilija Vukotić or Sofija Jovanović, who fought together with Flora Sandes and doctors and nurses, like famous painter Nadežda Petrović, who died of typhus in Valjevo in 1915 or Draginja Babić, one of the first Serbian women doctors, who died in Valjevo in February 1915, almost on the same day as Dr Elizabeth Ross and Madge Neil Fraser.

The histories of these brave, determined and altruistic women from Britain and Serbia are woven closely together. We will always remember them.

For more information please contact Zvezdana Popovic: zvezdana15@hotmail.co.uk.

Organisations



The Serbian Council of Great Britain

The Serbian Council of Great Britain (SCGB) was founded in 2004 as an independent, not for profit and non-political organisation to promote the interests of the Serbian community in Great Britain by:

- Co-operating with other Serbian diaspora organisations in Great Britain and worldwide.
- Assisting members of the Serbian community to maintain and develop ties with Serbia and other territories with Serbian historical and cultural heritage.
- Promoting good relations between the Serbian community and wider British society.
- Raising awareness of Serbian culture, history and heritage within the Serbian community and amongst the wider British public.
- Representing and promoting the interests of the Serbian community in Britain to governmental and non-governmental organisations in Serbia and in Britain.

We have focused our efforts on projects which deliver these aims and objectives. We have played a significant role in establishing and maintaining the Round Table which encourages cooperation between Serbian community organisations in Britain. Through the Round Table Working Group on the Serbian Language we have played a leading role in promoting the teaching and learning of the Serbian language in Britain and manage the partnership with the Azbukum Centre for Serbian Language and Culture in Serbia. This partnership allows us to offer courses with a recognised qualification at beginner, GCSE and A level, for older learners from across the UK since the courses are taught online.

In collaboration with the Serbian Society and Serbian City Club we started Serbian Month which is now in its fourteenth year and has grown into the largest festival of Serbian culture in the Serbian Diaspora. We initiated the idea of a Serbian Month Catalogue to accompany the festival to provide a history of the Serbs in Britain and celebrate prominent British Serbs and their contribution to Britain and Serbia. During the pandemic we operated virtually and used this as an opportunity to develop new initiatives and attract audiences from across Britain and beyond.

For further information about SCGB contact: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk or visit www.serbiancouncil.org.uk





Serbian City Club

Team

Ivan Miletić, Igor Becić, Miloš Stefanović, Jelena Krzanicki, Slavjana Ulph, Nataša Kočiš

The Serbian City Club is a not-for-profit apolitical organisation established to promote interests of Serbian professionals in the UK, Serbia and worldwide through networking and speaker events.

The Serbian City Club was founded in the late 1990's by a handful of enthusiastic Serbs working in London's financial institutions. Their idea was to bring to life an informal club that would gather young Serbian professionals who live and work in the UK. Since 2004, our membership base has increased steadily and today the Club is over 2000 strong.

Our members are mainly London-based and work in all walks of professional life as scientists, doctors, bankers, engineers, lecturers, civil servants, etc. in renowned British and global institutions. A typical Club member is characterised by a high level of education and cultural awareness which, tied with their linguistic skills, ensures their seamless integration into British society. Whilst retaining strong links with their families and friends in Serbia, with a view of transferring their knowledge, skills and experience, they strengthen Serbia's European identity and its key role in the Balkans.

With this in mind, our main project is one of 'circular migration' through which we are enabling Serbian professionals to return to Serbia. We provide professional career guidance and we aim to match the needs of the employers in Serbia with the potential candidates in our database in the UK and around the world. Finally, we also offer specialised advocacy services on a variety of issues relating to our members.

The Serbian City Club regularly organises networking events in London and in Belgrade thus enabling continued contact amongst the existing members and an opportunity to welcome new ones. Since 2020, Club has created a stream of live and recorded Zoom events in order to keep the membership base engaged.

www.serbiancityclub.org



The Serbian Society



The Serbian Society is a member organisation based in Fulham, registered as a charity on 21 September 1995.

The aim of the Society is to work for the wellbeing and advancement of the Serbian community in London and the wider UK, and to enhance the pride of being Serbian in our multi-ethnic society.

The objective is also to present our community, its intellectual and other achievements and culture, to encourage a better understanding of the Serbian national minority.

We organise events which promote Serbian culture and art and we participate and contribute to social gatherings and events organised by other communities.

We welcome any new ideas that you might have and would be very happy to make them happen. We also welcome any new members, volunteers and donations to help us with our future work.

We are proud to announce that on 21st September 2020 the Serbian Society turned 25, however, due to the current Covid situation birthday celebrations have been postponed until better times and when opportunities allow.

For further information about the Serbian Society contact office@serbiansociety.org.uk or visit www.serbiansociety.org.uk

Committee Members
The Serbian Society London

The British Serbian Chamber of Commerce



The British Serbian Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) has promoted and facilitated trade and investment between the United Kingdom and Serbia and represented the views of the business communities in both countries for over a decade. While the past year has been a challenging one, it has also been a period of great productivity at the BSCC. It has been very encouraging to see the BSCC membership grow, as both Serbian and British businesses look to take advantage of future opportunities. We have welcomed several new members this year, British and Serbian, large and small, and we are now in our strongest position for many years. In 2022, we hope to see more new members, but equally ensure that all members recognise the benefits of being part of the Chamber.

Alongside membership growth, we have focussed on providing our members with all the information we can regarding Brexit and its impact on UK-Serbian trade. Through webinars and events, we have endeavoured to help businesses remain as productive, secure and efficient as possible. In addition, we have been involved in schemes such as the UK TechProsperity Bridge Competition in partnership with the UK Department for International Trade. The scheme helps start-up companies through providing seminars, events and (for the winners of the competition) assistance in entering the UK market.

We look forward to continuing this productivity in 2022, with further growth and revitalisation of economic activity.

If you are interested in learning more about our organisation go to: BSCC (britserbcham.com). For membership enquiries go to BSCC | Become a member (britserbcham.com), or for general enquiries go to BSCC | Contact Us (britserbcham.com). For regular updates on the BSCC go to our LinkedIn or our Twitter and subscribe to our fortnightly newsletter.

British-Serbian Medical Association

Originally founded as the British-Yugoslav Medical Association, the first meeting of the Association was held on 16 December 2000. It was initiated by a group of Serbian doctors in the aftermath of the tragic civil war years in former Yugoslavia, and the subsequent sanctions and NATO military campaign against Serbia.



The Association's goals are to help medical professionals in Serbia and Montenegro to re-establish their position in the world medical community and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between medical professionals in Serbia and the UK.

Achievements of the Association over the years include multiple exchanges of doctors and nurses between Serbia and the UK, bursaries for young doctors and nurses from Serbia for educational study in the UK, sponsoring renowned UK lecturers to participate in medical meetings in Serbia, sending medical journals and medical equipment to hospitals in Serbia, organising charity events and other similar projects.

The Association has grown in strength over the years and the number of active members has risen to between 50 and 100. Members are not only doctors and nurses but also allied medical professionals – psychologists, dentists, pharmacists and biologists. The Association continues to be open to medical professionals from all over former Yugoslavia with no boundaries.

However, as the political climate changed, so did the name of the Association, becoming Medicus, and in the last decade the British-Serbian Medical Association (BSMA).

The BSMA, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2020 collaborates with other Serbian organisations in the UK and strives to be a valuable part of Serbian diaspora in this country.

Jasenovac and Holocaust Memorial Foundation



The Jasenovac & Holocaust Memorial Foundation is a UK registered charity which promotes the culture of remembrance of genocides committed in Independent State of Croatia during WW2 against Serbian, Jewish and Roma people.

Our annual event, Holocaust Memorial Day is the opportunity for people from all walks of life to reflect & remember those people who lost their lives; as well as to challenge prejudice, discrimination and hatred in our communities today.

We have successfully delivered lectures to various high schools and universities in the UK and abroad and held lectures in the UK Parliament and US Senate.

If you would like to join us or support our work by sponsoring the Charity, please get in touch with us today. Email info@jhmf.org.uk Tel: 07912 170 866

www.jhmf.org.uk





The Movement of patriots from Serbia and the Diaspora- ROD was initiated by a group of former Diaspora Assembly delegates and Serbian patriots from a number of countries worldwide and within Serbia. The goal of the Movement is to make a difference in the relations between Serbia and Diaspora, in line with the Serbian government`s Declaration which states that such relations are in Serbia`s highest national interest. 4-5 million Serbs living outside Serbia must have their voice heard in the countries where they live and within Serbia. Our knowledge, experience and financial abilities can and must contribute to all matters of importance to Serbia as a country operating in the global environment. The Diaspora must be involved in Serbia's political, economic, social, legal, cultural and educational life, as well as national defence strategies. The Diaspora is a strong factor in keeping Serbian traditions alive and representing Serbia at the highest level in the countries where we live. The Diaspora is the best ambassador for Serbia.

Contact: Zeljko Vranes, CEO Movement ROD, London +44 (0) 7950385217

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

The link between Norwich and Novi Sad was set up almost 60 years ago. In 1960 Norwich was invited to the Yugoslavian Embassy to agree upon a City with which it could be twinned and Novi Sad was chosen. This was a Foreign Office initiative and done through Norwich City Council who were represented by the City Clerk and City Engineer. Student exchanges followed in the late 1960's. Further student visits followed again in the 1970's.

It was felt that twinning between the two countries would flourish more if an Association, based on friendship, was formed. The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association was then formed in 1985. The Association initially had some members who had been part of the former British Yugoslav Society.

The Honorary President of the Association is always the Lord Mayor of Norwich. The Association has been very active in providing a programme of talks, outings, concerts, and other events. There have been several successful holidays based in Novi Sad. Our aim is to promote informal links between people and organisations in Norwich, Norfolk and in Novi Sad and Vojvodina.

Every January there is a concert organised in Norwich, the proceeds of which go to help the Milan Petrovic School for children and young adults with special needs in Novi Sad. The performers for the concert often come from Novi Sad and the surrounding area.

Like Novi Sad, Norwich has many important Churches; two Cathedrals; University of the Arts; the University of East Anglia; Medical School; Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and many Museums and Art Galleries. Norwich also has many Theatres such as the Theatre Royal, the Maddermarket Theatre, the Norwich Playhouse and the Puppet Theatre.

In recognition of the friendship links between the two Cities a bridge was constructed over the River Wensum named the "Novi Sad Friendship Bridge".

The Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad (ASWA)

Udruženje Srpskih Pisaca i Umetnika u Inostranstvu

e-mail: ASWA1951@zen.co.uk

Formed by: Slobodan Jovanović, London 1951

First President: Miloš Crnjanski Current President: Sonja Besford

During 71 years of ASWA's existence we have organised many seminars, lectures, literary evenings and interviews by/with invited Serbian writers. Among many others our guests were: David Albahari, Milan Danajlić, Matija Bećković, Slobodan Selenić, Ivan Lalić, Vida Ognjenović, Vladislav Bajac, Mihajlo Pantić, Predrag Marković... We honoured and commemorated Borislav Pekić's, Miloš Crnjanski and Dusan Puvačić's lives and work. Lately, we interviewed Predrag Slijepčević and Verica Vincent-Cole.

ASWA has published five books in translation from Serbian into English and has assisted in promoting many works published by Serbian writers abroad. Three Serbian writers have blue plaques/memorial stones in London: Dositej Obradović, 27 Clemet's Lane, London EC3; Slobodan Jovanović, junction of Queen's Gate and Cromwell Road, London SW7; Milos Crnjanski, 155 Queen's Court, W2.

We welcome new members, Serbian writers and artists. ASWA has no membership or subscription fees and it is entirely non-profit, private-donation based, organisation.

Pro Art & Co



Pro Art is a non-profit organisation working in the fields of multidisciplinary education, innovation and the development of informal, non-formal and multicultural learning, e.g. about joint European heritage through the engagement of governments, institutions, museums, libraries, theatres and EU funded organisations. Our activities range from cultural to scientific projects, business-related inclusion in talks about e.g. the circular economy and environmental protection. We also work to increase the competence and proactive engagement in active citizenship, gender equality and social inclusion, through collaboration with partners from the UK and other countries. Pro Art is promoting Serbia through European projects with similar themes.

Pro Art & Co je neprofitna organizacija koja radi u oblasti multi-kulturnog obrazovanja, inovacije i razvoja neformalnog, formalnog i multidisciplinarnog učenja o zajedničkom evropskom kulturnom, naučnom i društvenom nasleđu kroz angažovanje vlada, institucija, muzeja, biblioteka, pozorišta i EU fondova. Takođe radimo na učešću inovativne tehnologije u svrhe zaštite životne sredine, uključujući ulogu umetnosti i na socio-kulturnim temama. Naš cilj je kooperacija između partnera i postavljanje protokola i programa koji će na novi način da uključe raznovrsne zajedničke projekte, događanja i programirane kurseve sa našim partnerima. Pro Art radi i na promovisanju Srbije kroz evropske projekte sa sličnim temama.

