



NATIONAL MUSEUM CACAK

MUSEUM GUIDE

2

Radivoje Bojovic

**CACAK REGION IN THE PAST**

*Guide of National Museum Cacak*

Cacak, 2009

Radivoje Bojovic

**CACAK REGION  
IN THE PAST**

*Guide of National Museum  
Cacak*

*Editor in chief*  
Delfina Rajic

*Editorial Board*  
Delfina Rajic  
Milos Timotijevic  
Aleksandra Gojgic

*Translated into English*  
Vesna Kovacevic

*Graphic Design by*  
Sladjana Tutunovic

*Proofreader*  
Zorana Bojovic

*Photography*  
Sasa Savovic

*Published by*  
National Museum, Cacak  
[www.cacakmuzej.org.rs](http://www.cacakmuzej.org.rs)

*Pre-press by*  
Design studio 'Trigon'  
Cacak

*Printing*  
'Svetlost', Cacak

*Printed in 1000 copis*

ISBN 978-86-84067-32-8

MASTER  
JOVAN KONAK





*Science and Art, work of Djordje Jovanovic*

Permanent exhibition of the National museum in Cacak is located in a picturesque building of Mater Jovan Konak. This building stands out as a residential object of the member of ruling dynasty among few objects of the Balkan architecture preserved in Serbia with its painted coat of arms on the main façade.



*Konak of Master Jovan Obrenovic, beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century*

Master Jovan Konak was built in 1835. Josif Dobrovic was a supervisor of the building. Ten 'gogs (bricklayers) for foundation of the Konak' were sent from Karanovac on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1835. Works were completed in September and Jovan Obrenovic provided window panes and door knockers and shelves. Baron August Von Herder visited his family in a 'new court' on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1835. At that time priest Janko Mihailovic was finishing painting and shutters 'three doors were left to be painted'. He also worked out a painted decoration in the peaky arches above windows, but it is only known to us from photographs. On April, 1836 Sava Stanojevic announced the visit 'of all village mayors to come and congratulate on

## COAT OF ARMS

Coat of Arms of General Jovan Obrenovic, commander of Morava-Podrinje military command is painted between two windows on the main façade. Two lions in the base with the grassy surface, the right one with a Prince crown and the left one with general kalpak, support the Coat of Arms of Principality of Serbia; shield with a white cross and four Serbian symbols with an open crown leant above them. Painting suggests unity of supreme and local authorities: Serbian Prince (a lion with a Prince crown) and district Duke, i. e. military commander (a lion with a general kalpak).



DUKE  
JOVAN OBRENOVIC  
(Srednja Dobrinja, 1796 –  
Sremski Karlovci, 1850)

On the eve of Takovo gathering he made Turkish tax collectors to run away from Konjusa on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1815. He kept Cacak under siege since 25<sup>th</sup> April.

At the beginning of the battle he was in command of cavalry and in May to all Serbian forces on the positions around the town. After the victory in Cacak he took the army to siege Uzice. In 1816 he was the leader of Serbian deputation in Carigrad (Istanbul). Prince Milos Rudnik and later, in 1832 he was ruling in Pozega district (nahija) as well. He built Church of St. George in Cacak about 1820, konak in 1835, and in Brusnica he built Church of St. Nicholas in 1837. Prince Milos Obrenovic gave him a silver sword as a gift in January, 1836.

When constitutionalists came into power, together with other members of the ruling family he moved to Vojvodina in 1842 and he never came back to Cacak again.

moving into a new konak. During the summer, a painter Uros Knezevic was in Cacak, and he painted portraits of Jovan Obrenovic in general uniform and in lively town's costume.



*General Jovan Obrenovic, work of Anastas Jovanovic, 1851*

The author and the year of painting of the coat of arms belong to the time of completing building works of Master Jovan Konak in Cacak. It was painted by priest Janko Mihailovic - Moler (Negrisori 1792 - Negrisori 1852) in the autumn of 1835. Ambitions for having a personal coat of arms can hardly be seen as there is only one per-

sonal detail (a lion with a kalpak), while on the shield a state symbols were repeated. Its creation confirms a wish of the painter to mark a residence of a state representative in province at the time when the civil society in Serbia started developing and pushing way looking up to noble European tradition.

His disagreement with stylization of shield's elements in 'Serbian Newspapers' he expressed in this way 'even when Adolph Berman was in typography four Serbian symbols lost their purpose and became something like uncompleted little crown. Interest for that topic was testified by a painter's early appearance in Serbian heraldic literature in 1844 when he published the article 'Something more about Serbian coat of arm in magazine 'Podunavka'.

The Konak is one floor building of a rectangular base, with the entrance on the south-east side. On



*Diploma of turkish  
'Order of Pride' of general  
Jovan Obrenovic  
(Matica srpska, Novi Sad)*



*Master Jovan Obrenovic Konak, 2007*

FELIX KANITZ  
(Budim, 1829 - Vienna, 1904)



Kanitz came in 1860 and the appearance of the centre of the town was almost the same as when Master Jovan Obrenovic left Serbia. Colorfulness of the Balkan town was given by the buildings built as a part of the urban core formed around the church after its reconstruction in 1834. Only two buildings were different from the ambient formed around the reconstructed church, school and Konak – representatives of state and spiritual rule, and they were Hadzic House and pyramid built in the honor of Prince Milos Obrenovic return to the throne and they brought first central European influences on the old town's centre and they marked the coming of not very numerous town's class representatives on the civil engineering stage.

the ground floor there is a basement with a separate entrance and a hall which connects a dining room for 12 persons, coffee –room and a room with a fire-place for guards. Between these rooms there is a fire place. A wooden stair- case leads to the first floor. 'In every of the four corners there is one room and one of them is with the chimney, and above the cellar there is one saddle room, in the rest of the space among the rooms there is a little open space with a ladder leading downstairs.'

Master Jovan Obrenovic did not live in Cacak for a long time. That is the reason why only one of his portraits from the 'small saloon' with ceiling decorated with rosette, belongs to the initial inventory of the Konak. During his six months' stay in Belgrade, after the rebellion in 1839, the state tried to buy the Konak to settle Cacak District Administration in. When leaving Serbia, his wife Ana Obrenovic delivered 'one flag half red, half white' and the cannon from the Cacak battle.

In the forties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a district physician Dr Josif Jankovic and the Chief of Cacak District Stevan-Stevca Mihailovic lived in the Konak. In 1850 it was rented to District Administration. After moving the District base to Karanovac it was deserted and in a very bad condition. It was reconstructed by the builder Naun Jankovic in 1857. After returning the Administration to Cacak, the head office of the District was settled again in Konak in the autumn of 1859. Ana Obrenovic sold the Konak to the supervisor of her properties, Cacak tradesman Spasoje Tajsic, and later it came into possession of the state.

The oldest look of the Konak is proserved in the drawing of Felix Kanitz 'Main Square in Cacak in 1860'.

Felix Kanitz, traveled through Serbia for the first time when oriental symbols of once pasha's region started to disappear, and educated people and national institutions had first results in studying antiquities. His stay in Cacak would have been unnoticed if he had not left the drawing, apart from a short description, of the square from 1860, which is still the oldest art presentation of the town. After his first visit of Cacak on June, 1860 he writes: 'Our drawing shows to a reader a main square and the Cathedral. In fact, it is the centre



around which other public buildings are located. To its front side there is Administration Centre, and then comes the Telegraph building, school and on the right there is District Court. For those who are not very familiar with the appearance of Serbian small towns these buildings do not have some significant features. Except from the telegraph building, other buildings are more in the Turkish style.'

*Main Square in Cacak 1860,  
work of Felix Kanitz*

## MASTER JOVAN KONAK



*Konak, 1938*



*Museum of Revolutionary Youth was settled in the house of Vule Pantelic from 1966*

First museum manifestation in Cacak was held in 1896. There was a great interest in researching and collecting antiquities, but the idea of forming a museum was recorded for the first time between the two world wars. After death of Marshal Stepa Stepanovic in 1929, there was an idea of building a memorial building with the purpose of exhibiting his weapons, decorations and war trophies, but it remained unrealized. In the 30s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was expected that forming of such an institution should contribute preservation of old town's architecture in Cacak. That is why the wishes for opening the museum were connected with Konak of Master Jovan Obrenovic. At the municipality request District Administration gave the permission for settling the town's museum in that building on September, 1940. Second World War postponed realization of this idea. After liberation the process of opening the museum was continued, at the same time as a memory on the recent events.

National Museum in Cacak was founded by the decision of the Town Council on 30<sup>th</sup> August,



*Konak of Master Jovan Obrenovic, 1953*



*Permanent exhibition, 1953*

1952 with the aim to protect movable cultural values and study the past of Trnava, Ljubic, Takovo, Dragacevo and Morava Region. The town preserved Master Jovan's Konak as the most distinguished characteristic of the town's architecture of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and turned it into the museum. The first exhibition was organized on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1953. It has been changed and filled in thus keeping dynamics of collecting museum exhibits. Successful work on collections enabled opening of the second exhibition in 1974. Apart



*Permanent exhibition, 2006*



*Permanent exhibition, 1974*



*Permanent exhibition, 1996*



*Permanent exhibition, 2006*

from that, visitors had access to numerous study exhibitions, whose themes were new or less known events from the past of Cacak region.



*Wars 1912-1918 in permanent exhibition, 2006*

Space arrangement of the old konak enabled that in new exhibition display from 1996 (reconstructed in 2006) three themes have been exposed: 'Cacak region from pre history to the end of middle ages', 'Ovcар-Kablar Monasteries and churches of Cacak region' and 'Cacak Region in rebellions and wars between 1804-1941'.

CACAK REGION  
FROM PREHISTORY TO THE  
END OF THE MIDDLE AGES





The story about the past of Cacak begins much earlier than the first mentioning of its name in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest inhabitants were attracted by river valleys of the West Morava and its tributaries and hilly area of Cacak region, and they built their houses –dugouts and houses made of poles coated with mud, as early as in Neolith (5500 to 3200 B.C.)



*Pre historic period in the permanent exhibition, 2006*

On the locality ‘Crkvina’ in Miokovci, an altar and dishes from pre barbotin phase of proto Starcevo have been found. Hand made ceramics for house usage of classic Starcevo culture and some objects have been found in settlements ‘Trsine’ and ‘Slatina’ in the valley of the river Cemernica. The inhabitants, apart from hunting and fishing, were dealing with half nomadic farming, rising tamed animals, weaving and making pottery with bone tools. Are exhibited Axes made of ground stone, bone tools made of stag’s antlers, needles, pointed tools, little knives made of flint and obsidian and weights for fishing nets are.



*Dish, Ostra, Bakovaca, Older Neolith*



*Altar, Bresnica, Aniste, Older Neolith*



*Stranier, Ridjage, Vinogradi, Younger Neolith*

◀ Golden jewelry, Atenica, end of the 6<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C.



*Figurine, Ridjage, Vinogradi,  
Younger Neolith, Vinca culture*



*Figurine, Guca, Younger  
Neolith, Vinca culture*



*Dish, Gornja Gorevnica, Early  
Bronze Age*

Under the protection of over lived culture of Starcevo a new, Vinca culture appeared and findings were in settlements in upper, naturally protected places, beside river flows: 'Poljcine' (Ostra), 'Trsine' (Gornja Gorevnica), 'Vinogradi' (Ridjage), 'Breg' (Guca) and 'Velike livade' (Krstac). On the sunny slope above the river Cemernica in Gornja Gorevnica, a house of big dimensions whose roof was supported by wooden columns was researched.

The transition into younger Neolith about 4500



*Bowel, Ostra, Middle Bronze Age*

B.C. is represented by ceramics of Vinca structure, with a surface processing in Vinca manner, from Ostra. Various ceramic materials come from other localities and they date back from younger phase of Vinca culture (Vinca-Plocnik), above all dark, grey-black pottery with ornaments engraved and stylized, black anthropomorphic plastics. Bi conical bowels made of well filtered ground belong to shiny polished ceramics. Miniature vessels, animal figurines and axes had cult purpose.

Vinca culture disappeared in the region of Sumadija and West Serbia between 3500 and 3200 B.C. before the invasion of easily movable collectives of cattle breeders at the time when both natives and newcomers mastered the metallurgy of copper. Ceramics of different cultural groups of Eneolith were noticed in disarranged pre historic layers of Gradina settlement on Sokolica in Ostra.

