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MUSEUM HOURS

Monday – Friday 10am – 4 pm.

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SERBIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM OF WINDSOR



EXHIBIT:

“NIKOLA TESLA AND HIS INVENTIONS”

July 27 - October 10, 2003

Biography of Nikola Tesla

During the peak of his fame, at the turn of the century, Nikola Tesla was often referred to as “the man who invented 20th century”. This was a suitable label since Tesla’s patents and ideas are responsible for much of the technology in use today. Sadly, Tesla’s fame has not carried over into the present day, largely because he has not been given due credit for his many inventions. It is our hope that through this exhibit, the genius of this extraordinary man will not be forgotten.

Tesla was born in 1856 in Smiljan, in the province of Lika, then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. From his early childhood days it was evident that Tesla had a gift for inventions. As a young man he put his talents to use by working as an engineer for several companies in Europe. In 1884, he made his way to America and began working under Thomas Edison Co. in New York.

Tesla could not convince Edison of the advantages of using his Alternating current system over Edison’s direct current. However, the prominent inventor and industrialist, George Westinghouse, who offered to buy the rights to Tesla’s alternating current induction motor, soon approached Tesla. The Westinghouse Co. would later use Tesla’s patents to build the power generators at Niagara Falls.

Tesla also conducted important experiments on wireless radio

transmission. Although Guglielmo Marconi is generally recognized as the inventor of modern radio, Tesla’s discoveries actually preceded those of Marconi by several years.

Through his life, Tesla remained completely devoted to scientific discovery. He did not seek fame or fortune but rather had a genuine desire to improve the lives of men through his inventions. He died alone, on Serbian Christmas on January 7th 1943, in his room in the hotel the New Yorker.

1. Tesla’s Background – Smiljan, his birthplace. His father, Milutin Tesla, an Orthodox Priest. Tesla’s house in Gospic. Milestones of his life and Tesla’s Museum in Belgrade
2. Tesla’s AC Motor, 1920. Donated by Dan Mrkich.
3. Tesla Coil, Tesla’s First Induction Motor, Polyphase Electrical System and the Westinghouse Monument.
4. Tesla’s Turbine, Tesla’s wirelessly controlled boats and Teleautomatic Boats.
5. Tesla’s self-propelled aerial Tel-Automation, Glass Bulb from his

famous wireless light and an article in the New York Journal – August 1897 – Tesla Electrifies the Whole Earth.

6. Tesla in his lab sending thousands of volts through his body. These gas filled lamps were the forerunners of fluorescent light which did not appear until 50 years later, Tesla’s high frequency transformer (spider web), Experiments at Colorado Springs in 1889, Famous Tesla Tower in Shoreham and an airplane with vertical take-off (Pogo Stick).
 7. Niagara Power Station and Patents of Nikola Tesla.
 8. Edison and Marconi and pictures of friends of Nikola Tesla.
- Note: In 1943 the Supreme Court ruled that Marconi pirated Tesla’s inventions in order to send the first Trans-Atlantic message and that Tesla was the inventor of the radio.
9. Tesla, the Elegant Dresser.
 10. Awards and Recognition’s – Over the course of his life, he received many awards honouring his many important discoveries.