Pro Art & Co Reg. No 5262487 Plaza 319, 535 Kings Road, London SW10 0SZ
proartandco@gmail.com +44(0)2073517555

Around the Globe Music & Arts



www.agpianomusicfestival.co.uk

AGMA is a not-for-profit company aiming to advance the development of contemporary classical piano music from different parts of the world and strongly supports other forms of music and music education. Based in the UK, it was founded in 2019 by classical pianists and educators Marina Petrov and Maya Jordan, who cooperated for many years on various projects, including running Around the Globe Piano Music Festival in London since 2014.

The organisation pursues its goals to hold public performances and other cultural and educational events open to musicians of all ages and levels, from young amateurs to adult professionals. It aims to bring multicultural diversity through music to the public in the UK and beyond. In its way, Around the Globe Music & Arts hopes to contribute to better cultural understanding, social cohesion and sustainable personal and societal development.

Even in these burdensome and extraordinary times caused by the global pandemic, the organisation is very proactive. It hosted a very successful series of virtual concerts for the last two years, including an international Around the Globe Online Piano Competition for Junior and Adult amateur pianists.

AGMA is managing:

Annual Music Festivals and Piano Competitions

Concerts

Masterclasses

Workshops

Seminars

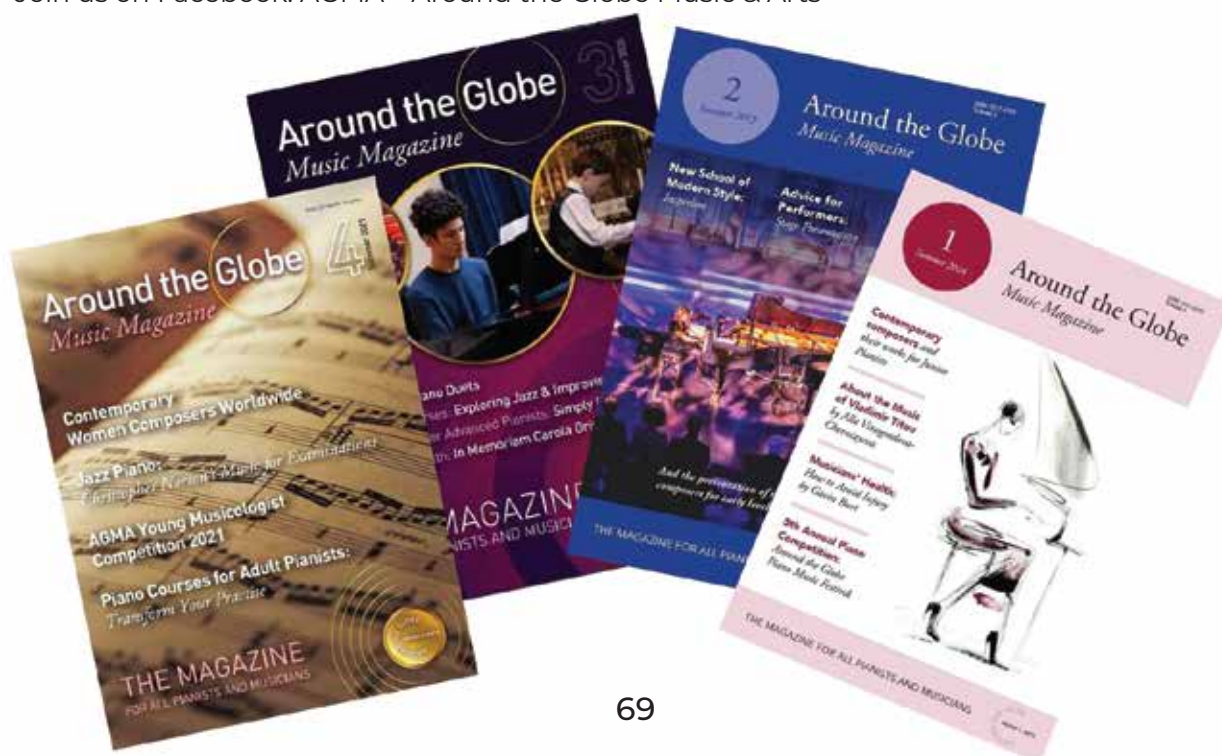
Lectures

Annual Around the Globe Music Magazines and Brochures

Subscribe to AGMA Newsletters: <http://agpianomusicfestival.co.uk/newsletter/>

Join us on Facebook: AGMA – Around the Globe Music & Arts

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain



Liberating Cinema

<http://www.liberatingcinema.org.uk/>

Liberating Cinema is a non-profit charitable organisation committed to the representation, restoration, and exhibition of world cinema heritage. Liberating Cinema runs a regular masterclass series and organises international workshops, conferences, seminars, and symposia. The Liberating Cinema Film Series, present at British Universities since 2015, provides a platform for premiering films and bringing in dialogue filmmakers, industry and academia through a variety of discursive panels and interactive events. On 23 October 2021 Liberating Cinema hosted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Aleksandar of Serbia for Karađorđević: The 110th Anniversary of The First Serbian Feature Film. The organisation has hosted first-time retrospectives and special programmes on Serbian and Yugoslav cinema and is developing original restoration projects for preserving film heritage.

Our charitable purposes are:

- 1) The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science through the representation, restoration and exhibition of world cinema heritage by 1) sustainably sourcing, selecting and obtaining films of world cinema for cultural representation in the UK and beyond; 2) initiating, organising and conducting film restoration projects for the purposes of repairing and preserving cinematic works of cultural importance for world heritage; 3) disseminating the films via programming in local, national and international film series, festivals, museums, national picture houses and theatres, and encouraging distribution through digital, and DVD/Blu-ray platforms.
- 2) The advancement of education by providing an educational platform for premiering films and bringing in dialogue filmmakers, industry and academia with the public through a variety of masterclasses, discursive panels, film festivals, and/or interactive events. The Liberating Cinema Film Series is designated the organisation's major and immediate platform for showcasing the films in Higher Education Institutions.
- 3) The advancement of environmental protection or improvement through the restoration and preservation of the films by appropriating proper environmental conditions for and storage of the films respectively.

Liberating Cinema is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with the charitable number SC049680. The organisation was founded by and is directed by Mina Radović.



The first Liberating Cinema screening: Love Affair, or the Case of the Missing Switchboard Operator (Dušan Makavejev, Yugoslavia, 1966)



For 17 years so far, EXER Party is considered to be the most popular party in London for people from the Balkans. It is a great opportunity for the Balkan people (and for people from all over) to have fun and enjoy some of the best sounds from the region. EXER Party is famous for playing very diverse musical styles, as there is always something for everyone's taste. From familiar pop and rock music, through dance, to famous trumpet and modern folk music. The only condition is that it's upbeat.

EXER Party has, during all these years, changed its location several times. Amongst those were some of the most elite locations in central London. Currently, EXER Party takes place at Blag Club in Kensington. It always attracts a large number of guests, and the parties are famous for the uniquely lively and uplifting atmosphere and very friendly people. A real treat, Balkan style.

Apart from the famous parties, EXER Events also organise a number of events connected to the Serbian Diaspora. These include live concerts, art exhibitions, literary evenings and poetry readings. But most people remember EXER Events for recent and very memorable concerts of Serbian bands Riblja Corba and Bajaga & Instruktori. So, while we wait for upcoming EXER parties, gigs and events, we would like to say to you all WELCOME!

The London Sports Society

The London Sports Society (LSS) was founded in 2010 and is a UK registered not-for-profit organisation with a charitable status.

Through sport, our objective is to create and support a variety of sport associations, clubs and a range of events taking place within the community. LSS also aims to be the focal point for up-to-date sports related information within the community.

We work to bring together as many people from the Western Balkans and other local communities as we can in order to encourage their physical activity in the UK, particularly in London. The plan is to offer an extensive sports programme.

For all information visit <https://www.facebook.com/LondonSportsSociety>

London
Sports
Society



Lifeline Humanitarian Organization



Despite the fact that Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princesses Katherine lived in exile for many years, Crown Princess Katherine always had her country in her heart.

During these difficult years, Crown Princess Katherine provided a very large amount of humanitarian aid that was distributed throughout the former Yugoslavia. The Crown Princess believes that there are no borders in suffering, since race and ethnicity do not matter.

In 1993 Crown Princess Katherine founded the Lifeline Humanitarian Organization with offices in the United States (Chicago and New York), Canada (Toronto), United Kingdom (London) and Greece (Athens).

When Their Royal Highnesses returned to Belgrade in July 2001 it was natural for the scope of their humanitarian activities to expand. At the beginning of August 2001, the Foundation of Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine was established.

The Foundation of HRH Crown Princess Katherine's daily work includes contacts with the following ministries that have a crucial role in the development of projects: the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economics and Regional Development; the Ministry of Privatisation, the Ministry of Labour and Employment; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Health and Environment; and the Ministry of Trade and Tourism.

Activities have been expanded to cultural institutions, schools and universities by including scholarships and improving communication between students and experts from foreign countries.

Other important activities include raising money for medical equipment that has been delivered to numerous hospitals. Thousands of children from orphanages throughout the country are guests at the Royal Palace every Christmas and Easter when they receive presents. Help is also provided to many refugees in Serbia.

"We work for the benefit of all those in need, regardless of ethnicity or religion since we believe that there are no borders in suffering."

Lifeline Humanitarian Organization was founded in 1993 and HRH Crown Princess Katherine Humanitarian Foundation was founded in 2001 with the aim of helping:

Children / Sick / disadvantaged children / Refugees / IDP's / The Elderly

With the intense cooperation of all relevant ministries, we provide aid for medical institutions in the form of:

New equipment / The implementation of reconstruction projects and extension of capacities / Medicine and medical equipment / Beds and covers to those in need

We also facilitate material and medical equipment for:

Mentally and physically disabled children / Children with special needs / Orphans / Children of internally displaced parents / Help for abused children

We help people who are socially endangered and in a state of poverty. We supply refugee camps with:

Clothes / Food / Provide help to old and disabled people

We cooperate with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, embassies, international organizations, international health care institutions/hospitals/universities as well as and many other entities.

www.lifelineuk.co.uk info@lifelineuk.co.uk

The British Serbian Benevolent



Trust The British Serbian Benevolent Trust is a British charity, registered with the Charity Commission, established in January 1997. It is built on the legacy of the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain, established in August 1914 and which operated until its dissolution in 1924 to provide much needed aid to Serbia during the Great War.

The violent breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s resulted in a significant crisis with refugees and displaced persons and The Serbian Benevolent Society was established to alleviate this problem in January 1997 thanks in the main to the efforts of Dr Rebecca Beaconsfield and Mrs Zora Payne. It was based on the principles of the Serbian Red Cross Society of Great Britain and utilised the residual funds from that organisation and governed by the Charity Commission.

On the advice of the Charity Commission the name was changed to The British Serbian Benevolent Trust. The Trust gives financial support to projects involving children who are resident in Serbia. In particular the Trust is pleased to support:

- initiatives bringing relief to children who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as well as those who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm.
- the education (including social education and physical training) of children resident in Serbia.

Typical funding levels approved by the Trust are usually in the region of £2,000 to £10,000. Larger sums are occasionally approved. The Trust is sympathetic to projects which purchase equipment for institutions and/or provide for the building infrastructure of institutions.

For further information or applications please contact Mr Peter Beckley on ornsb@btconnect.com

The Raymond Nicolet Trust



The Raymond Nicolet Trust

Support Childhood in Serbia

www.raymondnicolettrust.com

info@raymondnicolettrust.com

The Raymond Nicolet Trust is a UK registered charity that supports education and childhood in Serbia with different teams principally in the UK and Serbia, but also in France, Greece, Bulgaria and Canada. Its website <https://www.raymondnicolettrust.com> provides access to news of its various activities, such as E-shop, Podcast platform, E-learning, Living while Giving, and also a newsletter and current projects.

Despite the pandemic, the charity has successfully raised £10,337 in 2021 which was matched by the EBRD Community Initiative.

The Raymond Nicolet Trust has recently financed the purchase of a £10,000 near new van to replace the *Vuk Karadžić Center's* existing one that was 20 years old and highly unreliable. The van is essential for the transportation of children and meals between the school's two main cities and to external sporting events. The Trust had previously made a donation of £2,000 to the *Vuk Karadžić Center* in Sombor to renew some of its outdated IT equipment, and shipped also some toys and clothes to them.

The Trust has also financed the refurbishment of the library at the *Jovan Jovanović Zmaj* School in Pančevo. The £4,000 raised has allowed the school to restore the wooden floor to its former glory, repair and paint all walls. Some furniture has also been bought to complete the stunning look of the rejuvenated library. All books collected and donated by the Trust last year to the school will be filling some of the library's shelves and put to very good use.



In 2021, the charity has installed some sports and play equipment for the *Children and Youth Centre Miroslav Mika-Antić* in Sombor. The £4,000 raised has bought slides, swings, carousels and benches to refurbish the poorly-equipped school playground that the children use for their outdoor activities. Most of the children live at the Centre's premises all year round and the playground is the only external facility they have for leisure time, activities and sport.

The Trust has also shipped a brand-new patient care simulator for the students of the *College of Vocation Studies for Preschool Teachers and Sports Trainers* (Nurses and Dietitians) from Subotica.

Finally, 78 boxes of toys, clothes and books have been shipped just in time for Christmas 2021 to the Sveti Sava school in Bajina Bašta, the *Jovan Arandjelović* school in Crvena Reka and to the Centar za Unapredjenje Društva in Belgrade.