Bronze Age which lasted throughout the whole 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C. started with migration of Indo Europeans from the steppe of the south region



*Bracelets, Guca, Grotnica, Middle Bronze Age*

of Russia. They brought with them metal suitable for manufacturing weapons and jewelry, and new religious beliefs. Apart from settlement material from early and middle Bronze Age in Sokolica in Gradina, other settlements in Cacak region have not been found.

Necropolis under the tombs on the slopes and in hilly mountain ranges in Dragacevo reveals their presence in this meadow rich area. In the tombs from Early Bronze Age there are no metal findings, while ceramic material such as jugs and cups are connected in their forms with local culture Belotic – Bela Crkva. Graves from developed



*Cup, Ducalovici, Ruja, Early Bronze Age*



*Glasses like pendant, Jancici, Dubac, Middle Bronze Age*



*Urn, Jancici, Middle Bronze Age*

## HELMET APPLICATION

Partly preserved, presents a wild boar, expressively presented strength, vertically positioned bristles, and made of silver coated sheet metal, by technique of beating. It could have been placed either on a helmet or a shield. It belongs to developed creations of



Attic or Corinth style of the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.



*Fibula, Vidova, Older Iron Age*

Bronze Age in Lucani, Jancici, Krstac, Guca, Ducalovici and Donja Kravarica contain various jewelries: necklaces, bracelets, glasses or pipe like pendants, tutulas, saltaleons, needles and pincers, whose property was showing the social status of their owners. Urns' shapes and ornaments are connected with Vatina culture which appeared about 1600 B.C. Bronze Age ended by standing out first groups of pre Illyrians and pre Thracians and beginnings of ethnic forming old Balkanize tribes. Great migrations of peoples at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup>



*Bracelets, Gornji Branetici, Older Iron Age*

and beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century B.C. included cultures of the Bronze Age on the territory of Serbia and caused transition into Hallstatt.

Older Iron Age (12<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) started after turbulences and migrations by the end of Bronze Age. Introducing of new technology of production and processing of iron did not interrupt continuation of population settling from late-Bronze Age, whose presence was noticed on the roads leading to Cacak. It is presented by bronze jewelry from Vidova, kelt from Mojsinje, bronze bracelets' storage from Gornji Branetici and a settlement ceramics from the locality Velika basca (Big garden) in Vujetinci.

During several centuries, at the beginning of the last millennium B.C. ethnic populations clearly divided and formed thus marking historical period on the wider region of the territory of Serbia. They were also recorded in historical sources starting from the Greek historian Herodotus who mentions tribal valley by the river Velika Morava.

Two big tombs in Atenica rich in findings of golden and silver jewelry from the graves of duke, young prince and a princess were made in the period of intensive dividing of tribal society at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. However it is still hypothetical because of similar level of development of ethnic



*Bracelets of glass paste, Atenica, end of the 6<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B. C.*

groups and their intercultural intervening at the beginning of Hallstatt. Duke's necropolis belong to the period of time of rise of tribal aristocracy in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C. and exceptionally rich material culture whose autohton creations were harmoniously elaborated with imported material from the Apennine Peninsula, Greece, Black Sea Coast and Russian steppes. In the duke's grave weapons of a tribal warrior were found: swords, spears, arrows and shields. The wheel of a cart which carried it to the stake was reconstructed. Grave findings in both tombs consist of golden, silver, amber and glass jewelry, metal dishes, ojnohoe, boxes with bone covers and horse equipment. Imported objects from Greece



*Golden necklace, Atenica, end of the 6<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C.*

OJNOHOE

A yellow-reddish dish with a beaky opening, exposed stomach and a ring leg. The handle is grooved. There are three stripes of dark



red color on the shoulder and stomach. It belongs to Ionic ceramics from Black Sea Coast from the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

and their craftsmen workshops in Ionic colonies on the Black Sea Coast came to the tribal territory by the trade roads along the bank of the Danube. At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> and first decades of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. direct connections with Skits were established who enabled getting three-part arrows and two-part iron balls in Atenica. Apart from luxurious material in dukes' graves, not well burnt conic bowels were found, the only trace of everyday life of ordinary cattle breeding population whose settlements have not been discovered. After defeat in the war with Alexander the Great in 335 B.C., tribal organization weakened and disappeared in the 1st century B.C.

Roman conquest on the Balkan Peninsula in the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. established administrative rule which contributed Romanization of local population. Cacak region was a part of Dalmatian Province. On its east border in the vicinity of Cacak in 197 there was VIII voluntary cohort. At the place of the town there was a village settlement, vicus, with beneficiary station for tax collecting.

Cacak was on the crossroads, where beneficiary stations were usually built, fortified with ramparts and ditches. Beneficiaries from Claudio's XI legion were guarding roads, following important transports, while consular beneficiaries were supervising tax collecting. It is assumed that II Dalmatian cohort 'Aurelia' was in the regions around Cacak in 176 under the command of tribune Tiberius Claudio Gal because of defending of eastern border from bandits. Money – denars and antonians were found in Goracici as they were in circulation in this region in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries.



Capitol, surroundings of Cacak, 5<sup>th</sup> century

In the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century in Cacak and its vicinity II Dalmatian cohort was located. Commander of this cavalry military troop, with an honorary title 'Emilio', tribune Cnaeus Pompeius Polittianus built altars devoted to military Mars, Serapes and Aside, which were discovered in Cacak. During the rule of the emperor Emilio in 253, Quintus Sextilius Marinus, commander of II Dalmatian cavalry cohort, placed a monument to God of Jupiter. The cohort left its seal on the bricks found in Cacak. It is assumed that its camp was by the river Jezdina. The mention of this cavalry cohort on the altar devoted to Goddess Diana, from Gradina in Jelica, points at the exploitation of metal ore in the vicinity of Cacak, for whose transport strong military security was needed. It is very likely that Cacak, at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, was an important military center on the crossroads on the eastern border of Dalmatian Province and close to important mines.



*Stone lion, Prijedor, Culjevinina, 5<sup>th</sup> century*



*Glass bottle, Prijedor, Culjevinina, 5<sup>th</sup> century*



*Altar devoted to Jupiter, Jezdina, 197*



*Merkur,  
Bresnica, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> century*



*Storage room of Roman money  
from Goracici, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century*

Fertile valley of the West Morava was divided in the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century into numerous farming estates. Their owners did not give up comfortable life, that is why thermal baths were discovered in Cacak and in Beljina, and they were built in the style of well organized rustic villas. Dimensions of thermal baths in Beljina point out that they had private purpose. They consisted of rooms for cold and hot bathing, sweating, exercises and body adapting between bathing in cold and hot water. Some of the rooms were painted. A part of the estate in Prijevor was a corn store room, while in Gornja Gorevnica there were several economy objects. Not far from them there were memories built to the cult of dead. On the locality of Culjevina, glass dishes, jewelry and medical accessories were discovered as grave donations.

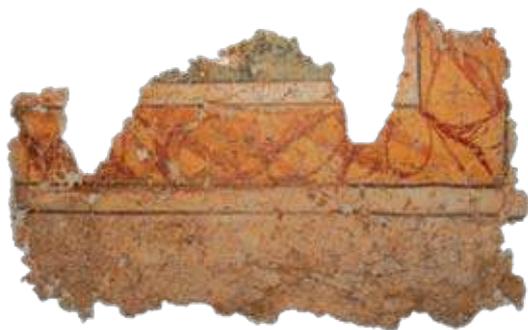
In the attacks of Germanic tribes on the Roman provinces on the Balkan at the end of eighties of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, a villa in Gornja Gorevnica was burnt down. After the defeat of the emperor Valence in the battle with Goths at Hadrian field, from 378 to 383 they were vandalizing on the whole territory of Serbia. These events did not interrupt the continuity of life in the valley of the Zapadna Morava River during the following decades. Life on numerous farms was interrupted during the Huns' invasion on the Balkans in 441-443. The inhabitants left the farms due to economic hardships in the empire during migration of peoples. Classical world was trying to protect itself from the barbaric invasion from the north in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries by building systems of fortifications.

Building of new cities and reconstruction of the old ones was continued in the early Byzantium period when fortifications (gradine) were built in the mountainous region of Dragacevo – on Jelica and in the Lisa village during the rule of emperor Justinian I (527-565).

‘Gradina’ on Jelica with its most important findings from the 6th century was probably administrative and Bishopric centre. In the museum there are fragments of frescoes preserved in the lower parts of the walls and baptistery from basilica, as well as church stone furniture designed by sculptors: parapet plates and capitols. Two store rooms were found there: one with a bronze bell and the other with farming and carving tools.

Finding of the plate fibula with stylized birds’ heads, testify of strong Germanic influence, if not about the presence about Germans in the military service of the empire.

Byzantium did not succeed in protecting its borders from the Slavs who settled the Balkans in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. On a hidden elevation above the



*Fresco fragment, Jelica, Gradina, 6<sup>th</sup> century*



*German plate fibula, Jelica, Gradina, 6<sup>th</sup> century*



*Solid of Emperor Justinian II, Jelica, Gradina, Constantinople 567-578*



*Bell, Jelica, Gradina, Early Middle Ages*



*Enkolpion,  
Rudnik, 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> century*



*Hearth ceramics, Rosci,  
Kulina, 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> century*

Zapadna Morava, on the Kulina locality, a Serbian settlement was discovered from the 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> century with characteristic ceramics decorated with troughs ('valovnice').

The valley of the Zapadna Morava came into composition of 'baptized Serbia' in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, in the reign of Duke Ceslav (927-about 950). According to the charters of the emperor Vasilije II from 1019 and 1020, Belgrade Bishop had 40 clerics (church, spiritual people) and 40 village mayors in Gradac, which is probably the earliest mention of Jelica's Gradina.

In Middle Aged Serbia Cacak region was a constituent part of Principality of Duke Stracimir, brother of Stevan Nemanja, and it was the territory in the farthest north of the state territory. There was a small fortification, a monastery was founded which preserved in its name the trace of the settlement. Before the monastery and its property were established there had been a settlement whose population had a grave yard built on the ruins of Roman thermal baths. In the graves of peasants modest jewelry from the 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century was found. Crosses which can be folded of Syrian-Palestinian type (encolpion) belong to accidental findings. The remains of Byzantium coins from village Zablace which date back the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries are exhibited.

Armor shirt made of small rings was found in Cacak as a part of protection equipment of a warrior in middle Ages. Sward from Zablace has a double blade with a shallow groove, handle with a flat apple and cross. Mace was found in the village Goracici. Besides an iron spear, tops of arrows in different shapes are also exhibited.



There is preserved record of a nearby village Loznica which was in the Morava District in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. At the beginning of his reign king Stefan Milutin donated this village to the Hilandar Monastery, which was also confirmed by his

*Armor shirt and sword  
of a warrior in middle ages*

## EARRING

Gold coated silver earring composed of two strawberry like parts, exposed by rings of filigree wire and central part in the shape of a pyramid consisting of eight conical parts whose widen parts end in half calottes in the shape of a flower. The link between side strawberries and central cup is elaborated with winding wire and there are discs of filigree wire on both sides.

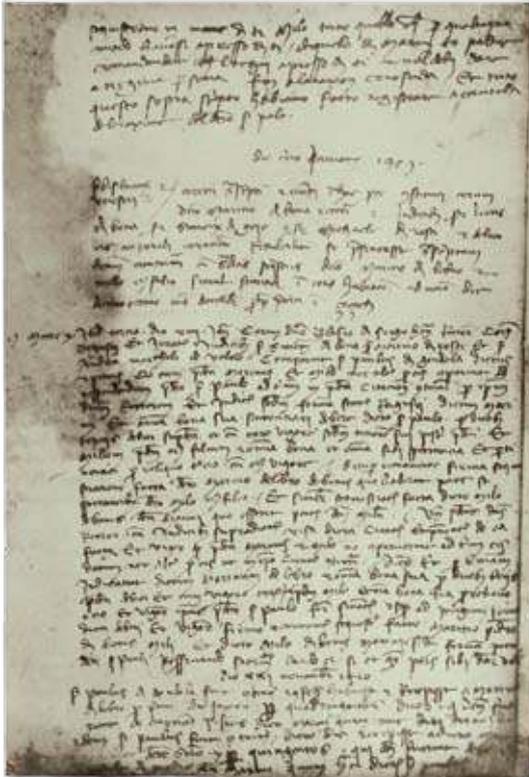
It belongs to the jewelry and coin remains of Emperor Dusan and coins from the time of the Emperor Uros, from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the village Kostunici near Cacak.



