

The Christian Heritage of KOSOVO and METOHIJA



Christ Pantocrator,
main dome of the Gračanica, 1318–1321

Gračanica's uniqueness lies in the fact that the icon known as Pantocrator, which inspires liturgical awe, is depicted not just as the God-Man—i.e., God who assumed human nature—but as Co-Man, identifying Himself with man in his suffering and helplessness, with human pain through His suffering on the Cross and His humiliating death. Through His philanthropic gaze, the majestic Pantocrator lowers Himself and meets His creation. The eternal and infinite meets the finite in a particular place and time, within history, where they reconcile within the same fate. This composition, with its wrinkles in the forehead, was not repeated in other Byzantine churches, perhaps because its boldness brought it to the threshold of the psychologization of the divine drama. Gračanica's Pantocrator is truly unique, since it was not copied from anyone. It is original and loving, and for this reason it constitutes a portrait of God, as Christ's wonderfully loving eyes have revealed it to human beings. The riddle of human destiny finds its solution in the Pantocrator's theandric gaze.

The Christian Heritage of **KOSOVO** and **METOHIIJA**

*The Historical and Spiritual Heartland
of the Serbian People*



SEBASTIAN PRESS
Los Angeles 2015

Published by Sebastian Press
Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade
The Episcopal Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America
Faculty of Orthodox Theology—University of Belgrade
BLAGO Fund
Serbica Americana
Interklima-grafika, Vrnjci

Series MONOGRAPHS OF SERBIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, *Number 1*

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Prepress and Printing Interklima-grafika

The Christian Heritage of Kosovo and Metohija: the Historical and Spiritual Heartland of the Serbian People.
— Los Angeles : Sebastian Press, 2015.

pages : illustrations ; cm.

ISBN: 978-1-936773-18-3

“Editor-in-chief: Bishop Maxim (Vasiljevic) ; Chief Contributing Editor: Dušan T. Bataković” —Title page verso.

Jointly published by Sebastian Press, Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade, The Episcopal Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South American, Faculty of Orthodox Theology—University of Belgrade, BLAGO Fund, Interklima-grafika, Vrnjci and Serbica Americana.—Title page verso.

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Kosovo (Serbia)—Religion—History. 2. Serbia— Religion—History. 3. Christian life—Kosovo (Serbia). 4. Christian life—Serbia. 5. Orthodox Eastern Church—Kosovo (Serbia). 6. Kosovo (Serbia)—Church history. 7. Kosovo (Serbia)—Ethnic relations. 8. Christian martyrs—Kosovo (Serbia). 9. Kosovo (Serbia)—History. 10. Kosovo (Serbia)—Civilization. 11. Christianity and art—Orthodox Eastern Church. 12. Christian art and symbolism—Kosovo (Serbia) 13. Art, Serbian—Kosovo (Serbia). I. Vasiljević, Maksim, 1968— editor.

DR2079 .C57 2015

2014952021

949.71—dc23

1410

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1621 West Garvey Avenue
Alhambra, California 91803
Email: info@westsrbdio.org • Website: <http://www.westsrbdio.org>
Printed and bound in Serbia



Holy Trinity – Abraham's hospitality, altar, east wall, Gračanica, 1318–1321



Wisdom has built her house (Proverbs 9:1), altar, east wall, Gračanica, 1318–1321

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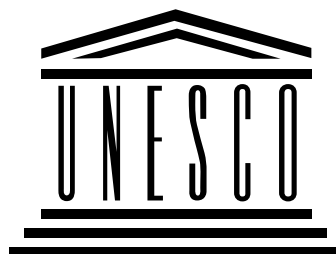
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CONCERNING ORTHOGRAPHY

Note on the spelling and pronunciation of Serbian words and names

ć not to be found precisely in English: a sound between the English *t* in *tune*, and *ch* in *chalk*

c as English *ts* in *lots*

č as English *ch* in *church*

dž as English *j* in *George*

j as English *y* in *yell*

lj as English *li* in *million*

nj as English *n* in *new*

š as English *s* in *ship*

ž as English *s* in *pleasure*, or French *j* in *jour*



Ascension
of Christ,
detail: the
Mother of God,
Church of the
Holy Apostles,
tambour of
the dome,
the Patriarchate
of Peć, ca. 1260



Serbia in Europe, Kosovo-Metohija in Serbia