

The universality of Mihailo Petrović

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This talk is prepared on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mihailo Petrović birth.

The public in Serbia because of the nickname Alas of Mihailo Petrović knows that he had something with fishing. In addition, through the TV series and film “The hat of Professor Kosta Vujic” many know that Mihailo Petrović was a brilliant mathematician and a fantastic violinist.

Three above mentioned points (mathematics, music, fishing) are enough to see the universal talent of Mihailo Petrović. If this is added to the other contributions of Mihailo Petrović to Serbian science and culture at the end of the XIX and in the first half of the XX century, it is clear that the legendary Mika Alas is one of the most important figures of the history of the Serbian nation.

The aim of this talk is to point out the biography of Mihailo Petrović in the shortest terms, and to highlight that he was dealing successfully with many theoretical (Differential equations, Analysis, Algebra, Mathematical phenomenology etc.) and applied sciences (Computer machines, Mechanics, Physics, Astronomy etc.) as well as with other, for Serbia, with other useful jobs (Cryptography, Inventions, Ethnology, History, Literature, Fisheries etc.).