*Earring, Kostunici, 14<sup>th</sup> century*



successors. In the Charter of Stefan Dusan from 1355 a half of the hunting ground near the Morava was added, while the other part probably belonged to the Gradac Virgin Mary Monastery. The emperor himself stayed in the vicinity of Cacak in 1354, most likely because of the fight with Ugrians about Rudnik which was rich in silver. In one of the battles his duke Djurdj Zugrovic also took part and a part of his tomb stone was found in Virgin Mary's Monastery. There are scenes from battles and hunting presented on the stone for mounting



First mentioning of Cacak, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1408

a horse (binek tasi – Turkish) from Cacak, from the 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Socio-economic development of Serbian medieval state was characterized by development of agriculture, trades, mining and crafts. Crafts workshops manufactured products needed by landowners, mining and trade centers. Products of jewelry's workshops were under the influence of Byzantium and West Europe. Economic activity of exploiting ores of silver, copper and lead in one of



LANDOWNER'S RING

A massive silver ring with an inscription, decorated with interlaced and stylized floral ornament in the technique of nijela was found in founder's grave of the church in Majdan. It belonged to Rudnik landowner Nikola Kosjer. It dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Duke Oliver Kosjer who was mentioned in one record from 1457 was probably a member of this family.



Binjektas, 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> century

## BEAKER



A glass made of a little blurred glass, gradually wider towards the opening.

The bottom in a conical shape has applied garland on its edge. It is decorated with twelve vertical plastic grooves which narrows down and disappear completely in the lower part of the glass. A blue glass line is applied on the brim. It was later elaborated after casting in a mould. It is assumed that it was manufactured in Dubrovnik in the twenties of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

the most important mining centers Rudnik started at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and it is shown in the jewelry findings and medieval coins.

Remains of farming and carving tools from the 14<sup>th</sup> century have been found on the estate which once belonged to the church of Virgin Mary. From the remains found in Kostunici an earring and 15 examples of money from the time of emperor Dusan and some unspecified money from the time of the emperor Uros have been exhibited. A glass made of glass from the old church in Trnava



*Earrings, Cacak, 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century*

belongs to the luxury import from costal cities and it was made in Dubrovnik in the twenties of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

At the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century economic activity in Serbia started flourishing, first of all farming, mining and trade. Near the Gradac Virgin Mary Church there was a square and settlement on the crossroads of the roads which were used for transporting loads of silver from Rudnik. Cacak was first mentioned on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1408 in one invitation to Dubrovnik tradesmen Marin and Milo de Lebri to pay out debt receipt given two years before that. In the spring of 1455 Turkish army lead by Sultan Mohamed II occupied the town.

OVCAR-KABLAR  
MONASTERIES AND CHURCHES  
OF CACAK REGION





SANTO

VICTOR

Medieval churches and monasteries built under the Turkish rule make the most important part of memorial heritage of Cacak region. The church of Gradac Virgin Mary and monastery Nikolje belong to the earliest period of Serbian state existence.

Duke Stefan Stracimir built monastery church devoted to the Virgin in Morava Gradac at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Looking for the place where he would build his foundation he used the building experience of the previous centuries. In that way, one of the most famous and still most secretive monastery wholes was constructed on the classical period locality from the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century.

The church of Holy Virgin Mary was built between 1172 and 1190. It was first mentioned in



*Church of Christ Ascension, Cacak*



*Rosette of the church in Cacak, second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century*

◀ *St. Warrior Nestor, fresco, monastery Nikolje, 1587*

#### CHURCH BELL

The bell with a loop for hanging and the cross above the rim was gifted by Gradac metropolitan



Nikifor. It was cast in the foundry of Radoje Milisic in Dubrovnik in 1454.

## JEZEVICA FOUR GOSPEL BOOK

Manuscript of four gospel book was written on parchment and it consists of two paleographic units, it was rewritten between 1337 and the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. A modest decoration includes flags, marginal decorations and geometric initials. Covers made of leather from the



middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century have imprinted images of crucifixion and symbols of evangelists.

written sources between 1207-1215. According to Studenica Typicon of St. Sava, out of six abbots who chose prior of Studenica, the abbot of Gradac Virgin Mary was on the second place. Kinsmanship of the founder with the founder of Serbian rulers' dynasty provided it the status of king's monastery. By Zica's Charter Stefan Prvovencani (first married) excluded it from Episcopal power together with Studenica, Djurdjevi Stupovi and Chilandar. In medieval genealogies and chronicles there are records of its appearance: 'Stracimir built church of Holy Virgin Mary out of two parts on the bank of the river Morava.' St. Stefan official document with a gold seal mentions its abbot Jefrem on the sixth place among fourteen abbots, members of synod who took part in electing Nikodim for Archiepiscopo in 1317.

During the reorganization of Serbian church between 1319 and 1321 it lost its status of king's monastery and became the base of Gradac episcopacy. Establishing of a new clerical-administrative centre changed the life of once landowner's property and created conditions for building groups of monasteries in Ovcар-Kablar gorge and at the foot of mountain Jelica. In the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century the church of Virgin Mary underwent a great renewal and for its rich stone decorations was one of the most beautiful buildings of the time. At the dawn of Turkish invasion of these regions it is mentioned as a seating of Gradac metropolitan Nikofo in 1454.

Next to the episcopacy, on the caravan road towards Rudnik, at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century a



*Cacak Four Gospel Book, 1554*

town's settlement Cacak was developed. The town and medieval church were badly damaged during the Turkish invasion of Serbia. In the first Turkish census from 1876 it was described as a village with 10 houses. As the church was deserted, only the monastery estate was recorded. At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century there was a market and the fair was held in it. Monastery estate was cultivated by

## CACAK FOUR GOSPEL BOOK

Cacak Four Gospel Book was rewritten by 'great Vuk from the place Nikoljazar' in 1554 with 'effort and blessing of the priest Mijo from Samaila near the river Morava at the foot of mountain Jelica'. The manuscript is decorated with flags, interlaced and



with initials. Gospel by Marko begins with a big flag with rich geometric interlace of white ribbons, on blue, red and terracotta background, which is transformed into a stylized leafy vine at the ends.



*Troic Four Gospel Book,  
end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century*

the Vlahos. Around 1535 Cacak became the centre of qadi area. Remains of the church were used by Hairudin emin to build an 'honorable mosque' on them before 1560. In the following decade Turalibeg completed building of the object and built minaret as well as mekbet (elementary Islamic school) near by. His estate was registered in 1572 and a part of his income was given to support donation in the little town of Cacak.

Church organization of Gradac diocese of a metropolitan, established in the time of despotism was left without a cathedral when Turks entered Cacak in the spring of 1455. Census recorders notified only the monastery of Nikolje in its



*Monastery Jovanje, work of Dragutin Milutinovic*

vicinity in 1476. Far away from emperor's roads in 'the valley of Kablar near the Morava' in 1489 a little icon was painted. There is no other data,



*Antimins of Arsenije III Carnojevic, 1692*

although the gorge of Ovcar- Kablar was an ideal refuge for monks - hesychasts who had a special way of organization of monks' communities and building of monasteries. Distance from the regions with Moslem inhabitants and slow Islamization of Cacak enabled building of the group of monasteries: Vaznesenje, Preobrazenje



*Candlestick, monastery Trnava, 17<sup>th</sup> century*



*General Menaion,  
Venice, 1538*



*Four Gospel Book,  
Mrksa's church, 1562*



*Emperor's doors,  
monastery Stjenik, 18<sup>th</sup> century*



*Wood carved plaque, monastery  
Vujan, end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century*



*Deist plate, work of zoograph Mitrofan, detail, monastery  
Nikolje, 17<sup>th</sup> century*

(first mentioned in 1525), Vavedenje, Sretenje (1528) and Jovanje (1536). After reconstruction of Pec patriarchy the churches of the monasteries St. Trojica (1572) and Blagovestenje (1602) were built. At this time monasteries Vrelo (Trnava), Jezevica and Stjenik were built at the foot of mountain Jelica.

After reconstruction of Pec patriarchy, when old Serbian art in medieval traditions experienced its last renaissance, in the time of patriarch Pajsije (1614-1648), its impulses had great influence on the monasteries in Ovcар-Kablar gorge. Then the churches of monasteries Blagovestenje, Nikolje and Jezevice near Cacak were painted with frescoes. In the wall painting of the 30s of the 17<sup>th</sup> century it can be noticed the influence of graphics, above all, illustrations of the books from the printing workshop of Bozidar Vukovic.

The former monastery complex of Gradac Virgin Mary, and above all its huge walls Turks did not estimate as fortification and they left them without military post throughout the whole 16<sup>th</sup> century. Eski Hisarlik (Old Gradac) had the obligation to send food for the emperor's troops in Belgrade in 1566. Old fortification by the name Cacak was first mentioned in 1626 in the travel description

down Dubrovnik road of Luis de E, baron de Kormanen.

When describing the town in 1663 Turkish travel – writer Evlia Chelebi says: ‘In the old times it was a village and then due to a good climate the number of inhabitants increased, so the place became inhabited like an Eden garden [...] in a spacious and wide area on the banks of the river Morava [...]. It only has six city quarters and 6000 houses covered with tiles and planks, ground floor ones and one floor houses. There are seven mosques and three Moslem schools [...] There are three Moslem religious places, four primary schools, two taverns, one Turkish bath and twenty shops.’ The lack of more precise data does not give the possibility of identifying Turali-beg estate. His destiny in Austro-Turkish war 1683-1699, when Cacak was devastated is not known. In these years the chronicler was watching ‘Islamic forces like snakes with wings which attack the famous city of Vienna.’

Crafty products for everyday use were made under the strong Islamic influence. People were using dishes made of copper decorated with oriental ornaments in the technique of forging. Ceramics was glazed, decorated with wide stripes and often has the shape of metal dishes. In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries jewelry became heavier and bigger,



*Mould, monastery Nikolje, end of the 16<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century*



*Metal buckle and Cross, church in Jezevica, first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century*



*Ring, 18<sup>th</sup> century*



*Earring, 17<sup>th</sup> century*



*Vase, 17<sup>th</sup> century*

especially earrings in the shape of locks, while ornaments on rings had Turkish elements.

Urban image of Cacak formed during the first two centuries of Turkish rule disappeared during the Great Vienna War (1683-1699). Oriental town was first destroyed by the rebellions in 1688 and it has never been renovated again. At the dawn of the following Austro-Turkish war 1716-1718 it had about 150 houses but at the time of liberation it was a 'deserted place'. After the Pozarevac peace treaty and the fall of north Serbia under Austrian rule, Turali-beg's mosque will be returned into church with some modest building interventions. Dositej Nikolic, Valjevo episcope dedicated reconstructed temple of Dormition of Mother of God in 1723. The church had iconostasis, made of painted holy doors, a cross with crucifixion and some icons. In

modest collection intended for religious service a bell stands out, antimins of Arsenije Carnojevic, Gospel Manuscript and Octoechos.

The oldest book preserved from the monasteries' libraries in Cacak region is Jezevica Four Gospel Book, written on parchment in the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Period of Turkish rule is presented with books printed in first Serbian printing workshops: in Venice, the one belonged to Bozidar Vukovic (1538) and in Mrksa's church (1562). Leather covers were decorated with medallions with iconographic compositions at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Bronze mould from the monastery Nikolje has on one side crucifixion and on the other Abraham's Hospitality made according to the Russian pattern. Ornamental bordering lines were formed using a mould of a small format which was imprinted in series. Old tradition of making wood carved clichés for illustrating Serbian printed books ended by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with a matrix for graphic page from Vujan monastery. Wood carved plate with the image of Whole Trinity and Mother of God together with Saints, framed with stylized ribbon of wavy vine presents an example of the best Serbian graphic tradition. Rich church prelates accepted copper engraving technique, to the difference from poor monasteries and people, so antimins of Patriarch Arsenije III Carnojevic (1692) and of Arsenije IV Jovanovic – Sakabenta (1743) were engraved in the new technique.

