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HISTORY

**(No) Protection of Cultural Heritage in Bosnia
and Herzegovina**

Prof.dr.sci.Naida Ademović

The University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Civil Engineering



HISTORY



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Introduction

- Cultural heritage is a harmonized relationship involving society, norms, and values.
 - *Tangible Cultural Heritage*
 - *Intangible Cultural Heritage*
- Capture Audience Attention
- Manmade disasters , neglect and no protection of cultural heritage
- Have we become insensitive to the importance of our culture and became “prisoners” of new construction technology and neglect?



Cultural heritage structures

Tašlihan in Sarajevo

- In the history of Sarajevo, the 16th century was the “golden age”, thanks primarily to the emergence of Gazi Husrev-beg
- Tašlihan (translated stone khan) is a former caravanserai located on the site of the current garden of the Europa Hotel in Sarajevo.
- In 1659 there were 23 khans and three caravanserais in Sarajevo, and in 1878 there were 50
- Tašlihan was the third stone caravanserai built in Sarajevo.
- It was built in the period from 1540 to 1543 as stated in the legacy of Gazi Husrev-beg, after his death.

HISTORY

Tašlihan in Sarajevo



It had a square base with a length of 47 meters. In its backyard, there was a fountain, and above it on wooden pillars was a small mosque. The rooms for passengers were located on the first floor. Domestic and foreign merchants had their shops within Tašlihan.



The archaeological area – remains of Tašlihan in Sarajevo was declared a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2004

However, the Commission to Preserve Monuments, at its meeting on July 2016, decided to amend the Decision from 2004.

HISTORY

Tašlihan in Sarajevo



According to the obtained information, the plan was to build a new building having a ground and one floor, allegedly to be of a commercial character. Following this information, the profession reacted, as did the citizens of Sarajevo, who had launched an online petition against the decision of the Commission to Preserve Monuments. Until now no construction took place, however, will there be some changes in the near future remains a mystery.



Cultural heritage structures

Jewish cemetery in Tuzla

- The Jewish cemetery in Tuzla bears witness to the presence of Jews and their life in this location since the 19th century.
- In Tuzla, there were two Jewish communities and two synagogues.
- The cemetery was formally established in 1900 and covers an area of 2760 m², although burials were made earlier, as evidenced by the inscriptions on the tombstones (1868, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1897).
- It is unique in that it is **still active today** and what makes it even more exceptional and specific is that **both Sephardi and Ashkenazi are being buried here**, which is usually not the case.



Cultural heritage structures

Jewish cemetery in Tuzla

- The significance of the cemetery lies in the fact that the forms and shapes of the tombstone are diverse.
- The oldest stones are in the form of ground-in stone coffins belonging to the Sephardi.
- Ashkenazi in the second half of the 19th century, more modern forms of tombstones appear in the cemetery originated in Western Europe (stelae and obelisks tombstones).
- The inscriptions are bilingual, carved in Hebrew square script and Latin script.
- In the cemetery, 161 graves were recorded and 60 surnames registered.

HISTORY

Jewish cemetery in Tuzla



HISTORY

Jewish cemetery in Tuzla

- In August 2019 people from the Islamic Community Majlis from Tuzla cleaned the cemetery with the goal to rescue the national property of BiH, and they were helped by young volunteers from Germany, Poland and other parts of Europe, who have been staying in Tuzla for several days.





Cultural heritage structures

Stećak

- Stećak monumental medieval tombstones that lie scattered across ex-Yugoslavia are mainly located in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and at the borders with Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia.
- An estimated 60,000 are found within the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Stećak's appeared in the mid 12th century and they reached their peak in the 14th and 15th century, before disappearing during the Ottoman occupation in the very early 16th century.
- They were common among all religious, amongst Bosnian, Catholic and Orthodox Church.
- Until now, the original ethnic and religious affiliation **has not been determined**

HISTORY

Stećak



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Stećak



Cultural heritage structures

Stećak

- The epitaphs on them are frequently written in the now-vanished Bosnian Cyrillic alphabet called Bosančica.
- It was only in 2016 that Stećci were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- However, a photo taken in august 2019 was unbelievable.



HISTORY



Conclusion

- Lacking cultural heritage protection can be seen all around us.
- It is evident that **manmade disasters can even exceed** natural disasters in their harmful effects on cultural heritage.
- Human vandalism **can be stopped and should be** prevented in all cases.
- Awareness of the importance of cultural heritage is very low.
- In order to preserve cultural heritage and the existence of history in these areas, adequate measures have to be taken and this has to be done immediately, otherwise, we may lose a value that may never be retrieved.
- In this way, we as a society are depriving future generations of their history and their heritage. **Are we allowed to do this?**