

BELARUS

白罗斯



FOCUS ON THE BEST



МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СПУТНИКОВЫЙ ТЕЛЕКАНАЛ



INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE TV CHANNEL

Международный спутниковый телеканал «Беларусь 24» вещает в странах ближнего и дальнего зарубежья на белорусском и русском языках круглосуточно. Основными задачами телеканала «Беларусь 24» являются широкое информирование иностранных граждан, а также белорусов зарубежья о событиях и достижениях Беларуси, формирование положительного имиджа Беларуси на международной арене.

- Информационный контент канала доступен на английском и польском языках в формате бегущей строки.
- Более 100 стран с охватом зрительской аудитории более 200 млн. человек.
- 500 кабельных и мобильных операторов, интернет-провайдеров и телекоммуникационных компаний во всех сегментах вещания.
- 1950 информационных обзоров и новостных дайджестов и более 260 проектов собственного производства.

Делаем Беларусь ближе!

International satellite TV channel «Belarus 24» broadcasts in the countries of near and far abroad in the Belarusian and Russian languages around the clock. The main tasks of the «Belarus 24» TV channel are to inform foreign citizens, as well as Belarusians abroad, about the events and achievements of Belarus, and to form a positive image of Belarus in the international arena.

- Information content is available in English and Polish in the form of scrolling text.
- More than 100 countries with audience coverage is over 200 million people.
- 500 cable and mobile operators, internet service providers and telecommunications companies in all broadcast segments.
- 1950 information reviews and news digests and more than 260 projects of its own production.

Making Belarus closer!



ПОДПИСЫВАЙТЕСЬ
НА НАШИ СОЦСЕТИ

www.belarus24.by

IN THE ISSUE



04 THE PEOPLE OF BELARUS
ELECTED ALEKSANDR
LUKASHENKO AS THE
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY

08 BELARUS HAS
SECURED ITS
ELECTORAL
SOVEREIGNTY



14 "IF THEY WANT TO,
LET THEM GO, TAKE IT
OFF"

Foreign journalists got
acquainted with the
situation on the southern
border of Belarus

GOT A QUESTION?
FIND THE ANSWERS

How to visit Belarus without a visa

20

IN THE ISSUE

22 Respect, understanding, consent

Belarus is a country where people of different nationalities and religions have always lived in peace and harmony. This is no longer just a feature of the country, it is its image. Today, 25 confessions and religious movements are officially registered in Belarus...

26 Fast and comfortable

Where can I fly on Belavia flights from Minsk in 2025



38 Truly our car

The Head of State has decided to extend the lending program for citizens of Belarus aimed at the purchase of domestic cars BELGEE

Беларусь. Belarus

Social and political magazine

No. 2 (1097), 2025

Published since 1930

Founders:

Zvezda Publishing House editorial-and-publishing establishment

Editor-in-Chief:

Viktor Kharkov

Executive Secretary:

Valentina Zhdanovich

Design and Layout by

Boris Gerchikov
Tatsiana Storozhenko

Editorial office address:

220013 Minsk, Belarus,
19 Zakharova Street
Tel.: +375 (17) 263-80-12.

www.zvezda.by

E-mail: belarus.mag@mail.ru

Subscription index — 220034

Registration Certificate No. 8 issued
on 16.07.2018 by the Information
Ministry of the Republic of Belarus

Беларусь. Belarus is published in
English and also contains articles in
Belarusian and Chinese

Final responsibility for factual
accuracy and interpretation lies
with publication authors. Should
any article of **Беларусь. Belarus** be
used, reference to the magazine is
obligatory.

The editorial office does not bear
responsibility for contents of
advertisements.

Signed for printing on 21.02.2025
Offset printing. Coated paper.
Format 60x84 1/8.
Conventional printed sheets 13,02
Accounting published sheets 15,0
Circulation — 504

Order

Republican unitary enterprise
"BudMedyyaPrayekt"
Licence No. 02330/71
on 23.01.2014
220123 Minsk, Belarus,
13/61 V. Khoruzhey Street

Cover designer — Boris Gerchikov

© Zvezda Publishing House
editorial-and-publishing
establishment, 2025

IN THE ISSUE

50 "Our President" is a work for everyone

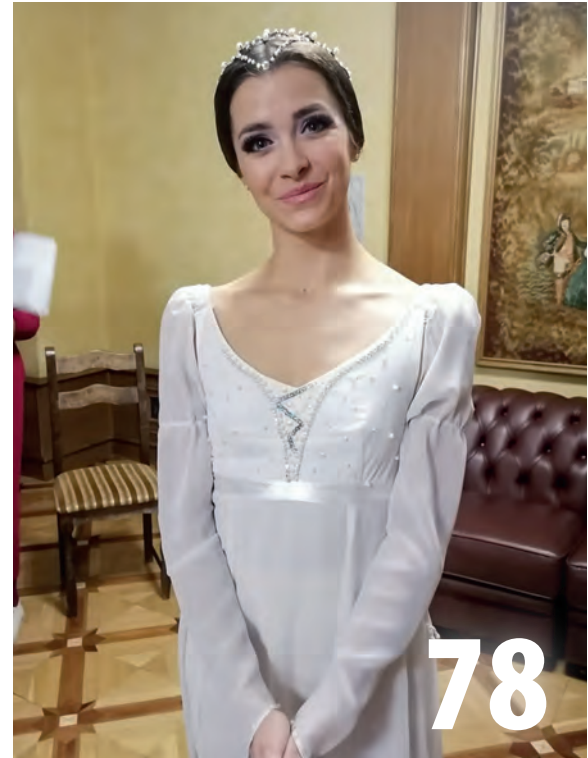
The book was presented at the National Library

60 Path Under Friendship Sign

The national holiday – Republic Day of India was traditionally celebrated in Belarus. These celebrations were the best evidence of how the relations between our countries, built on the basis of equality, respect and trust, are solid and strong.

74 Battle that unites

Traditional Sambo Tournament for the prizes of the President held in Minsk



**86 EVGENIY
ARENDAREVICH:
"THE AUDIENCE
WILL NOT
BE LEFT WITHOUT
GOOD BELARUSIAN
CINEMA"**



THE PEOPLE OF BELARUS ELECTED ALEKSANDR LUKASHENKO AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY

86.82 %

of voters who
took part in the
election voted
for Aleksandr
Lukashenko

“THIS IS A CONVINCING AND SIGNIFICANT VICTORY”

Aleksandr Lukashenko was congratulated by his foreign colleagues

Aleksandr Lukashenko received numerous congratulations from the Heads of states and international leaders from all around the world on his convincing victory on the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Russian leader Vladimir Putin warmly congratulated his Belarusian counterpart on his convincing victory in the presidential election during a telephone conversation.

The Heads of States also compared notes on topical issues of bilateral cooperation, discussed international issues and the schedule of upcoming contacts.

On behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping expressed his sincere congratulations on the election victory. “I am glad to hear about your re-election as the President of the Republic of Belarus. In recent years, you and I have maintained close contacts, jointly worked out and provided guidance for the development of China-Belarus relations, as a result of which our bilateral relations have reached the highest level of all-weather and all-round strategic partnership in history,” the message of greetings reads.

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has received congratulations from the President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian on his election victory. “The active participation of Belarusians in the elections reflects their determination and intention to build a bright future. I am sure that relations between the two friendly countries Iran and Belarus and mutually beneficial partnership in all areas of bilateral, regional and international cooperation will become stronger than ever during Your Excellency's new presidential term,” the message of greeting says. Masoud Pezeshkian wished Aleksandr Lukashenko health and success, and the people of Belarus – well-being.

The President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has received congratulations from the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his election victory. “I am sure that existing partnership between our countries in political, economic, and humanitarian areas will be further strengthened in the becoming period thanks to our joint efforts. I take this opportunity to once again express my wishes of health and happiness to Your Excellency, and prosperity and well-being to the friendly Belarusian people,” the greeting reads.

The President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has received congratulations from the President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa. “Your victory is an evidence of the trust of the people of Your great country in Your leadership and Your

achievements as the Head of State. I am committed to strengthening friendship between our two countries and deepening of mutually beneficial cooperation for the benefit of the peoples of our two countries,” the greeting reads.

The President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has received congratulations from the King of Bahrain Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the country Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa expressed deep gratitude to Aleksandr Lukashenko for the bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the friendly Republic of Belarus.

In turn, Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa also wished Aleksandr Lukashenko good health, happiness and success in fulfilling his duties for the benefit of the friendly people of Belarus.

Congratulations from the leadership of the United Arab Emirates have been sent to the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on the occasion of his election victory. The Head of State congratulated the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan: “I am pleased to convey to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of your re-election as the President of the Republic of Belarus. I wish Your Excellency good health and happiness, and the friendly Belarusian people further progress and prosperity.”

The President was also congratulated by the Vice President and the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, the Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the Vice President, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Presidential Affairs Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro also congratulated Aleksandr Lukashenko on his victory in the presidential election. “I congratulate our brothers and sisters, the courageous Belarusian people, with whom we have established a relationship of genuine cooperation and solidarity, based on the desire of both countries for independence, on the courage and dignity of our peoples, their determination to be free, independent and anti-fascist. This is a convincing and significant victory, demonstrating the real sentiment in Belarus, which unanimously and without hesitation re-elected my brother Aleksandr Lukashenko as the President,” the message of greetings reads.

Other leaders of CIS countries, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America also congratulated the President of Belarus.

Photo by BelTA

“Belarusian society shows everyone an example of how to develop on the chosen path”

Independent observers – about the presidential elections in Belarus

Regional Election Director of the Republic of the Philippines Maria Juana S. VALEZA:

– From January 24 to 26, we freely observed the election procedures and talked to members of the election commissions. I can say that everything I had read or watched in the news about Belarus before was completely inconsistent with what I saw. Contrary to what they write about democracy in your country, it is quite flourishing here. The elections in Belarus were held in a peaceful and calm manner. I was struck by several things. And the first of them is the early voting. This is a commendable initiative, as the citizens of the country have an opportunity to vote when it is convenient for them. This is a practice we are going to borrow from you. Elections are inclusive: every voter has access to the electoral process. In addition, certain categories of people also had access to voting: for example, those awaiting sentencing and citizens permanently residing abroad. The presence of domestic observers at each polling station proved to be a very good practice that contributed to the transparency of the elections. I congratulate the people of Belarus for having succeeded in protecting democratic elections in your country!

Gyula Türmer, Chairman of the Hungarian Labor Party:

– Today we congratulate the Belarusian people on their victory. And when we celebrate Victory Day, it may be ridiculous to talk about what happened five years ago. But if

we do not remember the events of 2020, then we will not understand the decision of the Belarusian people. Five years ago, some Belarusians thought that we should offer another way of development, submit to the West, privatize the state industry, sell everything valuable that the Belarusian people have, split the Belarusian society and lead Belarus into a war against the East, against Russia. But, thank God, there was another alternative – to preserve the sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus, to develop the national economy, to protect the national acquisitions of the Belarusian people, to rely on friendly allied ties with Russia, to preserve peace and to avoid at all costs that Belarus would be involved in the war in Ukraine. Congratulating the Belarusian people, we also congratulate the winner of the presidential election, Aleksandr Lukashenko. But not only our Belarusian friends, and all of us should be grateful to him because without his wisdom, foresight, without his courage, I think that both Belarus and Eastern Europe, including Hungary, would be in a completely different position. Then the war would not have been fought only on the territory of Ukraine, but would have gone further a long time ago. We are grateful to him for that.

Secretary General of the Solidarity for Peace Party (Georgia) Temur Pipia:

– The elections have shown the exceptional cohesion of the Belarusian public in the conditions of unprecedented international



pressure and the situation around your country. The fact that the Belarusian society managed to hold such perfectly organized elections in these difficult conditions, which took place in a calm atmosphere, once again confirms that the Belarusian society is truly exceptional and shows everyone an example of how to hold on, achieve sovereignty, independence and develop on the chosen path.

Veronica Kanyuta

“The attitude to this important event in the country testifies to the consolidation of society”

SCO recognizes elections in Belarus as transparent, accurate and democratic



BelTA

As the SCO Secretary-General emphasized, the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus met the requirements of the electoral legislation of our country and international commitments undertaken by Belarus.

“No violations of the norms of the national legislation, which would call into question the legitimacy of the elections and which could have influenced the election results, were noted by the mission,” summarized Nurlan Yermekbayev. “The mission recognizes the elections as transparent, accurate and democratic.”

Anton Lopatin, an international observer from the SCO mission, drew attention to the professional training of members of election commissions at all levels, the mood of the people and their activity during the elections. “The attitude to this important event in the country testifies to the consolidation of society,” he emphasized. “The results, announced by the Central Election Commission of Belarus, can be confirmed by the high spiritual mood,” he added.

According to the international observer, the electoral rights of all participants of the electoral process in our country were fully ensured. “In exact accordance with the present Constitution, the current Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus,” he specified. “The elections that took place confirmed the course that the republic is following.”

Veronika Kanyuta

The observation mission from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization participated for the first time in monitoring the elections in Belarus. The mission, which worked at polling stations for five days, was composed of 17 representatives from seven SCO member states. All in all, members of the mission inspected 109 polling stations.

The members of the mission highlighted the active participation

of citizens in voting and the high professional level of training of the staff of the polling station commissions. “The activity of election commissions was very transparent, qualified and independent in nature,” noted head of the SCO observation mission, SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev. “We noticed a high activity of young people. Voting was held everywhere calmly, within the established order and in the presence of media representatives.”



BELARUS HAS SECURED ITS ELECTORAL SOVEREIGNTY

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko used his right to vote on January 26. The Head of State traditionally cast his vote on the main voting day at the polling station located at the Belarusian State University of Physical Culture. As always, the arrival of the Head of State did not affect the work of the polling station. The President spoke briefly with the observers working at the polling station. He noted the openness of Belarus for observers and journalists covering the elections.

Traditionally, after voting, Aleksandr Lukashenko answers journalists' questions at the polling station. This year, the tradition was not broken, but was slightly changed. The Belarusian leader talked to the media representatives "not on his feet", but in one of the classrooms of the BSUPHC in order not to interfere with the work of the polling station. Already by the beginning of this conversation it became clear to everyone that it was going to be very interesting. Since Aleksandr Lukashenko immediately emphasized that all questions would be answered and urged journalists not to be afraid to ask a variety of questions, it turned out to be so. The press conference of the Belarusian leader lasted for 4 hours and 25 minutes. The President was asked more than 30 questions.

In this publication, we have tried to collect all the accents in the answers of the Head of State

**About the recognition of elections:
"The most important thing for me is that
the Belarusians recognize these elections"**

Most of the questions were devoted to the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus. And how could one not recall the resolution of the European Parliament on non-recognition of the elections in Belarus, published even before the official end of the elections. "This is crawling in front of "big brothers" in Washington. If you are so principled about the elections, you can tell them something about the American elections – it's scary. But here you can: they know that nothing will happen. Well, they have spoken out – even in America it caused laughter among some specialists. How can one evaluate something that has not happened yet? As always, it seems, they rushed and made a mess, which will have to be cleaned up later. Let's take it for granted – stated and stated," responded Aleksandr Lukashenko when he was asked to comment on the document. "And then, let's be absolutely sincere, did it do us much harm? No. Honestly speaking, it even benefits us. They have shown themselves in this world. And thank them," he added. The Head of State is convinced that such statements should be treated calmly, because the cost of this statement-zero. "Even if it was in essence and corresponded to reality. Zero. We hold elections for our people," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

British BBC journalist Steve Rosenberg, who was personally invited by Aleksandr Lukashenko to work at the elections, asked how these elections could be recognized as democratic. "Whether you recognize these elections in the European Union or not is a matter of taste. Believe me, I swear, it's absolutely nothing to me whether you recognize our elections or not. The main thing for me is that the Belarusians recognize these elections, and they are quietly over, as they began. That's the main thing. And then it's up to you. If you recognize them, we will be grateful. If you don't recognize them, you haven't recognized them," Aleksandr Lukashenko replied not too diplomatically, but quite understandably. He asked a rhetorical question: What

would have changed in America if the Belarusian side had not recognized the U.S. elections and Trump. Nothing. Nothing will happen in Belarus from the non-recognition of the election by the Western countries either.

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized that January 26, Belarusians do not choose their own destiny, we've already determined it. "When five years ago we saw that we had a certain number of bamboozled people, today Belarus is already different: it has been immunized," he emphasized. The Head of State admitted that after 2020 he is very pleased that the current presidential campaign is calm and businesslike. We don't need a show. "This is not ours. Elections are a serious thing. Serious things should be done seriously. Why go around, shout by force, hold rallies?" Aleksandr Lukashenko replied to the journalist, who asked why there was campaigning for the election as a whole, but not for each individual candidate. Speaking about himself personally, the Head of State noted that he didn't need any campaigning – the people see the incumbent president as it is, they see how he is working. When visiting enterprises, Aleksandr Lukashenko always talks to the staff, answers people's questions.

**About the successors and plans:
"The younger generation"
is not my younger son and not my older son"**

Since there were no restrictions on questions, the President was also asked personal questions. One of them was about whether Aleksandr Lukashenko is looking for a successor. He answered that he is not personally looking for anyone. But, of course, he cares about who will be in power. According to him, now we need to think about how to successfully pass 2025, developing cooperation with Russia, and how to work so as not to fall into dependence on Western countries, among others.

Journalists recalled the speech of the Belarusian leader at the "Marathon of Unity," where it sounded "you will build the country, maybe even without me," and asked about plans for 2030. "I was honest in saying that. Sincerity always pays off. This is the strong suit of my policy," Aleksandr Lukashenko responded, emphasizing that it's too early to talk about 2030. Aleksandr Lukashenko once again repeated that it's time for the older generation to pass the country to the younger generation. According to him, the future five-year plan is a five-year plan for young people. At the same time, the Head of State emphasized, it's not about personalities. "You asked at me at once: who will it be? It will be a new generation. Of course, there will probably be a new president. We will prepare a new generation. Look, the future presidents (I would like to) are the current governors, current ministers – members of the government, heads of the chambers of parliaments, top officials. These people are quite different," said the Belarusian leader. He drew attention to the fact that now a new generation has come in the field of culture and mass media, with whom it is necessary to work.

About the fairness of punishment: “The law is hard, but law”

Western journalists, taking the opportunity to openly ask questions, noted that there can be no talk about democracy in Belarus, since opponents of the authorities are either abroad or in places not all that far away.

“We have not kicked anyone out of the country. Moreover, we opened the country. And I have stated five times that we are not vindictive people. Everyone will be given a chance. Come and answer. If you violate the law, you’ll go to places not all that far away,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He emphasized that in any state one should be held responsible for breaking the law and recalled the classic: the law is hard, but law.

As for the “political prisoners,” about whom Western journalists actively asked, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized that several dozens of them had already been granted pardon. But this should not be taken as a signal to the West. “I publicly declare to you that we do not want to use this process of releasing these criminals to give a signal to the West. I don’t care about this West,” the Head of State said.

“You do not believe anyone, that someone pressed me, that it is someone from the fugitives. In general, we have no relations with them...,” he said. The Belarusian leader explained that those who asked for pardon, as well as the elderly and people with serious illnesses were granted pardon. Aleksandr Lukashenko also emphasized that there are no political prisoners in Belarus. “They have violated the Criminal Code. If anyone is interested, we can show the criminal case and show what articles of the law have been violated. We release these people based solely on the principles of humanity. Not because someone wanted to,” he said. The President said that they hear appeals from other countries, particularly from the United States, regarding their citizens, convicted in Belarus. And they will be considered without any opposition. “I think both there and here people are smart, we’ll come to an agreement. If they didn’t kill, didn’t rape, we’ll consider the issue. But if they have grossly violated the Criminal Code, I can’t do it,” said the Head of State.