In 1735 Cacak had 17 houses and a trench with permanent crew of 150 soldiers (outlaws) who carried out border service as well. When a new war between Austria and Turkey broke out a new warehouse and main headquarters were built in



*Jug pitcher, Cacak,  
18<sup>th</sup> century*



*Jug pitcher, Cacak,  
18<sup>th</sup> century*

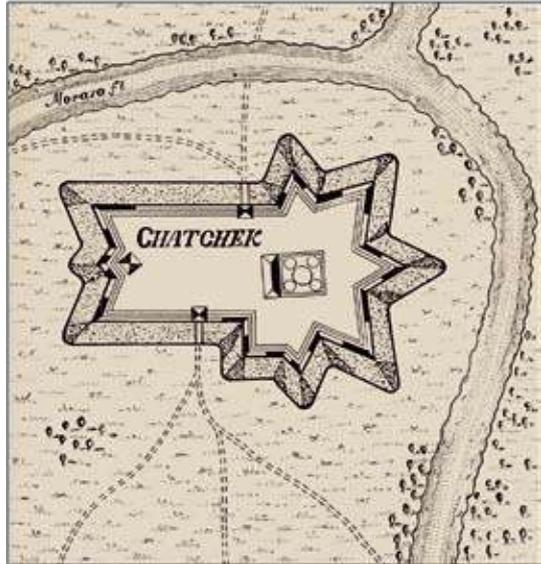
### CACAK TRENCH

On the map of Bosnia and Serbia issued by Hoffman's successors in Nuremberg, new borders were shown after Belgrade peace treaty in 1739 as well as plans of fortifications built during the Austrian administration. The base of Cacak trench was given together with the river flow of the West Morava. Church and a house were shown within the rampart.



*Hand cross, 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century*

1737 and in September field marshal Seckendorf came. After one month's stay Austrian army retreated to Srem to spend a winter there. At the end of February of 1738 Turks occupied Cacak and



*Cacak trench, about 1740*

burnt it down and the trench was destroyed. The inhabitants were looking for refuge across the Sava and Danube in Austria and new inhabitants were coming from Old Serbia, Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Austrian intelligence officers Josif Miteser and Jovan Anton Peretic visited Cacak in 1784. The town had '35 Turkish and 18 Christian small houses with one tall and well built, spacious mosque which used to be a Christian church. The settlement is situated on a big open space [...] Three streams run through this terrain; you can

cross them by four wooden and two stone bridges. During Koca's krajina in 1788 the town was burnt down by rebellions of Aleksa Nenadovic. Sergeant Tadija Dragas kept the town at the beginning of



*Icon lamp, gift of Duke Vasilije Popovic to church of St. George, 1831*

February in 1790 with 80 soldiers but Turks came back in March.

During the battles for Cacak liberation in the First Serbian Uprising the trench was bombed from cannons and the mosque was demolished. It was turned into the church but only few services were held until 1813. After the Uprising failed the mosque was reconstructed again, this time without minaret.

Urban development of Cacak in Turkish and Serbian parts of the town lasted this time longer

## ICON LAMP

A silver icon lamp with a peak made in two level convex belts. The middle part is covered with neo baroque medallions with stylized floral motifs.

Three heads of angels with wings are applied and there is a vegetable decoration on the edges.

Inscription:

'Presented by Master Vasilije Popovic to Cacak church. This icon lamp was gifted in the memory of my late son Jovo in the summer of 1831.'

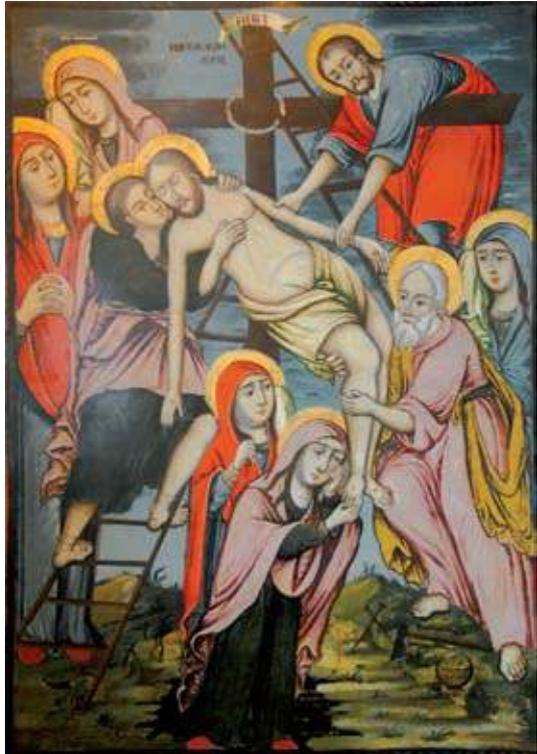
It belonged to the treasury of the church St. George in Cacak.



*Seal of church in Cacak, mid of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*



*Icon lamp, gift of Duke Nikola Kostic to church of St. George, before 1819*



*Taking down from the cross, gift of master Jovan Obrenovic to church in Cacak, 1835*

than a decade and it was soon abandoned. In that period Serbian part of the town finally got its image by building church of St. George in 1820. Foundation of Master Jovan Obrenovic was 'beautifully decorated with a new temple and there was a new choir equipped with necessary books.' Iconostasis was painted by Aleksije Lazovic. One silver icon lamp was dedicated to Cacak church by Duke Nikola Kostic and the other one was gifted by Duke Vasilije Popovic in 1831. After moving



*Bishop Nikifor Maksimovic, work of Zivko Pavlovic, 1846*

of Uzice eparchy to Cacak the temple got the role of Cathedral. This was one of the motifs why inhabitants ordered the bell with inscription in one of the most famous foundry in Pest.

The need for more representative cathedral church after Cacak became the base of Uzice eparchy in October, 1831 and the presence of ambitious bishop Nikifor Maksimovic speeded up making decision of removing Islamic features from the stone mosque. Support of state government, above all the ruling Duke and his brother as a chief of Rudnik and Pozega districts helped solving material problems. Works on renovating the church started with 30 bricklayers 'Dibrana'



*Icon lamp, a gift of Marta Cipor to church in Cacak, 1847*

## BISHOP KONAK

In the thirties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century one of the most important building projects was realized within Cacak church complex. In 1837 after persistent efforts of the bishop Nikifor Maksimovic, bishop konak was built right opposite the altar, the most beautiful object of the old Balkan architecture in the town. The project obtained by Duke Milos Obrenovic, is probably the work of Hadzi-Nikola Zivkovic.

Building works were carried out by 'skilled craftsmen Dibrani'. 'What ever there is out of Istanbul skill and fantasy in architecture, it is here presented and drawn. Almost the whole konak 'glitters'. The outlets in the attics, doors, windows, verandas and corners are vivid pictures of the most beautiful summer rose gardens. Konak had the cellar, ground floor and first floor. 'There are 5 rooms on the ground floor, one chamber and a spacious corridor where there are chimneys for heating, while on the first floor there were 4 rooms, two chambers and a spacious corridor with three corners.' There was a



*Bishop konak in Cacak, built in 1837*

on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1834. Minaret was completely pulled down and when they came to the foundations of the first church they also found the old painting. During reconstruction works the windows which were sealed up, mihrab and minber were removed, but decorative elements in the 'shape of honeycomb and stalactite decorations in the corners as well as marble stone on the floor decorated with geometric arabesques' remained. Walls of naos, altar space and foundations of narthex and bell tower remained from the medieval church. Reconstructed temple was dedicated by Nikifor Maksimovic on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1834. At the wish of Prince Milos Obrenovic, the church was dedicated to Ascension of Christ in the token of gratitude to the Savior for the great victory in the battle against Turks for Cacak in 1815. There was an intention for the temple to be painted, so the Duke recommended painters Janjo, Jovan Stergevic. Zivko Pavlovic, painter from Pozarevac painted the big iconostasis in Cacak church in 1845.

Reconstruction of Stracimir's foundation was a great event for the young of the town at the moment when Cacak got the image of administrative and religious centre. Its most significant representatives would take turns in positions of ktitors and donators in the century to come. On the day of dedication of Cacak church there was one golden cross and maybe Cacak Four Gospel Book in older treasury from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Its reconstruction started on the day of dedication when Ante Koljevic presented 'Book of Prayers'. General Jovan Obrenovic donated Gospel Book and icon 'Taking down from the Cross' in 1835. Bishop Nikifor Maksimovic was in several occasions giving service books to the church. He donated 50 ducats for making holy doors on February, 1846. Marija Cipor donated a silver icon lamp to the 'temple of Cacak church' in 1847 which was later transferred to church of St. George. Bishop Joanikije Neskovic donated a silver cross in 1869, while Staka Pantelic donated a silver icon lamp in 1880/81.

Cacak church was two times donated with precious gifts from the fraternity of the monastery Holy Trinity near Pljevlja. On March, 1838, Jovan Obrenovic was donated '5 books of abbot Prokopije from the monastery Whole Trinity in Herzegovina'. In January of the following year this hieromonk brought as a present a manuscript of Four Gospel Book, written in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Guilds of Cacak craftsmen were donating precious service religious objects several times, out of which the most important is the bell with the inscription: 'Guilds of tailors of Cacak municipality donated this bell cordially to Cacak temple of St. Ascension in 1854' which was cast in Vrsac and a silver censer is a gift of bakers' guilds and Association of inns

court chapel in one of the rooms on the first floor. Above the entrance door on the east side there was the inscription about the building which existed until 1912.

Konak was furnished stylishly. Besides Turkish elements of the furniture there were also German pieces as well as luxurious household furnishings.

On the walls besides icons there were paintings, still life, bishop's portraits and other clerical dignitaries and monasteries' vedutte.

There was a bishop's library in the konak which had not only theological and ministering literature, but some books which point at new cultural trends in just renewed Serbia.



*Discus of church in Cacak, 1845*

PRIEST VICENTIJE  
POPOVIC  
(Jezevica, 1832 –  
Jezevica, 1917)



Priest and national representative, as an educated man of his time had a personal library, which started with books of his ancestors from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Books of the young Konstantin Popovic (Jezevica 1842-Jezevica 1864), a poet and the founder of Serbian history of art, were included in the library.

The library which is a source of about 300 old and rare books was collected throughout several generations of priests of the family

Popovic as the most distinguished expression of their social superiority.

owners from 1868, a work of famous Belgrade goldsmith Nikola Stojic.

Thanks to the discovery of medieval hidden place in 1875, 'at 10 feet of the nowadays church', one bell from the 15<sup>th</sup> century was brought back to the



*Silver censer, work of Nikola Stojic, Belgrade, 1868*

church of Christ Ascension and the following year it was erected up to the tower. In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in 1877 at the latest, the biggest part of inventory of St. George Church became a part of treasury, as service was not held there any more. Those objects were iconostasis and bells from 1832, chalice of Ljubica Rogic from 1833 and censers of Vasa Simonovic from 1834 were also included.



*St. Nicolas, work of Janko Mihailovic Moler, first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

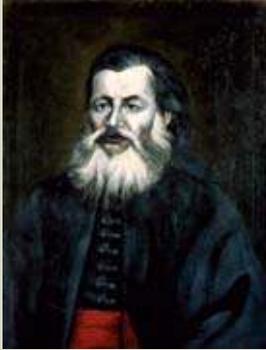
In the mid of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the church was in a bad condition. In 1853 Municipality decided to cover with copper the dome and altar and to add up the tower. During the reconstruction 1856-1858, builder Naum Jankovic decided to rebuild narthex and build baroque bell towers next to it, covered with plates the lower parts of the walls and made an elaborated architectural decoration



*Spear, a gift from goldsmith Mihailo Jovanovic to Cacak church, 1839*



*Lid of censer, gift of Vaso Simonovic to church of St. George, 1834*



*Priest Sreten Popovic, work of  
Dimitrije Popovic, 1873*



*Priest Sreten Mihailovic, work  
of Djordje Zografski, 1932*

mad out of two – level lezens and two circles of arches below the eaves.