The Trust is always glad to act as a channel for donations, and also to receive an expression of interest from people of any nationality who might be interested in volunteering, especially if they have some spare time and relevant practical skills (eg. teaching, administration, translation, previous fund-raising, event management, data management). The Trust also welcomes association with sponsoring companies, including those which may be prepared to put a donation link (eg. for a small percentage of sale prices) into their commercial websites.

info@raymondnicoletrust.com
 TWITTER: @NICOLETTRUST
 FACEBOOK: @RAYMOND NICOLET TRUST
 INSTAGRAM: @RN_TRUST
 LINKEDIN: @RAYMOND NICOLET TRUST

**Serbian
 Month**
 in Great Britain

Hospices of Hope

Hospices of Hope is a UK based charity that has been supporting its Serbian partner, **BELhospice**, since 2006 to develop palliative care services for terminally ill patients and their families. Currently, BELhospice cares for patients and families in their own homes and in a new Day Care Centre which was opened in October 2018. Doctors and nurses, together with a psychologist, social worker and chaplain provide medical and holistic support to 500 patients each year. These services are now fully licensed by the Serbian government. However, Belgrade is one of the few European capitals that still has no specialist hospice in-patient facility, where patients can come for respite or to have their pain and other symptoms controlled. We are working towards the goal of establishing a 12 bedded in-patient unit once we have overcome the legislative problems relating to NGO's running in-patient medical services.

In 2022 we are beginning a specialist service for children with terminal and life-limiting illnesses.

Graham Perolls, who founded the charity said: "We rely a lot on the Serbian expatriate community to help us. Many have had experiences of loved ones dying back home in Serbia and receiving inadequate care at the end of life. BELhospice is pioneering this type of care and our mission is to ensure that every terminally ill patient in Serbia has the right to dignity in the advanced stages of their illness".

There are many ways to help

Hospices of Hope holds a number of fundraising events throughout the year in the UK and details can be found on their website: <http://www.hospicesofhope.co.uk>.

BELhospice (www.belhospice.org) also runs a range of fundraising events in Belgrade, including their very successful charity Ball each November. They also have the biggest team in the Belgrade marathon, which usually takes place in April. Both Hospices of Hope and BELhospice are always pleased to hear from anyone who feels they can help establish the first hospice in-patient unit in Serbia.

Further information Email: graham@hospicesofhope.co.uk or vera.madzgalj@belhospice.org.



Academics and Artists

Academics



Bojan Aleksov

Bojan Aleksov is an associate professor (senior lecturer) in Balkan history at the University College London School of Slavonic and East European Studies, where he also regularly organises events on Serbian/Yugoslav/Balkan topics. In his research Aleksov explores historical factors, causality and agency that led to the identification of confessional affiliation and national identity among almost all Balkan nations in the wake of the demise of two Empires (Ottoman and Habsburg), which ruled the region over centuries. Among his many publications there are articles on Dositej Obradović, Jovan Jovanović Zmaj, British women in Serbia and St. Sava Cathedral on Vračar.



Dr Tijana Blanus

Dr Tijana Blanus obtained her BSc and MSc degrees in Crop Science and Plant Physiology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade before moving to the UK to complete her PhD in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry between Lancaster University and East Malling Research. This led to a postdoc at the UK's largest horticultural charity, Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), where she now holds a position of a Principal Horticultural Scientist. Her post is based at the University of Reading (School of Agriculture, Policy and Development) where she conducts most of her research and also teaches and supervises undergraduate, masters and PhD students.

Tijana leads and delivers RHS research on the environmental benefits of gardens and urban green infrastructure. She is particularly interested in the contribution of plants to urban cooling, rainfall mitigation and air quality improvement. She and her colleagues are working to understand what underlying plant traits are most successful at this so that these plants can be harnessed to deliver multiple benefits. In December 2021 she was awarded a 2-year Fellowship in the Built Environment by the Royal Commission to investigate the application of hedges in the urban context for the delivery of multiple environmental benefits.



Dr Aleksandar Brkić

Dr Aleksandar Brkić is a scholar and lecturer in the fields of cultural/arts management and cultural policy, working at the Institute for Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship (ICCE), Goldsmiths, University of London. Prior to joining Goldsmiths, Aleksandar was a lecturer and researcher at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore, and University of Arts in Belgrade. Together with Audrey Wong, he was a coordinator of Asia Pacific Network for Cultural Education and Research (ANCER), the first network of its kind in the region of Asia Pacific. His area of professional practice is arts management with significant international experience as a creative producer working in the intersections of performing arts, visual arts, and design. He worked as a theatre producer/manager with a number of inspiring theatre organizations (i.e. YUSTAT and BITEF) and artists. Aleksandar is currently working as a creative producer of LP Duo from Belgrade. His new book, »The Routledge Companion to Management and the Arts« that he co-edited with Professor William Byrnes was published in October 2019 by Taylor&Francis.



Dejan Djokic

Professor Dejan Djokic's research spans across, and brings together, three main strands: auto/collective biography/micro history of the Yugoslav war; global and cultural history of the Cold War; and history of Serbia and Yugoslavia in regional and transnational contexts.

Dejan is a recipient of some of the most prestigious national and international grants and fellowships. His main current project, a pioneering study of the last generation of Yugoslav army conscripts (1990/91), is funded by the British Academy and The Leverhulme Trust. Prior to joining Goldsmiths in 2007, Dejan held lectureships at Birkbeck and Nottingham (a permanent post) and postdoctoral fellowships at Columbia University, New York and Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC. He was a visiting professor at School of International & Public Affairs, Columbia University (Autumn semester 2010) and has been, since Oct 2020, a guest professor at Chair for South-East European History, Humboldt University of Berlin.

Dejan regularly provides expertise to media on historical and current affairs and engages with non-academic audiences. He has contributed to the BBC, the Guardian, Independent, New Statesman, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, THE, TLS, & spoken at public events.

In 2016/17 Dejan initiated and facilitated the donation of c.600 books, including some rare items, on the Balkans from Professor Stevan K. Pavlowitch's private library to the Goldsmiths Library special collections.

Further info: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/history/staff/d-djokic/>



Dr Jasna Dragović-Soso

Dr Jasna Dragović-Soso is Professor of International Politics and History and a former Head of Department of Politics and International Relations (2017-2020) at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is the author of 'Saviours of the Nation': Serbia's Intellectual Opposition and the Revival of Nationalism (Hurst and McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002/03) and the co-editor of State Collapse in South-Eastern Europe: New Perspectives on Yugoslavia's Dissolution with Professor Lenard J. Cohen (Purdue University Press, 2008), as well as many articles and book chapters on Yugoslav history and politics. She is currently working on memory and transitional justice processes in relation to the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. Her teaching at Goldsmiths includes an MA course on 'Memory and Justice in Post-Conflict Societies'.



Dr Zeljka Krpetic

Dr Zeljka Krpetic is a Lecturer in Physical Chemistry at the University of Salford, Manchester since 2016, Associate Editor of the Springer-Nature's Cancer Nanotechnology Journal, Principal Investigator and research group leader of Salford's Bionanotechnology lab (www.zknanolab.com).

Dr Krpetic is an expert in nanomedicine research designing gold nanoparticles with multifunctional custom surface features and advancing the field of nanoparticle characterisation in situ in biological media enabling novel nanotechnology-based medicines for applications in cancer treatment and fight against antimicrobial resistant pathogens. She is an author of over 30 peer reviewed articles, a book chapter, and lead editor for special collections of articles in Springer-Nature's 'Cancer Nanotechnology' and 'Frontiers: Research Topic' journals. She is a co-editor of the 'Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology' book currently in preparation for publishing in Taylor & Francis CRC Press in 2022.



Ranko Lazic

Ranko Lazic was born (1975) in Belgrade, Serbia, where he attended Matematicka gimnazija and Petnica, and was a member of Arhimedes. From 1992, he spent 8 years at Oxford University, obtaining a BA in Mathematics and Computation (1994) and a DPhil in Computing (1999), and as a Junior Research Fellow. During that time, his colleges were University College, Merton College and Christ Church. At Warwick University, he has been a Lecturer (since 2001), Associate Professor (2006), Reader (2015), and Professor (2018).



Jasna Martinovic

Jasna Martinovic is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Edinburgh. Prior to taking up a position in Edinburgh, she spent 10 years at the University of Aberdeen. Dr Martinovic received her first degree (Dipl. Psychol.) from the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade, Serbia in 2001, followed by an MSc in Neuroscience from the University of Liverpool, UK in 2003 and a PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Leipzig, Germany in 2007. Her main area of expertise is colour perception and cognition, but her research also concerns perceptual organisation and attention, as well as the ageing of the human visual system. She is the author of 34 peer-reviewed articles in international journals, 1 book and 2 entries in the Encyclopedia of Colour Science and Technology. Her work has been funded by the DAAD, British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, ESRC, EPSRC and BBSRC.



Goran Mashanovich

Goran Mashanovich is a Professor of Group IV Photonics and a former Royal Society Research Fellow (2008-2016) at the Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC), Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Southampton. He received Dipl. Ing. and MSc in Optoelectronics from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia, and PhD in Silicon Photonics and MSc in innovative teaching from the University of Surrey, UK. He is head of the ORC Mid-infrared silicon photonics group. His research interests include both passive and active devices in Si and Ge and their integration for communication and sensing applications. Prof. Mashanovich is author of 430 publications in the field of Silicon Photonics, and he is currently investigator on grants totalling £20 million, awarded by EPSRC and industry. Goran is also a visiting professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia. He has won several teaching prizes. Email: g.mashanovich@soton.ac.uk.



Nina Milosavljevic

Nina Milosavljevic is currently a Lecturer in Neuroscience at the University of Manchester. She was born in Belgrade where she finished a 5-year MSc programme in Molecular Biology and Physiology at the University of Belgrade in 2009. During her undergraduate studies, she was awarded a prestigious USAID (United States Agency for International Development) scholarship for a one-year exchange programme for upper-division courses in biology at Georgia State University, in Atlanta, USA. She was also awarded a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) stipend for an internship at the University of Gottingen, Institute for Human Genetics, in Gottingen, Germany, and the Erasmus Tempus funding for an internship at the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis in Nice, France. In 2012, Nina received her PhD in Molecular and Cellular Interactions, with "highest honours" ("très honorable") from the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, in Nice, France for which she was awarded a prestigious Erasmus Mundus PhD scholarship. For her postdoc, Nina moved to the University of Manchester in 2013, to work in visual neuroscience. In 2018, she successfully obtained an Early Career Fellowship Award funded by the biggest eye charity in the UK and USA, Fight for Sight and in November 2021 she was awarded a Lectureship in Neuroscience at the University of Manchester.



Zoran Milutinovic

Zoran Milutinovic is Professor of South Slav Literature and Modern Literary Theory at University College London, Member of Academia Europaea, Honorary Research Associate of the Graduiertenschule für Ost- und Südosteuropastudien of the University of Regensburg and Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munchen, and Distinguished Research Fellow of the Balkan Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University. He taught at University of Belgrade and held visiting appointments at University of Nottingham, Wesleyan University, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Graduiertenschule in Regensburg. His publications include *Bitka za prošlost. Ivo Andrić i bošnjački nacionalizam* (2018), *Getting Over Europe, The Construction of Europe in Serbian Culture* (2011), *Susret na trecem mestu* (2006), *Metateatralnost, Imanentna poetika u drami dvadesetog veka* (1994) and *Negativna i pozitivna poetika* (1992). Milutinovic is a member of editorial boards of *Slavonic and East European Review*, *East European Politics & Societies and Cultures*, and *Balkanica*, and co-editor of Brill's book series *Balkan Studies Library*.



Dr Ivona Z. Mitrovic

Dr Ivona Z. Mitrovic is a Reader in sustainable nanoenergy and the Head of BioMEMS, Organic & Silicon Electronics Group at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics at the University of Liverpool. She received the B.Eng. degree in microelectronics from the University of Niš, Niš, Serbia, in 1997, the M.Sc. degree in materials science from the University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia, in 2002, and the Ph.D. degree in electronic engineering from the University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK, in 2007. Her core research activity has largely been focused on fundamental understanding of materials on nanoscale, in particular oxides, relevant to CMOS applications and, more recently alternative energy technologies. She has been leading research activity through a number of projects, mainly funded by the EPSRC with a contribution of ~ £1.5 million. For her professional standing and significant achievements in the engineering profession Dr Mitrovic received Senior Member of IEEE status in 2014. She is a member of European SINANO Network of Excellence and has recently been appointed to the Steering Committee of the eFutures2.0 EPSRC funded network that aims at strengthening the UK electronics research. Dr Mitrovic has authored over 130 scientific papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings and has delivered over 20 talks at premier international conferences in Europe and the USA. As electronics engineer, she is passionate about a sustainable, more electric future and has recently chaired the forum on materials and nanodevices within the UKRI Series "Electronics for Sustainable Societies".
E-mail: ivona@liverpool.ac.uk



Dr Alexandra Perovic

Dr Alexandra Perovic is an Associate Professor in Clinical Linguistics at University College London (UCL). She studied at the University of Novi Sad, University of Greenwich and UCL, and carried out her postdoctoral research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She is currently a Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW). Her research focuses on developmental disorders of language, including autism, specific language impairment/developmental language disorder, Down syndrome and Williams syndrome. She is particularly interested in raising awareness of rare disorders: in October 2019 she organised the very first scientific seminar on Williams syndrome for clinicians and educators in Novi Sad, Serbia, with the support of European Williams Syndrome Foundation, attended by families from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Croatia. She is the founder of the first association for Williams syndrome in the Balkans, with the headquarters in Novi Sad, that provides support to children and adults with this rare disorder and their families in the region (www.vilijamsovsindrom.com).



