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EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS IN LESKOVAC FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY TO 1878

Summary: The paper examines the development of education in Leskovac from the beginning of the 19th century until 1878, the year marking the liberation of southern Serbia from Ottoman rule. It provides a concise overview of the living conditions of the inhabitants of Leskovac, followed by an analysis of the application of the monastic method of teaching and the gradual transition to more modern forms of instruction with the arrival of teacher Simeon Sofijanac. Special attention is devoted to the Leskovac school known as *Ča Mita's School* and to the teachers of that period (Daca, Ča Mita, Bata Đorđe, Simeon Sofijanac, Josif H. Kostić, and Nastas and Lenka Krstić). The study is based on the works of Vladimir Stojančević, a distinguished scholar of the history of southeastern Serbia in the 19th century, as well as articles from the *Leskovac Anthology* (*Leskovacki zbornik*).

Keywords: school, teacher, Leskovac, Synod, Ministry of Education

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