Until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century great works on Cacak church were carried out twice: in 1882 it was covered with copper and in 1895-1896 it was thoroughly reconstructed 'because of which all the traces of the old iconography' were destroyed. Nastas Tomic and Djordje Berbovic at the request of the noblest Cacak families painted some of the individual frescoes in the church. There is the inscription on choir about the history and reconstruction of the temple. After this reconstruction a great number of gifts came to the treasury of the St. Ascension Church. The best examples of parishioners' generosity are filigree crosses gifted by Ilija Krivacic and Emilija Racic. During the occupation in the First World War church treasury was also damaged. Austro-Hungarian soldiers on August 1916 put down and took away the bell from the south tower bell of Tailors' Association from 1854 and the bell from St. George church from 1832. Apart from that, enemy soldiers took away 'one golden cross with a foot which was given by the municipality to the church in 1795', one silver cross, two silver censers and ten different paintings.

After the First World War it was necessary to carry out some building works on Cacak church to repair damages made during the occupation. In the spring of 1926 after the roof and mortar was pulled down from the façade, it was decided that 'Cacak church as a historical monument of our old state and architectural monument of outstanding value, is to be reconstructed' under the guidance of architect Petar Popovic. Building contractor Nikola Nastasijevic upgraded the tower bells, lowered the dome and gave the windows today's appearance.



*Vedetta of Monastery Sretenje, copper-plate, 1845*

He also introduced blind arches. Some smaller archeological excavations were carried out in the church yard. Bishop Jefrem Bojovic dedicated the church on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1929.

In the room which used to be 'a dining room for 12 persons' of Master Jovan Konak, a treasury of Cacak church was exhibited. Only the bells from the 15<sup>th</sup> century belong to the primary fund. 'Cacak Four Gospel Book' of a famous rewriter priest Vuk from 1554 is the most valuable manuscript among the manuscripts of church library. Other objects, icons, portraits of church dignitaries, censers, icon lamps, and crosses belong to the time of the final renovation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One part of this used to belong to the church of St. George.

Deist plate of zoograph Mitrofan from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, copies of frescoes from Nikolje and Blagovestenje are exhibited from the monasteries of Ovcar Kablar Gorge. A copy of the fresco 'Archdeacon Srefan' is exhibited from Jezevica church as well as manuscript of 'Four Gospel' from the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## COPPER ENGRAVING FROM SRETENJE

The appearance of monastery Sretenje after the renovation is preserved in the one year younger copper engraving. In 1844 bishop Nikifor Maksimovic ordered from iconographer Zivko Pavlovic a drawing of the monastery Sretenje which shows the appearance of the church after tower bell reconstruction in 1842 and building interventions on the renovation of monastery complex from 1818 to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A solemn procession which is waiting and accompanies High Priest to the main entrance of the church on 'St. Jakov Persjanin' holiday when there was dedication of the church is presented. Painter Uros Knezevic was taking care about the copper engraving in Vienna and he built it in 1845 in the medallions with coat of arms of Serbia Principality and picture of Sretenje.

'In the room with a fireplace for young lads' one of the oldest private libraries in Serbia which belonged to the priest Vicentije Popovic and sons is exhibited. There are examples of enamel from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and they are one cross and metal buckle found in one priest's grave near the church in Jezevica. Holy doors from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century are from the monastery Stjenik. After a long time after the liberation from the Turks, a cooper engraving of the monastery Sretenje was made in 1845. Graphic pages with monastery drawings were soon substituted with drawings of the monasteries Preobrazenje and Jovanje made by



*Cross, gift of Emilija Racic to Cacak church, 1905*



*View of the setting in odzaklija, 2006*

first researchers of Serbian antiquities, Felix Kanitz, Mihailo Valtrovic and Dragutin Milutinovic.

CACAK REGION  
IN REBELLIONS  
AND WARS 1804-1941





The wars between Austria and Turkey in the 18<sup>th</sup> century were taking place on the territory of Serbia with changeable luck arising hope that people would get rid of many centuries slavery. In the last one, announced in 1788 several thousands Serbs organized in voluntary troops took part as they had rich experience in battles with Turkish army, sieges and taking over towns. Organized in national army they were support to Belgrade vizier Hadzi-



*Karadjordje Petrovic, work of V. L. Borovikovski  
(National Museum, Belgrade)*

Mustafa Pasha in defense from outlaw janissaries. The answer to their come back to Belgrade in 1799 was organizing outlaws' troops again. The first Serbian Uprising started on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1804 in Orasac and it spread to Cacak very quickly. Under the command of Karadjordje Petrovic Rudnik was liberated on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Turks from

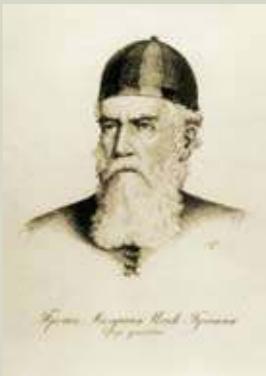
*Yataghan silvercovers of  
Risim Risimovic from Zeoke,  
beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*



◀ *Tanasko Rajic at the Cannon,  
work of Richard Puhta  
(National Museum, Belgrade)*



*Voivoda Milan Obrenovic,  
work of Josip Uhlik*



*Voivoda Milutin Ilic Gucanin,  
work of Josip Uhlik*

Cacak retreat hastily. In hard fights with Serbian ambushes during the night they lost about 200 soldiers. Many of them died in the Morava fearing from rebellions' chase. As soon as the following day they started to leave the small town. The rebellions under the command of Lazar Mutap and Milic Drincic entered the town on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1804. According to the legend, the trench and mosque were shot from canons.

Priest Milutin Ilic Gucanin commander of Pozega District and Raka Levajac member of the Administrative Council had outstanding roles in rebellion fights in the valley of the West Morava of Cacak region. In the spring of 1807 Milan Obrenovic together with his assistant Lazar Mutap ruled the whole south-west Serbia. Under the command of his leaders and voivodas inhabitants of Cacak took part in all big battles on Misar, Deligrad, Uzice, Belgrade, Sjenica and Suvodol.

In 1808 Cacak had 250 inhabitants. In the trench around the church there was a crew with two canons. At the beginning of 1809 the town school was mentioned for the first time. There was a teacher in the village of Zablace. During the Uprising deserted churches and monasteries were renovated and the new ones were built. Significant attention was paid to training of soldiers. Exercise master Proko Slavonac was teaching Dragacevo inhabitants military skills for some time.

When Turkish army attacked Serbia in 1813 from all sides, rebels of Cacak Region also took part in defense. Prince Milos Obrenovic was in command of the left wing on Zlatibor. Voivoda Lazar Mutap and voivoda Arsenije Loma were on Deligrad

which remained in their hands after the fall of Belgrade. The fail of the First Serbian Uprising stopped the enthusiasm of Cacak development. Cacak region in the First Serbian Uprising is presented in the room which was most likely the living room of Master Jovan Obrenovic. There are portraits of Karadjordje Petrovic (work of Uros Knezevic), duelist Jovan Kursula, vojvoda Milan Obrenovic and priest Milutin Ilic –Gucanin (work of Josip Uhlik), and the book ‘Mesecoslov’ of priest Matija Nenadovic is also exhibited as well as different types of old rifles, swords and yataghans. One yataghan ‘a silver one’ of exceptional beauty belonged to the rebel Risim Risimovic from the village Zeoke. Yataghans were used by rebels for cutting and stabbing in scattered formation for defense or charger attack.

The thought about a new rebellion against the Turks did not die away at any moment. It was also supported by Turkish repressions and news



*Impalement at Stambol gate, work of Nikola Milojevic  
(National Museum Kraljevo)*

*Yataghan, legacy of Mita Petrovic, first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*





*Voivoda Hadzi Prodan  
Gligorijevic, work of Josip  
Uhlik*



*Pistol, first half of the  
19<sup>th</sup> century*



*Voivoda Arsenije Loma, work  
of Josip Uhlik*

about the possibility for the war between Austria and Turkey. In such situation a skirmish with the Latif –Aga’s escort in the village Trnava turned into Hadzi-Prodan’s rebellion in 1814. Thus the center of the battles for liberation was moved to Cacak vicinity. As it had not been thoroughly prepared and it was not the suitable time of the year, the rebellion remained within local boundaries and it was not very successful. Turks fought back easily and severely, punishing people in Pozega and Kragujevac Districts who took part in this rebellion in great numbers. Priest Matija Nenadovic was informed in Vienna that ‘at Vracar from Tasmajdan to Stambol gate, on both sides there are parades of impaled people’.

After the fail of the First Serbian Uprising, unsuccessful Hadzi-Prodan’s rebellion was the cause for the severest terror. In December, 1814 and January of the following year a lot of Serbs, caught by Imsir Pasha, were executed in Belgrade. Turkish army started to come to Serbia and at the beginning of 1815 it had 8-10,000 people.

There are ‘Trebnik’ of abbot Pajsije and portrait of Hadzi Prodan Gligorijevic (work of Josip Uhlik) and a painting ‘Impalement at Stambol gate’ (work of Nikola Milojevic) in the exhibition, as evidence of tragic end of the rebellion.

At the beginning of 1815 Cacak became the center of preparations for the new Uprising. The meetings of national leaders were held in Rudovci and Vreoci and they decided to start the war against the Turks and after coming of Milos Obrenovic to Crnuce, the plan about the attacks was made;



*Takovo Uprising, work of Paja Jovanovic  
(National Museum, Belgrade)*

Arsenija Loma would attack Rudnik, Lazar Mutap Cacak, while Petar Topalovic Kragujevac. The battles started spontaneously, so when Milos Obrenovic gave speech at the fair in Takovo on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1815, Rudnik had already been liberated. Prince accepted to be the leader of this Uprising and in front of his house in Crnuce he unfolded his vojvoda's flag and people were called to start fighting and closing roads to Turks.

The army lead by Imsir Pasha to fight against the rebels came from Belgrade. Soon clashes started on the way to the rebelled territory. In Pozega and Rudnik Districts many battles were fought about Cacak but the big battle lasted from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> June 1815.

#### MONUMENT TO SECOND SERBIAN UPRISING IN TAKOVO

'This bush will dry up in the  
course of time  
And the stone column will be



destroyed by the time  
But Serbia will exist for ever  
And the name of Milos will be  
mentioned.'

PRINCE MILOS  
OBRENOVIC

The portrait of prince of Serbia in his every day clothes with a fez on his head, worked out on the basis of the picture of Pavel Djurkovic (Baja, 1772 – Odessa, 1830), preserved a moment of his private life.

Later, Russian decoration of St. Ana of I rank and Turkish Decoration of Glory were added thus reminding us that it is a portrait of a ruler. It comes from the legacy of Simo Milosavljevic Amidza from Kragujevac.



*Prince Milos Obrenovic, work of an unknown author*



*Kurburlije of Risim Risimovic from Zeoke, first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

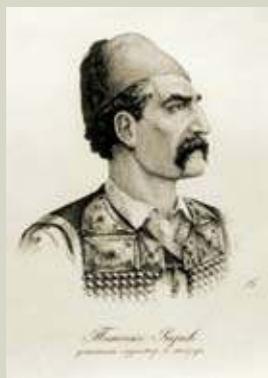
The first part of the battle lasted from 25<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> May. Master Jovan Obrenovic and Voivoda Lazar Mutap attacked Cacak trench, while Prince Milos Obrenovic was trying to prevent passing of Turkish army from Belgrade. Serbs waited for them at Lipar and Rudovice and on the way through Rudnik District kept them for ten days. In that way the idea of energetic action against the Turks failed.

The battle resolved between the hill of Ljubic and Cacak trench in several sequential battles between 6<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June. After the rebels fought back first Turkish attacks on Ljubic and they stabilized



*Rebels' camp, work of Anastas Jovanovic  
(History Museum of Serbia, Belgrade)*

front on the West Morava, Prince Milos Obrenovic went to Valjevo District. He supported the fall of Palez and Valjevo. When he came back with the new troops and two canons to Ljubic on 1<sup>st</sup> June, the battles with Turks restarted. The troops under the command of Kara-Mustafa were defeated in Dragacevo and Imsir Pasha started a decisive battle with rebels. On 6<sup>th</sup> June the battle was held at the foot of Ljubic hill and Cacak trench, but the Turks made rebels to retreat to Ljubic hill and they retreated to the trench after Imsir Pasha was killed. It seems that it was not noticed by any of the sides and battle lasted until the night. Tanasko



*Tanasko Rajic  
work of Josip Uhlik*



*Voivoda Lazar Mutap, work of  
Josip Uhlik*

Rajic was killed by his canons, but in spite of the artillery losses Serbs were gathering to wait a new attack. Turks who were not ready to organize new command were watching at Ljubic hill with fear and were making ready to leave Cacak, which was left without food.

