

*Bora Dimitrijevic*

*Nikola Pashic's Bank Savings Book from 1922*

*Summary*

One of the valuable collections for studying the history of the Timok Area and Eastern Serbia is titled "Collection of documents on Nikola Pashic" and is preserved in the Historical Archives "Timocka Krajina". The collection contains some extraordinary important documents which describe the life and the activities of this highly distinguished Serbian and Yugoslav statesman, born in Zajecar. Among the documents, the bank savings book dated from 1922 is indirectly connected with the name of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II Romanoff. Pashic, though Russophil, was a pragmatic and realistic politician who knew how to defend the interests of his country, even from her friends. Nevertheless, Tsar Nicholas II highly respected Pashic and even invited him to join the Royal family for breakfast in the Royal Palace of the Romanoffs. In January 1922 Pashic opened the savings account in the Fund Office of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and in his savings book he personally wrote that in the case of his death the President of the Peoples' Assembly is entitled to raise the money (around 700.000 dinars) for the purpose of erecting the monument dedicated to the "deceased Russian Tsar Nicholas II as the expression of gratitude of the Serbian People". After Pashic died in 1926 no initiative for erecting the monument was taken, even though the Assembly knew about the existence of Pashic's savings book and the testimony it contained. The deposit increased through the effect of interest and reached a considerable amount in the years to come, but the testament Pashic left remained forgotten. In April 1946 the entire amount of money was cashed by an unknown person, leaving the account empty with the stamp which confirmed "paid", the savings book unannulled and the testament unfulfilled.