Olivera Petrovich

Olivera Petrovich is a developmental psychologist with research interests in the issues on the interface of scientific psychology and religion. After completing undergraduate and MSc degrees in the University of Belgrade, Olivera came to Oxford on a British Council scholarship for one year. Further scholarships and grants enabled her to begin doctoral research in the Department of Experimental Psychology at Oxford and remain in the field through both teaching and research. The courses taught covered topics in the psychology of religion across life span and in different cultures, focusing specifically on the origin of the concept of God in early human development. The research with British and Japanese children and adults was published in 2018, titled Natural-theological understanding from childhood to adulthood.

<http://natural-theological%20understanding%20from%20childhood%20to%20adulthood%20-%201st%20ed%20%28routledge.com%29/>
A further research project involving children aged 5 to 7 years from different faith schools in England is due to be published in 2021 (with some inevitable delay due to Covid-19) under the title Developmental Psychology and young children's religious education: A multi-faith perspective.



Dubravka Pokrajac

Dubravka Pokrajac is Professor of Engineering at the University of Aberdeen. She has received BSc, MSc and PhD from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Belgrade, where she also initially worked. In 1998 she joined the School of Engineering, University of Aberdeen as a Lecturer. Dubravka does research in Fluid Mechanics with the focus on boundary layer flows over rough and permeable boundaries such as gravel beds of natural streams, and gravel beaches. She combines theoretical, experimental, and numerical methods to study small scale phenomena that occur at fluid-porous interface.

Dubravka has published over seventy journal papers, co-edited a book ("Advanced simulation and modelling for urban groundwater management – UGROW", Urban Water Series, UNESCO), and supervised eighteen PhD projects. She is the Director of Research in the School of Engineering and an Associate Editor for two academic journals.



Dr Jelena Ponoćko

Dr Jelena Ponoćko is a Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at The University of Manchester. She received her BSc and MSc degrees from the University of Belgrade, School of Electrical Engineering, and PhD from The University of Manchester. Her research focuses on demand-side management in power systems. Jelena has authored or co-authored over 40 research papers and technical reports and spoken at numerous conferences around the world. Jelena is the IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES) Women in Power representative for Region 8 (Europe, Middle East and Africa), supporting gender equality in the power and energy domain.



Dr Predrag Slijepčević

Dr Predrag Slijepčević is a geneticist and philosopher. Predrag's research interests include genetics of ageing and cancer, philosophy of evolution and philosophy of science. After completing a PhD in Radiation Biology at Sarajevo University in 1991, he was awarded three post-doctoral scholarships simultaneously: a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of California, San Francisco, a British Council award to study at St Andrews University and an EU Tempus scholarship for Leiden University, Holland. He decided to remain in Europe. After completing studies at St Andrews and Leiden, Predrag moved to Cambridge University, to work with Sir Bruce Ponder, the world leading authority on cancer genetics. Since 1998 Predrag is employed by Brunel University London. His research is funded by various British and European research agencies. Predrag published over seventy research papers, edited a book *Telomeres & Telomerase* (Karger), and participated in several patents. He is the author of *The Saint and the Sinner* and *Re-Minding the Earth* (Akademska knjiga) in Serbian. He writes philosophical essays for Serbian and British media. Predrag's biography was included in the Marquis edition *Who's Who* in the World for 1998.



Endre Süli

Endre Süli FRS (also, Endre Šili) is a mathematician. He is a Professor of Numerical Analysis in the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, and Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics at Worcester College, Oxford. He was educated at the University of Belgrade and, as a British Council Visiting Student, at the University of Reading and St Catherine's College, Oxford. His research is concerned with the mathematical analysis of numerical algorithms for nonlinear partial differential equations. He is a Foreign Member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (2009), Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences (2010), Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (2016), a Member of the Academia Europaea (2020), and a Fellow of the Royal Society (2021). His other honours include: Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (2007), Charlemagne Distinguished Lecture (2011), IMA Service Award (2011), Professor Hospitus Universitatis Carolinae Pragensis, Charles University in Prague (2012–), Distinguished Visiting Chair Professor Shanghai Jiao Tong University (2013), President, SIAM United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Section (2013–2015), London Mathematical Society/New Zealand Mathematical Society Forder Lectureship (2015), Aziz Lecture (2015), BIMOS Distinguished Lecture (2016), John von Neumann Lecture (2016), Sibe Mardešić Lecture (2018), London Mathematical Society Naylor Prize and Lectureship (2021). Endre grew up in Subotica and is a recipient of the Pro Urbe Prize of the City of Subotica (2021). He is the father of Sterija Award-winning Serbian playwright and dramatist Fedor Šili.



Vladimir Zoric

Vladimir Zorić (1977) was born and lived in Belgrade before moving with his family to Pančevo (1985) where he completed his primary and high school (gimnazija) education. In 1996 he returned to live in Belgrade and studied comparative literature and literary theory at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. Upon obtaining his BA degree (2001), he moved to the United Kingdom to pursue postgraduate study at the University of Nottingham and graduated with MA (by Research) in 2003 and with PhD in 2006. He is now an Associate Professor in Russian and Slavonic Studies at the University of Nottingham and teaches South Slavonic literature, Balkan history, and Serbian/Croatian language. He wrote a monograph on Yugoslav writer Danilo Kiš (Kiš, legenda i priča, 2005), a study of literature in exile (The Rhetoric of Exile: Duress and the Imagining of Force, 2016), and is now working on a book about the representation of Central Europe and the Habsburg Monarchy in Yugoslav literature. He lives in Nottingham but also spends time in Belgrade and Berlin. In his free time, when not in one of these cities, he is likely to be found somewhere between Donaueschingen (Germany) and Sulina (Romania) exploring the riverscapes and human settlements of the Danube.

Academics and Artists

Aleksandar Dundjerovic



Aleksandar Sasha Dundjerovic is born in Belgrade. He is a full Professor of Performing Arts at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University. Dundjerovic is the founder and executive director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Performative Arts and Associate Director of Research in Performing Arts. He holds PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London, MA from The University of Oklahoma, USA and a BA in Theatre Directing from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Belgrade, Serbia.

Dundjerovic is a professional award-winning theatre director, performance deviser and published author with international experience working in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Serbia, Romania, Iran, Russia, Colombia, and Brazil. He is visiting professor at the University of São Paulo (Brazil), and the University of Arts, Interdisciplinary Arts Doctoral studies, Belgrade (Serbia).

Over the years he published several books and articles on the performing arts, contemporary theatre directing, theatre and film practice of Robert Lepage, interdisciplinary and collaborative theatre and performing arts in Brazil and on the creative practice of Canadian theatre and film. His most recent books include *Brazilian Collaborative Theater* (2017); *Brazilian Performing Arts* (2019); and *Robert Lepage – Rutledge Performance Practitioners* (2 ed., 2019); and chapter in a book edited book by Jonathan Harris *Terrorism and the Arts*, (Routledge, March 2021) titled 'Harold Pinter and State Terrorism'. He is working on a new book ***Live Digital Theatre: Creative Performance*** Pedagogies contracted by prestigious publisher Routledge based in London and New York, with the manuscript expected to be published end of 2022.



Dr Lina Džuverović

Dr Lina Džuverović is Lecturer in Arts Policy and Management at the Department for Film, Media and Cultural Studies, an independent curator and founding director of Electra, a London-based contemporary arts organisation. Her research focuses on feminist art histories and contemporary art as a site of solidarity and community-building. Lina founded the Decolonial Feminist Forum at Birkbeck in 2019. Previously Lina was Artistic Director of Calvert 22 Foundation, Media Arts Curator at ICA, London, Education Curator at Lux Centre and has taught fine art at University of Reading and Institute for Contemporary Art, TU Graz, Austria.

Selected exhibitions include: "Monuments Should Not Be Trusted" (Nottingham Contemporary, 2016), "Sanja Iveković – Unknown Heroine" (South London Gallery and Calvert 22 Foundation, 2012), "27 Senses" (Chisenhale Gallery, London; Kunstmuseet KUBE, Norway, 2009/10), "Favoured Nations" (5th Nordic Biennial of Contemporary Art, 2009), "Her Noise" (South London Gallery, 2005).

Prior to completing her PhD at the Critical Writing in Art & Design Department, Royal College of Art and Tate (CDA AHRC), Lina studied at The London Consortium (Birkbeck College), Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design and Chelsea College of Art and Design.



Dr. Nela Milic

Dr. Nela Milic is an artist and an academic working in media and arts. She is a Senior Lecturer at London College of Communication, UAL. Nela has delivered creative projects for the Royal Opera House, Barbican, Arts Council England, John Lewis, Al Jazeera, Oxo Tower, LIFT... Working in intersection of time and space brought her to many multi-media and mapping projects where she's dealt with memory, narrative, digital archives, city and participation.

She is a recipient of the ECF Artistic grant for the project Wedding Bellas after years of engagement with refugees and asylum seekers and Southwark community arts award for her project Here Comes Everybody.

Her PhD project 'Balkanising Taxonomy' researched the city as a site of spectacle and the culture of protest. She continues working in Belgrade through Kulturklammer, centre for cultural interactions. Nela evaluates EU COST network applications in humanities and is a consultant for the Science Fund of Republic of Serbia. She is a Senior Fellow of Higher Education Academy and a member of Space and Place and Design Activism research hubs at LCC. Nela is on the editorial board of the Journal of Arts and Communities.

Nela is part of the AHRC's Peace and Conflict Cultural Network and Arts and Reconciliation research project and post-socialist arts platform at University of the Arts, London, funded by the BSA. Nela is writing a book about Serbian sculptor Olga Jevric with the support of UK Association for Arts Historians.



Duška Radosavljević

Duška Radosavljević is a writer, dramaturg and academic currently employed as a Reader in Contemporary Theatre and Performance at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London. As a dramaturg Duška has worked for Northern Stage, New Writing North, Dancecity, NSDF, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Circomedia, Accidental Collective and in 2015 with Robert Icke on his Oliver Award-winning production of *Oresteia* at the Almeida / West End. She has also worked in the education department of the RSC and, for thirteen years, as a member of the Stage Newspaper's Edinburgh reviewing team and panel of judges for the Stage Awards in Acting Excellence. She is the author of the award-winning *Theatre-Making: Text and Performance in the 21st Century* (Palgrave, 2013) and editor of *The Contemporary Ensemble* (Routledge, 2013) and *Theatre Criticism: Changing Landscapes* (Bloomsbury Methuen, 2016). In 2015 she initiated and led the AHRC-funded public engagement project *Mums and Babies Ensemble: Making Theatre with the Early Years* and in 2020-2021 she was the AHRC Leadership Fellow with the project entitled *Aural/ Oral Dramaturgies: Post-Verbatim, Amplified Storytelling and Gig Theatre in the Digital Age*.



Mina Radović

Mina Radović is a doctoral researcher and for the past year associate lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London. He holds a Master of Arts in Film Studies and German Language, Literature and Linguistics from the University of St Andrews, with placements at the University of Vienna and University of Heidelberg. His areas of expertise include the study of language, film history and historiography, archiving and restoration, Serbian cinema and Yugoslav cinema, early cinema and culture, and the study of totalitarian ideologies through language and film (PhD *Framing Totalitarianism: Language and Film in 1930s Nazi Germany*).

A FIAF-trained archivist, curator, historian, and filmmaker, Mina runs Liberating Cinema, a non-profit charitable organisation committed to the representation, restoration and exhibition of world cinema heritage. He runs masterclasses, workshops, symposia, and a regular Film Series. Mina has curated on all periods of film history and an expansive range of world cinema, including first time retrospectives of Serbian and Yugoslav cinema in the Anglophone world, programmes on cinemas from around the world, and special sections on film animation, silent cinema, avant-garde and experimental cinema as well as the work of influential directors.

He regularly contributes to international peer-reviewed journals and has given lectures in St Andrews, Oxford, Venice, Amsterdam, and London. Mina also works on film festivals, curating the programme for the St Andrews Film Festival and the selection committee for the Austin Film Festival (Texas, USA). He serves on Film Juries, most recently as Member of the Ecumenical Jury at the 69th International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg.



Dr Tijana Stevanovic

Dr Tijana Stevanovic is an architect, educator, and artist, working as a Lecturer in Architectural History and Theory at the University College London (2015–). She is currently a Research Fellow in Architecture at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. In the past decade Tijana taught architectural design and architectural history and theory at Newcastle University, University for the Creative Arts, and the University of East London. Her work has been published and presented internationally. As a part of her interdisciplinary practice, Tijana regularly initiates, and collaborates in art and curatorial projects in GB, Serbia, and Sweden; she exhibited her work at international exhibitions such as the Venice Architecture Biennale and in art galleries across Europe: Baltic (Newcastle), Grad (Belgrade), Tenderpixel (London), District (Berlin), KTH (Stockholm), etc.