Exploitation of the battle started on 10<sup>th</sup> June when Turks left Cacak and went towards Dragacevo but they had a clash with rebels lead by priest Janko



*Pistol 'ledenica', gift of Prince Milos Obrenovic to Tanasije  
Simic, first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*



*Voivoda Milic Drincic, work of  
Josip Uhlik*

Mihailovic-Moler. Soon rebels from Ljubic joined them and together they completely destroyed Turkish army.

Battle for Cacak was completed after more than a month and a half of battles on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1815 with a complete defeat of the best Turkish troops in Belgrade District. Its losses were 7,000 soldiers. Imsir Pasha and Voivoda Lazar Mutap and Tanasko Rajic were killed in this battle.



*Master Jovan Obrenovic, work of Uros Knezevic  
(National Museum, Belgrade)*

As the main part of the Turkish army was fighting in Cacak, the rebellion was spreading easily in neighboring districts. When Turks heard that Prince Milos Obrenovic was going from Rudnik District towards Kragujevac they left the town. Other big towns would be liberated soon, but coming of Hurshid Pasha on the Drina and Marashli-ali Pasha on the Morava would prevent liberation of the last Turkish bastions in Serbia.

## MASTER JOVAN OBRENOVIC

Portrait of Jovan Obrenovic from 1836 points out social status of a commander in chief, painted in town's costume with a strong oriental influence and details of clothes very precisely painted as it was decorated with golden threads. He is holding a sabre 'samsir' which corresponds to the example preserved in his konak in Brusnica.



*Sabre of Duke Jovan (?)  
Obrenovic, 19<sup>th</sup> century*



*Yataghan and rifle 'dzeferdar' of the family Stovrag from Banjica, first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

The most important events from Cacak history are presented with scenes from the Uprising and portraits of the most respectable rebels as well as with their armament and parts of military equipment. There are a sabre of Jovan Obrenovic and two pieces of gifted arms of Milos Obrenovic: a sabre 'klc' to Trifun Novakovic and a pistol 'ledenica' to Tanasije Simic in the exhibition.



*Sabre, gift from Prince Milos Obrenovic to Trifun Novakovic from Bresnica, first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*

The arms of the rebels consist of a sabre of Janko Cosic from Pakovrace and a rifle 'dzeferadar' and yataghan of the family Stovrag from Banjica.

After the Second Uprising Cacak was developing as a district centre. The town had the administrative centre – magistrate and a primary school. There are a lot of craftsmen and tradesmen. In 1829 Oto Dubislav Pirh was surprised with the house of one tradesman in Cacak which was 'stylish in a town's manner' and which surpassed his expectation completely. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was one of the smallest towns in Serbia as it had only 900 inhabitants. Since 1831 it was the seat of Uzice Bishop. In 1832 Pozega and Rudnik Districts merged into one under the rule of Jovan

Obrenovic and Cacak became the administrative centre of the South-west Serbia. After the church reconstruction in 1834, konaks of the highest state and prelates representatives were built in its vicinity. In 1837 Secondary Grammar School



*Cacak, about 1875*

started working. The town got its first district doctor Dr. Jovan Comp. Urban and economic development of the town was stopped by coming constitutionalists into power and by moving state and educational institutions into neighboring towns.

In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Cacak had 1,500 inhabitants. Travel writers noticed that 'the old Turkish town disappeared and a new Serbian town is developing'. When we talk about economy, brewery of Ferdinand Kren appeared first and it was founded in 1850. District Savings Bank was founded in 1872. Urban transformation can be seen in monumental classicistic mensions of District Administration and Grammar School

## OFFICER

Officer of national army on a drawing of cadet Nikola Petrovic, dressed in 'atila' with a rank symbol on the sleeve with a fur



kalpak on the head. He has a pistol and a sabre of the infantry officer. There are knee socks over the trousers' legs with garters. There are shoes 'opanci' on the feet.



*Commemorative volume to war 1876, 1877 and 1878*

COLONEL ILIJA  
COLAK ANTIC  
(Cacak, 1836 - Belgrade, 1894)



In the first Serbian-Turkish War he commanded the Cacak Brigade of I class and troop towards Novi Pazar and then the Ibar army.

GENERAL MARKO  
KATANIC  
(Becanj, 1830 - Belgrade, 1907)



Wounded in the battle at Kalipolje on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1876 as a commander of Rudnik Brigade of I class.

built in 1875 which followed central European style. The town had its reading room and a theatre. Students continued their studies either in Belgrade or some were going to attend the best European Universities. Their generation with diplomas and achieved knowledge as well as with modern approaches of western culture had a great influence on European like formation of administrative



*Reading of the last telegram in Cacak, 1876*

bodies, science development and social life in Serbia. The young and enthusiastic town's class together with craftsmen and tradesmen were leading cultural and political life in the town.

After sixty years Serbia started Serbian-Turkish wars 1876-1878 and got its independence. Cacak was the centre of West Morava division. The town had 2290 inhabitants. Preparations for the war with Turkey started by carrying out huge engineering works on fortifying the border on

Javor Mountain in 1876. The plan of war envisaged a strong offensive towards Sjenica and Bijelo Polje and joining with the army of Montenegro. As the war was announced by Duke Proclamation, the Ibar army concentrated on Javor south of Ivanjica. It consisted of Cacak, Rudnik, Uzice and Sabac brigades as well as Volunteer corps.

Main troops of Ibar army were not successful in frontal clash with Turkish army at Kalipolje. In the battle on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1876 many officers and soldiers were killed, and troop commander Lazar Mirkovic took away captured flag of Morava battalion from the Turks. Assisting troops liberated Raska and Ibar gorge towards Kosovska Mitrovica. At Javor front battles continued in border zone by occupying Turkish positions at Osman-Pasha's watchtower, Vasiljevic's tower and Suvi Rt. On August and September 1876, after fierce battles Turks pushed back Serbian army to Kusici positions, but as it

MAJOR MIHAILO ILIC  
(Jagodina, 1845 - Jankov  
Vis, 1876)



He was a commander of the troop at Ibar in the First Serbian-Turkish War and Division Headquarters Chief. He was killed on Javor leading the assault of Uzice Brigade of II class.



*Battle on Javor, 1876*

## HONORARY SABRE

After Serbian-Turkish wars 1876 - 1878 trophy ('gold') arms were given only to general Kosta Protic (Pozarevac, 1831 - Brestovacka Banja, 1892). Prince Milan Obrenovic presented him in token of nice memories and his patriotic and faithful service 'honorary sabre' with dedication: 'To my Headquarters' Chief, General Kosta S. Protic, Supreme Commander, Serbian Prince, Milan M. Obrenovic IV, in the name of ruler's recognition gives this sabre for exceptional



*General Kosta Protic, Chief of Supreme Command Headquarters, 1877-78*

was far inside further break through was stopped. They were defeated at Cemernica and Pogled. Serbian offensive for liberation of Javor stopped with killing of Major Mihailo Ilic on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1876. After the front at Javor stabilized, Cacak brigade of I class was sent to the main front.

In the Second Serbian-Turkish war Javor corps had a defensive role. They occupied Kladnica and went out to the Dezevka river. Cacak brigade of I class was in Ibar division. After liberation of Prokuplje and Kursumlija it took part in the battles at Samokovski positions on February, 1878.

Domestic and foreign press was publishing graphic scenes from the battles and news from the front. Nikola Petrovic, student of Artillery Academy, drew the image of Serbian officer and soldier at the dawn of the war. The sabre of Lieutenant Nikola Nikic is also exhibited, as well as Charter



*Assault of Serbian infantry at Turkish battery on Javor, 1876*



*Honorary Sabre of General Kosta Protic, 1878*

efficiency, effortless work and excellent service in the war for liberation and independence, 1877-1878.' Silver decoration of the sabre with golden coating is made in Vienna and the blade in Solingen.



*Charter of Gold Medal for  
Courage of Lieutenant Colonel  
Ilija Djuknic, 1877*



CAVALRY OFFICER  
SABRE M. 1895

A sabre with Serbian coat of arms on the handle and lavishly decorated blade: on one side a silhouette of a rider with a sabre high up separated by the glory wreath from the owner's signature: 'Mihailo St. Gavrovic', and on the



other side personification of Serbia and a state coat of arms. Scabbard is with one ring. Top is made of leather, manufactured in Solingen's workshop Vajersberg.

'Golden Medal for Courage' of Lieutenant colonel Ilija Djuknic and the pistol 'nagan'.

The profile of the town Cacak got in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The cutting of street and fast building were in accordance with the first urban plan from 1893. Agriculture was still



Group of officers of X 'Takovo' regiment, 1904

giving basic characteristics of economic activities, above all export trade. The slow industrial development included only a steam mill in 1899. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century association

'Ovcar and Kablar' was founded in order to build hydroelectric power plant on the West Morava. In 1911 a new railway connection with Kraljevo was built. Since 1899 there are several newspapers published in Cacak: 'Ljubic', and several other official, cultural and political ones. The town had a reading room, choir, and branch of Serbian



*Prince Djordje Karadjordjevic as a major*

Agricultural Association, Rider's Association, Falcon and Shooting Association, Women's Associations and Red Cross. Secondary Grammar School became the school with six grades till the end of the century. Before the Balkan wars the number of inhabitants increased and was 5,600.



*Barrack of X 'Takovo' infantry regiment in Cacak*

PRINCE DJORDJE  
KARADJORDJEVIC  
(Cetinje, 1887 – Belgrade,  
1972)

In April, 1910 his service was in the command of the first battalion of X infantry regiment.



*Voluntary nurse course in Cacak, 1909*

MAJOR RADIVOJE  
FILIPOVIC  
(Aleksinac, 1881 –  
Drac, 1913)



He was a student of secondary grammar school in Cacak. He died as a chief of staff of the coastal crust war effort in the First Balkan War.



Three soldiers, 1912



*Parade mundur of headquarters' major, before 1912*

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Cacak was the base of the Tenth Infantry Regiment 'Takovo' which continued tradition of the battalion of the same name formed after the Second Serbian-Turkish war in 1878. By the decree on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1897 it became the regiment and two years later it got the name 'Takovo'. The barracks were built for this regiment on the basis of architect Dragutin Djordjevic project in Cacak on 1902. It moved to

Cacak to be permanently settled in 1903, apart from 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion which remained in Gornji Milanovac until the Balkan wars. Lieutenant colonel Mihailo Zisic was in command of this regiment. He kept a diary and described its participation in the war against Turkey 1912/13.



*Combat knife and cartridge belt of major Aleksandar Blagojevic, before 1912.*

In the First Balkan War Tenth Infantry Regiment of I call was mobilized in Cacak and was solemnly sent off to the front. Rest of the mobilized army is recorded in the painting of an unknown author. The army of Cacak garrison had gone to wars several times but it never came back with so much success and realized, for centuries dreamed, aspirations. The regiment was in Sumadija division of I call and took part in liberation of Prizren and Djakovica from the Turks. Then it was a part of Sumadija - Albanian corps and it broke through roadless areas and took part in occupying Albanian coast. Out of these events, belongings of headquarters' commander of Primorje corps major Radivoje Filipovic has been preserved: parade uniform, decorations, charters, books and personal diary from Paris.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
ALEKSANDAR  
GLISIC  
(Cacak, 1873 - Mlado  
Nagoricane, 1912)



He was killed in the battle for Kumanovo on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1912. All the time while the VII Infantry Regiment 'King Petar I' existed in memory of their commander they were calling out his name in the morning inspection and the officer on duty would respond: 'Died gloriously in the battle for Kumanovo!'



*Binoculars of Captain  
Milan Toroman*

NADEZDA PETROVIC  
(Cacak, 1873 - Valjevo,  
1915)



The painter helped her home land as a volunteer nurse in the Balkan Wars and painted scenes in Kosovo and Prizren. She died on duty in Valjevo military hospital.



*Svetomir Cvijovic and Radomir Cvijovic, before 1912*

Tenth regiment of II call took part in occupying of Novi Pazar and in battle at Djurdjevi stupovi on November, 1912. After the operations finished it moved to Metohija. From the battle at Djurdjevi stupovi a sabre of Sergeant Andrija Lazovic is preserved. A special type of knife and a cartridge belt belonged to Major Aleksandar Blagojevic.



