

by Milos Rastovic

CLEVELAND, OH - A bust of Milutin Milankovitch was blessed by His Grace Bishop Irinej of the Eastern American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church with V. Rev. Archimandrite Leontije Alavanja, and V. Rev. Protopresbyter Dragoslav Kosic at Cleveland's Serbian Cultural Garden, August 20, 2017.

Milutin Milankovitch (1879 – 1958) was a Serbian geophysicist, climatologist, astrophysicist, and mathematician best known in the history of science for postulating the most significant theory ever made for the cause of the Ice Ages. His theory relates to the long-term climate changes to the Earth's orbital motion. NASA, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, has ranked Milankovitch among the 15 best scientists in history, those who have shaped our civilization. He also made a major contribution to revising two of the most widely used calendars in the Western World – the Julian and the Gregorian.

The dedication ceremony opened with Kosovo Men's Choir singing followed by a sermon from His Grace Bishop Irinej who stressed the importance of Milankovitch's deeds and overall contribution to the history of world science. Alex Machaskee, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed the guests and thanked all of them who helped with this event. He especially thanked Lex Machaskee, his son, for his work in the Serbian Cultural Garden. Dr. Branimir Glavacki Simic, Physicist, talked about the importance of Milankovitch's scientific achievement.

In 2006, Machaskee, who was at that time President, Publisher and Chief Executive Officer of the *Plain Dealer*, initiated the raising of funds to establish the Serbian Cultural Garden. Because of his great effort to build the Garden, we can enjoy today eight busts and one icon of prominent Serbian figures in history. Located at the central terrace of the Garden is a bronze icon of Saint Sava, Founder and First Bishop of the independent Serbian Orthodox Church, along with a Serbian crest in front of the icon inscribed with the motto "Only Unity Saves the Serbs." The crest is surrounded by a pebbled mosaic that is a reproduction from Hilandar Monastery in Greece, the Patriarchate of Pec, and Zica Monastery in Serbia. Walking south of the Garden, you can find busts of Nikola Tesla, Serbian-American Scientist and Inventor, and Mileva Maric, Serbian Physicist and Mathematician. The Serbian Cultural Garden also includes busts of King Peter I, Liberator of Serbia; Mihajlo I. Pupin, Serbian-American Scientist and Inventor; Petar Petrovic Njegos, Ruler of Montenegro and Poet; Stevan Mokranjac, Composer; and Vuk Karadzic, Founder of Serbian Grammar and Reformer of Serbian Language. The dedication ceremony was finalized by a concert offered by the Kosovo Men's Choir by whose voices were enjoyed by everyone.

The Serbian Cultural Garden is part of Cleveland's Rockefeller Park located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. This is a beautiful and tranquil place where people can enjoy the beech and oak trees and explore our history with thoughts about our future. With the support of the Balkan Heritage Preservation Foundation and all others, we hope that the Serbian Cultural Garden will continue to enrich our heritage in the future by presenting more Serbian prominent people who contributed to the world culture and science.

His Grace Bishop Irinej blessing the bust of Milutin Milankovitch



GARDEN HONORS MILUTIN MILANKOVITCH



Kosovo Men's Choir singing on the central terrace in front of the bronze icon of St. Sava



Milutin Milankovitch, Serbian Scientist, in the Serbian Cultural Garden



His Grace Bishop Irinej and Alex Machaskee



Kosovo Men's Choir with the audience



A bronze icon of Saint Sava, Founder and First Bishop of the independent Serbian Orthodox Church



Dedication ceremony



From left are Vanessa and Milos Rastovic with Alex Machaskee in front of the Bust of Milutin Milankovitch