On the alternative opinion: “The opposition is those who are in the country”

The President was asked if he would conduct a dialog with the opposition that has gone abroad. “You know, the opposition is those who are in the country. And I am ready to conduct a dialog with those on whom something depends,” he replied. According to the Head of State, there is nothing to talk about relations with the opposition abroad. He noted that one of the presidential candidates, Anna Kanopatskaya, is a representative of the opposition, who has been criticizing the authorities for years, but remains in the country. And her persistence is supported by some people, the election results will show how much. Aleksandr Lukashenko advised the Western countries to

conduct a dialog with the foreign Belarusian opposition. “Look, don’t miss it. They will throw you so many problems that you won’t be able to recover later. I warned you – you’re creating banners in Poland and Lithuania, while in Ukraine you’ve created the Belarusian Volunteer Corps, so don’t let them turn these machine guns against you,” he said. “So, I have nothing to talk to them about? If there will be proposals, we will consider them.”

Western journalists hinted that this was due to the fact that one can’t criticize the authorities in Belarus. Aleksandr Lukashenko asked to confirm it with facts. He stressed that criticism should be justified and civilized. “We will not close one’s mouth and do not close it. You can speak up. But we have been pursuing such a policy for five years so that the people would not accuse us. This is the result. I haven’t banned anything from anyone, primarily because I don’t need to. It would be to my detriment,” added the Belarusian leader.

On the domestic policy: “We have everything for life, but it needs to be developed”

The participants of the press conference with the President drew attention to the topic that may not be the most interesting for the Western countries, but is the most important for Belarus – domestic policy. The journalists asked why Aleksandr Lukashenko often warns that 2025 will be difficult. “I am leaving the current situation. The war will be over-God willing, it will be a little better. You realize that the war is seriously affecting this region. I’m not talking about Russia, which is spending decent money on the war. Russia is our ally, our main market where we supply products, and our main supplier. We are bound together very tightly. And we are highly dependent on each other, especially we depend on Russia,” replied Aleksandr Lukashenko. He noted that the economic situation in Russia is difficult now, and thus it will be difficult in Belarus. That’s why the Belarusian leader warns the vertical of power and manufacturers that this difficult year should be withstood, and for this purpose one should mobilize.

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that Belarus was working on the creation of cryptocurrency. This is offered by the Belarusian IT specialists themselves. “It’s normal for us to make settlements in crypto,” said the Head of State. “We have surplus electricity. We are successfully using it.”

Work with artificial intelligence is being improved. According to the Head of State, the issue of legislative regulation of the use of neural networks is at the initial stage of development. According to the Belarusian leader, the work in this direction will proceed at a rapid pace. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled his recent visit to the United Arab Emirates, where the issue of artificial intelligence was actively discussed. The question is the most important one. “Recently the UN Secretary General said, and this is also the opinion of world experts: humans today do not know how to control and manage artificial intelligence, it can lead to the death of all humans,”

said Aleksandr Lukashenko. Therefore, according to him, it is necessary to keep this issue under control. If necessary, even act tough, defending one's country. "The main thing is that those who are ahead of us, this is primarily the United States (China will not fight against us), so that they do not destroy our country. And if the Americans, having invested half a trillion dollars there, think that they, being ahead of others, will get something from it, they can get the opposite effect. Around Trump, a businessman, a billionaire, the

we have successfully completed and are working with the Chinese. China has everything for the development of our economy," he said. And what's important, said Aleksandr Lukashenko, the Chinese, unlike Western counterparts, do not hide their technologies and are ready to share them. "We are successfully replacing the West with the East at the expense of Russia and the People's Republic of China mainly. There are other countries as well. This is the essence of our cooperation," the President said.



same billionaires like Musk are hanging around, let them also think about the fact that this can be directed against them. They will let the dogs out and they'll show their teeth against them," emphasized the Belarusian leader. He cited the example of China, which uses artificial intelligence for creative purposes, in areas important for society, such as medicine or defense.

About the cooperation with China: "We are successfully replacing the West with the East"

Aleksandr Lukashenko was asked how he sees the further development of the Belarus-China relations. The forecast is extremely optimistic. The Belarusian leader pointed out that Belarus and China will cooperate quietly, calmly, as there are enough barefooted, ready to put sticks in the cart. "We have agreed with the Chinese that we will not make public, too detailed our cooperation. But today, what we once planned and started to do with Western companies,

"Here is our future: we are ready for you to do everything you need in Europe, and you will do everything for us so that our country remains high-tech and we can replace the Western representatives who ran away from us. Without being specific, without being detailed. The Chinese have helped us a lot, and I think they will continue to help us," the President summarized, addressing the Chinese audience through a Chinese journalist.

On the Union Security: "An umbrella is needed so that it doesn't rain at all"

A large pool of journalists from Russia has been accredited to work at the elections. Therefore, the issues of the union agenda were actively discussed at the president's press conference. Aleksandr Lukashenko even admitted that in case of his victory in the election, he would first of all visit the Russian Federation, where he would hold talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. According to him, it

would be strange if the first destination was not Moscow. Especially since there is a lot to discuss.

Journalists also recalled a quote by Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Sergei Shoigu that the Russian “nuclear umbrella” provides protection for the Republic of Belarus in the same framework scenarios in which Russia allows nuclear response for its own defense. Aleksandr Lukashenko once again emphasized that nuclear weapons in Belarus serve primarily for deterrence. “This “nuclear umbrella” is needed not to avoid getting wet in the nuclear “rain,” but to avoid the “rain” at all,” he figuratively explained.

In continuation of the topic of defense, the issue of “oreshnik” placement on the Belarusian territory was also touched upon. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized that the decision to deploy this complex in Belarus is a response to the desire and possibility of deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. The journalists asked where exactly “oreshnik” would be located. “There, closer to Smolensk. I think so. And then we will see,” the Head of State answered. The President was also asked about the terms of delivery. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, he and Vladimir Putin have not defined the terms yet. “There’s no hurry,” said the Belarusian leader.



About Trump’s influence: “He can act illogically”

At the press conference of the President of Belarus, journalists (primarily Western ones) paid a lot of attention to another president – the recently elected US President Donald Trump.

“Donald is a great artists, an actor. He’s a showman, a businessman and so on. Very good. He knows how to do it. We know how to do it too. But he’s got a temperament that he’s not shy about doing it. As an experienced politician, I must say that I don’t quite understand and don’t know what will change in our region after Trump comes to power,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko when asked what geopolitical changes he expects after Trump’s coming to power.

At the same time, it is not excluded that Donald Trump may affect the resolution of the conflict in Ukraine. And here, according to the Belarusian leader, one should hope for “an illogical solution” of the American president, which he is capable of compared to the traditional policy of the United States. “If we proceed from logic and use ingrained criteria for solving such issues, the Americans will never go to meet the demands and aspirations of the Russian people and the President. It is not in their interests. But Trump is unpredictable. He can go “bang” in this regard and go for what he promised – peace. God shot his ear, not his head, to make that peace. And he believes it inwardly. He is very steady. It’s hard for his helpers and others to move him and turn him around somewhere. So, he can do things illogically – not the way we think he’s going to do them right now. And we hope so,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. Therefore, in his opinion, achieving peace is possible. “But I have 50/50. I think the Americans will make it so that it will not be very good for us and Russia,” added the Belarusian leader.

About the peace in Ukraine: “There will be some kind of outcome this year”

The topic of peace in Ukraine was very active during the press conference. Journalists were interested in the opinion of Aleksandr Lukashenko on this issue, asked when peace could be achieved and what should be done to achieve it. “There will be some kind of outcome this year. I’m not saying that the war and other things will end. There will probably be conflicts for a long time. But there will be an outcome. There will be light at the end of the tunnel this year,” said the President.

He has repeatedly emphasized that the Belarusian side is in support of peace in Ukraine. But, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, everything should be taken into account today, as well as Russia’s position, there’s nowhere without it. “No America will never force Russia. Trump is not an idiot, not a fool, he will not say so to Putin. And if he does, it will be to his detriment. None can lord us over and walk all over us. We have our own interests, and Russia even more so. But we don’t want war, we don’t want people to die. Millions will die. Who needs it? We have to stop now. And this is in the interests of Europe first of all,” he said.

For peace to be achieved, compromise is necessary. With the expectation that the time will come, the peoples will decide where to live and what currency to use. “Peoples! Just don’t bother them. But, again, this is decided at the negotiating table,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The journalists asked whether he would insist on the presence of Belarus at the negotiating table. The President answered positively and explained his position. First of all, he noted that there are no personal ambitions here, as it is often presented. There are two key issues here: national interests and security in the region.

The President was asked for his opinion on a possible peacekeeping mission of Western countries to guard the borders in case a ceasefire is reached in Ukraine. Aleksandr

Lukashenko replied that Belarusian peacekeepers would be the best option for this. "But, so you understand, I'm not raring to go there and, most likely, I'm not going to send my people there (for today) – peacekeepers. I'm not going to. But Belarusians can only ensure normal relations between the middle and older brother," he said. The President noted that he's ready for any development of events on the Belarus-Ukraine border. "I don't care who they'll put on the other side of the border. A step to the left, a step to the right beyond the state border – you know our reaction," he said. As of today, the Belarus-Ukraine border remains closed tightly. Proposals of the Belarusian side to open it are not supported by the neighbors. However, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, Belarusians and Ukrainians maintain certain contacts. In particular, Belarus helps Russia and Ukraine in the exchange of prisoners of war. "Hundreds of prisoners of war have to be exchanged, and we do it all. Ukrainians have no contact with Russians. They bring prisoners of war or dead from Ukraine, and we take them there or transport them from there to here. We conduct exchanges and dialogs in a human way, where necessary," said the President. Last year alone, Belarus received almost 300 thousand refugees from Ukraine. "They came to the 'aggressor'. We help them," said the Head of State. Some Ukrainians further go to Poland, some to Russia, some to Belarus. "Here is your house, here is your tractor, combine harvester, plant, factory – go to work. Your children – free education, free health care, kindergarten and so on and so forth. This is our attitude to Ukrainians when they come to live with us. To everyone," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

About the relationships with Poland: "Let's cooperate together"

A Polish journalist asked the President how he sees further relations between Belarus and Poland. But before talking about the relationship, Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out that Poland is now pursuing the most aggressive and bad policy against Belarus. "I'm not making up anything. We are your neighbors, we have lived in one state for many years. Bad, good... Today you are claiming Western Belarus up to Minsk, you have already started talking about Western Ukraine. Why do you need this imperialism? You understand that you will not get even a meter of territory from us. Poles live here, but they are my Poles. That's why you have some wild messages when you try to justify this or that trend in your policy," said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He emphasized that Belarusians have always been friends for Poles and want to live in friendship. But this desire is not mutual.

While the President of Belarus was advocating the resumption of relations with the Poles, a statement of Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski on non-recognition of the elections in Belarus, voiced by the President's Press Secretary Natalia Eismont, appeared in the media field. The statement referred to "Russian aggression" and the Russian leader, among other things.



"Why are you picking at Russia? Why are you bothering Putin? Don't you have enough problems? Sikorski is a knowledgeable person. We have met with him, communicated with him. What's he got to say about our elections? Let him think about tomorrow. Today Polish peasants threw dung at the Foreign Ministry. And tomorrow? So calm down. Are we saying something about you? No!" Aleksandr Lukashenko reacted to this. He noted that Poland has its own elections in May this year. "But we will not interfere in this. And if you want, we can show that we can do something. With artificial intelligence, IT-technologies and other things. But we don't set such a goal. We don't need that. We don't want it to escalate," said the Belarusian leader.

About the dialog with the West: "Europe has only one way – to conduct its policy"

The President was asked whether he's ready to resume dialog with the West. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that the Belarusian side has never refused to do so. He emphasized that the European Union is a powerful association, which has a technological economy and a strong currency. About 450 million people live there, which is much more than in the United States. "Europe has one way, a sensible way – to conduct its policy. They have money, they have technology. They need resources. The resources are here, in the Belarusian-Russian space. In Russia. Make a deal with Russia. They are ready to sell you natural gas cheaper, oil cheaper. And if we agree with Russia – which America, even China will not be able to cope with this unification," emphasized Aleksandr Lukashenko. "Why is it not happening? It can be done, I'm telling you as the President. As the Belarusians say, they don't have the stomach for. There's no one to make such a decision. But it's their choice. It's time to put everything in its place."

Valeria Stetsko
Photo by BelTA

“IF THEY WANT, LET THEM GO AND FILM”



Foreign journalists studied situation at southern border of Belarus

On January 28, Novaya Guta checkpoint in Gomel region, which has been closed for two years, was unusually crowded. This is because about 60 journalists from nine countries came there. Correspondents who wanted to see with their own eyes the real situation at the border of Belarus with Ukraine and learn about the service of Belarusian border guards received a unique opportunity to do this. Belarusian correspondents also arrived at the southern border

The decision to organize this press tour was made after the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko noted at a press conference on January 26 that Belarus is an open country and illustrated his words with an example. As the President was informed, representatives of the German media wanted to visit the Belarusian-Ukrainian border for filming, but the Belarusian border guards forbade them from doing this.

“I told them: “Guys, what’s wrong with you? You invited journalists and forbid them from doing something in Belarus.

They don’t commit terrorist acts, do they? - No. - So why do you forbid them from doing this? Call them immediately. If they want, let them go and film. But warn them that it’s advisable not to approach the border,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

“It’s very interesting. I really wanted to come here. Even when we were coming here for the elections, we were told that there might be an opportunity to go to the border. We didn’t expect to see the border itself. Besides, everything was organized very quickly,” Elizaveta Borisenko, Izvestia newspaper correspondent, shared her impressions.

Anton Bychkovsky, the official representative of the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus, held a briefing to journalists and told the program of today’s event. He emphasized that media workers are free to work at the locations provided and ask any clarifying questions.

First, journalists from Great Britain, Denmark, China, Poland, Russia, the USA, Turkey, Finland and France were shown a checkpoint near the entrance to the border zone. Here, the correspondents saw how passing cars are inspected and citizens’ documents are checked. After the initial briefing, the press went to the border crossing itself.

By decision of the Ukrainian leadership, all international checkpoints and simplified checkpoints on the Ukrainian

border with Belarus were closed from February 28, 2022. There is currently no international traffic. At the same time, Anton Bychkovsky emphasized that on the Belarusian side, checkpoints on the border with Ukraine are functioning, and border guards are ready to fully resume international traffic with the neighboring side as soon as possible. When the checkpoint was operating, the average daily passenger flow in winter reached 5 thousand people and 2 thousand cars, and in summer - up to 17 thousand people and 8 thousand cars. Trucks with goods traveled in both directions, and in summer Belarusians went on vacation to the Black Sea.

Arriving at the currently non-functioning Novaya Guta checkpoint, journalists immediately began asking the border guards on duty about their service, weapons and equipment. "Our servicemen are armed with Kalashnikov rifles; each has a helmet, a bulletproof vest and a first aid kit. There are also service dogs that search for explosives. In addition, border patrols are equipped with video recorders," said the head of the border control department.

After that, Anton Bychkovsky answered all the journalists' questions. Media workers asked many clarifying questions. The conversation mainly concerned the situation on the border with Ukraine. "Currently, the situation is under control. Border service authorities carry out tasks in an enhanced version of their service, without losing vigilance, despite the fact that recently the situation is tending to normalization," said Anton Bychkovsky.

According to the official representative of the border department, about 15 thousand servicemen are registered in the border regions of Ukraine (near the border of Belarus). These are the Ukrainian armed forces, the national guard, the police and territorial defense. "With regard to the protection of the state border, we have recently noted that the border guards of Ukraine are behaving calmly and professionally to a greater extent," Anton Bychkovsky emphasized.

He also said that in 2024, about 350 flights of unmanned aerial vehicles were recorded on the border with Ukraine. "In about 20 cases, violations of the airspace of the Republic of Belarus, violations of the border by these unmanned aerial vehicles were recorded," added Anton Bychkovsky.

The official representative of the State Border Committee noted that the border service and border patrols of Belarus are taking appropriate measures. "The border patrols are armed with radio-electronic guns and pump-action weapons to prevent the violation of the state border by drones," said the representative of the State Border Committee.

When the journalists received answers to all their questions, the border guards led the journalists to the next point on the route - directly to the border, which is located approximately 1.5 km from the checkpoint. On the Ukrainian side, the road is lined with fortifications.

Finnish Yle TV channel correspondent Heikki Heiskanen noted that he could not help but take advantage of such a unique opportunity. He also emphasized that the situation that has developed on the border due to the conflict in Ukraine is sad.

Belarusian correspondents were very interested to learn the impressions of other foreign journalists from the event organized for them. However, employees of the Washington Post, France Press, Polsat, AFP TV channels and RFI radio refused to comment, relying on editorial policy.

The next point on the journalists' route was the exclusion zone. Here, a system of fencing, smart cameras and various sensors was built. The correspondents also did not miss the opportunity to ask clarifying questions there. In particular, Anton Bychkovsky said that there are cases when men fleeing mobilization in Ukraine try to escape to Belarus. Some are caught as border violators, and some are blown up by mines on the Ukrainian side of the border.

At the end of the program, the border guards prepared a pleasant surprise for the guests - hot soldier's porridge, tea and other food for lunch. Each journalist was also given a gift in memory of their visit to the Belarusian border.

This was the end of the main part of the event. After lunch, the journalists had the opportunity to independently go to the nearest settlements of Novaya Guta and Kravtsovka to talk to local residents about their daily life near the border.

"We have a comprehensive and music school here, a post office, a bank, a sports complex with clubs and a swimming pool. We also have five gardeners' partnerships nearby. Besides, there is a forest all around where we go to pick mushrooms," said Natalia, a resident of Novaya Guta.



She also noted that their life is calm. "Our border guards are great, we rely on them and our leadership. We are calm. We live here and do not go anywhere. Children come to us for the holidays and live here all summer," added Natalia.

The State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus organized a trip for foreign journalists to the border with Ukraine on behalf of the President of Belarus. The head of state gave the corresponding order during a press conference on January 26. Thus, foreign journalists have the opportunity to see with their own eyes what the situation is like on the border between Belarus and Ukraine.

AS A SYMBOL OF COURAGE AND PRIDE

In February our country celebrates one of the most significant days for those who have chosen the defense of the Fatherland as their profession

By the way, the Defender of the Fatherland and the Armed Force Day in Belarus is not a holiday only for military personnel, but also for all citizens. This Day is a symbol of the unbreakable spirit of the Belarusians who are ready to lend a shoulder to officers and soldiers in any difficult moment. That is why any attempts to distort history and speculate on this holiday of military glory are bound to fail.

On this day people who at different times died for the freedom and independence of the Motherland are remembered and the heroes are glorified. We are proud of the feat of the internationalist soldiers and pay tribute to today's defenders of the Fatherland. In the most complex political and military situation the current generation of soldiers is able and ready to fight back against any aggressor. It is not for nothing that the traditional congratulatory message of the President of Belarus and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Force on the occasion of Defenders of the Fatherland Day emphasizes this.

Today, as a result of profound modernization our army is capable of withstanding any challenges and threats. As Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin noted at the solemn meeting dedicated to the Defenders of the Fatherland and the Armed Forces Day, someone may wonder if it is appropriate to celebrate such holidays when the whole world is in a state of global geopolitical tension. NATO is expanding eastward and powerful groups of Western countries' troops, whose politicians do not hide their aggressive intentions, are already concentrated near the borders of Belarus. The Defense Minister is firmly convinced that the Defenders of the Fatherland and the Armed Force Day, as well as other holidays, have been and will be in Belarus. Holidays are an opportunity to get out of the routine and look at the passed path, giving it meaning, to see the present and the future, as well as to ensure the continuity of sacred national traditions.

The history of Belarus is inextricably linked with the emergence of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, which in 1939 during the liberation campaign ensured the reunification of the Belarusian people in the united Belarusian state. According to the Defense Minister, the military organization of the state at the beginning of the 21st century has been brought into line with the changed essence of the war. As a result of the deep modernization of the



DEFENDERS OF THE FATHERLAND DAY

Belarusian Armed Forces, an army capable of countering any challenges and threats, including hybrid wars, has been created. The construction and development of the Armed Forces is an ongoing process. This is due to the global situation. First of all, by the unprecedented geopolitical confrontation between Russia and the collective West led by the United States, which is trying to preserve a unipolar model of the world.