Tijana started her academic career at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, while still studying for her degree. She then worked in architectural practice in Austria, and was awarded an OSI/FCO Chevening Scholarship for MA cultural studies at the University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies. She received her PhD from Newcastle University, with the thesis titled: 'Incorporating Self-management: Architectural Production in New Belgrade'.

Journalists & Writers

Journalists



Jelena Sofronijević

Jelena Sofronijević (@jelsofron) is an audio producer and freelance journalist based in London. They make content at the intersections of intercultural political history and the arts. As a second-generation immigrant, they are personally, politically, and academically interested in the Balkans. Published by the Political Studies Association, their undergraduate dissertation uses contemporary political satires to uniquely unpack Tito's socialist Yugoslavia. They also presented an episode of BBC Radio 4's Four Thought (September 2020) on modern Yugoslav diasporic identity, later selected for BBC Radio 4's Pick of the Week and featured on BBC Radio Shropshire. In November 2021, they presented an episode of The Bunker with Una Hajdari and Professor James Ker-Lindsay about the changing political dynamics in Bosnia, from Dayton to Dodik, ethnic tensions in Republika Srpska, Russia and the EU. They were recently interviewed for Vittles about the phenomenon of Yugonostalgia in food.

They are also the producer of EMPIRE LINES, a podcast which uncovers the unexpected flows of Empires through artworks. Their other projects include INDIAscussion and Liberating Sustainability.

Writers



Sonja Batinic-Besford

Sonja Batinic-Besford is a Serbian writer born in Belgrade. She has fifteen books published, the latest published in 2021, by KoV, *To and Fro/Tamo-Amo*. She is the author of many short stories, poems and reviews of contemporary literature published in various magazines in UK, USA, Serbia, France etc. Some of her work has been translated into various languages. Sonja is the president of the Association of Serbian Writers and Artists abroad. She is married to a dentist and lives in London.



Nikola Cobic

Nikola Cobic was born in Belgrade (Serbia), but for quite a long time he has been living and working in London (UK). He is a writer of poetry and short stories, and until recently the editor of UK based poetry magazine The Wolf. His work has been awarded a number of poetry prizes in Serbia, United Kingdom, France and Germany. Nikola writes in Serbian, but translates his work into English. His works are being published in numerous anthologies and periodicals.



Vesna Goldsworthy

Vesna Goldsworthy (Belgrade, 1961) is an internationally bestselling and prize-winning writer, academic and broadcaster. In 2021 she was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, becoming the first Serbian member in this august Society's long history. She is Professor in Creative Writing and English Literature at the Universities of Exeter and East Anglia. Goldsworthy writes in English, her third language. Her books include *Chernobyl Strawberries* (a memoir) and *Gorsky* (a novel) both of which have been serialised by the BBC; *Inventing Ruritania: the Imperialism of the Imagination*, a study of Balkan representations which remains a set text at universities worldwide, and a Crashaw-prize winning poetry collection, *The Angel of Salonika*, which was one of the *Times*' Best Poetry Books of the Year. Vesna Goldsworthy's new novel, *Iron Curtain*, is published on February 10 by Chatto & Windus in the UK and later in 2022 by WW Norton in the US. Geopoetika in Belgrade is racing with the Serbian translation to achieve the world premiere of the novel.





Svetlana Meiehofer

Svetlana Meiehofer was born in Belgrade, lives in London for the last three decades. Author of four novels:

“Pazi gde ideš, stao si mi na srce”

“Stvarno sam te volela” which is translated and published in Spanish “Te queria de verdad” “Bez tebe ne mogu da disem” - Spanish translation “Sin ti no puedo respirar”

“Nekoliko metara ljubavi”

Also author of four children books:

“Masa i Zuta – pravilo broj 1” translated in English

“Masha and Goldie – rule number one Translated in Italian

“Masha e Goldie - Regola numero uno”

“Masa i Zuta- pravilo broj dva” Serbian and Croatian edition

“Jez Marko” - translated in English “Marko the hedgehog”

“Pomirisi Kisu”

Svetlana Meiehofer is the founder and director of Artem magazine published in Serbian and English that presents culture and art. Since 2021, Svetlana has been spending time between London and Trebinje, where she plans to open a gallery/gift shop Artem in April 2022 to exhibit works by local and foreign artists.



Dr. Jelena Nolan-Roll

Dr. Jelena Nolan-Roll, currently living in Bristol, grew up in the New Belgrade blocks in the nineties (Kakav brate Bruklin brate blok je brate zakon). She is a violence prevention expert, a creative writer, coach and amateur kickboxer. She is a psychologist by profession (University of Belgrade) with a doctorate in education (University of Bristol). She is interested in human and social stories, as well as the power they give us - or the power we give to them as the society or as individuals. In violence prevention domain, she has led expert teams and participated in global projects, with participants from Silicon Valley to India. She is currently a consultant manager for the Association of Empowerment Self-Defense Professionals (esdprofessionals.org). Her story about a woman leaving an abusive relationship “Nesreća” won first place in the competition of the Association of Independent Writers of Serbia 2021 (<http://www.casopiskvaka.com.hr/2021/03/jelena-nolan-roll-nesreca.html>). The book of short stories will follow in 2022. As a coach, she works with clients from various domains, from teachers to Olympians (drnolanroll.com). As a gift to herself for her fortieth birthday, she started training freestyle kickboxing (www.reddragonsmartialarts.com). She often quotes her coach Lloyd Lewis, a two-time world kickboxing champion, that a person can achieve anything as long as they do two things: do their best and never give up. So that's how she behaves. Her current goal is to have the black belt by her fiftieth birthday.

Artists

Dance



Djordje Tanasijević

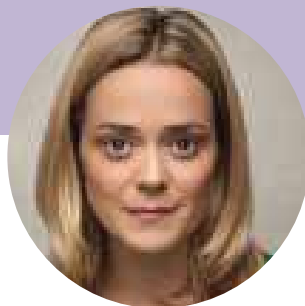
Djordje Tanasijević is an award-winning Professional Latin dancer (British a Djordje, originally from Serbia, started dancing from the age 9. From the age of 10, he began to travel to many competitions abroad representing his country. Later, Djordje moved to Slovenia to train with some of the best coaches in the world, and following this Djordje has been involved with TV and films such as Children in Need, Cuban Fury, Comic relief and many more. He has also been part of the team who bring the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing to P&O cruises, and had the honour to dance for the Queen at Britannia's naming ceremony. Djordje has taught from the age of 15 in his home country and abroad. His teaching credentials are impressive and include a wide range of well-known dance schools in the UK and abroad. Also he was a 2012 and 2013 ISTD Congress Lecturer, and 2014 IDTA Congress Lecturer.



Milica (Mil) Vukovic Smart

Milica (Mil) Vukovic Smart is a London-based dance and performance artist, writer and choreographer. Born in Novi Sad, Milica holds a BA in Philosophy from Belgrade University, an MA in Modern European Philosophy from Middlesex University, an MRes in Choreography and Performance (with distinction) from Roehampton University, and is a PhD researcher in choreography and spatial design at Chelsea College of Arts. In parallel, Milica has a career in advocacy and fundraising in arts, health and heritage sectors, and is Head of Development at Studio Wayne McGregor.

Drama



Maya Barcot

Maya Barcot is a bi-lingual (Serbian-British) actress based in London. Maya trained at LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) and since graduating she has worked extensively in Theatre and TV in the UK and has also performed in Serbian theatre. Maya has completed Shakespearean workshops with Cicely Berry and has a good knowledge of performing classical Shakespearean text. She is also a workshop leader and an acting teacher.

Theatres Maya has worked in include: The Royal Shakespeare Company, The Arcola Theatre, The Print Room, Battersea Arts Centre, Wilton's Music Hall, Hull Truck, Nuffield Theatre Southampton and Vuk Karadžić Theatre in Belgrade. Television credits include: BBC TV (Happy Valley, Doctors, Eastenders), Sky TV (Critical, Fortitude, Cobra), ITV (Emmerdale, The Widow). Film credits include: In The Cloud. Radio credits include: BBC Radio 4 (The Archers, Wives and Daughters).

Maria Pavlovich Allport



Maria Pavlovich Allport studied at Westminster University with a major in film production before completing drama training at The Drama Studio London. She was involved in British film and TV productions behind and in front of the camera, including a support character in *The Bill*, the drama *Lady Audley's Secret* and *James Bond*. As a member of the children's Drama Group Radio and TV Belgrade she was in a popular series *Bolji Zivot* (Better Life). Maria has been regularly invited to read poetry and prose in both Serbian and English at book promotions including events at the Serbian Embassy in London, Serbian Library as well as working closely with Vesna Petkovic (Pro Art & Co) and pianist Maya Jordan. Maria is also a voice over artist.

Vesna Stanojevic



Vesna Stanojevic is a Theatre, TV and Film Actress, and Senior Lecturer in Acting at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. Since 2006 she has been responsible for the acting training at the BA Acting MT course at Central, and developed her own acting methodology. Professionally trained in the Stanislavsky Acting Method and the Acting Technique of Étienne Decroux, she has combined the two very different acting techniques - both in her acting and teaching.

Vesna's acting work on Screen includes: Chanel 4 TV Series *The Traitors*, BBC2 TV series *The League of Gentlemen*, TV series for the Serbian National Television: *Cvat lipe na Blakanu*, *Crna svadba*, *Necista krv*, *Ubice moga oca*, *Greh njene majke*, *Samac u braku*, *Dome slatki dome...* Feature films *The Last Lap in Monza*, *The Tree Tickets for Hollywood*, *The Night Is Dark*, *Absolute Hearing*, *Hotel Belgrade*, *The Path Strewn with Roses...* She also played numerous leading roles on Stage, including Chekhov, Shakespeare, Brecht, Anouilh, Lorca, Crnjanski, Popovic...

<http://www.spotlight.com/9410-7869-7507>

<https://www.cssd.ac.uk/staff/vesna-stanojevic-ba>



Maja Milatovic-Ovadia

Maja Milatovic-Ovadia is a theatre director, facilitator and visiting lecturer. She had directed numerous productions for the principal national theatres of Serbia, Montenegro and Slovenia as well as for various theatre companies in the UK, working in a range of context including devised work, classic and contemporary text-based theatre, music theatre, experimental opera and community theatre.

Further aspects of her work have resulted in the developing socially engaged art projects, focuses on the use of comedy and humour within collaborative theatre practice, that support process of reconciliation. She studied Directing at the University of Belgrade (BA), obtained MA in Advanced Theatre Practice from Royal School of Speech and Drama and further trained at the National Theatre Studio in London and Directors Lab West in Los Angeles. Maja is currently PhD researcher at RCSSD in London. Her articles on theatre making were published in several theatre and peacebuilding journals.

<https://majamilatovicovadia.wordpress.com/>

Sasha Milavic Davies



Sasha Milavic Davies works as a director, choreographer, and dramaturg. She was a founding member and inaugural Artistic Associate of the Yard Theatre. She was awarded the Muci Draskic award for best director in Serbia in 2018. Her dance show for 200 women Everything that rises must dance is touring international festivals. She is an Associate at Complicite. Recent work as a choreographer includes The Murder of Halit Yozgat (Hannover, Germany), Shoelady (Royal Court), The Antipodes (National Theatre), Touching the Void (Duke of York, West End). As choreographer/movement director, theatre includes: Murder of Halit Yozgat (Hannover Staatsoper), Shoelady (Royal Court), The Antipodes (National Theatre), Touching the Void (Bristol Old Vic/ Duke of York), Our Town (Regents Park OAT), Merry Wives of Windsor (Shakespeare's Globe), Berberian Sound Studio (Donmar Warehouse), Pity (Royal Court); The Writer (Almeida), Jubilee (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Lyric, Hammersmith), The Suppliant Women (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh/Actors Touring Company/Young Vic). As director, theatre includes: Language of Kindness (Wayward Productions), She Ventures and He Wins (Young Vic), Pet Života Pretužnog Milutina, Moja Ti, Constellations (Atelje 212, Serbia) One Side to the Other [installation] (Akram Khan Company/The Lowry). As choreographer and associate director, dramaturg - dance & opera includes: upcoming Wozzeck (Aix-en-Provence), upcoming Overflow (Sadler's Wells), Weimar Nightfall (LA Philharmonia), Everything That Rises Must Dance (Dance Umbrella/Complicité), La Bianca Notte (Hamburg Opera), Von Heute Auf Morgen, Sancta Susana (Opera de Lyon).

Music

Jovana Backovic



Jovana Backovic is a Serbian - born composer and vocalist whose work primarily centres on exploration and reinterpretation of ethnic music traditions of the Balkans. With her project Arhai she has performed widely across Balkans and the U.K. She has 3 releases under name Arhai, with fourth due to be released autumn 2021. Jovana also composes music for theatre, feature and documentary movies and her current interest lies within the field of electro-acoustic music and live improvisational performance – exploring the process of the creation and development of individual music identity through improvisation and the use of technology. Jovana completed her PhD thesis at the University of East Anglia 2014, with the subject 'Between Two Words: Approaching Balkan oral tradition through the use of technology as compositional and performance medium'. Further info www.jovanabackovic.com.

