

Summary

ON THE HOLY KING STEFAN THE FIRST-CROWNED: FROM AN ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY „NIKOLA TESLA” NIŠ

A significant role has been made by libraries of all profiles, which, through their activities, are permanently involved in the formation of the attitudes regarding the affirmation and the value perception of national and cultural heritage. They are the guardians of national and spiritual identity. The University Library of Niš „Nikola Tesla” has joined this corpus of libraries and information systems, becoming the educational and cultural center of the local community. A prominent activity of the Library, as part of its cultural and educational activities, consists of organizing and arranging large annual exhibitions, dedicated to significant events, dates and anniversaries of local and national history, spirituality and culture.

The Library's great annual exhibition („Who is Saint Sava to Us?") in 2019, dedicated to the anniversary of eight centuries of independence of the Serbian Church, once again proved that this institution successfully fulfills the role of a missionary of educational and cultural content of the highest rank.

An important part of the national-spiritual history of the golden age, the Middle Ages, is presented through this historical-documentary story of the coronation and life of the first Serbian Orthodox monarch, Stefan Nemanjić. It introduces us to this year's commemoration of another great national jubilee – eight centuries since the crowning of the first Serbian Orthodox King.

This story, in a factually accurate and spiritually authentic way, represents a period when a powerful and independent, purely Orthodox-based Serbian state was born, bounded and secured by multiple socio-spiritual activities of the greatest one in the Serbian people, Saint Sava.

Keywords: *libraries, education, culture, exhibitions, jubilee, medieval history, Serbian church, Saint Sava, Stefan the First-Crowned, coronation at the Žiča monastery.*