So, the Defenders of the Fatherland and the Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Belarus is celebrated annually on February 23. This holiday, established by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus on March 16, 1998, is rightfully considered a national holiday. This is a day of memory, courage, and heroism of all

generations of defenders of the Fatherland, who defended the independence of their native land. The history of this holiday began in the years of World War I, when on February 23, 1918, the Red Guard detachments won their first victories near Pskov and Narva over the regular troops of Kaizer's Germany. In 1922 this date was officially declared the Red Army Day. After the Great Patriotic War this day was renamed the Soviet Army and Navy Day, and after the collapse of the Soviet Union (in 1993) the celebration was named Defenders of the Fatherland Day. Nowadays, the Defenders of the Fatherland and the Armed Forces Day symbolizes patriotism, loyalty to military duty, and readiness to self-sacrifice for the freedom and independence of the Motherland.



Not only to defend but also to warn in time

Of course, the following event is also in the context of this important topic. Namely, the news that on the last day of January, the Commander-in-Chief approved the decision to protect the State Border of Belarus in 2025. What tasks have been prioritized and why border protection is not only a matter for border guards?

The event held on January 30 in the Palace of Independence is from the category of those that are considered traditional. But this in no way diminishes its importance for the national security. And first of all, because of the tension that remains around Belarus. In these conditions, the President calls again and again to the border guards not to relax. In general, he demands special vigilance from people in uniform. As for the decision to protect the state border, Aleksandr Lukashenko said “This is a serious decision to protect the sovereignty and defense of our state. I will tell you frankly. Along with the protection of the state border by the border troops, the most important issue is that they should warn us about threats in time. Then, having mobilized all the forces we have in the country, we will be able to confront the enemy.”

The main speaker on the agenda was Konstantin Molostov, Chairman of the State Border Committee. Among the participants of the discussion were also State Secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Volfovich, Chairman of State Security Committee (KGB) Ivan Tertel, Minister of Internal Affairs Ivan Kubrakov, Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin and Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, First Deputy Defense Minister Pavel Muraveiko – the heads of the main power structures. The President rightly noted that it is difficult to ensure the protection of 3,617 kilometers of the state border by border guards alone. All the security forces are involved in protecting the borders in the broad sense of the word. Hence the special significance of the approved decision. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized: “Today’s decision is not just a state border line on earth, on water and in air. This is a serious decision to protect the sovereignty and defense of our state. I will tell you frankly. Along with the protection of the state border by the border troops, the most important issue is that they should warn us about threats in time. Other agencies are also involved in this process. But it is the task of the border guards — to warn about the possible threats to our security. Then, having

mobilized all the forces we have in the country (from police to army), we will be able to confront the enemy.”

The State Border Committee, assessing the situation on the border, elaborated on each direction. For example, in the Latvian section, the work on covering the border with the barrier hence continues, but the Latvian forces do not stop the practice of cruel treatment of refugees. On the Lithuanian side, militarization of the border areas continues: NATO exercises are held and military contingents are deployed in close proximity to the border of Belarus.

Poland focused its main efforts on holding events on strengthening the installed barrier fence, as well as



equipment of the water section with the electronic security system.

In 2024, the Ukrainian side continued to equip the border with reinforced concrete, barbed wire fences, anti-tank ditches, and mines. According to the Belarusian border guards, last year Ukraine committed 41 provocations, of which 17 were related to the entry of drones on the territory of Belarus.

Aleksandr Lukashenko generally assesses the situation as follows: “The situation at the borders is not easy, we have been talking and talking about it all the time. Not only border guards but also customs officers, especially at checkpoints, have enough work to do. There are long lines on one side and the other, and this is an additional burden on our border guards.”

During the event, the President added that he knows firsthand what checkpoints and green borders are and

how they are guarded, and invited the participants to discuss the main points and elements of state border protection.

Tasks for border guards

After the relevant decision was signed by the Commander-in-Chief, Konstantin Molostov answering the journalists' questions about how the situation on the border has changed recently, explained: "We do not see any sudden changes in movements from neighboring states. But at the same time, the tension remains. The President of Belarus knows in detail and accurately the situation on the state border, along the perimeter of our country. Today we have defined the tasks, and measures in terms of place, time, and directions of action not only for border guards but also for all forces that work in the interests of protecting the state border."

According to the Chairman of the State Border Committee, based on the peculiarities of the current situation and the ongoing tension around the Belarusian border, the decision on its protection has introduced many new features: "But the task for us, border guards, remains the same – it is the reliable protection of the state border. Today it is a deeply multilayered system, i.e. we are not only organized to serve along the state border line, but also strengthened within the border area." As Konstantin Molostov explained, the priority tasks of the border service bodies in 2025 will be to increase the system of forces and means of border service forces, equipping them with modern weapons and devices. The priority is to improve combat training of military personnel, field training of maneuver groups, and ensure the readiness of border guards to suppress armed and other provocations on the state border.

Meanwhile

Within the framework of the Union State program, a high-tech unit has been set up at the Polish section of the border based on the border post of the Brest Border Guard Group named after the Hero of the Soviet Union, Lieutenant Andrey Kizhevator. Its formation will significantly improve the reliability of security and move from patrolling the area to real-time response to the development of the situation, as well as optimize the staff structure. Konstantin Molostov told journalists that the relevant union program is refined



every year, based on the current situation and the tasks set, and the available financial flows are distributed: "Some of the figures, of course, are closed, so I will not announce them. But generally, I can say that we are on the way to improvement not only at the expense of the Union State but also at the expense of the budget of Belarus. Every year at every stage we are moving forward."

The State Border Committee described the progress of the state program "Border Security for 2021–2025". In particular, guard lines and automated technical observation posts have been equipped, alarm systems have been deployed and rapidly deployable sensors have been installed. Moreover, two complexes of border outposts on the Ukrainian direction in the Mozyr border detachment area ("Grebeni", "Borovoe"). Two border outposts ("Semenovka" of the Gomel Border Guard Group and "Narovlya" of the Mozyr Border Guard Group) are on the stage of acceptance. The construction of eight more complexes on the Belarusian-Ukrainian border is underway.

To increase the effectiveness of manned and unmanned aviation in border protection, aviation units have been reorganized to ensure the centralized use of gyroplanes, their maintenance, and supply. Positions of unmanned aircraft operators have been introduced in the border guard units.

In 2024, more than 235 thousand foreigners, including more than 215 thousand citizens of neighboring EU states, as well as more than 137 thousand citizens of Ukraine were allowed to enter Belarus visa-free.

Vladimir Khromov
Photo by BelTA

GOT A QUESTION? FIND THE ANSWERS

How to visit Belarus without a visa

Visa-free entry to Belarus for citizens of European countries

From April 15, 2022 to December 31, 2025, a visa-free entry procedure is available for citizens of Lithuania, Latvia (as well as persons with the status of a non-citizen of Latvia).

From July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2025, a visa-free entry procedure to Belarus for Polish citizens was introduced.

From July 19, 2024 to December 31, 2025, a visa-free entry procedure is available for citizens of Austria, Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Vatican, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Hungary, Greece, Denmark, Ireland, Iceland, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco can also visit Belarus without visas, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Northern Macedonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Finland, France, Germany, Croatia, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Sweden and Estonia (as well as stateless persons permanently residing in Estonia).

Information on visa-free travel via the airports of the Republic of Belarus

According to the Presidential Decree foreign citizens of 76 countries can enter Belarus for up to 30 days* and exit from the territory of Belarus only through the State border

checkpoints of the Republic of Belarus “Minsk National Airport”, “Airport Brest”, “Airport Gomel”, “Airport Grodno”, “Airport Mogilev”, “Airport Vitebsk”.

The given order of visa-free movement through the airports does not extend to persons coming to Belarus by plane from the Russian Federation, as well as to those who intend to fly to the airports of the Russian Federation (such flights are considered as internal ones and do not have border control).

Visa-free regime does not extend to holders of diplomatic, service, special and other passports equivalent to them.

Citizens of all countries (as well as persons with the status of a non-citizen of Estonia and a non-citizens of Latvia) who are allowed visa-free entry can enter Belarus through any Belarusian international border crossing point on the border.

At the same time, it is allowed to leave our country through any Belarusian international border crossing point, as well as through all checkpoints at airports in Belarus.

How often can I enter without a visa?

You can use the right of visa-free entry to Belarus an unlimited number of times during the entire period of validity of this procedure until December 31, 2025 inclusive.



For citizens of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia (as well as persons with the status of a non-citizen of Latvia), the period of temporary stay should not exceed 90 days from the date of entry.

For citizens of the other 35 states, temporary stay in Belarus should not exceed 30 days from the date of entry.

In general, the number of days of stay in Belarus without a visa should not exceed 90 days in a calendar year.

Do I need a temporary registration?

Yes, citizens of Lithuania and Estonia (as well as persons with the status of a non-citizen of Estonia) who have arrived in the Republic of Belarus must register within 30 days.

Citizens of the remaining 36 countries must register at the place of their actual temporary stay within 10 days.

What documents are required to cross the border without a visa?

- *a valid document for traveling abroad*
- *insurance of civil liability of vehicle owners (when traveling by car)*
- *medical insurance*
- *an electronic control stamp confirming payment for disinfection service*

- *a document on payment of a local fee (only when leaving Belarus)*

Is it possible to use visa-free travel to obtain a residence permit in the Republic of Belarus, work, study?

In case of entry into the Republic of Belarus for obtaining a residence permit, work, study, it is required to have a visa of the Republic of Belarus.

Is it possible to arrive to Belarus under visa-free basis for transit to third countries?

Yes, citizens of countries (as well as persons with the status of a non-citizen of Estonia and non-citizens of Latvia) under visa-free are allowed to transit through the territory of Belarus to third countries, including through all airport checkpoints, except for traveling to the Russian Federation.

Who is not covered by visa-free regime?

In case of entry to the Republic of Belarus, a visa of the Republic of Belarus is required to obtain a residence permit, work, or study. Foreign citizens who have received a temporary residence permit in the Republic of Belarus can leave our country only if they have a visa of the Republic of Belarus.

RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING, AGREEMENT

The Belarusian formula of inter-confessional peace

Belarus is a country where people of different nationalities and religions have always lived in peace and harmony. This is not just a peculiarity of the country, it is its image. Officially, there are 25 confessions and religious movements registered in Belarus today. The state pursues a policy aimed at maintaining inter-confessional peace and harmony in the Belarusian society. The meeting of President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko with representatives of religious confessions, which took place in February at the Palace of Independence, was a vivid illustration of this.

The country today has a unique ethno-confessional model

“We are very fortunate that in its modern history the Belarusian land has not known discord, persecution on religious, national, racial grounds. All confessions live here in an atmosphere of mutual respect, peace and harmony. Nowadays it is surprising for many countries, including so-called civilized ones. The coexistence of Christianity, Islam, Judaism and other religions, the foundations of which do not contradict the deep values of the Belarusian society, has united and hardened the Belarusian nation,” emphasized Aleksandr Lukashenko.

According to him, the Belarusians have always been open to those who come with kindness. Belarus has never hindered pilgrims, who go to worship the shrines. Belarusians have always helped people in trouble, especially refugees. At the same time, they are ready to give a decisive response to the

enemy without sparing their own lives. The Head of State assured that this will continue to be the case.

“The country today has a unique ethno-confessional model that could become an example for many. We together – the authorities, representatives of all confessions – have developed a common formula: respect, understanding and consent. Our people are accustomed to live this way and do not even imagine that it can be otherwise,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Representatives of eight different confessions were invited to meet with the President. They have different views, different traditions. But they are united by charity, care for the people of their country and human values. The round table with the President talked about how different people make a common cause.

Time chose our ancestors for victory. They chose us to preserve peace and creation



Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavl Veniamin, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, congratulated Aleksandr Lukashenko on his re-election as the Head of State. “The election results still mean the preservation of peace and stability on the Belarusian land at a time when



humanity is getting deeper into the abyss of interstate and global conflicts,” he said. The Primate of the Belarusian Orthodox Church drew attention to the fact that the clergy participated in the consolidation of provisions on the spiritual foundations of the Belarusian society in the preparation of the new version of the Constitution, in the Concept of National Security, in legislative acts on culture, health care and others.

“This practice has shown its effectiveness, and I believe it would be good to develop it, especially since joint work helps to strengthen inter-confessional interaction, better understand each other,” Metropolitan Veniamin said. The Head of State drew attention to the fact that the basic values of the Belarusian society enshrined in the Constitution are based on the understanding of our society and people of where we are, and draw the benchmarks we should look at as we move forward.



Metropolitan of Minsk-Mogilev Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church in the Republic of Belarus, Chairperson of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Belarus Iosif Stanevsky drew attention to a historical fact important for everyone. He called 2025, the year of the 80th

anniversary of the Great Victory, a time of deep rethinking of the history of our courageous and resilient people who preserved traditional values and humanity. “Time chose our ancestors for victory. Us – to preserve peace and creation,” emphasized Iosif Stanevsky.

The year 2025 is the Jubilee Year of Christianity for Catholics. “We started it with a solemn midnight prayer for the Motherland and will end it with a prayer for Belarus and world peace at the National Sanctuary of the Mother of God in Budslav,” said Iosif Stanevsky. He called Belarus – a common spiritual, cultural and historical treasure. And that is why the responsibility for a peaceful sky above our heads is a common concern. Iosif Stanevsky noted that over the last 80 years the Catholic Church has developed its doctrine of peace. It defines fraternity and dialog as the main tools to achieve peace, which is very consonant with the policy of Belarus. “Pope Francis’ position fully coincides with his proposals to establish peace and good-neighborliness, with which you have repeatedly addressed the world community, and first of all, our neighbors,” said Iosif Stanevsky. In response, Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that he has great respect for the incumbent pope. “This is a really strong man. A man who does not just live and serve. He knows how to say straight in the eye what he thinks for representatives of all walks of life. Our ideas and views do not diverge, we know – and he knows it, and I know it, we talked about it. So please give him your kindest and warmest wishes,” the President said.

This is your land

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he has exceptional relations with Muslims. He characterized them as “complete harmony”. According to the Belarusian leader, he has never had any problems with partners from Muslim countries. And Belarus has very good relations with Muslims. “They have never let either the authorities or me down. Frankly speaking, I am grateful to you for this position. You’ve always taken it and never wobbled to the left or right. I appreciate it very much. Belarus is not a Muslim country, but we have a serious position of Muslims. Thank you very much for this attitude to Belarus, and remember (this applies to all our confessions) that this is your land – the land of Tatars, Bashkirs and others who have come to us,” the President said.

Today Belarus is inhabited by Muslims who belong to the form of Islam that was brought to this territory 600 years ago and developed in local conditions. A unique community of citizens professing Islam, who identify themselves as Sunni-Hanafi, has been formed in the republic.

Mufti of the Muslim Religious Association in Belarus

Abu-Bekir Shabanovich

recalled that in 2016, with the participation of the presidents of Belarus and Turkey, a reconstructed cathedral mosque was opened in Minsk. “This event was so significant for us that we subdivide our history – more than 627 years – into before and after. It has caused a positive resonance in the world and first of all in the Muslim world,” the mufti said. According to him, over the years, the cathedral mosque has become the center of Islam in Belarus. Moreover, it is not only a center of theology and attraction of believers, but also a kind of a dialog platform for interstate, interethnic and interfaith meetings.

Abu-Bekir Shabanovich expressed the words of gratitude and support from all Muslims of Belarus to Aleksandr Lukashenko. “We are your assistants in everything strategic and tactical. And I express my faith that all of us together under your direct leadership will preserve our common homeland, beloved Belarus,” he added.

We are together in sorrow and in joy

Common history, common achievements and common pain have been shared by Belarusians and Jews for decades. “We are together in sorrow and in joy. And this, most likely, is the source of our Belarusian strength,” said Chief Rabbi

of the Religious Association of the Progressive Judaism

Communities in the Republic of Belarus Gregory Abramovich.



He noted that the Belarusians, who lost every third citizen during the Great Patriotic War, understand the depth of the tragedy of the Jewish people like no one else. “We appreciate it, being on the territory of

Belarus for about seven centuries. Unfortunately, some of our neighbors have forgotten who liberated Europe from Nazism, which exterminated six million Jews,” he said. As an example, the rabbi cited the recent commemorative events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Oswiecim, to which the official Belarusian delegation was not invited. “Descendants of those who, sometimes at the cost of their lives or risking the lives of their families, saved Jews during the Holocaust, during the years of the terrible war, were not invited,” the rabbi said. He noted that history will preserve for posterity the address of Presidents of Belarus, Germany and Austria Aleksandr Lukashenko, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Alexander Van der Bellen at the event at the Trostyanets Memorial Complex in 2018. Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran priests, a mufti and a rabbi offered prayers at the site of the tragedy. “Special thanks for this memorial – a place of memory, a place of history, a place of understanding of what should not be repeated,” the rabbi addressed Aleksandr Lukashenko.

These are good actions aimed at improving the atmosphere in the country

Christians of Evangelical Faith are the most numerous Protestant movement in Belarus. From 1988 to 2025 the number of congregations has increased 12 times. Bishop of the Association Leonid Biriuk said that Christians of Evangelical Faith pay great attention to helping people addicted to alcohol and drugs. Today, the Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith has established 15 rehabilitation centers that work with such people. “It is a common matter for these people to become worthy citizens of their country. They create families, help people in the same situation they are in. In our churches we teach patriotism to the faithful. Our teachings include the words that a Christian is called to love his country and all that makes it up – race, culture, history. We also know your demands for discipline and responsibility of each person in his or her workplace. We realize that this is the key to the prosperity of our country. We teach that Christians in any workplace, no matter what position they hold, in what

sphere they work, must do it responsibly, as before God,” the bishop said. Leonid Biriuk noted that most members of the Church of Evangelical Faith have large families and thanked the state for supporting such families.

The President thanked the Church of Evangelical Faith for helping to rehabilitate people suffering from drug addiction and for paying attention to families with many children. “These are good specific actions aimed at improving the atmosphere in our society,” he said.

Evangelical Christian Baptists also provide assistance to people suffering from addictions. This is one of the most numerous Protestant movements in Belarus. In 2025, 270 religious communities are registered in the country.



Chairperson of the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptists of Belarus Leonid Mikhovich said that they are visited by believers from other countries. According to him, they are surprised by the order, security and living conditions here, because they come with

completely different ideas. He thanked for the possibility of visa-free entry for citizens of other countries.

There should be one most important temple

“I have always said that everyone has their own way to the temple and no one should interfere with anyone. If a Muslim wants to go to a mosque to pray, he will go there. And he should not be hindered. If a Catholic is used to going to church and wants to go there, he will go there. If the Orthodox want to pray in church, let them go there. Our task is to help the person (not to find – he himself must find his own way), we must support him in this endeavor. There should be no pressure here,” said the Belarusian leader. Aleksandr Lukashenko suggested creating a religious center for each confession in the country. According to him, it should be spacious and accessible for believers shrines. “You see, there are a lot of temples. But there should be the most important temple, a shrine, where people will come not only from Belarus, not only our neighbors, but also from far abroad,” said the President. – You are all equally dear to the state, to me. And I will do everything to make sure that you live in peace and harmony, as you do today, so that you do not look askew at each other.

The priests accepted this idea with enthusiasm. Especially since many confessions already have places that attract believers. For the Orthodox such a center will be Zhirovichi, the spiritual pearl of Belarus. The Holy



Dormition Monastery is world known. Its doors were not closed even during the war and persecution of believers. In 2025 the shrine celebrates the 505th anniversary of its foundation.