Bratislava Barac Djukić



Bratislava Barac Djukić graduated from the Faculty of Music in Belgrade majoring in conducting in the class of Professor Darinka Matić Marović. She studied music pedagogy at Trinity College in London. She has been a successful leader and conductor of many Serbian and English choirs including "Holy Prophet Elijah", "All Saints" and "Saint Simeon the Outpourer of Myrrh" in Serbia and the choir "Saint Sava" in London. In 2003 Bratislava received the prestigious Best Conductor Award at the annual competition of Serbian choirs. With the blessing of his Grace Bishop Stefan of Zicha of blessed repose, Bratislava and her sister Olivera Sekulić Barac recorded "Eight Tones" (the Octoechoes) written down by the famous Serbian composer Stevan Mokranjac.

Viktor Bijelovic



Viktor Bijelovic is a Serbian born pianist and teacher, living and working in the UK. A graduate of The Purcell School of Music and later The Royal Academy of Music in London (for both the Undergraduate and Master's Degrees), he has travelled extensively, enjoying learning about different cultures whilst sharing his love of music with audiences and students. Both as a soloist and chamber musician, he has performed in many countries, including in front of HRH Prince Charles twice. Viktor has a busy teaching practise in London. He has recorded several CDs and to find out more, please refer to his website: www.viktorbijelovic.com

Nevena Bridgen



Nevena Bridgen is an international soprano born in Belgrade. She holds MMus from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London where she studied under the guidance of Sue McCulloch and Rudolf Piernay. Bridgen is a principal soloist of the National Theatre of Belgrade where she performed Susanna Marriage of Figaro, Angelica Sister Angelica, Bastienne Bastien and Bastienne, Tatyana Eugenie Onegin, Lauretta Gianni Schicchi, Zerlina Don Giovanni, Mimi La Boheme. Recently she appeared as Mimi La Boheme in the National Grand Opera of Uzbekistan where she was unanimously praised by critics and audience for her powerful dramatic stage presence and beautiful warm voice which brings the music and story telling to life. Bridgen made her American debut in the National Opera Centre of America performing the role of the Countess Marriage of Figaro under the conductor Benoit Renard directed by award winning director Louis Walker.

Ivana Ćetković



Ivana Ćetković, an exciting, expressive and inspiring British-Serbian violinist has maintained a wide and varied career as concerto soloist, recitalist, orchestral and chamber musician. Born in Belgrade, Serbia to a musical family she has received Bachelor's degree (HONS) in Violin Performance from Faculty of Music Arts in Belgrade. Shortly after Ivana moved to London, UK to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with David Takeno and Rachel Podger. She frequently appears as a guest leader of orchestras in UK and Austria. As a soloist Ivana has performed with Manchester Camerata (UK), Slaithwaite Philharmonic (UK), Marcel Sinfonia (UK) Da Salo Soloists (US), Tirolean Chamber Orchestra Innstrumenti (Austria) to name a few. As a passionate chamber musician Ivana is a member of a violin-piano duo Elmbourne Ensemble as well as the up and coming ensemble Camerata Alma Viva with whom she has recorded for NoMadMusic label.

In 2019 Ivana took on a role of the leader of an up coming London orchestra London Symphonic Rock Orchestra that takes her across the world performing music inspired by hard rock hits of the nineties as well as tribute bands of Abba from Sweden and Queen Machine from Denmark. Along side her busy freelance career in UK in 2021 Ivana started leading a theatre orchestra focused on performing west-end musicals in Serbia, her home town of Belgrade allowing her to split her time professionally between her two home cities London and Belgrade.



Maya Jordan

Pianist Maya Jordan MA, has performed throughout the former Yugoslavia, Italy, Cyprus, France, Germany and England and recorded for various Radio and TV programmes. Her performing career has been extended through her interest in bringing music and artists of different countries together. Maya has been co-founder of the project 'Sounds of the Balkans' and Artistic Director of numerous events and projects, promoting Serbian culture and encouraging artists of different origins to work together. She was also a Secretary of the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe for many years. At present Maya is a Secretary of The Serbian Council of Great Britain and has been involved in numerous charity projects in aid of Serbian people and children. She is also a co-founder / Arts Director of the Around the Globe Music & Arts and Programme Director of the Serbian Month in Great Britain.



Elena Kostova

Elena Kostova is a Classical Music Artist Agent based in central London. Elena currently holds position as a Vice-president at IMG Artists' division for international conductors and instrumentalists with responsibility for devising and implementing career strategies and running busy concert, touring and recording diaries, with over three hundred concerts per year worldwide, of a select roster of artists. Elena is particularly passionate about the identification, nurturing and development of emerging artists, whom she judges will make the broadest contribution to artistic and cultural life. Prior to career in Artist management, Elena earned her BA degree in Cultural Studies from Erasmus University in Rotterdam, studied Classical Piano Performance at the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich and graduated from Music college Dr. Vojislav Vučković in her native Belgrade. Email: ekostova@imgartists.com.



Mina Miletic

Prize-winner of many awards, Mina Miletic established her career regularly appearing in recital, as a chamber musician and concerto soloist in concert halls across Europe, Asia and the USA. She completed a PhD on 'Interpretation of Impressionistic Piano Music' and is regularly engaged as an adjudicator for festivals and competitions. Mina is passionate about education and learning and she currently teaches piano at Eton College and Harrow School. Further details may be found on her web-site: www.minamiletic.co.uk.



Miloš Milivojević

Accordionist Miloš Milivojević from Kragujevac, Serbia was awarded full scholarships from the Royal Academy of Music for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Master Degree studies. In 2014 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music ARAM for his contribution to the music. As a result of Miloš's diverse musical interest he is actively performing as a soloist and as a member of eminent opera companies and leading ensembles around UK. Milos is playing classical music as well as tango and Balkan music. His debut solo CD "Accord for life" is available on Nimbus label and from www.milosmilivojevic.com.

Zivorad Nikolic



Zivorad Nikolic is a London based accordionist and a graduate from Royal Academy of Music. He has performed all around the globe and is a member of Fugata Quintet, Balkan group Paprika, AccordDuo and the best Klezmer and award winning ensemble She'koyokh. Zivorad has recorded on the albums of several artists including David Gomez, Aiden Love & Forty Thieves Orchestra, Marti Pellow and featured on Channel 4's How Music Works and in a live performance for the BBC Radio 2 programme, Friday Night Is Music Night. He has also recorded soundtracks for films and some of the most recent collaborations are with Anne Nikitin and Michael Chanyi- Wills. www.zivoradnikolic.com/

Viktor Obsust



Viktor Obsust started his studies in Novi Sad and graduated at the State Conservatoire in Bratislava, Slovakia. He was awarded a scholarship for double bass masterclass at Dartington International Summer School and subsequently came to London as an Aurelius scholar for postgraduate studies at the Trinity College of Music, where he obtained Postgraduate Diploma in Performance (PGD), Licentiate Trinity College London (LTCL) and Fellow Trinity College London (FTCL). A recipient of scholarship from the Lutheran World Federation Regional Development Programme, he started international jazz workshops in Novi Sad in 2001 and in 2007 his project proposal won the Inaugural Community Music Award from the International Society for Music Education (ISME) amongst competitions from 65 countries worldwide to launch community music workshops in his homeland. Viktor was an Associate Lecturer at University of Chichester and holds an educational specialist title from University of Greenwich and Trinity College of Music. He is the only Yugoslav musician who has become a member of the Royal Society of Musicians of Great Britain (2012). As a performer, an impresario and a speaker he travels around the globe. More info: obsust@gmail.com

Marina Petrov



www.marinapetrov.co.uk

Marina Petrov MA is an award-winning concert pianist and piano pedagogue with over 30 years of experience. She specialises in Preventing Pianists' Occupational Injuries and various piano techniques and held seminars, masterclasses and workshops on related subjects at various universities, music colleges and other educational institutions in London and Cork. As a child prodigy raised in Belgrade, she has won many national piano competitions in former Yugoslavia, followed by tours and media appearances, including TV and Radio Belgrade shows. She has also won a federal grant to study further at the famous Moscow Music Conservatoire in 1979. Since settling in London in 1989, Mrs Petrov performed solo recitals, chamber music and played with notable opera singers and instrumentalists in major concert halls across the UK and London, including Regent Hall, St John's Smith Square, and other well-known music venues. Further to her performing and teaching career, the versatile Mrs Petrov is also Co-Founder and Managing Director of Around the Globe Music & Arts and AGPMF Piano Competition and Executive Editor of annual Around the Globe Music Magazine. Her contribution to EPTA and ISSTIP journals is also of prominence, and she regularly writes publications for AGMA. Marina's talents are renowned in the British press, including The Times, and she has been listed in the International Who's Who in Music and British and International Music Yearbook since 1994.

Rastko Rašić



Rastko Rašić is a Serbian born London based drummer and percussionist. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, USA. He has performed and recorded with groups, such as Balkanatics, Forty Thieves Orkestar, Round Coloured Note, Damian Draghici, Theodossii Spassov, Arun Ghosh and Polly Paulusma. Rastko is a founding member of the group Paprika. His live performances have included BBC Radio 3, Glastonbury Festival, The South Bank Centre, The Barbican, Ronnie Scotts and has appeared with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cadogan Hall. He maintains a busy schedule as an educator.

Milena Simovic



Equally at home as a violinist and violist, Serbian Milena Simovic is enjoying an illustrious international career of concerto, recital and chamber music performances. Acclaimed for her work in Europe, Asia and America, Milena performs alongside some of the most established personalities of today's music scene. In May 2018 Milena premiered Berlioz's Harold in Italy in Belgrade with Serbian Radio Symphony Orchestra, which was broadcasted live across the country. Milena's performance of Harold in Italy was then praised as "...exceptionally delivered performance, charged with brilliant combination of operatic quality and diversity, which was jaw-dropping at times", "seductive and exciting...with rare artistic sensibility" in the press. Milena has been a recording artist of Nigel Kennedy between 2015 and 2017, and acts as a principal violist of the Ulster Orchestra since 2019. Milena has graduated from the Belgrade Faculty of Music and Arts, completed Masters Degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and Zurich University of the Arts. <http://www.milenasimovic.com>

Božidar Smiljanić

Bass-Baritone



Born and raised Londoner, Božidar Smiljanić, has been a member of the solo ensemble at Oper Frankfurt since 2018, where he has performed a wide selection of roles including the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Garibaldo* in *Rodelinda*, *Ariodate* in *Xerxes*, *Eumée* in *Pénélope*, *Sprecher* (*Die Zauberflöte*) and *Maskeradenmeister* (*Maskerade*) among others. Roles in Oper Frankfurt's in the 2021-22 season will include the *Doge of Venice* in *Bianca e Falliero*, *Fernando* in *La gazza ladra* and *der Einarmige* (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*). Božidar studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, on a full scholarship, where he received the Principal's Prize for exceptional all-round studentship. He made his professional debut in 2014 at Glyndebourne Festival Opera as *Captain* (*Eugene Onegin*) and returned as *Masetto* (*Don Giovanni*) on the Glyndebourne Tour. He has since debuted at several major UK companies including Garsington Opera, Scottish Opera and The Mozartists. As a Harewood Artist of English National Opera, Božidar performed the roles of *The Marquis* (*La Traviata*) and *Schaunard* (*La Bohème*) and sung the title role in the opening night of the 2020 production of *The Marriage of Figaro* to critical acclaim, before the production had to close due to the Covid pandemic. Božidar has a particularly extensive concert repertoire and is a regular on the concert platform, having already developed relationships with a number of key conductors and orchestras including Nathalie Stutzmann and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, John Wilson, Ed Gardner and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Jakub Hrůša with the Bamberger Symphoniker, Hervé Niquet and Le Concert Spirituel, Trevor Pinnock and Das Neue Orchester Köln, and Richard Cooke and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2022, Božidar will make his debut with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (Beethoven's ninth Symphony) and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



Ljubica Stojanovic

Ljubica Stojanovic started to play piano at the age of 6. She graduated with a Masters from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, studying with Prof. Caroline Palmer, and subsequently studied on the fellowship programme, with Professor Ronan O'Hora. Her studies were generously funded by the Leverhulme Trust and Guildhall School of Music and Drama's scholarship fund. Ljubica is a 1st prize-winner of over 20 national and international competitions. She is a very active musician who performs regularly as a soloist as well as with European chamber ensembles. Ljubica has performed in the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Hall, Wigmore Hall, St. James's Piccadilly, St. Martin in the Fields, Mozarteum University Hall in Salzburg, Philharmonia Hall in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Thonex hall in Geneva, and in Kolarac Hall in Serbia. She has collaborated with the Witold Lutoslawski Philharmonia from Wroclaw, soloists from Philharmonia Orchestra in London, Serbian Radio Television Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Belgrade, and with Nicholas Daniel and Andrew Marriner. In 2015 Ljubica became an artist for the KNS Classical record label in Spain. Ljubica would like to thank Ronan O'Hora, Henning Kraggerud and Christian Petersen for their guidance, inspiration and support.



