

Niš is often called "the Gate between the East and the West", or "the Balkan crossroads", since it is a natural crossing point of several strategic traffic routes of international importance. The local archaeological findings bear witness that the town area was inhabited even in the Stone and Bronze Ages, i. e. ever since 3,000 BC. It is supposed that the ancient name of the town Naissus, meaning "the town of nymphs", originated in the Celtic belief that the magic Nissa, the river running through the town (now Nišava), was "a river of nymphs".



The Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) was born and brought up in Naissus. He has become world famous by his edict which legislated Christianity as the state religion of Roman empire. The spirit and the glory of that period are best epitomized in the remains of a luxurious imperial summer residence Mediana built in the close vicinity of the town.

Niš has developed in the early 7th century as a Byzantine town with the dominantly Slavic population.

The Turkish rule, consolidated in 1428, persisted, with minor interruptions, over 4 centuries. It was during that period that the famous Niš Fortress has been constructed.

The Skull Tower is a unique monument, built by the Turks out of the skulls of the Serbian rebels who were killed in the battle on the Čegar hill, as a warning and a threat to the Serbs (1809). Niš was liberated from the Turks in 1877. Its development from that point on follows a modern pattern.

Sokobanja is one of the best-known spas in Yugoslavia. It lies at the altitude of about 400 m.a.s.l., by the River Moravica at the foot of Mt. Ozren, in the south-east of Serbia, about 230 km from Belgrade, and 60 km from Niš. It is characterized by a temperate continental climate, clean air, and light precipitation, absence of strong winds and long spells of sunshine. Although it was known in the Roman times, the first spa buildings were opened in 1895. The curative waters in Sokobanja are yielded by several springs; their temperature varies from 20 to 45 degrees C and they differ very much in terms of chemical composition.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

Section 1. ATOMIC COLLISION PROCESSES

- 1.1. Electron and Photon Interactions with Atomic Particles
- 1.2. Heavy Particle Collisions
- 1.3. Swarms and Transport Phenomena

Section 2. PARTICLE AND LASER BEAM INTERACTION WITH SOLIDS

- 2.1. Atomic Collisions in Solids
- 2.2. Sputtering and Deposition
- 2.3. Laser and Plasma Interaction with Surfaces

Section 3. LOW TEMPERATURE PLASMAS

- 3.1. Plasma Spectroscopy and Other Diagnostics Methods
- 3.2. Gas Discharges
- 3.3. Plasma Applications and Devices

Section 4. GENERAL PLASMAS

- 4.1. Fusion Plasmas
- 4.2. Astrophysical Plasmas
- 4.3. Collective Phenomena

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

**21st Summer School
and International Symposium
on the Physics of Ionized Gases**

21st SPIG

*SOKOBANJA, Yugoslavia
August 26-30, 2002*

<http://www.pmf.ni.ac.yu/spig2002/>



**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
FACULTY OF SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF NIŠ**

GENERAL INFORMATION

21st Summer School and International Symposium on the Physics of Ionized Gases (SPIG) will be held in the well-known spa resort Sokobanja in Serbia, Yugoslavia, from Monday, August 26 through Friday, August 30, 2002. The Conference will be organized by the Department of Physics, Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Niš.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Programme of the Conference will consist of Invited lectures (40 min), Topical Invited lectures (30 min), Progress reports (20 min) and Contributed papers (oral and poster session). The Proceedings of Contributed papers with abstracts of Invited lectures and Progress reports will be available at the Conference, while the Book of Invited lectures and Progress reports will be distributed after the Symposium.

Contributed papers will be refereed and the Scientific Committee will make the final selection for oral and poster presentation.

DEADLINE for receipt of Contributed papers is June 1st, 2002.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee will include the cost of admission and the Conference Proceedings. Regular conference fee will be EUR 100,00 and full time students will be charged EUR 50,00. It will be payable at the conference desk during the SPIG.

Only those participants who pay the registration fee will have the opportunity to present their conference contribution and attend other conference activities.

If you are interested in further conference information, please complete and send the attached Preregistration form to the organizers. Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to the address below and submit your co-ordinates, not later than **February 1st, 2002.** All details about Contributed papers, Invited lectures, Progress reports, travel and accommodation will be given in the Second announcement.

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ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence should be preferably done by e-mail:



spig2002@pmf.ni.ac.yu

Department of Physics
Faculty of Sciences and Math.
P.O. Box 224
18001 Niš, Yugoslavia

<http://www.pmf.ni.ac.yu/spig2002/>

PREREGISTRATION FORM

I would like to receive further information about the 21st Summer School and International Symposium on the Physics of Ionized Gases.

Name: _____

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regular mail electronic mail both

Please return by February 1st, 2002.