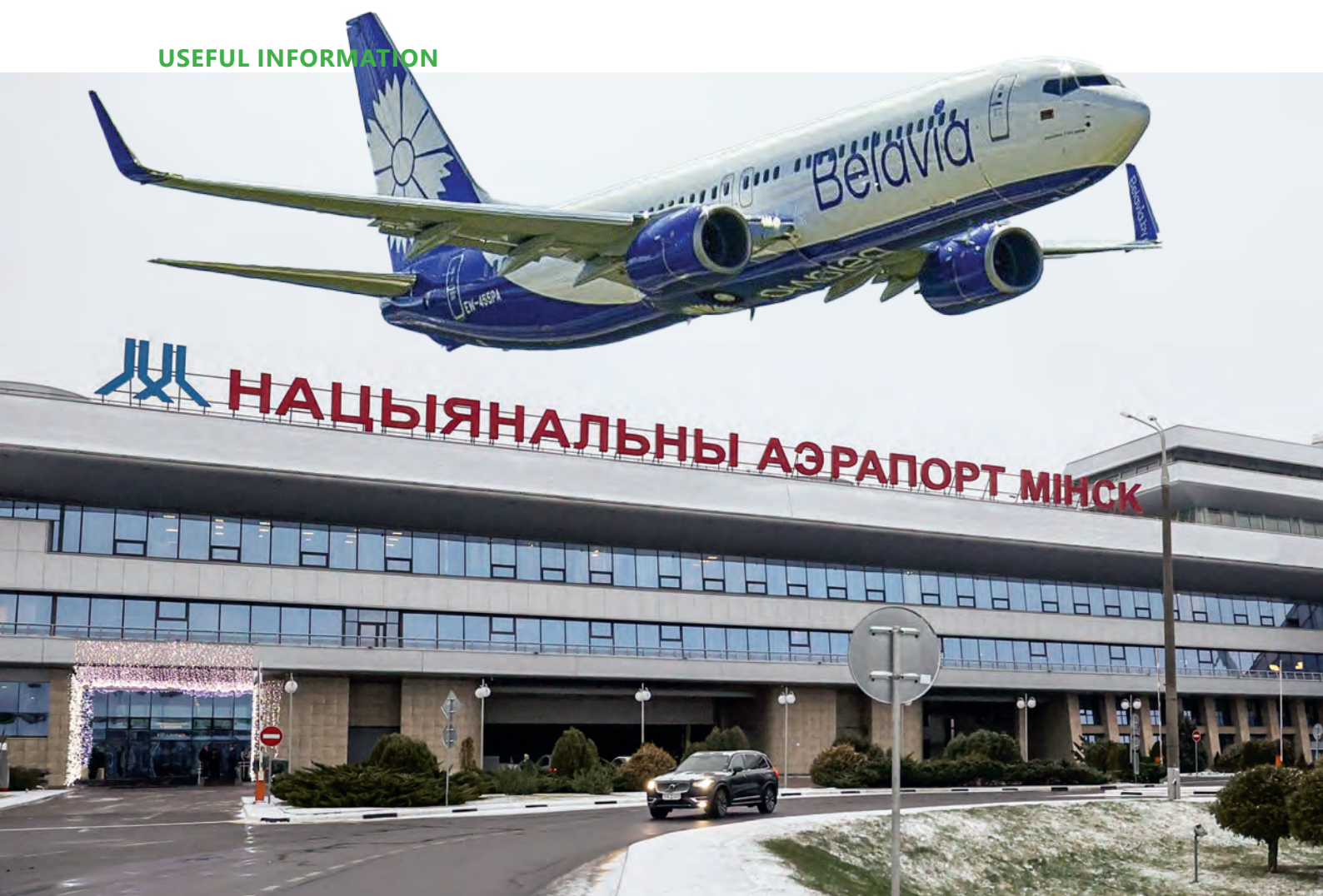
For Belarusian Catholics, the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the agricultural town of Budslav of the Medyadel District of the Minsk Region, has long been a similar center. Now the church is being revived after a fire in 2021. The church keeps the Budslav icon of the Mother of God – one of the most revered Catholic icons. Since the early 1990s mass pilgrimages to the miracle-working icon have been organized.

Yeshiva in Volozhin was opened in 1803. During its heyday more than 400 students from all over the Russian Empire studied here. Then it was closed. But recently it has reopened its doors. Already in a restored form. Grigory Abramovich paid attention that at Yeshiva the museum is created, which will help everyone to open Judaism and will tell a lot of interesting things about history of the Jewish people. And this is very important, because as the President pointed out, such centers should be not only religious, but also educational.

Valeria Stetsko

Photo by BELTA

USEFUL INFORMATION



FAST AND COMFORTABLE

Where can I fly on Belavia flights from Minsk in 2025



Do you want to go on a plane trip, but you don't know where? We offer a selection of countries and cities, where and to which countries Belavia flies.



India — Delhi

On August 11, 2023, Belavia began flying to Delhi. Flights depart twice a week: from Minsk on Wednesdays and Fridays, from Delhi on Thursdays and Saturdays. The flight time is from 6 hours 40 minutes in the Indian direction and 7 hours 15 minutes in the Belarusian direction.



Azerbaijan — Baku

It takes only 3 hours and 50 minutes to get from Minsk to Baku. The plane departs from Minsk at 22:55 and lands at Heydar Aliyev International Airport at 03:45 local time. Flying on a Boeing 737-300 promises to be comfortable and enjoyable.



Armenia — Yerevan

Just 4 hours and 15 minutes — and you are in the capital of Armenia! Departure from Minsk is scheduled for 23:50, arrival in Yerevan is scheduled for 05:05 local time. You need to fly on board an Embraer 195.



Georgia — Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi

The flight from Minsk to Tbilisi takes 3 hours and 40 minutes. Departure from Minsk is scheduled for 23:15, and already at 03:55 Embraer 195 lands at Tbilisi Airport named after Shota Rustaveli.

Minsk and Batumi are only 4 hours and 15 minutes apart by air. You leave the Belarusian capital at 23:45 and arrive at Batumi Airport at 05:00. You need to fly on the already familiar Embraer 195.

Are you ready to wait 3 hours and 55 minutes to get to Kutaisi? There are two flight options at once: departure from Minsk at 23:10 and arrival in Kutaisi at 04:05. If you don't like night flights, consider a flight departing at 09:40 and landing at 14:35.



Kazakhstan — Astana

Another direction of Belavia flights is Astana. Remember, until recently the city was called Nur Sultan, but now it has returned to the previous version. You can fly there in 4 hours and 10 minutes.



Turkey — Istanbul

Many people associate Turkey with luxury hotels and the all-inclusive system. Belavia also delivers passengers to Istanbul, the largest city in the country. Travel time according to the schedule, without delay — 5 hours and 40 minutes.



Uzbekistan — Tashkent

Yes, Belavia even flies to the largest city in Central Asia. Have you ever been to Tashkent? If not, we advise you to seriously consider traveling to this ancient city. Travel time is 4 hours and 45 minutes.



Turkmenistan — Turkmenbashi

Turkmenbashi is not just a city, but a large-scale port city of Turkmenistan and the whole of Central Asia. Its former name is Krasnovodsk. The plane flies from Minsk National Airport for about 4 hours and 40 minutes.



Russia — Moscow

Right now, Russia is the leader in the direction of Belavia flights. The plane reaches Moscow in 1 hour and 25 minutes. Flights are not limited to Moscow and St. Petersburg only. The aircraft land in Kaliningrad and Sochi, and deliver passengers to Yekaterinburg, Kazan, and distant Murmansk.



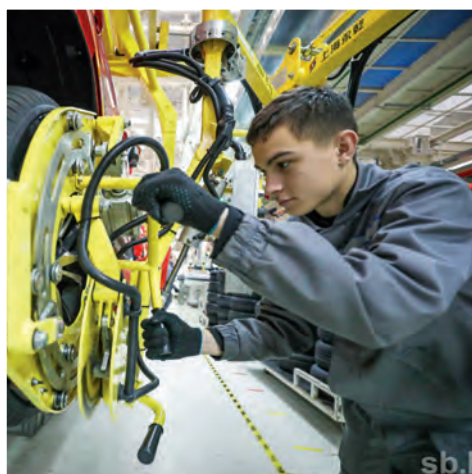
UAE — Dubai, Sharjah

Belavia planes will easily take you to one of the most popular year-round vacation destinations. Not only Dubai is accessible to travelers, but also Sharjah, the cultural capital of the country.

By the way, other airlines operate flights from Minsk National Airport along with Belavia. Flights from Beijing to Ashgabat, Nizhny Novgorod, Perm, Ufa, Cherepovets are available.



A five-year quality plan has been announced in Belarus. It is symbolic that it started with the awarding of the State Quality Mark to the best Belarusian products. 200 enterprises in a healthy competitive competition proved that their products meet all the declared criteria — safety, environmental friendliness, innovation, technology and aesthetics. And after a rigorous selection, only 17 products out of 600 were awarded the right to be marked with the prestigious pentagon.



FOCUS ON THE BEST





The President presented the first State Quality Marks in the history of sovereign Belarus

A truly historic ceremony took place in the Palace of Independence. Yes, for the first time in the history of sovereign Belarus, State Quality Marks were awarded. Another good tradition that we took from the Soviet past and are reviving today. It is also symbolic that the ceremonial event took place in the first month of the first year of the new five-year plan, which will be held under the sign of quality. The President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized: "The Year of Quality and the current five-year plan of quality are the most relevant development strategy at this historical stage, our response to the challenges of the time. A question of national sovereignty. Quality is both the end result and the path. It is our main resource along with hard work, intelligence and discipline... The goal is to ensure a new quality of our life, the desire for which should become a way of thinking, a national style, if you like, passed on from generation to generation."

Purpose of the revived tradition

The coveted pentagon (as a symbol of reliability, accessibility, safety, aesthetics and innovation) with the inverted letter "K" (for quality in Russian) was awarded to 17 product items of our manufacturers on this day. BELARUS tractor, BELAZ, chocolate and condensed milk... They withstood colossal competition and proved that they were truly the best. Now, seeing this highest sign on a product,

the buyer will clearly understand: you need to buy it! A beautiful, solemn and truly significant ceremony was held in the Hall of State Awards of the Palace of Independence, opening which the President emphasized the importance of traditions: "Any sovereign, independent state that considers itself as such must have its own serious traditions that are ingrained in the consciousness of the people. And I really hope that today's significant day will become such a tradition in every sense... The goal of the revived tradition is to create a mechanism of internal competition in which maintaining this badge of honor will become no less important and, perhaps, even more difficult than obtaining it." The Head of State recalled that exactly one year ago the State Quality Mark was established – an attribute of official recognition, and now the first holders of such a high award in the history of our young independent state have been determined. These are well-known brands, about which we proudly say: "Made in Belarus". They have passed a rigorous selection for compliance with the criteria of innovation, technology, safety and a number of others, the Belarusian leader noted. The winners line-up includes famous automotive equipment and products that are loved by millions of people on different continents; baby food, which is fed to babies even in faraway Africa; products made from Belarusian flax, one of our national symbols... Aleksandr Lukashenko has no doubt that the list of nominees could have been even longer, because there are many worthy



Quality is both the end result and the path, the Belarusian leader is convinced. According to him, this is our main resource along with hard work, intelligence and discipline, thanks to which we live in an independent country despite unprecedented pressure: “30 peaceful and creative years... Having started with the solution of pressing issues of survival at the beginning of your journey, we have now entered the trajectory of development. Development, I very much hope, serious... And the results of the Year of Quality, which we are summing up today, are the result of decades of our development.” Therefore, it is natural that the exhibition of our achievements “My Belarus” in the new Minsk International Exhibition Center

ones. Thus, almost 220 manufacturing organizations participated in the competition, 660 products competed for the distinctive mark. The Republican Certification Commission and the strictest judges — about 50 thousand Belarusian citizens-consumers — determined 17 most iconic domestic products. The President comments: “This was a competition between the strongest and the equal. And the more valuable the victory is for those who won.”

Heroes of today

Of course, for obvious reasons, not all those involved in the success of their enterprises were able to attend the ceremony at the Palace of Independence. Therefore, the Belarusian leader makes a very important emphasis on the fact that each award is the pinnacle of team success: “It is impossible without competent management and the work of those who create unique products at the enterprise — designers and planners, workers and technical personnel, service teams and marketers.” In short, this success is made up of the efforts of hundreds and thousands of people.

Response to the challenges of the time

The current five-year plan will be marked by quality. Its priority is to further improve the quality of life of people, the competitiveness of the Belarusian economy, and improve public relations. Aleksandr Lukashenko explains the importance of the upcoming five years: “The Year of Quality and the current five-year plan of quality are the most relevant development strategy at this historical stage, our response to the challenges of the time. The issue of national sovereignty. Now is the time of fierce competition. In all areas — from production to civil society. At all levels — from personal professional fulfillment to strengthening the country’s position in the global world order.”

became the main event of the past year, the President noted. In less than a month, more than 300 thousand people visited it and saw the result of colossal, truly heroic work. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko adds: “No matter how good the products we produce, we will always have to compete with other countries that produce the same products.” According to the Head of State, in some places a breakthrough has already been ensured, for example in food products, and in others a reserve has been made for the future — in wood processing, electric transport. At the same time, the emphasis should be on what we can do, and what we have raw materials for.”



Striving for quality as a national style

The President also cited the following facts: “No matter how much they throw a monkey wrench in the works, key sectors of the economy grew, and GDP in 2024 was 104 percent. No matter how much they tried to pull the plug on us, Belarusian products were exported to 154 countries for a total of over 50 billion dollars. And we even entered 14 new sales markets.”. The Head of State notes that new facilities have been built in the country, the development of transport and housing and utility infrastructure continues, and modern technologies have been introduced into production. Consumer satisfaction with industrial products was almost 97 percent. And the announced five-year quality plan is another benchmark, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasizes: “Very high. It will not just become a benchmark for the work of economic sectors, but will affect all areas of the state and society. The goal is to ensure a new quality of our life, the desire for which should become a way of thinking, a national style, passed on from generation to generation.

The flywheel of succession should work so that no outside influence can shake the foundations we have laid down.”

Conscientious producers will always be supported

The Head of State once again thanked everyone whose professionalism, talent, and determination allowed them to fulfill the assigned tasks with dignity. He warmly congratulated the first holders of the State Quality Mark and wished everyone new success: “Each of you knows that victory was not achieved due to sudden luck or falling into a momentary trend. This is the result of hard and responsible work, persistence and dedication, discipline and the desire to be better than others and even better than ourselves yesterday. We will always support such conscientious producers as you. They are the ones who make the state strong and prosperous. The future in which we want and will live is only in our hands. There is no escape from this, because the time has chosen us, and we, especially you sitting here, are exactly in line with this time.”



The first laureates of the State Quality Mark will get a central place at the exhibition “My Belarus”

The Head of State gave this instruction at the awards ceremony. Congratulating the winners, the President emphasized: “You are the first and only ones. And there will be no others. The most serious attention will be focused on you. Some will support you, praise you, some will scold you harshly. But you are the first, you are in sight. I know what it means to be the first. You will be the heroes not only of today, but maybe even of the whole year. We will look up to you. And at Minsk International Exhibition, you will be given a central place. Maintaining this level will not be easy. But I know you will manage. Not just manage, but create new innovative products, goods that will compete in international markets. And I will never be ashamed of you, representing and selling your goods in other countries.”

From the history of tradition

The State Quality Mark, as a single mark in the USSR of the highest quality category for products certified to meet the best world and domestic standards, was introduced on April 20, 1967. This pentagon could be seen on any non-military product, from children's toys and school pencil cases to heavy dump trucks and large-capacity ocean vessels. The five sides of this sign were associated with a five-pointed star, as well as the components of quality: reliability, accessibility, safety, aesthetics and innovation.

team. Following the car manufacturers, Orsha machine tool builders were awarded the high honor: The Quality Mark was awarded to the surface grinding machine of the Krasny Borets plant. This machine provides processing accuracy of up to one micron, although previously three microns were allowed. This will allow us to avoid purchasing similar machines abroad." The results of that eighth Soviet five-year plan (1966-1970) exceeded expectations. As of January 1, 1971, 103 types of products had passed state certification in the BSSR. And



The right to label their products with a pentagon familiar to the older generation was granted based on the results of state certification and for only two to three years. Then the high standard needed to be confirmed again. The quality mark was applied directly to the goods or their packaging, as well as to the accompanying documentation, tags and labels. And it had not only a psychological but also an economic effect: for a number of goods (mainly new types of products) produced with such a sign, in order to stimulate enterprises, surcharges were provided to wholesale and retail prices.

A considerable part of such products were manufactured on Belarusian soil. Belarus actively joined the process of improving the quality of its products. And thus even contributed to what is today called "import substitution". On August 4, 1967, "Soviet Belorussia" reported: "The first in Belorussia to receive the Quality Mark was the dump truck "BELAZ-540A". This badge of honor will be installed on the hood of the car as evidence of the great labor success of the entire

seven years later, over 2,800 types of products were marked with a pentagon, of which 1,900 were consumer goods.

At the same time, the range of noted products expanded from year to year. As follows from the Brief Encyclopedia "Belorussian SSR", published in 1979, at the beginning of 1978, in the BSSR, dump trucks and wristwatches, means of mechanization and automation of managerial and engineering work, radio measuring instruments, furniture sets, fabrics, food and other products were considered "high-quality".

Moreover, since 1975, comprehensive quality management systems have been developed in the BSSR. In 1976, the Republican Quality Commission and its industry sections were formed. Among the enterprises that were the first to implement comprehensive quality management systems were Minsk plants: computer, tractor, motor, automobile, production association "Horizon", as well as Gomel plant of agricultural machinery.

TO HIGH STANDARDS

Introducing products awarded with the State Quality Mark 2025



BELAZ-7513 quarry dump trucks of "BELAZ" OJSC occupy leading positions in the ranking of the strongest brands of the EAEU. One of the most popular in the quarry equipment market. They are not inferior to world analogues, but also surpass them in efficiency, design and reliability of the electromechanical transmission and hydraulic system.

The geography of deliveries of these dump trucks covers almost the entire world: from Chile in South America to Sakhalin in the Far East, from South Africa in the south of the African continent to the Kola Peninsula in northern Russia. Consumers of 130-ton BELAZ trucks are mining companies in Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, India, Vietnam, Mongolia, Indonesia and other countries.

BELARUS 1222.3 tractor of "MTZ" OJSC, is an improved version of the well-proven previous model (1221.3). It retains all the functional characteristics while dramatically improving the working conditions of the tractor driver, simplifying the maintenance and operation of the machine. It is designed to perform various agricultural work with mounted, semi-mounted and trailed machines and implements, as well as for transport work. The tractor has received high user ratings for its reliability and high consumer characteristics. And this is increased operator comfort, good visibility, ease of maintenance and a modern appearance. By the way, Belarus-1222.3 cabin has noticeably changed compared to the predecessor's cabin. Moreover, the level of vibration and noise has decreased by 4–6 decibels.



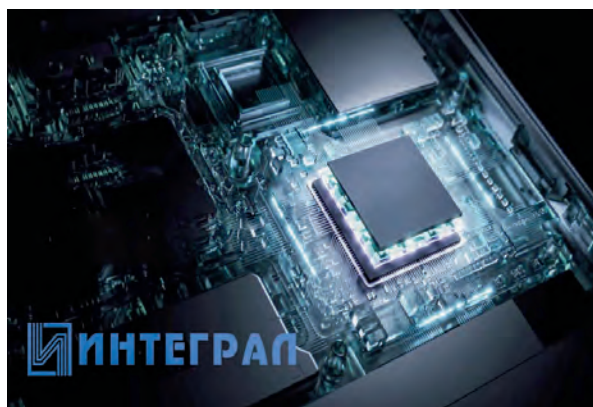
Tubeless passenger car tires of "Belshina" OJSC, (BEL-402 96N, BEL-411 102N) with a road directional tread pattern were developed at the request of the Chinese company GEELY. These tires successfully passed all in-plant, certification and laboratory-road tests within the framework of the localization plan of "Belshina" OJSC products approved and agreed upon by GEELY. They are intended for use on domestic and foreign passenger cars on roads of various categories in all climatic zones. The share of export deliveries is 40-50 percent.



