

Two letters by inventor Nikola Tesla surface in Serbia

March 27 2019, by Jovana Gec



A shadow of Milica Kesler, curator and archivist is cast onto a poster of Nikola Tesla at the Nikola Tesla museum in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, March 7, 2019. A private culture society in Serbia has made public two letters written by Serb-American inventor and electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla. The Adligat group has told The Associated Press they recently obtained the letters from a collector and verified their authenticity with multiple sources. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

A culture society in Serbia made public this month two letters that they say were written by late 19th- and early 20th-century inventor and electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla.

The Adligat group told The Associated Press they recently obtained the letters from a collector and verified their authenticity with multiple sources. Dated Dec. 28, 1934 and Jan. 12, 1935, the letters were sent to the Yugoslav consul in the United States at the time, Radoje Jankovic.

"This is the first time that public has full and [free access](#) to this documentation," said Viktor Lazic, from Adligat. He explained that the letters had been known to exist but could not be traced for around 20 years.

Written in Cyrillic alphabet, the letters refer to Tesla's relations with another prominent scientist of Serb origin, Mihajlo Pupin, Lazic said.

Tesla is best known for developing the alternating current that helped safely distribute electricity at great distances, including from the hydro-electric plant at Niagara Falls in the mid-1890s. He experimented with X-ray and radio technology, working in rivalry with Thomas Edison. Car manufacturer Tesla is named after him.

An ethnic Serb born in 1856 in the Austrian Empire in present-day Croatia, Tesla spent most of his life abroad, working in Budapest and Paris before emigrating to the U.S. in 1884.



Viktor Lazic from Adligat group displays two letters written by 19th century inventor and electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, March 7, 2019. A private culture society in Serbia has made public two letters written by Serb-American inventor and electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla. The Adligat group has told The Associated Press they recently obtained the letters from a collector and verified their authenticity with multiple sources. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

In Belgrade, the Tesla Museum honors the scientist's legacy, including a vast array of personal items, tens of thousands of documents and awards.

Curator Milica Kesler said the museum's archives include the drafts of the recently-publicized letters.

"The only difference is that they (drafts) were written in pencil" and contain Tesla's remarks and notes, Kesler said.



Milica Kesler, curator and archivist walks at Nikola Tesla museum in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, March 7, 2019. A private culture society in Serbia has made public two letters written by Serb-American inventor and electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla. The Adligat group has told The Associated Press they recently obtained the letters from a collector and verified their authenticity with multiple sources. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)



Milica Kesler, curator and archivist, shows concepts of Tesla's letters at Nikola Tesla museum in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, March 7, 2019. Tesla Museum holds the scientist's personal legacy, including a vast array of personal items, tens of thousands of documents and awards. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)



Viktor Lazic from Adligat group holds two letters written by 19th century inventor and electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, March 7, 2019. Written in Cyrillic alphabet, the letters refer to Tesla's relations with another prominent scientist of Serb origin, Mihajlo Pupin. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)



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Milica Kesler, curator and archivist opens an archive storage at Nikola Tesla museum in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, March 7, 2019. A private culture society in Serbia has made public two letters written by Serb-American inventor and electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla. The Adligat group has told The Associated Press they recently obtained the letters from a collector and verified their authenticity with multiple sources. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

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