*Major Dragutin Gavrilovic with a troop of X Infantry Regiment near Vizier's Bridge, 1913*

In the Second Balkan War in 1913 Tenth Infantry Regiment of I call stood out in the battle at Bregalnica. It took Drenak and chased Bulgarians and the action ended with occupation of Rajcan rid. After that it was sent to Vlasina front where Tenth regiment of II call had already fought successfully at Gramada, Bosiljgrad and Carica.

Tenth Infantry Regiment 'Takovo' of II call was decorated with decoration Karadjordje's star with swords of IV rank and Tenth Regiment of I call with Gold Medal for Courage for the merits in the Second Balkan War.

Before visitors there is a portrait of General Djordje Mihailovic (work of Mosa Soamovic) commander of Sumadija division of I call and decorations of lieutenant colonel Dusan Glisic and Captain Milisav Stojanovic.

After demobilization Tenth regiment was sent to Prizren in order to protect the border. At the



*General Stepa Stepanovic visiting border, 1913*

end of September, 1913 it fought in battles against rebelled Albanians near Ljum-tower, Ujmiste and Bican together with mobilized soldiers of I call. Cacak Region had mobilized regiments of all three calls, and members of officers' corps at the highest positions in Serbian army on the battlefields in the First World War.

Tenth staff regiment existed for only two years. It had a short but a very hard fighting life. From Pristina garrison it was sent to Belgrade to take part in battles at Bezanijska kosa and Zemun. On November, 1914 during the battle on the Kolubara



*General Djordje Mihailovic,  
work of Mosa Soamovic*



*Officers Dragutin Dimitrijevic  
- Apis, Dusan Glisic and  
Aleksandar Glisic,  
before 1912*



*Writing equipment, glasses  
and shrapnel ball by which  
Lieutenant Colonel Emilo Belic  
was wounded, 1914*

**MARSHAL STEPA  
STEPANOVIC**  
(Kumodraz, 1856 – Cacak,  
1929)

'I grew up from the folk,  
They made me what I am;  
I had to obey their will  
And serve them till the last breath.'

In the liberation wars  
Serbia 1912-1918 he was  
the commander of Second  
Army. The rank Marshal  
(Voivoda) he gained after  
the battle of Cer in 1914,  
the first Allied victory in the  
First World War. The final  
stage of the Great War was  
a big breakthrough after the  
Salonika front, which was  
accomplished under his  
command on Dobro polje in  
1918. He was awarded the  
Order of Karadjordje star  
with swords I rank.



*Marshal Stepa Stepanovic*



*Colonel Mihailo Zisic*

at Konatica it had 2000 soldiers and officers killed and wounded.

Tenth regiment 'Takovo' of I call was mobilized in Cacak. During the Cer battle it fought in the region of Sabac on August, 1914. It took part in battles at Loznica, in Srem operation, during the battle by the Drina River; near the village Pricinovici it had many losses. In the battle at Kolubara it had successful fights against Austrians at Zmijanje, Lisina, Volujak and Vrapcev Vis.



*Trophy Sabre of Duke Stepa Stepanovic, received by Sukri Pasha in the moment of surrendering Jedrene on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1913*

MAJOR MIHAILO  
GAVROVIC  
(Cacak, 1880 - Surcin, 1914)

After charger squadron at Surcin on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1914, in addition to slain commander were found



Karadjordje star with swords of IV rank, sabre and binoculars.





*Camp of the first battalion of "Takovo" infantry regiment of II call-up on Konder, 1915*



*General Ljubomir Milic  
commander of Morava  
Division of II call-up*

Tenth regiment of II call on September and October 1914 fought at directions towards the Drina, then near Han-Pijesak. One battalion of Tenth regiment of III call was a constituent part of Uzice army.

A diary of airplane department of Sumadija division from 1914, decorations of colonel Dobrosav Milenkovic, personal belongings and a shrapnel ball which wounded Emil Belic headquarters' lieutenant colonel, headquarters' commander of Morava division of I call in 1914 are exhibited as exhibits from the first war year.

After great defeats of Austrian army in 1915, it was calm on Serbian front in the first half of 1915. Tenth staff regiment and Tenth regiment of I call



*Officers of X Staff regiment 'Takovo', Belgrade 1915*

were in Belgrade, and Tenth regiment of II call on the positions near Uzice. Wounds obtained during previous year were hard for healing.

On the north border of Serbia, Tenth staff regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Milivoje Momcilovic received joint offensive of Austro-Hungarian and German armies. In the town defence section of Belgrade in its brave attacks it surpassed classical patterns of courage by attacking a much stronger enemy supported by powerful artillery.



*Training of soldiers of X staff regiment at Banjica with captivated machine guns, 1915*



CAPTAIN DJORDJE ROSH  
(Belgrade, 1896 -  
Uranopolis ,1977)

In heroic defense of Belgrade, as a reconnaissance he was in French Aero plane squadron and commander of first troop of the second battalion of X staff regiment. He was wounded in assault at Danube Promenade on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1915.



*Decoration of White Eagle of III rank and Miniatures of Decoration*

LIEUTENANT  
MLADEN ZUJOVIC  
(Belgrade, 1895 - Paris, 1969)



In heroic defense of Belgrade in 1915 he was a sergeant of machine gun combined detachment troop in battles at Danube Promenade, Torlak and Avala. At Salonika Front 1917-1918 he was in machine gun troop of X infantry regiment 'Takovo'.



*Decoration of White Eagle with swords of IV rank, English War Cross, French Decoration of Legion of Honor of V rank, Gold and Silver Medal for Courage*

The attack on enemy at Danube Promenade on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 major Dragutin Gavrilovic started with the order:

'Soldiers! At three o'clock sharp the enemy is to be defeated with your forceful attack, destroyed with your bombs and bayonets. The honor of Belgrade, our capital, has to be saved.

Soldiers! Heroes! Supreme Command has deleted our regiment from the list. Our regiment has been sacrificed for the honor of Belgrade and Homeland... You should not worry for your lives as they do not exist any more... So, let's go forward towards glory! ... For King and Homeland! Long live the King! Long live Belgrade!'

Losses of X staff regiment were about 1,500 soldiers and 26 officers. New losses came when three emperies defeated Serbia in the autumn of 1915 and when the soldiers were crossing snow covered Albanian mountains. Personal belongings of Major Miahailo Milicevic, of second lieutenant Djordje Rosh and Mladen Zujovic.



*Second Lieutenant Djordje Rosh takes report on the position of X Staff regiment, Belgrade, 1915*



*Decorations and a sabre of Colonel Dragutin Gavrilovic*

**COLONEL DRAGUTIN  
GAVRILOVIC**  
(Cacak, 1882 - Belgrade,  
1945)

In the wars he stood out with his personal courage and his commander's skills in the battles at Vlasina in 1913, Konatica 1914, and defense of Belgrade and in battles while retreating at Rekovac, Novi and Simsir Hill 1915. At Salonika Front as a commander of battalion of XII regiment he lead battles at Eastern Vetrenik, Trnava kosa and Obla cuka 1916-17. In breaking through the enemy's front he took West Vetrenik in 1918. As a commander of 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment he was elected Honorary Citizen of the town Krusevac in 1930. In the glass showcase there are his sward, lent, decorations Karadjordje star with swords of IV rank, damaged by the bullet, decoration of White Eagle with swords of III, IV and V ranks.



*French helmet 'Adrijan' 1915,  
of Colonel Mihailo Nedic*



BRIGADE GENERAL  
MIHAILO MILICEVIC  
(Bucje, 1879 - Belgrade, 1951)

He was in command of battalion and represented a commander of X staff regiment from 1913-1916.

In defending Belgrade he was attacking with his soldiers Austrians six times at Danube Promenade.



*Decoration of Karadjordje Star  
with swords of IV rank and  
French Legion of Honor  
of IV rank*

On this way Tenth regiment of I and II call joined Tenth staff regiment after the hard battles against Bulgarians on the East border. Spasoje Tesic, major, later general, managed to lead the soldiers across the snow covered mountains. He kept the diary about that which is together with decorations and charter of honorary citizen of Kumanovo kept in one glass showcase. A part of the third call soldiers took part in battles near Cacak which was occupied by Austrian brigade on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1915.

Cacak from the time of Austrian occupation is



*Reception of the wounded at the Railway station, Cacak 1914*

presented on photographs connected with activities of Red Cross, ambulance and every day life of the occupied town. Official Gazette of Emperor's and King's District Command started to be published in Cacak in 1917.

After retreating across Albania and recovery on Corfu, out of the soldiers of Tenth staff regiment one regiment was formed and officers were given other command duties. A separate glass showcase is devoted to lieutenant colonel Bogoljub Molerovic who died on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 in assault on the



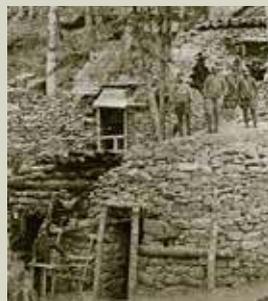
*Main Street of Cacak, 1915-1917*

position Virut at Kajmakcalan. In the showcase there are all objects found with him at the moment when he was brought to the ambulance, among them posthumous decoration of Karadjordje star with swords of IV rank.

At the Salonika Front Tenth Infantry Regiment 'Takovo' had battles at Golo Bilo, Vetrenik (1916), Obla Cuka and West Vetrenik (1917). In April of the following year assault troops attacked Obla Cuka.

In breaking through of the Salonika Front at Dobro Polje on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 with other units of Sumadija division it took West Vetrenik and broke through the enemy's front. At the end of the war he just passed through already liberated Cacak on the way it Sarajevo where it would stay till the end of its existence.

The armament of Serbian army at the Salonika Front included French rifle 'Label M. 1907-15' and a helmet 'Adrijan'. On 18/19 October 1916, near a killed second lieutenant Aleksandar Karaklajic, not far from the village Brodi, the decoration of Karadjordje star with swords of IV rank was found. Our heroes used to keep unusual things:



*Dugouts at The Salonika Front, 1917-1918.*



*Telephone of Colonel Mihailo Nedic and Gas stove from the dugout of Captain Radomir Cvijovic*

LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
BOGOLJUB MOLEROVIC  
(Vracevic, 1876 –  
Kajmakalan, 1916)



Died as a commander of  
the second battalion  
of V infantry regiment in  
the assault at Virut on 30<sup>th</sup>  
September, 1916.



*Sabre, decorations and military  
equipment of lieutenant colonel  
Bogoljub Molerovic*



*Big General mundur to Petar Bojovic, after 1912*

Colonel Mihailo Nedic his telephone, and Captain Radomir Cvijovic a stove from dugout. The memory of trench warfare was kept through other objects made of aluminum: glasses, a serviette ring, and cigarette case and matricula.

Serbian decorations for war merits in the First World War, Karadjordje stars with swords, officers' and soldiers', and decoration of White Eagle with swords, were produced in Paris workshop Arthus Bertrand, while medals for courage were manufactured by Swiss mint. These examples



*Marshal's overcoat, after 1934*

**MARSHAL PETAR BOJOVIC**  
(Misevici, 1858 -  
Belgrade, 1945)

He commanded the first Army in the First World War and he was a Chief of Supreme Command Headquarters commander of I army and commander in chief of Supreme



Command in the First and supreme inspector of Yugoslav Army in the Second World War. A big general mundir of fine red woolen material, with light blue collar and cuffs embroidered with gold oak tree ornaments. The overcoat is of grey-green color with epaulettes made of gold ribbon and a coat of arms of Dynasty Karadjordjevic with a monogram of the King Peter II.

CORPORAL BUDIMIR  
DAVIDOVIC  
(Goracici, 1890 – Cacak,  
1980)



At the Salonika Front he voluntarily joined the assault battalion of Sumadija division. He fought bravely against Bulgarians at Obla Cuka on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1918, but one of the bombs exploded in his hand. He was decorated with Golden military Decoration Karadjordje star with swords, Gold Medal for Courage and French War Medal.



are kept in the legacy of reserve major Radivoje Rackovic and lieutenant colonel Milan Toroman. The end of the First World War and the date when Cacak was liberated were recorded in the calculating book of the printing shop Stevan Matic: 'On 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 at 5 o'clock at dawn, Austrians left Cacak, blew up the bridge, and after three years of slavery we were free.'