Less than a dozen countries produce microcircuits. Belarus, having its own microelectronic industry, is among the elite of industrial states. **The adjustable zener diode microcircuit of "INTEGRAL" OJSC** with protection against static electricity

MADE IN BELARUS

is one of the most popular in the company's product line. Its main function is to stabilize the voltage of household appliances and a wide range of devices. Most often, it is for the correct and reliable operation of smartphone power supplies. The microcircuit is not inferior to world analogues in terms of productivity, reliability, and service life. The product has great export potential. The microcircuit is in demand in the markets of Russia, China, and Hong Kong, to which 95 percent of the products manufactured by "INTEGRAL" OJSC are sold.



The grain harvesters of "Gomel Foundry and Normals Plant" OJSC of various capture widths — from 4 to 9 meters — provide maximum productivity. They allow you to fully utilize all the capabilities of the combine and get the maximum yield of any crop, whether it be cereals, pulses or rapeseed. They have a reliable cutting device, reinforced with high-strength components. The product has high export potential. The main sales markets for the company's products are traditionally Russia and Kazakhstan.



Automobile chassis MAZ-631228-8575-012 of "MAZ", is designed to meet demand in various fields of industry, agriculture and public utilities. This model takes into account the experience of domestic and world automobile manufacturing. It is supplied to more than 20 countries of the world, being the best-selling product of the enterprise in each of them.

The chassis is designed for installation of various construction and utility superstructures, fire-fighting equipment, fuel trucks, water transportation tanks, etc. It is characterized by low operating costs, high strength, maintainability, and is not inferior to world analogues. The chassis is capable of handling the transportation of large-sized and heavy loads.

The line of linen products "Pole Kvetak" of "Orsha Linen Mill" RUPTE embodies the traditions of flax cultivation and weaving in Belarus. This is a new brand of the enterprise, which offers a wide range of high-quality linen products. The name was not chosen by chance: it refers to the flax festival of the same name, which took place in Orsha and won the hearts of lovers of natural fabrics.

A hypoallergenic product grown in an ecologically clean area, does not contain chemical additives and synthetic fibers. Surpasses imported analogues in terms of strength, air permeability, thermal conductivity and hygroscopicity.





Whole condensed milk with sugar of "Rogachev Milk Canning Plant" OJSC is the best-selling product among its analogues. The company produces it on a special closed line using a unique technology of continuous condensation developed by technologists in the last century. It is distinguished by a high protein content. Milk packaging is quite diverse: in the store you can buy a can with a key lid that is easy to remove, or in a doypack — a dense flexible package. About 70 percent of the manufactured products are exported.



Alesi furniture series by "Pinskdrev" CJSC has been the leader in classic furniture sales for over three years. More than 11.6 thousand items have already been sold, of which 9.6 thousand were exported. The furniture successfully competes in the price segment with foreign manufacturers. Its distinctive features are durability and eco-friendliness: many elements are made of high-quality solid oak, which is resistant to mechanical damage. Another advantage of the collection is its modularity. This means that the buyer can independently combine various elements, creating unique and functional solutions for the interior. The consumer appreciated not only the luxury and elegance of Belarusian furniture, but also its practicality and reliability.

Laminated floor coverings VIVAFLOOR of "Gomeldrev" OJSC are produced using a unique technology of simultaneous pressing, which allows achieving high performance characteristics. The unusual embossing on the surface accurately replicates the texture of the wood to the touch and visually, which makes it virtually indistinguishable from solid wood flooring.

The coverings are presented in four collections. They are easy to lay and have a non-slip surface. They are environmentally friendly, antistatic, resistant to UV radiation, wear and pressure.



A line of dark bitter chocolate without added sugar from "Kommunarka" OJSC. This unique product was created on the initiative and with the direct participation of President Aleksandr Lukashenko by the company's technologists together with the staff of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Foodstuffs of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Its distinctive feature is a specially created blend of cocoa beans from Ecuador, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and only natural sweeteners. The chocolate also contains the prebiotic inulin, which has a beneficial effect on the human body.

It is in particular demand among consumers: over 150 tons of products were sold in 2024.

The line of chocolate with cocoa content of 72, 78 and 85 percent is a premium product. Nutritionists note that this sweet stuff is a great find for those who care about their health and watch their figure.

Enamel PF-115 of "Lakokraska" OJSC is notable for its versatility. It is used for painting metal, wood, non-metal surfaces indoors and outdoors. Its distinctive feature is super resistance to temperature changes (from minus 50 to plus 60 degrees). Dries quickly, forming a smooth, even surface with high decorative and reliable protective properties. Stable during storage, has excellent painting properties. Compared with analogues from other

MADE IN BELARUS

manufacturers, this enamel has the highest indicators for coating gloss, relative viscosity and mass fraction of non-volatile substances.



Premium wheat flour of “Lidakhleboprodukt” JSC is distinguished by high baking properties. It has an improved gluten composition. Products made from such flour are fluffy, have fine developed porosity.

“Premium” from “Lidakhleboprodukt” also differs in a high percentage of whiteness. This flour is considered the most purified product. It is in high demand among buyers. On the shelves of retail chains in the country, Lidakhleboprodukt flour occupies 68 percent, and brand recognition is more than 70 percent.

The ideal food product for children in their first year of life is breast milk, unique in its composition and properties. However, in its absence or insufficient quantity, highly adapted mixtures are introduced into children’s nutrition, as close as possible in their composition and properties to breast milk. Among them are **dry milk mixtures for feeding young children of “Bellakt” JSC**. Bellakt Premium is a new development, which has no analogues



among Belarusian manufacturers. It has an optimal amount of whey proteins, special lipids ARA and DHA, contained in breast milk and necessary for the full development of immunity, brain and vision of the child, as well as prebiotics that form healthy intestinal microflora.

“Brest-Litovsk aged” hard cheese of “Savushkin product” JSC with a mass fraction of fat in dry matter of 45 percent is one of the most popular aged cheeses. It has a rich bouquet of taste and aroma, with a sweet aftertaste due to maturation in ideally selected conditions on wooden shelves for 12 months. A crumbly and brittle consistency is a sign of exceptional cheese quality. It is made from selected extra class milk. The cheese contains many vitamins, a large amount of calcium and phosphorus. It is made without the use of preservatives.



“Karavai Pridvinya” bread of “Vitebskhlebprom” JSC is a souvenir artisan bread on long-fermentation sourdough. It is made by hand according to an old Belarusian recipe without the use of artificial additives. It goes through seven stages of the technological process. Three types of flour, caraway and coriander are used in it. The full cycle of bread production takes more than 20 hours. Its round dark surface is finished with flour and represents a simple but symbolic picture: the rising sun and a towel on which the name of the product is written in Old Slavonic script.

“Meat Pads” product line of “Brest Meat Processing Plant” OJSC is quite popular among the population: almost 90 percent of the products are sold on the domestic market. These are not just dumplings of industrial production, but high-quality products. Technologists of Brest Meat Processing Plant have developed an original recipe and tried to bring it closer to home recipes, in which housewives use only natural ingredients. The main secret of the signature taste of “Meat Pads” is high-quality and only chilled meat, natural composition.

PRODUCTS WITH A PRESTIGIOUS PENTAGON

Food, consumer goods, industrial and technical products — the range of the first owners of the sign is quite wide. For the Belarusian Automobile Plant, for example, the assignment of a prestigious mark to the open-pit BELAZ-7513 became a continuation of tradition. Today, this equipment occupies leading positions in the ranking of the strongest brands of the EAEU, and once BELAZ was the first vehicle to receive the Soviet quality mark. It is not surprising that among the winners are products in the field of microelectronics, Belarus is actively increasing its competencies in this area, including within the framework of the implementation of union programs. INTEGRAL, OJSC is perhaps one of the most recognizable enterprises in the post-Soviet space, creating products that are so in demand on the market. The award-winning adjustable zener diode microcircuit with protection against static electricity is one of the most popular in

the company's product line. The microcircuit is not inferior to its global analogues in terms of performance, reliability, service life, and also has great export potential. But the most numerous group of winning products are food products. From the famous line of dark bitter chocolate without added sugar of Kommunar, OJSC to the popular "Meat Pads" of Brest Meat Processing Plant, OJSC. Many of the winning products are not only associated with the tastes of childhood, but also have the status of a national treasure, such as the branded rye-wheat bread "Karavai Pridvinya" of JSC "Vitebskhlbprom". Without a doubt, the older generation probably associates the appearance of the Belarusian quality mark with the prestigious pentagon in Soviet times, which was used to brand the best products. There was a serious struggle for the right to possess it, work on quality mobilized work collectives, stimulated technological development. Against



this background, the rationalization movement was actively developing. In general, it was necessary to maintain the brand. After all, the quality mark was valid for only a few years, and then it had to be confirmed over and over again. Marking with such a sign had not only a psychological effect and served as a signal to the buyer that the product was worth buying, but also an economic one. The presence of the mark implied a ten percent premium to the price and guaranteed increased interest in the product. So there were enough reasons to fight for the title of the best. And what about now? What does this mark give to manufacturers and consumers of their products? Deputy Minister of Industry of Belarus Andrei Kuznetsov is convinced: Belarusian goods that have received the quality mark will become popular and in demand in the Union space. "These will be recognizable products that are in demand on the Russian Federation market and the Belarusian market," he noted. "The fact that the product has a quality mark will allow us to increase its share of presence in the Union State." Andrei Kuznetsov recalled that the Russian market is

the main source of Belarusian exports. Nevertheless, it is necessary to more actively develop new ones, including Africa, Latin America and the distant arc as a whole. According to the list of benefits and preferences, which is designated by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of Belarus on the procedure for assigning this mark (it was adopted in development of the Decree "On the State Quality Mark"), the tariff for services for promoting products marked with the mark to these markets will be preferential. In general, as explained in the State Committee for Standardization, the preferences are aimed at helping the best Belarusian manufacturers promote their products, speak up and make themselves known. Government agencies will post information about them on their websites on the Internet, and in stores and pavilions, goods with the quality mark will be visually highlighted, including with the help of price tags, information signs and other means. So products with the prestigious pentagon will always be in sight. And the buyer will be able to see for himself/herself: this is real quality!

Alexey Fedosov

TRULY OUR CAR



**THE HEAD OF STATE HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND THE
LENDING PROGRAM FOR CITIZENS OF BELARUS AIMED
AT THE PURCHASE OF DOMESTIC CARS BELGEE**

This decision will give people with average income — that is, the most numerous and working-age population of the country — the opportunity to drive new cars, commented in BELGEE.

Last year more than 90 thousand cars were produced, of which more than 25 thousand were sold in Belarus, said Natalia Kharkova, Deputy Director for Marketing and Sales of BELGEE. In 2025, it is planned to produce more than 30 thousand cars for the Belarusian market, or 10-15% more than in the previous year. The reason for this is the high demand in the domestic market, said the company.

A truly Belarusian car

The Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade called favorable lending mechanisms one of the factors of growth in sales of new cars in Belarus in 2024. It should be noted that in the first half of last year, sales of new passenger cars increased almost 2.5 times. The Automobile Association “BAA” noted the increase in sales of cars at the end of last year: in October, about 5 thousand new cars were sold — almost seven hundred more than in September. If we talk specifically about the cars produced by BELGEE, then to date more than 70 thousand of them have been sold in Belarus. The lending program has been used by more than 33,000 individuals, who have bought almost 50% of the total volume of domestic cars sold in the Belarusian market. The validity of the Belarusian banks’ lending program for the purchase of Belgee and Geely cars ended on the last day of 2024, and almost the whole January, customers could only count on promotions and discounts directly from the manufacturer. It was unclear whether lending would be extended in 2025: after all, this mechanism was intended to increase consumer demand, and this demand is already high today. Nevertheless, the lending program by banks to individuals for the purchase of domestic cars is resumed.

— But it applies in 2025 only for purchasing Belgee cars. Geely cars are not affected by the lending program. This is the main difference, — said Deputy Director for Marketing and Sales of Belgee.

She emphasized that Belgee is a truly Belarusian car, starting from the brand name and ending with the production.

What does the buyer choose

If we talk about the preferences of buyers, it is impossible to name specific models-favorites:

— Each car is focused on its own segment of buyers, — explained Natalia Kharkova. — Buyers today often prefer crossovers, but there are also fans of sedans.

She noted that although the majority of people prefer automatic transmission, there are many who are committed to time-tested “mechanics” — and among BELGEE cars both the first and the second will find a model “to their heart”.

BELGEE dealer centers call the crossover BELGEE X50 “the most popular”, i.e. the most demanded by buyers.

As for the first Belarusian electric car BelGee EX50, its serial production has not been started yet, only prototypes have been assembled. The model is to go through the stages of technical testing and commercialization, said Natalia Kharkova. The specialist noted that the quality of the electric car (crossover based on Geely Coolray) will be competitive with those that drive on the roads of Belarus today — and electric cars are rapidly gaining popularity in our country. It is important to ensure that the BelGee EX50 is also competitive in terms of price.



Let's remind that last year the loan rates for BELGEE cars ranged from 7.15% to 7.88% in the first three years for newly issued loans, and later — with an increase to the refinancing rate (9.5%) plus 3%. And the maximum loan term was 10 years.

Aleksandra Antselevich
Photo BelTA



**NOT ONLY A BRAND,
BUT ALSO A DRIVER**



Historically, our country developed tractor, truck and agricultural machine building, while passenger cars were produced mainly in Ukraine and Russia. In recent decades, the situation has changed. Among tractor giants (MAZ, MTZ, BelAZ, Gomselmash, MZKT, etc.) new modern assembly plants of not only state, but also private form of ownership - "Amkador" OJSC, "Belgee" SZAO, "Unison" JV CJSC, "Pozhtekhnika" LLC, numerous production facilities for components and auto parts.

The past year 2024 Belarusian passenger car market is interesting not only for its dynamics, but also for the nature of the large-scale structural changes taking place in it - the mass exodus from 2022 of Western brands and the expansion of Chinese automobile giants, which followed immediately, not only led to the emergence of new players, but also formed new preferences among buyers.

First. A passenger car is no longer a luxury for our compatriots - statistical data leave no doubt about it. Over the last 30 years, the number of passenger cars owned by Belarusian citizens has grown 3.6 times.

If in the early 2000s every 12th Belarusian citizen owned a car, now it's every 3rd. According to the State Automobile Inspectorate, the total number of registered vehicles in the country is now 4.4 million units, of which almost 3 million are passenger cars. In 2024, the number of passenger cars increased by 95 thousand, which is almost twice as much as in the previous year (52.1 thousand).

Second. Geely brand cars turned out to be the undisputed favorite in 2024. The cars, produced at the plant of "Belgee" SZAO, took 53% of the market of new passenger cars.

According to the experts of the Belarusian Automobile

FOR REFERENCE

Today machine building is the leading sector of the Belarusian economy. In 2024, the industry's contribution to the GDP of the Republic of Belarus amounted to almost 20% of the country's industrial output and 5.4% of the total GDP. There are more than 270 large and medium-sized organizations in the industry, employing almost 190 thousand people, which is more than 19% of the average number of employees in the industry and 4.5% of the economy as a whole.

Almost 80% of machine building products are exported. The geography of supplies includes more than 130 countries of the world. It is expected that according to the results of 2024 the export volume of Belarusian machine building will amount to about 6 billion US dollars in equivalent.

Association, the main drivers of growth of the automobile market in the country were "rising incomes of the population, high rates of car loans and financial leasing, positive dynamics in the real sector of the economy".

Third. The year 2024 passed in conditions of increased competition between car dealers, which had a positive impact on retail prices. According to the information of the National Statistical Committee, the passenger car market saw an **average decrease in consumer prices of up to 2.5%** last year.

Fourth. More and more Belarusian drivers are thinking about switching to electric vehicles as an alternative to traditional internal combustion engine models, and the statistics confirms it. In December 2023, the share of "green" cars in dealerships amounted to only 1.8% of all sales, while in December 2024 this figure increased to 8%. In 2025, electric vehicle sales are expected to constitute up to 25% of the total market share. While in 2023 only 7 models of electric cars were offered to buyers, in 2024 - 15, in 2025, if benefits are preserved, up to 30 offers are forecasted.

The growth of this segment is supported by the legislative norms adopted in the country aimed at stimulating the use of environmentally friendly electric vehicles. Most of all, the market development was influenced by the norms of the Decrees of the Head of State encouraging the use of electric vehicles.

In turn, the situation on the global automobile market is far from optimistic.

Global statistics show that the number of cars sold in a country in the long term is determined by the population. At the same time, the main factor determining the level of motorization of the population in a particular country (the number of cars per thousand people) is the average income level. Thus, based on the strategic plans of socio-economic development of both the Belarusian economy and our strategic partner countries within the Union State of Russia and Belarus, EAEU, SCO and BRICS, where the growth of citizens' welfare is an absolute priority, the machine building sector is one of the long-term drivers for the national economy as a whole.

Georgy Grits
Candidate of Economics

UNMANNED VEHICLES, ROBOT INSTEAD OF SEAMSTRESS, BAMBOO SOCKS



What innovations do Belarusian industrialists implement?

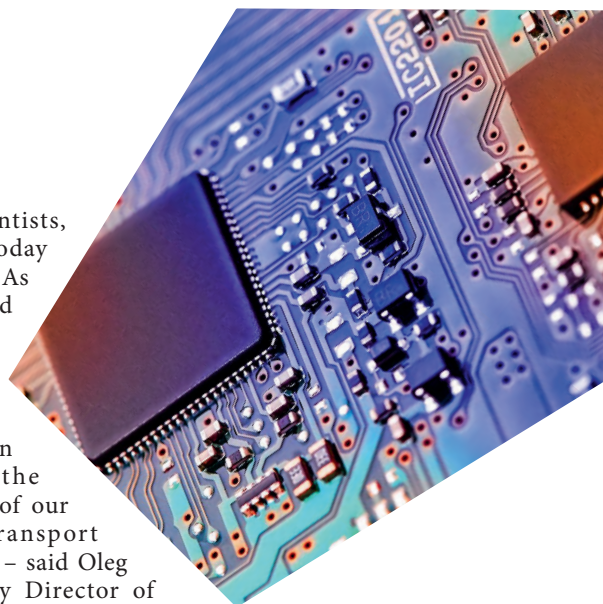
More than a quarter of the gross domestic product in Belarus is formed by industry. Heavy industry, in particular mechanical engineering and machine tool building, production of food and beverages, petroleum products, rubber, plastic products and building materials, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, woodworking, light industry, make the most significant contribution to the country's economy. This year, domestic enterprises continue the work that began in the Year of Quality, on modernization and automation of production, implementation of new technologies and innovative solutions.

In the 30s, transport will be unmanned

Taking this trend into account, work is underway at the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Already today, an unmanned BelAZ mining dump truck is being created here. Domestic dump trucks operate in Kuzbass quarries, on which the resource remaining before equipment repair is monitored in real time. This makes it possible to prevent breakdowns of expensive vehicles – the cost of a 450-ton dump truck reaches a million dollars.

– We, as scientists, are working today for 2032–2035. As

for unmanned transport, we have technical developments, we have begun to develop the infrastructure of our unmanned transport testing ground, – said Oleg Elovoy, Deputy Director of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, predicting that in the 30s we will switch to unmanned transport. – We cannot escape global trends and analyze where the world is heading in various areas: from medicine to mechanical engineering, from energy to space. Moreover, the technical, technological and material equipment of domestic enterprises is not



static. The next 5–7 years, maximum ten, will change our machine-building sphere greatly.

Scientists from the Institute of Mechanical Engineering work with all domestic flagships of mechanical engineering – BelAZ, MAZ, MTZ, Gomselmash, Belkommunmash. Their developments are also used in the most unexpected areas, for example, in medicine.

– For instance coatings applied to certain objects, mechanisms, and vessels can either attract or eliminate certain microorganisms.

For example, disinfect surfaces. And we already have such projects in medicine, – noted Oleg Elovoy.

Scientists have made unique calculations for the dental and jaw apparatus, which are not yet available anywhere in the world: how a tooth behaves in a stress-strain state of the jaw.

– We are gaining experience, testing various types of implants: knee joints, heart valves, which are made by Planar. The scope of application of science in industry is really enormous, – summed up Oleg Elovoy.