Branco Stojasin

Branco Stojasin, guitarist/composer/music arranger/tutor/photographer and the rest; From his birth place of Novi Sad town to growing up place of Frogville (Zabalj) village, back to Novi Sad...to London, with one guitar and small rucksack, following his dream, ... whispers from Sun flow into music... to forming his Sun Recordings label that self-produced 8 acclaimed albums, 1 live DVD and 2 music books all with over 60 original compositions. Branco being a life long aficionado of Nikola Tesla, promoting the knowledge of the Man, dedicating the tunes, albums and books to Tesla, as well as promoting enthralling true trad folk music of Serbia/former Yugoslavia. 2018 celebrated the 20th anniversary of the label with the release of Branco's new solo-guitar album "Above The Clouds".

"One of the most lyrical acoustic guitarists around today. His ear for an affecting melody is faultless. His albums are an unalloyed treat throughout." Chris Parker
www.brancostojasin.co.uk



Aleksandra Timarov

Aleksandra Timarov graduated in piano performance (Bachelor and Masters degree) from the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. Aleksandra also has a post-masters qualification 'diplome de virtuosité' from Geneva. Aleksandra has won many top prizes in numerous piano competitions in Serbia, Italy and France. She has performed in Serbia, Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland and England as a soloist and with orchestras. Her concerts were transmitted live on the Radio Suisse Romande. Aleksandra has also a passion for teaching. She implements a broad foundation of music history and theory in her lessons. Her teaching methods are playful, energized, inventive and appealing to children of different ages.

Nataša Šarčević



Classical pianist Nataša Šarčević, instrumental professor at the London College of Music, University of West London is active on the international music scene performing in Germany, Austria, Holland, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Brazil, the UK, Latvia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Italy. She regularly performs at the leading venues in the UK, including the Wigmore Hall, St. John's Smith Square, St. Martin's in the Fields, St. James's Piccadilly and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, to mention a few. In February 2017 she founded the International Concert Series "An Evening of Armenian, Serbian and Bulgarian Classical Music" promoting the Eastern European cultural heritage and music of 20th century and contemporary composers. Concerts with this repertoire have taken place in London, Italy, Serbia, Spain and Singapore.

Silva Vuckovic McQueen



Soprano Silva Vuckovic McQueen has toured throughout Europe with Die Münchener Operabühne, and is a regular soloist with the Victorian and Edwardian group The Bold Balladiers, with whom she performs extensively throughout the UK. Other engagements have included solo soprano in Mozart's Requiem Mass, Mozart's Coronation Mass, Villa Lobos's Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 and Haydn's Pauken Messe, as well as solo recitals at St. Martin in the Fields, St. James's Piccadilly, St. Paul's Church in London, SANU, Guarnierius in Belgrade, NIMUS Festival in Nis and the Serbian Cultural Centre in Paris. She also enjoys performing with Philharmonia Chorus - which she joined in 2011.

**Serbian
Month**

in Great Britain



Visual Art

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain



Nenad Obradovic

Serbian born photographer Nenad Obradovic is based in Notting Hill, London. His passion for photography started at the end of the secondary school when he got his first digital camera. Although he loved to snap pretty much everything around, portraits were always something that stood out and he enjoyed the most. Since opening first photographic studio and shop in 2001 in Serbia, Nenad's growing successful business gave him a good reputation. After moving to UK in 2007 Nenad continued as a freelance photographer covering numerous events such as presidential and royal visits, diplomatic events, high religious events, gala dinners, corporate events, concerts, theatre plays and festivals. Nenad's photos have been featured on numerous websites such as Songlines, BBC, Daily Post, Wales Online, Metro, Radio Television Serbia, Blic, Serbian Royal family website, Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra etc. etc In addition to photography and parallel with it, Nenad has developed carpentry and decorating business and he is quite successful with it. He loves working with wood and the passion dates back to his childhood and his father's workshop. Over many years of experience Nenad became an expert in his craft with good skills, eye for precision and good finish, and currently, due to COVID circumstances, he is more focused on this side of the business. No hard work scares him, and nothing is too much trouble for him. One of his dreams is to have his own workshop where he will be making furniture to order.



Dr Đorđe Perendia

Dr Đorđe Perendia: Starting in '70's as a conceptual artist with exhibitions of graphic works such as ones based on the 1976 music performance "Einstein on the Beach" by Philip Glass, Đorđe gained a Fine Art degree in 1984. His metaphysical sculptural work has been greatly inspired by the contrast between contemporary technology and the arts of ancient Mediterranean cultures and memorial sculptural art, steles. His recent works include memorials dedicated to victims of recent wars and graphic works based on contemporary music (Sono-logies). Đorđe also gained a masters in Computer Graphics modelling of Cubist art, studied Sociology and read on linguistics and its applications in art and design. Inspired by his own art work of 1980s and 1990s based on chaos of natural phenomena and unpredictable behaviour of humans, he recently gained masters of science and a doctorate degrees on stochastic modelling and human behaviour in economics. He also writes essays on culture, language, philosophy of science, sustainability and design. Recent Exhibitions: Le Salon des Arts, Paris (Dec. 2015); Exeter Phoenix, 1st – 27th December 2005; London Foundry, March 2005. Texts: <https://wsimag.com/authors/475-george-perendia>; Art: <http://www.perendia.co.uk>



Dragana Perisic

Dragana Perisic is a self-declared creative, who by chance, happened to express herself through fashion design. While studying economics at Belgrade University, she had made a short trip to London to find a part for her motorbike. Upon arrival, she quickly fell in love with the city and made it her permanent home. After graduating from London College of Fashion, Dragana was noticed by buyers and sold her college collection to a few shops in the UK and abroad. With this, she immediately launched her own, self-funded brand, and she has remained independent ever since. In 2006, she opened her first shop in East London, where she still lives, works, teaches, collaborates and learns. Dragana is an occasional visiting lecturer and has trained many students. Her brand's distinctive style has evolved over the years, but it has always been an unmistakable blend of her two homes - Serbia and Britain. www.draganaperisic.com

Slavica Plemić

Slavica Plemić is a London based artist, focused on crucial aspects of human existence and survival in a world where a human being is SIMULTANEOUSLY an individual and an inseparable part of the society, of nature, of the universe. Conceptualist and anti-globalist. Her main interests remain religion, history and philosophy, while her means of artistic expression are essays, painting, sculpture. As a graduate economist (Sarajevo, ex-Yugoslavia), she attended the London School of Technology and Artistic Glass Processing. A longtime member of the Brent Artist Register (BAR), she has had many solo and group exhibitions in London. Also exhibited in New York, San Francisco and Miami (USA), as well as in Monaco.

Blog: www.artglassphilosophy.blogspot.com



Vlastimir Zeric

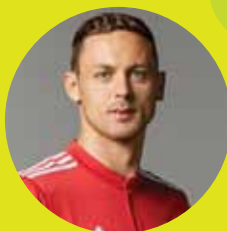
Vlastimir Zeric from Krusevac is a Serbian jeweller, designer and sculptor based in London. He works with precious metals, silver and gold, joining past and present time, people, customs and different cultures. Vlastimir's work is inspired by women and their beauty. His work Sterling silver dress was selected by invited artist Chris Orr, The Royal Society of British Artists to be exhibited at their Annual Exhibition 2020 at Mall Galleries, St. James's. Apart from his love for art, Vlastimir is also a passionate dancer of tango, salsa and waltz. More details: www.facebook.com/vlado.batica



Work by Vlastimir Zeric

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Nemanja Matić



Nemanja Matić is a Serbian professional footballer who plays as a defensive midfielder for English club Manchester United and the Serbian national team. Starting his career as an attacking midfielder, Matić shifted to a defensive midfielder during his spell at Benfica. He is known for his consistent performances on the pitch and his combative style of play. Matić began his senior career at Kolubara, before joining Slovak side Košice in 2007. He moved to English club Chelsea for £1.5 million in 2009. Used sparingly during his first spell at Stamford Bridge, he spent the 2010–11 season on loan at Dutch club Vitesse, and in January 2011, he moved to Benfica in a swap deal involving David Luiz. He won the Primeira Liga Player of the Year award for his performances in the 2012–13 season. Matić returned to Chelsea in January 2014, for £21 million. He was named in the PFA Team of the Year for the 2014–15 season. In July 2017, he was reunited with former Chelsea manager José Mourinho after signing for Manchester United. Matić represented Serbia at under-21 level. He made his senior international debut in 2008 and has since earned over 40 caps. He was part of their squad at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Luka Milivojević



Luka Milivojević is a Serbian professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Premier League club Crystal Palace and the Serbian national team. Milivojević's first season as senior was with his home town club Radnički Kragujevac during the 2007–08 season, then playing in the Serbian League West. After moving to the top league club Rad into the senior team playing as right side midfielder, he signed for Red Star Belgrade in 2011. His arrival to Red Star was largely due to the desire of coach Robert Prosinečki, who believed that Milivojević had bright potential. In 2013, Milivojević signed a five-year contract with Belgian football giants Anderlecht and in 2014 joined Olympiacos on loan from Anderlecht. After the 2014–15 season, Milivojević reiterated his desire to stay with Olympiacos, but in June 2015 Anderlecht confirmed that it had reached an agreement with Olympiacos for the permanent transfer of Milivojević. He had spent a season with the club, and joined the Greek champions by signing a four-year contract, for a fee of €2.3 million. In January 2017, Milivojević signed for Crystal Palace on a three-and-a-half year contract for almost €16 million. Milivojević was a member of the Serbia national under-21 football team. He had been called up for the Serbia national football team squad in 2011, to face Italy and Slovenia in the UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying phase. He made his debut for Serbia in 2012 in a friendly match with Chile. In June 2018, he was included in the final 23-man squad for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Aleksandar Mitrović



Aleksandar Mitrović is a Serbian professional footballer who plays as a striker for Premier League club Fulham and the Serbia national team. A youth product at Partizan, he turned professional after a loan at Teleoptik, and was a regular as they won the Serbian SuperLiga in his first season. At the age of 18, Mitrović was named among the top 10 talents under the age of 19 in Europe by a selection of UEFA reporters. He then joined Anderlecht for a club record €5 million, and scored 44 goals in 90 games across all competitions in a two-season spell. He won the Belgian Pro League in his first campaign at the club, and was the league's top scorer in his second. In 2015, he moved to Newcastle United for £13 million. In 2018, he was loaned to Fulham, and joined them permanently after helping them to promotion to the Premier League. Mitrović helped Serbia win the 2013 European Under-19 Championship, being voted the best player of the tournament. Since that year, he has also been a senior international player, earning over 40 caps and representing the nation at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Serbian Month in Great Britain 2022

Programme

● Thursday 27th Jan 2022

Launch of Serbian Month Catalogue 'British Serbs' part two

Saint Sava's Day Celebration

Exclusive virtual tour of the Serbian Orthodox Church of the Holy Prince Lazar, also known as Lazarica in Birmingham.

Enjoy your own personal tour of the Lazarica Church and learn more about its history, construction, beautiful frescos and mosaics.

Available to view on the Serbian Month YouTube channel

Serbian Orthodox Church

89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

10am St Sava's Day Service -Divine Liturgy and the blessing of the Slavski kolač (Slava bread)

After the Liturgy food and drinks will be served in the Great Hall for all parishioners

7pm St Sava's Academy, ZOOM event, 7pm

Very Rev. Dr. Miloš Vesin (Chicago, USA)

Đorđe Koldžić, MD (Tufts Medical Centre, Boston, USA)

Archimandrite Sava Janjić (Dečani Monastery, Serbia)

St. Sava Church choir

Zoom meeting details:

<https://zoom.us/j/97647248998?pwd=K0VYWFlhOFVEUzlwZW5XOXk3eDB6UT09>

Meeting ID: 976 4724 8998

Passcode: svetisava

● Saturday 29th Jan 2022

Serbian Orthodox Church St Sava

89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

7pm Vespers service

7.30 Concert of Folklore groups

● Sunday 30th Jan 2022

Serbian Orthodox Church St Sava

89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

10.00 Divine Liturgy

After the Liturgy, the giving of gifts to children in Sunday school

St Sava's Day Celebration in Birmingham

Serbian Orthodox Church of the Holy Prince Lazar in Birmingham

92 Griffins Brooks Lane, Bournville, Birmingham B30 1QG

St Sava's Day Celebration in Halifax

Serbian Orthodox Church, St John the Baptist in Halifax

18 Heap Street, Boothtown, Halifax HX3 6JE

11am Holy Liturgy followed by a programme of dances and recitations, with the dance group 'Hilandar'

Free entrance / Contact: stjohnthebaptisthalifax@gmail.com

From 26th to 31st Jan 2022

● Avivson Art Gallery

49 Highgate High St, Highgate, London N6 5JX

Exhibition of paintings by George Perendia from his series Harnessing the Chaos at the Avivson Art Gallery show.

Opening Hours: Wednesday, Friday, Sat 12-6pm; Thursday 12-8pm and by appointment.

● **Thursday 3rd Feb 2022, 6pm**

Serbian City Club - ZOOM event

Jelena Miladinović Delić

Discussion about entrepreneurship and starting a new brand in both the UK and Serbia.

Language: **Serbian**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.

RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

● **Saturday 5th Feb 2022, from 12.30pm**

The Serbian Society London

"Hodočašće na Krf" presentation by the curator Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Saramandić

Dom Vladike Nikolaja - Serbian Orthodox Church

89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear about the chronology of the stay of Serbs in Corfu in the First World War and see a slide show of photographs, with a virtual guide as in the Serbian House in Corfu.

After the lecture, guests will have an opportunity to talk with curator Ljubomir Saramandić who is author of the books 'Tamo daleko', 'Hodočašće na Krf' and 'Sve je ovde legenda' and an expert consultant and screenwriter in several film projects ('Gde cveta limun žut', 'Plava grobnica', 'U početku bi reč').

Language: **Serbian**

Entry: free

● **Saturday 5th Feb 2022, from 7pm to late**

Belgrade Party / Beogradska žurka at Paya & Horse

Paya & Horse Pub Gallery, 181 Battersea Park Rd, London SW11 4LB

● **Sunday 6th Feb 2022, 6pm**

Serbian City Club - ZOOM event

Vesna Stanojević

Discussion with the acclaimed actress about the craft of acting in Serbia and the UK

Language: **Serbian**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.

RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

● **Wednesday 9th Feb 2022**

Jasenovac and Holocaust Memorial Foundation

Premiere screening of Award-winning Documentary: Forgotten Genocides, the Sin of Silence

(English with Serbian subtitles). Synopsis 2021-2022 'Best of the Best' Awards in the category of "Best Social Justice Programming".

A lecture by Prof Gideon Greif: Jasenovac - Auschwitz of the Balkans

Due to Covid pandemic venue and time TBC, please contact JHMF near the date at info@jhmf.org.uk or check Facebook page.

● **Thursday 10th Feb 2022, 6pm**

Serbian City Club - ZOOM event

Živojin Ivković

Discussion about publishing in Serbia and abroad, and how to identify talent in the diaspora

Language: **Serbian**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.

RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

● **Thursday 10th to 28th Feb 2022**

Art & Science Exhibition

George Perendia is taking part at Schrödinger's Cat Exhibition:

Exploring art & science relations through art and discussions.

Bookery Gallerie, 20 Church Street, London, NW8 8EP

<https://bookerygallerie.com/>

Open: Tuesday-Saturday from 12.30am-6:30pm, or by appointment.

● **Saturday 12th Feb 2022, 4 -6 pm**

The Raymond Nicolet Trust – ZOOM event

The Raymond Nicolet Trust volunteers will report on past achievements and new aims, interleaving with musical interludes from several musicians who are patrons of the charity: Patrick Hemmerle, Miljana Popovic Materni and Victor Maslov.

Language: **English and Serbian**

Further details are available on

<https://www.raymondnicolettrust.com/events/2022/rnt2022wintergathering>

Visit: www.raymondnicolettrust.com

Contact: info@raymondnicolettrust.com

● **Sunday 13th Feb 2022, 10am**

Serbian City Club - ZOOM event

Biljana (Billie) Krstović

Discussion about wellbeing, identity, and roots at work and in life

Language: **English**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.

RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

● **Tuesday 15th Feb, 7.30pm**

Fetch Theatre and Serbian Council of Great Britain

Theatre play Hitleria Pizzeria

The Stables Theatre, The Bourne, Hastings TN34 3BD

Live in Hastings and via livestream in other places around UK.

Bookings: <http://stablestheatre.co.uk/hitleria-pizzeria/>

From the pen of award-winning writer John Knowles comes an absurd comic drama encompassing war, love, betrayal, and a man with a Hitler moustache.

'The writing is witty, the characters sharply drawn, the performances assured.'

Kent Barker Hastings Independent Press

Visit: Fetch-theatre.co.uk

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENJcB_D1EBI

● **Tuesday 15th to Saturday 19th Feb 2022, 7pm / Sat 19 Feb also at 2.30pm**

Theatre play Trade by Ella Dorman-Gajic; Directed by Maddy Corner

Part of Vault Festival Transfer Season

The Omnibus Theatre, Main Space, 1 Clapham Common Northside, London SW4 0QW

Trapped in a ruthless world, Jana desperately attempts to protect the people she loves. A thought-provoking, unflinching play exploring morality and power within the European sex-trafficking industry.

Cast: Tanya Cubric, Ojan Genc, Eleanor Roberts.

All performances will be captioned in English & Serbian. Age 16+

A post-show discussion with the creative team and a representative from UnSeen following the matinee performance on Sat 19th Feb, from 3.30pm-4.30pm (open to all ticket holders).

Booking and further info: <https://www.omnibus-clapham.org/trade/>

Supported by Arts Council England.

● **Wednesday 16th Feb 2022, 6pm**

Serbian City Club - ZOOM event

Centar Zvezda, Tatjana Dražilović

Discussion with Centar Zvezda - the "Star" Centre – about social integration of children and youth, including getting them ready for an independent life after leaving the social care system.

Language: **Serbian**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.

RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

● **Friday 18th Feb 2022, 10am**

Serbian City Club - ZOOM event

Suzana Gvozdenović

Discussion with the editor of RTS programme for the diaspora

Language: **Serbian**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.

RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

● **Saturday 19th Feb 2022, ZOOM event, 6pm**

Liberating Cinema

Masterclass and Conversation with Goran Marković

A masterclass and conversation with the legendary Serbian director, screenwriter, author and playwright Goran Marković. The creator of classics such as National Class Category Up to 785 ccm, Variola Vera, Sabirni Centar, Tito and Me, and contemporary dramas The Tour and Delirium Tremens.

This is a unique opportunity to participate in a creative discussion with the director.

Masterclass Description and Link: <https://liberatingcinema.org.uk/representation/>

Liberating Cinema Website: www.liberatingcinema.org.uk

● **Sunday 20th Feb 2022, ZOOM event, 11am**

British-Serbian Medical Association members are presenting on various medical topics

Desa Lilic - COVID-19 update: what we know and still don't know / **Eve Brearley** (Zoka Milan) - Long Covid

/ **Zika Petrovic** - Chronic Low back pain - diagnosis and management / **Nemanja Stojanovic** - Type 2

Diabetes - Impact of medications on weight / **Mirjana Petrovic** - Senior moment or dementia? – a GP

perspective / **Andjela Mijovic** - Autism - between labelling and denial / **Aleksandra Fox** - When not to see

your GP / **Zarko Stefan** - Minor Health Conditions and Self Care -a GP perspective /

Milena Petrovic - Irregular and postmenopausal bleeding.

● **Sunday 20th Feb 2022, ZOOM event, 5pm**

Writing workshop: Writing Diaspora led by Dr Jelena Nolan-Roll (Bristol)

This is a one hour long 'writing as inquiry' workshop led by award winning creative writer, researcher and psychologist Dr Jelena Nolan-Roll. Through the series of writing prompts participants will engage with their experiences of living in the diaspora. The workshop aims to be supportive and encouraging to writers at all levels. Beginners and more experienced writers are all welcome.

15 participants maximum. It will be in Serbian and English.

Applications can be sent to drnolanroll@gmail.com.

● **Tuesday 22nd Feb 2022, 7.30pm**

Concert 'Melodies of Southern Sentiment'

Soprano Silva McQueen and pianist Maya Jordan

The Rocket, 11-13 Churchfield Rd, Acton, London W3 6BD

Tickets £15

Bookings: maya.jordan@yahoo.co.uk

The Rocket



The Rocket Pub

11-13 Churchfield Rd, Acton, London W3 6BD

Email: therocketacton@gmail.com

Tel: 02089936123

<https://therocketw3.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheRocketActon>

● **Saturday 26th Feb 2022, 11am**

Memorial service (Pomen) for Women in Foreign Medical Missions

St Sava, Serbian Orthodox Church in London

89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

The liturgy will be followed by Zadušnice and Pomen

● **Saturday, 26th Feb 2022, 3.30pm**

The Serbian Society London in collaboration with the Serbian Council of Great Britain and Zvezdana Popović

Exhibition on WW1 by Zvezdana Popovic

“Milunka” theatre play for children (6-14 years old)

“Milunka” is a play about Milunka Savić, the Serbian war hero who fought in the Balkan Wars and in World War I, the most-decorated female combatant in the recorded history of warfare. It will be performed by Vesna Stanković, the well-known theatre actress from the Yugoslav Drama Theatre in Belgrade (Jugoslavensko dramsko pozorište, Beograd). The play duration is 45 min and it will be followed by the short presentation by Zvezdana Popović about women in foreign medical missions in Serbia during the World War I and Award Ceremony for Students on the Round Table and Azbukum Serbian language courses by the Serbian Council of Great Britain.

St. Cyprian's Clarence Gate

Glentworth Street, London NW1 6AX

Entry: free

● **Saturday, 26th Feb 2022, 6pm**

The Serbian Society London in collaboration with Zvezdana Popović:

“Milunka” monodrama performed by Vesna Stanković, directed by Petar Stanojlović

Vesna Stanković, award winning theatre actress from Yugoslav Drama Theatre, Belgrade, and Theatre Balkan Novi Pokret, will enrich our evening with a play about the famous Milunka Savić.

Personal confession of a woman warrior about life and death, war, Serbia, and its history, from the point of view of the most-decorated female soldier. This is a confession about life from the first rifle to the first broom.

The play duration is 1 hr 50 mins, and it will be followed by a short presentation by Zvezdana Popović about women in foreign medical missions in Serbia during the World War I.

St. Cyprian's Clarence Gate

Glentworth Street, London NW1 6AX

Entry: £25

Bookings: office@serbiansociety.org.uk

● **Sunday 27th Feb 2022, ZOOM event**

Serbian Library in London

Ninth Annual Mini Book Fair

Vesna Petkovic presents Serbian authors and their works.

● **Tuesday 1st March 2022**

Serbian Council of Great Britain

SCGB AGM

Event for Young British Serbs

The Rocket, 11-13 Churchfield Rd, Acton, London W3 6BD

Serbian Council of Great Britain AGM Members and non- members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting to find out about the work of the Serbian Council over the past year and to learn about future projects. Further details email: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

'A Cup of Stories' : Srpski zetovi (Serbian sons-in-law)

Serbian Council of Great Britain

Maya Jordan in conversation with foreign men married to Serbian women.

For updates and possible programme changes please visit www.serbiancouncil.org.uk.

No. 1 cultural melting pot in 2022:

Novi Sad European Capital of Culture

By celebrating the great names of Serbian science through art and culture, Novi Sad officially became the European Capital of Culture on 13 January.

Within Doček, a unique artistic celebration in Europe, more than 400 artists from Serbia and Europe reached 'zenith' together with the audience, showing just how the heritage of those that influenced not just Europe but the whole world – Mileva Marić Einstein, Milutin Milanković, Dragiša Brašovan and Ljubomir Micić, should be remembered and promoted.

Together with the multimedia exhibition 'Time and Universe' and more than 40 cultural events, Novi Sad set sail towards an extraordinary year by fulfilling its vision 'The beginning of new. Now!'

And this is just the start...

A year bursting with art and culture

In 2022, Novi Sad will present a total of 1500 cultural events in synergy with about 4000 local and international artists.

The programme concept of Novi Sad as the European Capital of Culture comes out from the slogan 'For New Bridges', which represents the idea of building new bridges of cooperation and exchange between artists and organisations. Within this concept, four programme bridges and eight programme arches, i.e., chronologically arranged programme units, are defined.

The title year was opened with Doček, a unique celebration in Europe based on dualism: two celebrations of New Year's Eve, two days, two ways of calculating time, two alphabets and two forms of art. The programme continues with Migrations (from 1 February until 22 March), the programme unit that takes into consideration the movement of the population as an inspiration in art, followed by the Future of Europe (from 20 March until 15 May), the programme unit dedicated to children and young people, with the focus on creating a better future of Europe through culture and art.

Heroines (from 16 May until 12 June) will present female culture, art and creative process with an homage to prominent women of Novi Sad, who are the inspiration for exhibitions, concerts and other programmes. Fortress of Peace (from 17 June until 17 July) deals with deliberations and a critical overview on warfare and its consequences, searching for the culture of peace. Danube Sea (from 22 July until 21 August) will present cultural heritage and preservation of the natural wealth of one of the largest rivers in Europe.

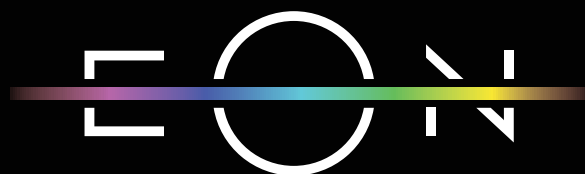
One of the legacy programmes of Novi Sad as the capital of culture, the fifth Kaleidoscope of Culture will be held from 1 September until 7 October. During five weeks, it will present five forms of art at iconic and new places for culture and in newly restored spaces, connecting local and European scenes with the citizens of Novi Sad. The title year will be closed with the programme unit Other? Europe (from 8 October until 27 November). The programme arch will discover different, alternative, marginalised, minority, and rebellious expressions by reassessing dominant values in the European culture and art.

Thanks to the European Capital of Culture title, Novi Sad is adorned with the award for the best European trend brand of the year at the European Cultural Brand Awards 2021.

Welcome!

More info: www.novisad2022.rs





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Serbian Month

in Great Britain