In Yugoslav Kingdom Cacak remained a farming region. Only in 1930 did the Military –technical Institute and Factory of Paper start working. Secondary Grammar school, now with eight



*Machine gunner of X regiment below Golo Bilo, 1917-1918*

grades, got a new building in 1927. There were two cinemas in Cacak, traveling theatres were coming and sports associations were active. In 1934 Cacak got the status of the town. Just before the Second World War started Cacak had about 13,000 inhabitants.

At the beginning of the Second World War Cacak was for a short time a base of the command of V army on April, 1941. Planes of Military Air forces were taking off from the airport in Preljina and

bombed German attack troops on the border with Bulgaria. Units of 60<sup>th</sup> motorized division occupied the town on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Soon they were replaced by 749 staff regiment and it organized occupational administration.

After the April defeat of Yugoslav Royal Army a group of officers gathered in the village Brajici and prepared armed actions against the enemy. After the attack of Germany on the Soviet Union on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1941 members of the Yugoslav Communist Party and its youth started organizing rebellion and collecting arms, putting away farm products and started carrying out first diversions on the roads



and rails. On 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1941 at mountain Jelica near the monastery Stjenik, first Cacak Partisan troop 'Dr. Dragisa Misovic' was organized. In the mid July it had more than 500 fighters. In the vicinity Chetnik troops were active; among them the most important was Jelica's Chetnik troop. After liberating Guca and Gornji Milanovac Partisan and Chetnik troops entered Cacak on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1941. They formed mutual command places and National Liberation Committee. Economic activities, traffic, trade, money transaction, work of health institutions, refugees' supply were organized. A loan was announced to realize social program. Newspaper 'Novosti' was published in the town.

BRIGADE GENERAL  
SPASOJE TESIC  
(Donja Vrbava, 1879 –  
Belgrade, 1963)



In the First World War 1914 he was a commander of battalion and during retreating in 1915 he was a representative of the commander of X regiment of II call-up.



*Decoration and Charter of  
Honorary citizen of Kumanovo*

BRIGADE GENERAL  
CEDOMIR SKEKIC  
(Knjazevac, 1889 -  
Osnabrik, 1948)



A former student of Cacak High school in april war in 1941 , he was a Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Army Headquarters.



*Embroidery detail on the sleeve*



*Cigarette case, oflag XIII B, in  
Nuremberg, 1941-1945*



*Parade mundir of Staff Brigade General*

On October 1941, Cacak Partisan regiment together with Chetnik forces took part in battles for Kraljevo. After the siege ended they started with each other's conflicts. From Partisan command was asked to reform units which were fighting on political basis into Chetnik troops, to abolish revolutionary administrative bodies and remove symbols which were not of state character and then Cacak was attacked. In the fights which lasted two days on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November the town was defended, and Chetniks were pushed towards



*Uniform of a major of the Royal guard*

COLONEL DRAGOSLAV  
PAVLOVIC  
(1901 - 1945)



Commanded the infantry regiment of the Royal's Guard and he was the military envoy in Paris. At the beginning of the Second World War he was the Head of Yugoslav Army headquarters on Ravna Gora.



*Officer's cap and medals of  
Major Nikola Kosic*



*A handkerchief from Banjica  
prison camp, 1941-42*

**NATIONAL HERO  
RATKO MITROVIC**  
(Cacak, 1913 - Cacak, 1941)

“The day of victory will  
come, comrades;  
The day when we could  
look at anyone’s eyes with a  
bright face;  
The day when the whole of  
progressive mankind will  
tell us:  
Thank you, you showed us  
how to fight for freedom...”



*General Dragoljub Mihailovic  
photo album and a watch given  
as a gift to Lieutenant Colonel  
Mladen Zujovic, 1943*

Gornji Milanovac and after that they were chased towards Ravna Gora. On 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1941 there were peace talks in Cacak and hostilities stopped.

In German offensive on liberated territory Cacak Partisan troop was defeated. The conflict between Partisan and Chetnik troops eased the defeat of the rebellion in this region. 300 wounded people were evacuated from the town under dramatic circumstances. German tanks of 113 division entered Cacak on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1941 and gun fired its streets. After that occupying forces established its regime again.



*Ratko Mitrovic is giving a speech at a gathering, Cacak 1941*

Headquarters and members of District Committee with 250 fighters retreated to village Radobudje, but on the way back to its territory they were defeated. First and second Takovo troop and fifth Ljubic troop retreated to Sandzak and formed Cacak Partisan battalion which had about 200 soldiers. It entered in the composition of the Second Proletariat Brigade on 1st March, 1942.

The exhibition ends with the year 1941. Events start with demonstrations on 27<sup>th</sup> March and

end with liberation of the town on 1st October. Apart from belongings of Major Nikola Kopic, who took part in the coup d'état on 27<sup>th</sup> March, there are parts of uniforms, diaries and symbols of captured soldiers, which are exhibited. There are rifles 'Mauzer M. 24' and 'Partizanka' which were used by Yugoslav army and 'Partizanka' was the symbol of liberation war in the Second World War. Handcrafts of imprisoned women at Banjica prison camp testify about the hardships of Cack inhabitants and the rope which was used to hang a National Hero Ratko Mitrovic in Cacak on 11<sup>th</sup>

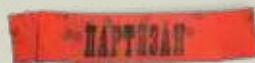


*The citizens of Cacak demand to stop the civil war, 1941*

December, 1941. After that a civil war started in these regions with numerous victims and great hatred which arouse from the conflict between Partisan and Chetnik movements in the occupied country. Germans were, apart from repression on civilians, carrying out mass and individual liquidations and taking their enemies to prison camps, robbing industrial plants, using mines, exploiting woods and agricultural products.



*Rifle 'Partizanka' and rifle 'Mauzer' M 24 of partisan Milorad Ilic*



*The partisan red ribbon of Zarko Glisovic from Parmenac, 1941*

MORE IMPORTANT LITERATURE

1. Bojović R., *Bitka na Čačku 1815. godine*, Čačak 1995.
2. Bojović R., *Bogorodičina crkva na Moravi*, Bogorodičina crkva na Moravi, Čačak 1992, str. 4-9.
3. Bojović R., *Vojvoda Stepa Stepanović (1856-1929)*, Čačak 2006.
4. Bojović R., *Dragutin Gavrilović – major sa činom pukovnika*, Čačak 2007.
5. Bojović R., *Manastir Sretenje na bakrorezu iz 1845. godine*, Balcanica, knj. XXIX, Beograd 1998, str. 367-379.
6. Bojović R., *Narodni muzej Čačak*, Enciklopedija srpske istoriografije, Beograd 1997, str. 238-239.
7. Bojović R., *Ostava rimskog novca iz Goračića*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XXX, Čačak 2000, str. 45-60.
8. Bojović R., *Portret sveštenika sa crvenim pojasom Dimitrija Petrovića*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XXV, Čačak 1995, str. 133-137.
9. Bojović R., „*Počasna sablja*“ generala Koste Protića, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XXIV, Čačak 1994, str. 133-142.
10. Bojović R., *Čačak na crtežu Feliksa Kanica iz 1860. godine*, Bogorodica Gradačka u istoriji srpskog naroda, Čačak 1993, str. 253-263.
11. Vasić M., *Novi rimski natpisi nađeni u Čačku*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XVI, Čačak 1986, str. 23-33.
12. Vasić R., *Čačak u gvozdeno doba*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XXX, Čačak 2000, str. 23-36.
13. Veselinović A., *Čačanski kraj u srednjem veku*, Bogorodica Gradačka u istoriji srpskog naroda, Čačak 1993, str. 57-80.
14. Vukosavljević T. – Bojović R., *Ratni put Desetog puka 1912-1918*, Čačak 1984.
15. Davidović G. - Timotijević M., *Zatamnjena prošlost*, knj. 1, Čačak-Gornji Milanovac-Kraljevo 2002.
16. Dilparić Delfina, *Nepoznata slika Moše Šoamovića*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XV, Čačak 1985, str. 159-162.
17. Drinjaković Milica, *Konzervacija krsta i pafte iz Ježevice*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XXV, Čačak 1995, str. 139-148.
18. Zlatić J., *Ibarska vojska u borbama za oslobođenje Mramora i Prokuplja*, Ibarska vojska u Srpsko-turskim ratovima od 1876. do 1878. godine, str. 223-234
19. Ikodinović Milena, *Sahranjivanje pod humkama bronzanog doba u čačanskom kraju*, Čačak 1985.
20. Jovanović B. - Đuknić Milena, *Ilirska kneževska nekropola u Atenici*, Čačak 1966.

21. Lazarević M., *Jovan Obrenović u vreme borbi za oslobođenje i u periodu formiranja vlasti kneza Miloša*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. I, Čačak 1969, str. 91-105.
22. Madas D., *Srebrni prsten rudničkog vlastelina Nikole Kosjera*, Saopštenja, knj. XXII-XXIII, Beograd 1990-1991, str. 177-181.
23. Marković Olivera, *Dva enkolpiona iz Narodnog muzeja u Čačku*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XIX, Čačak 1989, str. 59-62.
24. Marković Olivera, *Keramika X-XI veka sa srednjovekovnog lokaliteta „Kulina“ u Rošcima*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XXII-XXIII, Čačak 1992-1993, str. 27-32.
25. Marković Olivera, *Ostava srednjovekovnog alata iz Čačka*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XX, Čačak 1990, str. 55-60.
26. Marković Olivera, *Srednjovekovni mačevi iz okoline Čačka i Kraljeva*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XVIII, Čačak 1988, str. 137-141.
27. Milinković M., *Gradina na Jelici. Arheološko nalazište*, Čačak 2001.
28. Milinković M., *Gradina na Jelici*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XVI, Čačak, 1986, 47-56.
29. Nikitović Lidija, *Depo bronzanih grivni iz Gornjih Branetića*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XXII-XXIII, Čačak 1992-1993, str. 23-26.
30. Nikitović Lidija, *Zapadno Pomoravlje u neolitu*, Čačak 1992.
31. Opačić P., *Ibarska vojska u Prvom srpsko-turskom ratu 1876/1877. godine*, Ibarska vojska u Srpsko-turskim ratovima od 1876. do 1878. godine, Čačak 1997, str. 69-78.
32. Pavlović D., *Čačak od 1405-1805. godine*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XII, Čačak 1982, str. 137-197.
33. Petrović P., *Iz epigrafske zbirke čačanskog Muzeja*, Bogorodica Gradačka u istoriji srpskog naroda, Čačak 1993, str. 19-28.
34. Rajić Delfina – Timotijević M., *Manastiri Ovčarsko-kablarske klisure*, Čačak 2004.
35. Ranković-Vučičević Dušanka, *Prilog proučavanju Bogorodice Gradačke*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. I, Čačak 1969, str. 17-23.
36. Ristić J., *Istorija 10. pešađijskog puka «Takovskog»* (rukopis).
37. Stanić R., *Graditeljstvo u slikarstvo iz kraja 18. i početka 19. veka u predelima oko Čačka*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. X, Čačak 1979, str. 5-49.
38. Timotijević M., *Osnivanje muzeja u Čačku*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XXVI, Čačak 1996, str. 5-15.
39. Čelebija E., *Putopis. Odlomci o jugoslovenskim zemljama*, knj. II, Sarajevo 1957.
40. Han Verena, *Srednjovekovna staklena čaša iz sela Trnave*, Zbornik radova Narodnog muzeja, knj. XIII, Čačak 1983, str. 19-32.

CONTENT

Master Jovan Konak .....	5
Cacak Region from Pre History to the end of the Middle Ages .....	15
Ovcar-Kablar Monasteries and Churches of Cacak region .....	31
Cacak Region in Rebellions and Wars 1804-1941 .....	53
More Important Literature .....	92
Content .....	94

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији  
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

94(497.11)(036)

**BOJOVIĆ, Radivoje, 1955-**

Cacak Region in the Past : guide of  
National Museum Cacak / Radivoje Bojovic ;  
[translated into English Vesna Kovacevic ;  
photography Sasa Savovic], - Cacak : National  
Museum, 2009 (Cacak : Svetlost). - 94 str. :  
ilustr. ; 20 cm. - (Museum Guide /  
[National Museum, Cacak] ; 2)

Tiraž 1.000. - Bibliografija: str. 92-93.

ISBN 978-86-84067-32-8

а) Чачак и околина - Историја - Водичи  
COBISS.SR/ID 168945164