Time of opportunities

One of the flagships of domestic microelectronics is Integral, JSC, the high quality of whose products has been awarded a government prize in the field of quality, and most recently the Head of State awarded the enterprise a quality mark. And if the 1990s were not the best time for the domestic enterprise – then certain technologies were lost, now is the time of opportunities.

– Right now we have a chance. We communicate with very good partners from China, where a large number of industrial enterprises are concentrated, many innovative solutions that they have implemented. We can make a big leap in the development and implementation of innovations. Sanctions, oddly enough, help us with this, – notes Aleksey Tsivako, Deputy Director General for Quality at Integral, JSC, the management company of Integral holding.

The company is widely implementing production automation and robotics. As for product quality control, Integral is working on the implementation of intelligent rejection of products, which will completely replace humans.

Robots sew

But light industry enterprises are implementing innovative raw materials. In particular, Brest hosiery factory produces men's, women's and children's socks from bamboo fiber. This is partly also due to sanctions – they affected the supply of raw materials to domestic producers.

Last year, robotics began to be used more widely in the production cycle. For example, Baranovich Cotton Production Association installed the country's first automated line for sewing bed linen in 2024, and Belvest shoe factory introduced robotic systems for cutting leather. As Irina Shvaykova, Acting Director of the Center for Scientific Research of Light Industry, noted, in the future, other industry enterprises will acquire similar equipment in order to gradually move away from manual labor.

Orsha Linen Mill, the largest manufacturer of linen fabrics and linen products in the CIS and Europe, is also actively modernizing its factories. It has an export-oriented focus and exports about 80–90 % of its products. Last year, two robotic complexes for sewing towels were installed there.

Personnel for production tasks

One of the components of the successful development of industry is the training of engineering personnel, which was discussed at a meeting with Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko on December 17 last year at the Belarusian National Technical University (BNTU). As the first vice-rector of BNTU, candidate of technical sciences, associate professor Andrey Safonov said, the university has an educational center created jointly with MAZ, a similar educational center is being organized jointly with Minsk Gear Plant. Agreements on the creation of similar educational platforms have been signed with BelAZ and Peleng. Here, in particular, the competencies of creating unmanned vehicles will be mastered.

– There are no universal engineers. We train specialists for production tasks together with enterprises, – Andrey Safonov emphasized.

Elena Kravets

LIKE NATURAL, ONLY BETTER

We found out where emeralds are grown in Belarus and how much they cost

Precious stones can be not only mined, but also produced in laboratory conditions. Emeralds, rubies and blue sapphires are grown in Belarus. Although the technology was originally developed for production, not for aesthetic purposes.

The idea to produce precious stones by artificial means stirred people's minds back in the heyday of alchemy. But the technology was fully developed only at the beginning of the breakthrough in science of the twentieth century. In 1939, the Soviet Union began to synthesize artificial precious stones (this was done at the Institute of Crystallography of the Russian Academy of Sciences). In the 1950s, Soviet scientists developed an industrial method of crystallization of synthetic ruby. Artificial emeralds and rubies were also produced in the BSSR, exclusively for scientific purposes. Practical application of precious stones was found, for example, in the production of lasers: the first generations of such equipment were ruby lasers. Today, technology has stepped forward, and rubies are no longer in demand for the production of laser equipment.

— Well, we decided: why waste good things? And now we use the technology of growing artificial precious stones to please people, — said Grigory Rimsky, head of the industry laboratory of radiation effects of the Scientific and Practical Center for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. — Why shouldn't Belarusian women please themselves with a beautiful stone? Not a natural one, which few people can afford, because they are very expensive, but the same, practically indistinguishable artificial one — and much cheaper.

Emerald facets

Not everyone knows about Belarusian emeralds: there is no wide advertising. Therefore, during the recent Marathon of Unity, one of the events of which was an exhibition of scientific achievements in the waiting room of the Minsk Railway Station (scientists decided to “go to the people” and show the general public some of the results of their work), they caused a kind of excitement among the visitors.

— The Laboratory of Technology and Physics of Crystal Growth of the State Scientific and Production Association “Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus” is engaged in the development of technological processes and small-scale production of not only emerald single-crystals, but also red beryl, sapphire, alexandrite and ruby with morphological features, physical properties and color characteristics as close as possible to natural precious stones, — said the head of the laboratory.

But consumers like emeralds the most — it is clear that we are talking first of all about the ladies of the fair sex — more than others. Jewelers know that emeralds (from light to deep green) and topazes (of a delicate transparent blue tone) are the best-selling colored stones in Eastern Europe because they suit the Slavic type of appearance. Deep blue, cornflower blue sapphires (“We are growing blue sapphires, they are valued in jewelry,” explained the conversation participant) do not suit everyone. Rubies are difficult stones in general: it is believed that they make an image more “age” if they are not properly used from



the point of view of style (note that jewelry departments more often present rings with rubies of large sizes: this stone has been loved by our grandmothers since the Soviet times). But emerald is for all ages and will fit into any style. The only difficulty is its fragility: it requires careful handling. It is not an easy task for gemmologists to find a natural emerald without defects, chips, or gas bubbles inside. For jewelers — to clamp the stone so that it does not crack during mounting. And for the owner of emerald jewelry — not to accidentally hit the stone, not to scratch it or chip it.

Price question

Natural emeralds cost hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars, said the representative of the Scientific and Practical Center for Materials Science. The best emeralds are those mined in Colombia, which have the most intense coloring. Deposits of this precious stone are also found in Brazil, Zambia and the Urals. One carat of Belarusian emerald grown in the laboratory (0.2 g, the unit of mass of precious stones in jewelry) will cost the buyer the equivalent of \$50-60. Visually, 1 carat is not the smallest stone. A half-carat emerald is enough for a thin ring (\$30, which is quite affordable).

— We produce emerald single-crystals with unique optical quality and characteristics close to the precious natural stone, — explains the scientist. — The synthesis technology is growing emerald from high-temperature flux. Both color saturation and cut can be optimized to any request.

Emeralds are grown in laboratory conditions in a similar way to the way nature does it — only faster and better, says the conversation participant. The point is that artificial emeralds have no defects. By this feature, armed with a magnifying glass, you can distinguish a natural emerald from an artificial one, if you are not a jeweler. But for aesthetes, defects can be specially introduced into an artificial stone — the scientist demonstrates such samples. In short, March 8 is just around the corner, so catch the tip: anyone can privately apply directly to the Scientific and Practical Center for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences, and they will grow an emerald of the color saturation you need at a quite democratic price. They will cut it and advise a jeweler who will create a jewelry with it (not all masters work with emeralds because of their fragility). However, today the crystal growth laboratory cooperates with all major jewelry manufacturers in our country.

— Initially, we aimed at supplying enterprises. But there was a demand among the population, and we decided to sell our stones to individuals as well. And then they can inlay them into jewelry and make gifts, — said Grigory Rimsky. For example, cutting precious stones in the form of a heart is in demand in February and March: this is a nice gift for a beloved on the International Women's Day. Or a way to surprise your husband on February 23, presenting him instead of traditional socks and shaving foam "precious" heart in a beautiful package as a symbol of love.

Aleksandra Antselevich
Photo by Viktor Ivanchikov

AT THE EDGE OF THE EARTH

What Secrets Does Belarus Reveal on the "Ice Continent"



Antarctica is a poorly studied region of our planet. Humanity has explored only part of the coast, and most of the inland and many coastal territories of the huge (more than 60 times larger than Belarus in area) ice continent remain terra incognita today. Right now, the 17th Belarusian Antarctic expedition is working there.

Getting to Antarctica from Belarus takes a long time: at least a month and a half one way by sea. This is how equipment, gear and food products sail – from St. Petersburg to the Cape Town port and then on to the icy waters washing the steep cliffs of Antarctica. People get to Cape Town faster: they fly by plane and then transfer to a powerful tanker capable of overcoming huge waves. – In 2006, our country joined the Antarctic Treaty, – says Vladimir Ryzhikov, head of the Republican Center for Polar Research. – The treaty dated June 23, 1961 regulates all activities beyond the 60th degree of south latitude – that is, on the continent itself, adjacent territories, and islands. It prohibits various types of activity in this “world reserve,” except for scientific ones.

Over these years, the scientist noted, the Belarusian Antarctic station “Gora Vechernyaya” was put into operation. Today, our republic is among more than 50 countries that conduct research activities on the sixth continent, and one of the few states that have stations there – along with Russia and China, Argentina, Chile, the USA, Great Britain and others. Stations can be seasonal and year-round. The Belarusian one is seasonal: the expedition goes there during the Arctic summer. And it is summer in the southern hemisphere right now.

Not tomorrow, but already today

– Scientific work is being conducted in a number of areas that are enshrined in the state program – already the fourth, and now the fifth is being formed, – Vladimir Ryzhikov explains. – First of all, these are the studies that are also being carried out by other states (they are supervised by the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR): biological, study of atmospheric physics, a number of areas of environmental protection. Research is also related to the ice situation, the study of ice cores of bottom sediments. Their spectrum is very wide.

As for the applied significance of Antarctic research – there are also many of them, the interlocutor emphasizes.

– There have been identified microorganisms that live only on this continent, have adapted to extreme climatic conditions (low temperatures, high ultraviolet radiation) and secrete special biological substances. Based on them, the Institute of Microbiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has developed the drug “Vegetatin”, which is already being effectively used in the country’s fields for “ecologically clean” protection of agricultural plants from diseases and increasing crop yields.

One of the areas of bioresearch is the isolation of bioactive substances of Antarctic plant communities.

These are bryophytes and lichens, they are also unique and differ from their “relatives” from any other part of the world, like “cousins” and not siblings.

– The pilot project is related to the chemical composition of these bryophytes and lichens, the extraction of substances valuable for the pharmaceutical industry, and the development of innovative drugs, – the scientist specifies. – Thus, substances that accelerate blood clotting were obtained. On their basis, drugs for wound healing and rehabilitation in the postoperative period will be developed. The Institute of Experimental Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences, together with the Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Oncology and the Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Pediatric Oncology

“without warning” becomes unsafe). Plus snowstorms and hurricane winds.

– The katabatic winds blow from the continent towards the sea, – says Vladimir Anatolyevich. – And the storms in summer can be very strong. When the “Storm” mode is declared, polar explorers do not leave the premises.

As a rule, only proven people go on Arctic expeditions, and all 17 expeditions are led by the most experienced Belarusian polar explorer, Aleksei Gaidashov. After all, every long exit from the station, any research beyond its boundaries (and they are carried out, including on “soldered ice”) is a test that requires serious preparation. Recently, a Belarusian expedition visited an area of Antarctica where few humans have set foot – scientific work was carried out, samples were taken, and the Belarusian flag was planted.

– In a straight line it is about 200 km from Gora



are working on creation of drugs based on substances derived from the Arctic flora for the treatment and, most importantly, the prevention of oncological diseases.

How I spent my summer

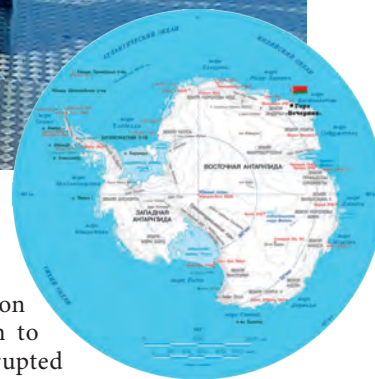
In winter, the Antarctic coast rarely gets warmer than -40°C , and in the center of the continent, the temperature minimum is -89.9°C . But in summer Antarctica is hardly kinder to people, although occasionally there is even a “plus” here – which creates additional dangers. Melting glaciers, imperceptible cracks in multi-ton ice, landslides threatening to throw people off steep cliffs into the ocean, a changeable landscape (when a traffic-compacted road

Vechernyaya, but in fact we had to travel more than 800 km on snowmobiles, bypassing cracks and active zones of glaciers, – explains the head of the Polar Research Center.

A matter of prestige, and not only...

The “population” of the Belarusian Arctic station is currently 14 people. Scientists and specialists who ensure the life of the station combine several “specializations”. By the way, a cook is not included in the Antarctic expedition, but a doctor is a must.

– The station’s infrastructure includes production, technological, laboratory and residential complexes, – says Vladimir Ryzhikov. – The first module, communications



and navigation, was delivered by ship aviation and erected on the installation platform in 2013. Before that, our polar explorers were settling in at a Soviet-era field airfield base that was handed over to Belarus by Russia. These facilities are still part of the station.

Later, a second, eight-section module appeared – living and laboratory premises. The next one was a medical module, equipped with the latest equipment: it is even possible to perform surgical operations there (fortunately, this has not been needed yet). A laboratory of atmospheric physics has also been installed.

– The new object that is being assembled – it was delivered at the end of December – is a mess room where there is an opportunity to get together, – says Vladimir Anatolyevich. The Belarusian expedition set off for the ice continent in November and will return home only in April (the previous one spent even more time on the ice – it lasted from October to June). And all this time, a handful of people are cut off from the world. In such conditions, simple joys are especially appreciated: communication, the opportunity to talk to each other, to relatives in Belarus.

– The satellite communication system allows the station to be provided with uninterrupted Internet, including television broadcasting, – says the interlocutor.

Thus, the Belarusian Arctic station is a kind of “Lego constructor”. The modules can operate as a single system or in autonomous mode (the station will grow with such modules every few years).

– The station in Antarctica is a matter of prestige for Belarus, – the interlocutor sums up. – But it is not only about that. Our country takes part in the research of the continent in accordance with the terms of the Antarctic Treaty, it unites 58 states, and for now Belarus has observer status. Having received consultative status, our republic will have the opportunity to participate in decision-making, and the fate of this unique continent will depend on its vote.

Aleksandra Antselevich

Photo from the archive of the Republican Center for Polar Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

"OUR PRESIDENT" IS A WORK FOR EVERYONE

The book was presented at the National Library

The team of authors of the documentary and biographical composition – Alexander Radkov, Natalia Eismont, Vladimir Pertsov and Aleksandr Karlyukevich – weren't aimed to write a biography of Aleksandr Lukashenko, much less revealing certain shocking scenes of political life. The key point of the plot is to remind the path our President has passed and is still passing every day, to show how much the national leader has done and keeps doing for our country, for every Belarusian.

The book released by the Publishing House "Belarus" consists of three parts: "Start into life" (about the most

personal: roots, childhood, university studies, service in the Soviet Army, etc.), "Lifelong love – Belarus" (the directions of the country's development, to which the President pays great attention, are shown) and "Presidents are born..." (about the life wisdom, international topics, friendship of Aleksandr Lukashenko with world leaders, and the events of the difficult year 2020). Those who will take the unique edition will also get acquainted with the exclusive materials: they will hold in their hands copies of documents from the presidential archive: his Komsomol characteristics, student's record book, handwriting of theses made during the preparation for the most important events, etc.

"It is vital to create such materials"

"It's crucially important to evoke a sense of involvement into the presidential work and his fate in a person who will take this book," highlighted Press Secretary of the President of the Republic of Belarus Natalia Eismont, who told how this unique book was created.

According to her, the Head of State didn't know anything about this work for a long time. "Many people who work with the President and others know very well the President's attitude to this kind of materials, works about him," drew attention Press Secretary of the Belarussian leader. "No "cult of the leader" – this is our motto and slogan. We have a total taboo on such issues. All of us understand that the book about the President is the book that will be scrutinized. First of all, by the President himself, by our people, and by our opponents. And after all, despite all these circumstances, after a long time of overthinking, doubts, we decided to undertake this task."

"In August 2024, the book (as it seemed to the authors, already in a fully prepared form) was placed on the main worktable of our country. "We know the President





■ Vladimir Pertsov clarified that the book contains only 10 % of the materials of the of the 30-year hard work of the President, reflecting the personal initiative of the Head of State, the urge for all the achievements that took place in Belarus and made our country what it is. The aspects related to international architecture in general are reflected.

looked through the book: there were no assessments, no reactions,” Natalia Eismont said. “The only assignment was that this book should be read by people, different people: of different ages, social groups, our people, people who are politically neutral. Actually, we have fulfilled the President’s instructions. This book was read by a programmer and a pensioner, a deputy and director of the National Library, the head of one of our central mass media, and experts in various fields. Every person who read this book had their own feedbacks and suggestions – they approached it very responsibly. In fact, we considered their comments in many ways. A large number of people participated in the work on this book – this is also a so-called expert-public work.” In the opinion of Natalia Eismont, it is vital to create such materials now. “It’s necessary to capture that we see in the person, we are lucky to work with,” clarified she. “Our opponents, to put it mildly, may fantasize, dream up, mislead. The issue is – what do we oppose to this? What will we leave for the next generation? Probably for this reason, books of such kind should be.”

Leadership qualities inherent in nature

Anticipating the audience’s question why the format of book was chosen, Honored Scientist of the Republic of Belarus, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor

Alexander Radkov noted that unlike the mass media and social networks, the book is a philosophy. “In this work, there is a philosophy of formation and development of personality based on the clear and well-known past and, I am sure, future of the personality, the Head of our State,” he specified. “Nature endows each newborn on earth with its own inclinations, its own characteristics and its own perspective. Someone may be a great artist, someone may be a great mathematician, and someone may be a good mechanic or miner. Nature also provides leadership skills. All these agronomists, engineers, scientists, writers, and artists are needed to be directed so that they can jointly solve the problem of production development, country, state, and even civilization as a whole.”

In his words, Aleksandr Lukashenko has been born with leadership qualities. “The man who was defined by the nature, led the country, became the leader of the nation,” Alexander Radkov drew attention. “And he consistently understood this by himself.” And the author of the book proved this by exact examples from different life periods of the Head of State. Will, thirst for knowledge, organized nature, identification of reputable people who need to be listened to, and responsibility in decision-making are some of the traits that define the President’s leadership qualities.

“We wanted to understand the personality of our President as much as possible, realize and propose a philosophy of his personality,” said Alexander Radkov. “We put into this philosophy what he did, what he does and what will do together with us. We hope that the philosophy of personality that we are proud of has been conveyed correctly.”

According to Aleksandr Karlyukevich, director of the Publishing House “Belarus” and Chairman of the Union of Belarusian Writers, flipping through the pages of the book “Our President”, you begin consider the sovereign

The book of every patriot

As Vladimir Pertsov, Deputy Head of the President Administration, noted, there are quite a lot of books about heads of state and they are multi-genre publications. “Somewhere is pure biography, somewhere is publicity, photo albums, somewhere there is a set of quotes from different media, even publications from the same agency, but this was not our way,” he clarified. “Our book is rich not only in documentary and biographical essays, presenting a monolithic essay consisting of three parts. It is rich in a large



■ “It’s crucially important to evoke a sense of involvement into the presidential work and his fate in a person who will take this book,” highlighted Press Secretary of the President of the Republic of Belarus Natalia Eismont, who told how this unique book was created.



Republic of Belarus in a new way, combining its pages with the personality of Aleksandr Lukashenko. “It would be especially good to evoke such emotions among young readers,” he said. “It will help to ingrain new points of view, to see what efforts it is worth to build a country, as in many ways its development depends on the formation of personality. I wish that the emotions I received during the reading would help to do many worthy actions in the name of our, as the President says, piece of land, beloved sovereign Belarus.”

number of documentary materials held in the archives of the President Administration, Press Service of the President, BelTA News Agency, and other publishing houses and mass media.”

Vladimir Pertsov clarified that the book contains only 10 % of the materials of the of the 30-year hard work of the President, reflecting the personal initiative of the Head of State, the urge for all the achievements that took place in Belarus and made our country what it is. The aspects related to international architecture in general are reflected.

According to the Deputy Head of the President Administration, the book was created for different generations, including young people. He recommended purchasing it in the collection of every patriot. And you can do this today – you may buy the book “Our President” in the capital’s stores “Pershy” and “Svetach”. It is planned that it will appear in bookstores abroad, in English language as well.

Veronika Kanyuta
Photo by BelTA and Viktor Ivanchikov



Topics uniting society

The exhibition **"Together. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Institute of the Presidency in the Republic of Belarus"**, held at the Minsk Palace of Art, became a notable event in the cultural space of the whole country





The exposition of the exhibition “Together. To the 30th Anniversary of the Institute of the Presidency of the Republic of Belarus” presented the works of more than seventy national masters: painters, sculptors, graphic artists. These are mostly artists who have been awarded state prizes in different years and whose works by some means or other reflect the last 30 years of the history of independent Belarus. Chairperson of the Belarusian Union of Artists Gleb Otchik pointed out that this exhibition is a kind of proof of how talented our people are: “Just count how many important objects our artists have managed to realize on the territory of

Belarus thanks to the support of the Head of State. Let me remind you that the Belarusian Union of Artists is the only one in the post-Soviet space that has preserved its unitary enterprises, sculpture and art factories. When I recently told my colleagues from Kazakhstan about it, they admired me, saying, “You are lucky, we lost it all long ago...” But Belarus has preserved it. Look how many landmark objects have been realized by our masters in recent years: from restoration of castles to artistic decoration of the halls of the National Library, the Palace of Independence, the Supreme Court. Add to this the memorial complexes “Ola”, “Trostenets”, in





Krasny Bereg, renewed objects in the Khatyn Memorial Complex ... In what other state artists are given such trust and support!”

The essence of art is to reflect the era

The exhibition displayed works of many famous artists, including Hero of Belarus Mikhail Savitsky, as well as May Danzig, Georgy Poplavsky, Vladimir Tovstik, Valery Shkarubo, Maxim Piatrul, Viktor Barabantsev and other famous painters, graphic artists and sculptors. Shortly after, the Belarusian Union of Artists intends to publish an album with these works. They are indeed a national treasure, believes Gleb Otchik.

In addition, several conferences were held during the days of the exhibition, and work with children’s art schools was also organized. “We came up with a concept that reflects our understanding of how artists fit into the life of the country itself,” said Natalia Sharangovich, First Deputy Chairperson of the Belarusian Union of Artists and coordinator of the project.

Yes, the exhibition reflects 30 years of biography of independent Belarus. And this is the time when one can already summarize certain results. “If we had created an interactive map of our cities, where the works created by artists during this time would have been marked, we would have seen tremendous changes compared to



■ Vladimir Tovstik. “Palm Sunday”



EXPOSITION



1970s – 1980s,” said the First Deputy Chairperson of the Belarusian Union of Artists. Natalia Sharangovich emphasized that the essence of art is to reflect the era: “So when we talk about these thirty years, they are for us the years of creation. And the art of those years is now gathering strength.”

Having traced the 30-year path of Belarusian art through this exhibition, one could see that it raised absolutely different themes. These include the Chernobyl tragedy, the war and genocide of Belarusians, patriotism and self-sacrifice. These are all the themes that unite the society. Two works of Honored Worker of Arts Viktor Barabantsev, who went to the Gomel Region together with a group of artists when the Chernobyl tragedy happened, deserved special attention at the exhibition. The region is known to be the most affected by the Chernobyl accident in Belarus. For Viktor Barabantsev, what happened was especially painful, because the artist himself came from these places. And after this trip the author created very poignant, emotional works of ecological themes.

Walking through the exhibition, it was impossible not to notice Vladimir Tovstik’s bright work “Palm Sunday”. This triptych is not only executed at the highest artistic level, but also filled with deep symbolism. It was for this work that the master received the first National Prize in Fine Arts in 2017.

Vsevolod Shvaiba’s works dedicated to the history of the burned Khatyn found their deserved place in the exposition. Last year he was also awarded the National Prize for them. Meanwhile, the process of preparing this exposition was quite long. Many artists who were active in the late 1990s and early 2000s have passed away. Almost half of the exhibition is the classics of Belarusian art, inherited from the already passed away masters. “Therefore,

we involved our funds, where we could find most of the works. But, of course, we did not ignore the workshops. Especially young artists, who are now actively working,” said First Deputy Chairperson of the Belarusian Union of Artists, project coordinator Natalia Sharangovich. The genre diversity of the exhibition is very wide: paintings on various subjects, easel and monumental sculpture, ceramics, tapestries. The exposition symbolized the



■ Konstantin Kostyuchenko. “The Gate of Memory”

change of generations. On the one hand, it presented the names of masters whom the viewer knew from their projects from the 1990s: Alexander Kishchenko, Anatoly Baranovsky, Mikhail Savitsky.... But next to them, the names of those artists who are actively working today also caught the eye.

Probably, anyone who came to the exhibition was interested to see Konstantin Kostyuchenko's first sketch projects in person. This young artist is the author of a very significant work for Belarus: the monument "The Gate of Memory" in the Trostenets Memorial Complex. The most interesting thing is that Konstantin started to develop this idea while he was a student. At the exhibition, however, the whole creative dynasties were also presented. For example, here you could see the works of Alexander Kostyuchenko, Konstantin's father, who was the chief artist of the Opera and Ballet Theater for many years. The dynasty of Maslenikovs was also presented. The famous landscape painter Pavel Maslenikov was the rector of the theater institute, a museum in Mogilev is named after him. His son Vladimir Maslenikov is also actively engaged in landscape painting and now heads the department of painting at the Belarusian State Academy of Arts. Among his works, one can also see a classic portrait by May Danzig, who is thought of primarily as an artist who painted the urban environment.

To understand yourself in the cycle of time

Maxim Piatrul is an artist of modern outlook, for whom creative rethinking and cognition of the world is, first of all, a dialog with the viewer. Using allegorical expressive techniques, the sculptor turns the artistic process into the creation of a fundamentally new plastic object, the development of a truly new form. In 2006, in collaboration with the architect Leonid Levin, he worked on the creation of the Krasny Bereg memorial complex on the site of a children's concentration camp in the Zhlobin District of the Gomel Region. "You start



to make a sculpture, you immerse yourself in its world, and then it makes you," Maxim Piatrul philosophizes in his own way. "How interested is the viewer in my creative immersion? Maybe they are interested, maybe not. But it doesn't matter to me anymore."

He is the author of works of visual art, the same integrated into the public space stations of the Minsk Metropolitan Grushevka and Malinovka, designed by architect Vladimir Telepnev. The stations themselves have essentially acquired an exposition function, becoming platforms alternative to traditional exhibition spaces – museums, galleries and art centers. By the way, Maxim Piatrul received a medal and First Degree Diploma of the XIV National Architecture Competition in the nomination "Monumental Sculpture in the Urban Environment" for creating a memorial to the victims of the Minsk Ghetto (architect Leonid Levin) on Sukhaya Street in Minsk.

"The easiest way to diversify the city's appearance is to oblige developers of new shopping and entertainment complexes to build art objects next to the parking space. At the expense of deductions from the total construction estimate. We have this norm in our documents, but it is still advisory, not mandatory. But in many countries there is already such a practice," noted Maxim Piatrul. "A city is not just a space where people live their lives among houses and stores. It is a place for ideas. Sculpture should raise a question – what it is, why it stands here. Give people something to think about."

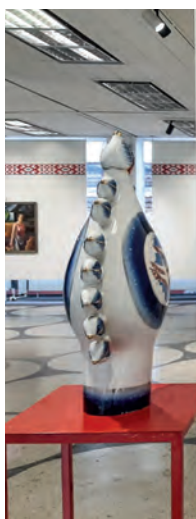
The sculptor advises to bring works out of galleries – only in increased format. To hold competitions among artists. And it is also very important not to forget about dormitory districts of cities, not to accumulate art only

EXPOSITION



in historical centers. “You can’t spoil Minsk with art,” said Maxim Piatrul. “A monument to a historical figure is right and necessary. But we shouldn’t forget about living contemporary artists, those whose works are worthy to come out in the city.”

Maxim is energetic and is not afraid of direct statements. He appreciates creativity in everything, even in seemingly ordinary things: “In general, I am the first sculptor who started to seriously engage in formal, non-figurative plastics in the Belarusian art space. I was not forgotten, and when the work on the metro station Grushevka began, they called me from Minskmetroproekt and offered to formulate a vision of the work for the station. By that time, I already realized that I was not doing design, but trying to integrate the artwork into the context of the urban environment.”



Maxim Piatrul thinks in monumental extensional forms. This feature of his creative vision is embodied not only in his sculptural works designed for big urban spaces or natural landscapes, but also in his indoor sculptures. The artist’s language is laconic. Piatrul’s works have difficult semantic structures, they are concentrated formulas of a hard work of his feelings and mental powers on the way to the understanding of the essence and logic of the never-waning circulation of time and space, to the understanding of himself and his mission in this circulation.

Maxim Piatrul, architect Vadim Drazhin. “Angel”. The work is installed in the Center for Surgery and Transplantology

In his sculptures he tries to capture the codes of the Universe, the meaning of which comes and goes if you do not recognize them in time: “I am convinced that it is in the moments of complete separation from the context of reality, in which you are physically located, that the only correct understanding of the Universe comes, the only correct ‘vision’ comes. As experience tells me, it is not my natural visual apparatus or intellect, but some universal energy that enables this “vision”. Moments like this are essential to my life. This is when the process of labor and comprehension begins, when plastic ideas, the semantic component of my works, begin to emerge. But these ideas are not that they are mine, they are universal ideas. My task is to convey these ideas through form, and this is where my individuality comes into play.”

Maxim Petrul is not afraid to declare his individuality. His works are in many museums around the world, but, as he admits, his favorite, which he goes to every Sunday, is the National Art Museum. His sculpture "Elephanthus" has become a symbol of China. And the work "Birds" adorns the collection of the President of Belarus.





In the modern cultural space Maxim Piatrul has found his philosophy of creativity, his way, which give him the opportunity to experiment, search and at the same time feel a sense of inner freedom. Since 1997 Maxim Piatrul has been an active participant of national and international art exhibitions, competitions, symposiums, creates visual art for public spaces, makes presentations at conferences and higher educational institutions. His works are unusual both in form and content, have a special philosophical meaning and unusual metaphorical nature.

Especially naturally and harmoniously sculptural compositions of Maxim Piatrul live in the natural environment.

Their stay in the unaffectedly calm space of Heaven and Earth gives an opportunity to a person through the vision of the object form to approach the inner contemplation in order to try to find the Truth by freeing himself/herself from everything false in himself/herself.

Maxim Petrul is a laureate of the Special Fund of the President of the Republic of Belarus for Young People of Culture and Art, has a medal of the Commission for Culture of the International Olympic Committee (XXIX Olympic Games, Beijing, China), a medal and a diploma of the first degree of the Belarusian Union of Architects (International Competition of Young Architects "Leonardo—2005"). For the creation of the memorial monument to the victims of the Minsk Ghetto (architect Leonid Levin) on Sukhoi Street in Minsk, he received a medal and a diploma of the First degree from the XIV National Architecture Competition in the nomination "Monumental Sculpture in an urban environment".

The principle of "inner contemplation" is, in fact, the basis of the artist's creative method. The inner work on each piece lasts for a long time, the plastic form develops gradually, finding its flesh in the material. It is obvious the great importance that the sculptor attaches to it. Granite or marble, wood, bronze, silumin, copper, steel – the choice of material is dictated by the plastic idea, which contains a particle of the world, some of its regularity, revealed, manifested by the creative will of the artist. The sense of material, its texture and expressive possibilities allow Maxim Piatrul to achieve harmony and completeness of form, enhance the figurative and philosophical content of his works.

Veniamin Mikheev





PATH UNDER FRIENDSHIP SIGN

The national holiday – Republic Day of India was traditionally celebrated in Belarus. These celebrations were the best evidence of how the relations between our countries, built on the basis of equality, respect and trust, are solid and strong.

On that significant day for the country, January 26, when the elections of the President, Aleksandr Lukashenko, took place on behalf of the citizens of Belarus and himself, congratulated President Droupadi Murmu, as well as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the friendly people of India on a holiday that is significant for all Indians – the 75th anniversary of the Republic Day. The Republic Day of India, as the Head of State said, symbolizes the unshakable sovereignty of this great state. Over the years of independent development, India has achieved significant economic progress and social well-being, and has won high international authority, the congratulations say. It is also noted that Minsk and New Delhi have developed stable, trusting relations that create the foundation for the implementation of mutually beneficial contacts in the political, economic and humanitarian spheres. And, as the President noted, Minsk and New Delhi are united not only by their attitude to sovereignty and independence as the highest values of the nation, but also by the long-standing friendship of the peoples of the two countries. More than 30 years, relations between Belarus and India continue to remain warm and cordial. Therefore, as the people say, your holiday is also ours, Belarusians' holiday. Of course, in Minsk it is held on a small scale, not like in India. For your information, the central theme of the celebrations this year was "Golden India: Heritage and Progress". The emphasis was on the rich cultural heritage of the republic and its successes

in development. In this regard, it seems appropriate to tell how Minsk celebrated the Republic Day of India. Moreover, the emphasis was on the celebration of the 76th anniversary. The question arises: why do we see inconsistency in different media regarding this date. Some write that India celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Republic Day, while the Indians themselves, living in Belarus, as well as in India, talk about the 76th anniversary. Upon thoughtful consideration of these dates, everything is explained simply. The 75th anniversary is associated with the day the Constitution of the country came into force on January 26, 1950, which happened exactly 75 years ago. But the Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, therefore, the number 76 appears in the Embassy of India in Belarus, as well as in the country itself. In fact, both dates are legitimate.

The celebration of the Republic Day of India in Belarus usually starts in the morning at the Indian Embassy, which is located on Sobinov Street in Minsk. In honor of the adoption of the Constitution and the country's transition to a republican form of government, the Indian flag is raised. As a rule, this ceremony is mainly attended by embassy staff headed by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of Belarus. From time to time, representatives of the media and other guests are invited.

My colleague and I have been honored more than once to



■ The celebration began with the official part, with speeches by Charge d'affaires of India in Belarus Rajesh Kumar and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lukashevich.

■ The traditional joint cutting of the cake before the start of the concert program symbolizes friendly relations between India and Belarus

observe the solemn ceremony of raising the flag, one of the national symbols of India, and to take part in the celebration. The moment when the flag is unfurled on a high flagpole and red rose petals fall from it is especially beautiful. The Indian anthem is played, and then a group of diplomats led by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary pronounce three times: "Glory to Mother India!" By the way, this year, in connection with the end of the term of the Ambassador of India to Belarus Alok Ranjan Jha, the flag raising ceremony was led by the Chargé d'Affaires of India in our country, Mr. Rajesh Kumar. On the same day, according to tradition, the Indian Embassy organizes ceremonial receptions so that all those present on the occasion of the holiday can share the joy of Indians working and living in Belarus, and also, plunging into the colorful atmosphere of India, see with their own eyes that friendship between our countries is a priority. Let me remind the reader that diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of India were established on April 17, 1992.

This year the celebration, I would call it "Little India", took place in one of the prestigious hotels: Minsk Marriott Hotel. For us, who have visited India many times, to be in the company of Indians means to experience joy doubly, to feel the incomparable atmosphere of this amazing and exotic country with its original and multi-faceted culture, to feel its breath. And as I have already said once, it is not about the smells of incense



and spices, which were slightly caught before entering the hall, but rather, figuratively speaking, in the aroma of that inviting warmth, openness, characteristic of Indians. We, residents of Belarus, are very similar to them in this. Everyone knows the tolerance of Belarusians, the willingness to share everything they have, our mercy and friendliness. As for the Indians, they managed to preserve centuries-old history, cultural wealth and built their unique and independent state on this foundation. Belarus is also today demonstrating to the whole world how to defend its sovereignty.

"We have the most important thing that we must preserve and pass on to our descendants - our beloved homeland, our Belarus. We do not need someone else's, we will create our own well-being ourselves, with our own labor and on our own land" – this is what President Aleksandr Lukashenko said back in 1998, speaking at the celebratory events on Independence Day on July 3. And how can one not remember: we also widely celebrate our independence. (In 1991, when the Soviet



India was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Belarus in 1991. Official diplomatic relations were established on April 17, 1992. The Indian diplomatic mission opened in Minsk in 1992, and the Belarusian one in New Delhi in 1998. Belarus also opened its Honorary Consulate in Kolkata in December 2002. And on August 4, 2022, the opening ceremony of the Belarusian Consulate General in Mumbai took place.



- Indian dancing is a whole philosophy of life that Belarusians comprehend
- Olga and Karen Parakh, a Belarusian-Indian family who founded the Indian Cultural Center in Minsk in 2018

Union collapsed, the Republic of Belarus declared itself an independent, self-governing state. On March 15, 1994, the Basic Law of our country was adopted: the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus).

And in our respect and veneration of national traditions, centuries-old culture, we are also similar to the Indians. At the same time, we are keeping up with the times, building a country of new technologies, innovations and progress. We do not forget about culture. It seems appropriate to me to quote the words of Aleksandr Lukashenko about national culture, which were included in the selection of quotes from the President about culture.

“There is a common opinion: in the modern world there is no place for national cultures, and they are being replaced by one – a global one. I think that this is not so. Each nation has its own system of coordinates, a vector of development, determined by its historical experience and national culture. We perceive the world through their prism.

However, let us return to the celebration, where one can feel the measure of humanity that unites the citizens of Belarus and India. The invitees, and these are representatives of diplomatic missions of different countries, a number of ministries and departments, international and public Belarusian organizations that cooperate with the Embassy of India in Belarus, took part in



- A keepsake photo
- Kuldeep Kumar, a certified yoga teacher, has been living in Belarus with his wife Tatiana and daughter Kamlini for more than 10 years.

the celebration. There were also those citizens of India with their families who, for various reasons, live in our country. And also businessmen, doctors, students. And, of course, friends of India. We, journalists, consider ourselves to be among them. We shared our impressions of traveling around India, about its people on the pages of the magazine in essays, as well as in interviews with the Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Belarus in different years (Sangeeta Bahadur, Alok Ranjan Jha). Even then, we, the authors, formed a strong opinion: people, and this includes us, citizens of Belarus, figuratively speaking, are the threads that connect nations through personal relationships that create an impression of their native country.

The celebration began with the playing of the national anthems of India and Belarus. Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Chargé d'Affaires of India in Belarus, congratulated all those present on the 76th anniversary of Republic Day and, as per tradition, read excerpts from the speech of the President of India to the guests.

It was good to hear that the bilateral relations between our countries are marked by contacts that continue to develop between people through tourism, cultural events, education and professional training. The number of Indian students in Belarusian universities is constantly growing, especially for medical education, and this is also an indicator of the trend towards the development of relations.

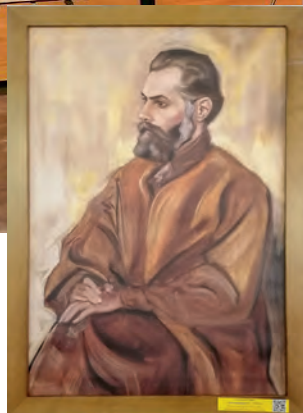
In 2024, India and Belarus exchanged several delegations in the fields of defence research, science and technology, agriculture and food processing, pharmaceuticals and business in general. There were visits by senior officials of both countries. India hosted President Aleksandr Lukashenko as a participant in



the Voice of Global South Summit, which was held virtually. The long-term cooperation at international forums continued unabated. India welcomed the entry of Belarus into BRICS as a partner country.

Rajesh Kumar's speech also made an important point that the dynamics of high-level Belarusian-Indian meetings will give additional impetus to India-Belarus relations. As an example, he referred to the meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Maxim Ryzhenkov on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Astana, as well as on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Lukashevich expressed his sincerest congratulations to Indian friends and colleagues on behalf of the country's leadership. Speaking about the colossal pace of comprehensive development of modern India, he noted the rise of the economy (from 11th to 5th place in the world), and expressed confidence that this is not the limit.



■ Exhibition of reproductions of paintings by Svyatoslav Roerich "The Message of Beauty", dedicated to the Day of the Republic of India

Against the backdrop of global political and economic upheavals of recent years, according to the Deputy Minister, it is especially gratifying that our countries continue to confidently strengthen friendly relations, which are distinguished by mutual support and respect. And he gave examples that were heard in Mr. Rajash Kumar's speech regarding Belarus' accession to the SCO and its receipt of the status of a BRICS partner country. Both of these results, the diplomat emphasized, became possible thanks to the active support of India. He called the participation of President Aleksandr Lukashenko, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, in the third Voice of Global South Summit, as well as the official visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus to India and the meeting of the heads of parliaments of our countries a landmark event. In addition, the Deputy Minister reported that in the very near future it is planned to hold another meeting of the Belarusian-Indian commission on cooperation in the field of economy, trade, industry, science, technology and culture. The intergovernmental dialogue aimed at identifying and implementing new bilateral economic and humanitarian projects will be continued at this platform. He

also expressed the opinion that various events that Belarus holds with the Indian side emphasize the enormous potential for developing cooperation in all areas in the relations between Belarus and India.

By the way, the gala reception took place the day after the elections of the President of Belarus, which, according to Sergei Lukashevich, guarantees continuity in the domestic policy of Belarus, as well as in relations with our foreign partners, including the Republic of India – our main partner in the South Asian region.

After the official part, we were able to enjoy a rich cultural program with Indian music and dancing. And we know very well how culture brings countries and peoples together. We have written more than once how attractive Indian culture is for Belarusians. This is especially true for dancing. And at the Indian Embassy, the Minsk Indian dance ensemble "Amrapali" and the Indian dance studio "Sapna" are successfully developing. By the way, at the House of Culture of Minsk Automobile Plant, the Indian dance school "Indivara" has existed since 1996. Several bands took part in the concert.

The participants of the celebration also admired the exhibition of reproductions of paintings by Svyatoslav Roerich. For fans of painting, this is a great joy: to refresh their memory of meetings with famous images and faces. On the canvases are Indira Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Elena and Nikolai Roerich... By the way, this exhibition and evening with the participation of the Chargé d'Affaires of India in Belarus, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, representatives of universities and public organizations took place the next day in Minsk House of Friendship. The host of the evening was the dean of the faculty of Minsk City Institute for Education Development, Professor Igor Gancherenok, who heads India Belarus Friendship Society.

Valentina Zhdanovich
Photo by the author



MEETINGS WITH A BOOK WILL NEVER END



The XXXII International Book Fair will be held in Minsk from March 12 to 16, 2025. The main theme of the book exhibition, discussion and presentation platforms will be the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War.



THE ANNOUNCEMENT



The venue for a major event in the book industry in Belarus will be the administrative complex at 14 Pobediteley Avenue. During the exhibition, visitors will be able to participate in a rich business and cultural program from 10:00 to 19:00, learn about the achievements of the book industry, and also replenish their personal library.

The program includes “thematic days of the states” — members of the EAEU: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Visitors and participants of the exhibition will learn about current book novelties and meet with Belarusian and foreign authors. Traditionally, the exhibition will include a stand with books from Russian publishing houses.

Belarusian and foreign publishers will present new and popular books, and will also delight the exhibition guests by selling books at a discount.

The starting point for the fair was 1994. By that time, the single economic space of the former Soviet Union had finally disintegrated, including in the area of book trade. In order to create connections between publishers and booksellers of the now sovereign states of the CIS and the Baltic countries, as well as European countries, the International Fair was conceived in Minsk, the capital of the CIS, a city

located at the geographical crossroads of all roads, as they say, in the center of Europe.

It is worth recalling that in 2024, during the international book fair, which brought together more than 450 participants from 20 countries, including Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Germany, China, Iran, Pakistan, in Minsk, the exhibition complex was visited by 62 thousand people. According to statistics, this is a record number in more than 30 years of the fair's work.

International book fairs are a special format in which bibliophiles, book lovers and just fans of reading printed books have the opportunity to meet representatives of publishing houses and receive first-hand volumes from different publishers. Zvezda Publishing House will also take part in Minsk International Book Fair. At the stand, the editorial staff will present its book publications, as well as independent projects of authors, among whom our fellow journalists occupy a worthy place. Book presentations will be held on the main stage and on the children's playground. The stand will host autograph sessions of Belarusian writers Ragned Malakhovsky, Viktor Shnip, Ekaterina Khodasevich-Lisovaya and Lyudmila Rublevskaya. A quiz dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Victory “Answer the question

correctly” is planned, with the winners receiving souvenirs from Zvezda Publishing House. When buying books, each buyer will receive a gift. The “No-lose lottery” awaits the guests of the exhibition.

On the eve of the International Book Fair-2025, it is pleasant to recall last year's exhibition in connection with the impressive figures provided to the Ministry of Information by the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of Belarus. For example, the absolute majority of reading Belarusians, 87% of respondents, said that they prefer books in printed format. And the majority of readers in Minsk (77.2%) also remain loyal to printed publications. These and other figures allowed us to conclude: Belarus is one of the most reading countries in both Europe and the CIS.

What is the reason for this trend? The Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus, Aleksandr Karliukevich, answered this question succinctly. “Belarusians are smart people,” he said. And it sounded so calm, as a matter of course. And from the exhibition of the current year, Aleksandr Nikolaevich, as the head of the creative union, writer, regional historian, literary scholar and journalist, expects even more attention to the printed book. According to him, many secrets of times and peoples are concentrated in the pages, which are





hidden under a paper or cardboard cover.

Just recently, Aleksandr Nikolaevich headed the oldest publishing house in our country – Belarus, which was founded in 1921 as the State Book Publishing House. And, of course, I could not help but ask my interlocutor what volumes would be presented at the stand. And this is what he answered: “The book “Our President”, the total circulation of which was 15 thousand copies. This documentary and biographical publication reveals the key milestones in the development of the Man, the Personality of Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko, who has been leading our country for more than 30 years. Together with the Central Election Commission of Belarus, we created the book “Symbols of Sovereign Belarus”, the total circulation of which – in Russian and Belarusian – is more than 100 thousand copies. A long-standing tradition of Belarus is the publication of books dedicated to the topic of the genocide of the Belarusian people in the Great Patriotic War. We are grateful to the Prosecutor General’s Office of the Republic of Belarus for trusting us in the implementation of this publishing project. We will show a book of Bashkir poetry translated into Belarusian at the exhibition. And also a real study of the

heroic memory of the fraternal people, “Sons of Bashkortostan in the Battles for Belarus”. We worked on these publications together with our Bashkir colleagues. We will present a number of publications from the series “Famous Artists from Belarus”, which are dedicated to artists-frontline soldiers: Leonid Schemelev, Mikhail Savitsky, Boris Arakcheev. A special area of our work is publishing books of fiction and poetry. Today, few publishing houses are consistent in their attention to modern literature. We have opened a series of poetry collections. The first book is dedicated to the work of the remarkable Belarusian poet Viktor Shnip. The following collections are books of poetic revelations by poetesses – natives of Vitebsk region Evdokiya Los, Vera Verba, Galina Zagurskaya (their poems will be presented in one book). In Tatyana Yatsuk’s collection, all works are dedicated to the theme

of the Great Patriotic War. We have just published a large collection of Belarusian poets who write in Russian. A number of books dedicated to the decorative and applied arts of Belarus are planned. We have submitted to the printing house a reference book “Castles of Belarus”. Together with colleagues from Brest, we have made a book about the burned villages of Brest region. We hope that these and other publications will confirm the truth that Belarusians are the most well-read people in the world.” And we hope that reading books in printed form will help us to continue to learn about the world, life in all its diversity and beauty. Even the most useful gadgets, these huge sources of information, cannot replace the rustle of pages, the special aroma of printing ink, familiar to most of us from childhood.

Valentina Zhdanovich

On the eve of the International Book Fair-2025, it is pleasant to recall last year’s exhibition in connection with the impressive figures provided to the Ministry of Information by the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of Belarus. For example, the absolute majority of reading Belarusians, 87% of respondents, said that they prefer books in printed format. And the majority of readers in Minsk (77.2%) also remain loyal to printed publications. These and other figures allowed us to conclude: Belarus is one of the most reading countries in both Europe and the CIS.

WE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE...

Evgeniy Antashkevich – Russian writer with Belarusian roots. We have met him many times in Minsk and Moscow. Novelist, historian, orientalist, publicist, he is inseparably connected with his second homeland – Belarus. About all this, about his artistic pursuits, about his impressions from meetings with Belarus – in our conversation for the magazine “Belarus”.

– Evgeniy Mikhailovich, you have been to Belarus many times. Do you find something different in its life compared to Russia?

– Of course! Cleanliness and order! The condition of forests and roads is much better, especially the clean roadsides of highways and railway right-of-ways are pleasing to the eye. Once I spent a whole decade of one winter month on a road trip along the route: Moscow – Smolensk – Borisov – Grodno – Smorgon – Belavezhskaya Pushcha – Brest – Moscow and immediately drew attention of my companions – my nephew and his wife – to the neatness. Of course, it pleased the eye.

I am a son of a Belarusian father and a Russian mother and cleanliness and discipline have permeated my entire life. My childhood in the family of a Soviet officer was in a foreign country where neatness is a basic element in the blood of local population. All this combined to create a particularly sensitive attitude to order, beauty and tidiness. That's why the eye appealed and the heart rejoiced when we drove the car into the city without industrial zones, where pine trees became rarer and residential houses more frequent. Then I made a conclusion for myself – the fewer car service stations with blind iron welded gates and homemade signs in the suburbs, the richer people living in the city, or more peaceful. I noticed this when I came to Belarus on business trips in the Soviet times: how hard it was to stand and wait to cross a free roadway just because the traffic light was red. We pay less attention to this in Russia, but that's a pity, we are the same!

– You have worked in historical prose on the comprehension of the theme of the First World War. How much of your writings are centered on Belarus?

– A lot! The First World War since August 1915 has completely moved to the Belarusian land and cut it along the line from Postavy and Molodechno to Baranovichi and Pinsk, I consider the modern line of the border. There it stopped.

That's why I took Smorgon, Krevo and Baranovichi to describe this terrible event. And I couldn't help going there to see it with my own eyes. The first thing I saw was a great attention to the history of the First World War among



local residents, when school math teachers, directors of children's libraries, retired military men become historians and regional ethnographers. Taking this opportunity, I will gladly list their names: director of the district children library Aleksey Mikhailovich Bumay, director of historical museum Lyubov Vitalievna Belush, head of the city administration Gennady Pavlovich Bychko, math teacher of the local secondary school Vladimir Vladimirovich Prikhach, historian and regional ethnographer, retired colonel Vladimir Nikolaevich Liguta. Wonderful people! They were very helpful in literally immersing myself in the more 800-day defense of Smorgon.

I was glad to see that the first World War has its own place and does not compete with the even more terrible event – the Second World War. And the difference between these wars is huge: in the First World War the military fought among themselves and civilians suffered, but in the Second World War – for us in the Great Patriotic War (within the framework of the Second World War) – just everyone: military, civilians, old men, women, children, peaceful refugees who found themselves behind enemy lines, escaped prisoners of war, not to mention soldiers and officers. And, of course, the state of the monuments to those of our compatriots who died in the First World War. And not on the central squares in big cities, but those that stand on living graves – living, I'm not mistaken, because all of them are well-tended, with the names of the dead restored. I know for sure that this is the work of pathfinders, and all of the pathfinders are local. I am very grateful to them. It does not seem silly and pointless to fight for peace today with such kind of people!

– Through your father's origin you are connected with the Vitebsk Region. Tell us a little more about that, please.

– Yes, I am connected with the Vitebsk Region through my father, and more broadly, with the whole Belarus. From the 3rd to 9th grade, I was taken through Brest from 2 to 6 times a year: back and forth, back and forth ...

And when I came to Brest in January last year, I wanted to find those places, and it was not difficult – from Dzerzhinsky Street, where we stayed in the hotel, I went to Lenin Street, climbed the viaduct and there it was – the beautiful station, which, despite the fact that 50 years have passed, was recognizable. And then Sovetskaya Street, and I walked it all! From the Nikolskaya Church to Dzerzhinsky Street and back!

All this is very memorable and I didn't feel any difference between the Belarusian Soviet native land and today's Belarus – I went to Lenin Street from Dzerzhinsky, but came back along Sovetskaya Street! Find as many difference as you want.

And there is a call of blood, that's why I dream to come to the village where Mikhail Tikhonovich Antashkevich was born. In the Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War on Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow there is a full list of Heroes of the Soviet Union and three Antashkevich, all from the Vitebsk Region, all of my dad's age, and not a single direct relative, but it's nice!

– What topics of common Belarusian-Russian history do you find most interesting?

– Our whole history is Russian-Belarusian and Belarussian-Russian. The fact that now the border has been marked is such a time... Although, to tell you the truth, there is no border, except for different currencies. Our history began when the history of the Eastern Slavs began – they sailed in the same time to Constantinople and the duke, whose ethnicity does not matter for us nowadays, nailed a shield to the gates of the Great City.

Let the zealots of the Norman theory and ancient

Germanic historians argue about that, if they like it!

We spoke the same language and we will speak the same language. Take a map of the Kaluga Region and see how many Belarusian toponyms there are on it. It's normal!

But if we answer this question directly, there is no period in our common history more important than the Great Patriotic War and post-war reconstruction and construction.

And now let someone say that writing is the destiny of sullen loner with the knowledge of one language. This is also our history, the history of my friends!

Here is a complete list of those who helped in the writing of the novel "Chronical of One Regiment. 1916. In the trenches" and

the most dear book to me – a romantic story about Oleg the Wise ("Oleg"): Viktor Michurin (Belarus), Vitaly Tolstov (Belarus), Aleksey Bumay (Smorgon, Belarus), Lyubov Belush (Smorgon, Belarus), Gennady Bychko (Smorgon, Belarus), Vladimir Liguta (Smorgon, Belarus), Vladimir Prikhach (Smorgon, Belarus), Uldis and Mara Bundulis (Latvia), Aleksandr and Irina Yaunin (Latvia), Yury Silov (Latvia), Yaronimas Laucius (Lithuania), Yury Ivanov (Riscani, Moldova), Zenon and Natalia Rusich (Augustov, Poland, Grodno, Belarus), Andrey Tergalinsky (Poland), Andrey Potyomkin (Poland), Vladimir and Irina Dukes Mikeladze (Kutaisi, Georgia, Moscow, Russia), Sergey and Robert Hayrapetyan (Armenia).

And let them not ask me what kind of passports they have – red, blue, green, with ships or flowers! We are also United, not the States, but Souls!

Interviewed by Ales Karlyukevich
Minsk – Moscow



IN THE EDGE OF PRISTINE NATURE

The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, one of the oldest specially protected natural territories of Belarus and the most valuable natural corners of Europe, has turned 100 years old.

The starting point of its history dates back to the 20s years of the last century, when an expedition of scientists led by Anatoly Fedyushin, a professor of the Belarusian State University and a famous Soviet zoologist, was directed to the head of one of the largest rivers in the country. There, among the mighty coniferous forests, crystal lace of rivers and streams, mysterious swamps, biologists discovered a species that was nearly extinct in the Republic in the XX century – the beavers.

To preserve the ecosystem of the “lost world” and restore the population of Eurasia’s most popular rodent, the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve was founded. Nowadays it’s one of the popular sites in the world not only for scientists, but for tourists as well. Director of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve Andrei PROKOSHIN told us more about the most significant activities of the nature protection institution.

The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve occupies an area of more than 86 thousand hectares and is located on the territory of the Borisov, Lepel and Dokshitsy Districts. The animal world is represented by: 58 species of mammals; 245 – birds; 34 – fish, about 17 – amphibians and reptiles. There are more than 2 thousand species of plants, including 107 species listed in the Red Book.

– The mission of the Reserve is to preserve and explore the precious nature complexes and objects in their natural state as well as preventing their changes as a result of anthropogenic activities. This allows to observe in natural conditions which species of trees are the first to compete for open space, how various representatives of the fauna behave, etc. For analysis of such a large data volume, a strong scientific base is needed.

– Yes, we have a serious scientific staff potential. The Reserve's staff constantly conducts various observations, prepares practice-oriented scientific research, the results of which are of great interest to representatives of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and other scientific organizations, including foreign ones.

For example, one of the most relevant researches is dedicated to the study of the brown bear, population of which is considered to be the largest in the country. Works aimed at studying insect-entomophages to control forest pests, in particular bark beetles, are also relevant. The last mentioned are very difficult to eradicate by chemical means, besides, it's unsafe for the environment so the focus is on biological methods of eradication. Experiments are currently underway to create favorable conditions for the reproduction of entomophages.

Our researches participate in national and international scientific forums, conferences, congresses and other events. They are members of interdepartmental coordination councils and working groups. The accumulated scientific potential and practical experience allow to share the most effective practices and coordinate the work of colleagues from other environmental institutions.

The Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve has many international titles and awards: it's included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the List of Ramsar wetlands of international importance, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the Emerald Network, is the holder of the European diploma of Protected Areas and a key botanical and ornithological area.

– How do you manage to combine the preservation of the territory in its pristine state and tourism activities?

– We have quite strict rules of staying in the territory: you can only travel along certain routes and only if accompanied by our employee. But such restrictions even hold the visitors' interest. Where else in Belarus are there such hidden corners of nature that no man has ever set foot in?

Otherwise, we approach the issue considering the age, physical training and marital status of visitors. Hiking, cycling, horseback riding, skiing, water and combined routes have been developed. There are even tours for thrill seekers. You can explore the bear trails and climb the observation tower to watch this animal, you can arm yourself with wading boots, binoculars and go to conquer the swamp. You can kayak along the Berezina water system, passing part of the ancient route "from the Varangians to the Greeks".

A nature calendar is posted on the Reserve's website, where you can choose a tour program depending on the season: in winter, learn to detect footprints in the snow, observe animals in their natural habitat and feeding grounds, enjoy grouse tending in spring, take a walk through the forest awakening from sleep, listen to the famous nightingale concerts in summer, etc.

One of the most popular types of tourism in the Reserve is mythological. The idea comes from desire to tell people about the mystical ideas of our ancestors about the world around them: forests, swamps, animals, etc. Slavic legends, fairy tales and customs formed the basis of the mythological festival "Trail of the Dragon", which has been held since 2016, and the autumn tour "Night of Veles". The latter is a kind of Belarusian Halloween. The program includes an excursion to the Museum of Mythology, various quests and thematic installations.





The highlight of the event comes in the evening, when guests visit the Myth Trail, and then listen to legends and fairy tales around campfires, in an authentically equipped atmospheric location. There is a forest all around, the treetops are immersed in the dense darkness of the night, reflections of fire are jumping on the trunks of the pines, quiet ethnic music is playing, to which, like centuries ago, magical legends are told....

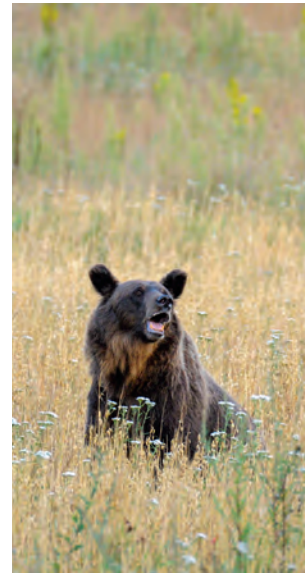
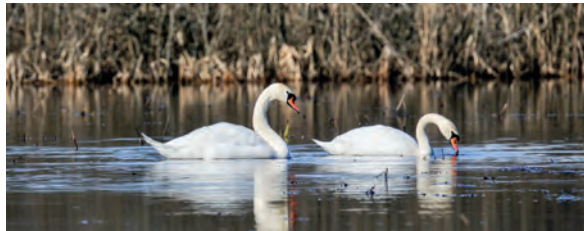
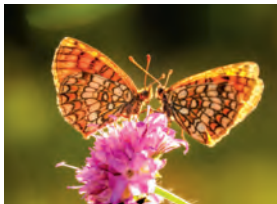
We also have a lot of activities tourism events (New Year's tour, Maslenitsa and Kupala festivities), but we are not limited by calendar holidays. For example, at the end of April – May, you can visit the “Nightingale Nights” tour. At this time of the year, nightingales are in their mating season, so they sing all night long. Our idea is to provide residents of megacities with the opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, restore peace of mind and merge with the harmony of nature.

The events are attended not only by scientists and tour guides, but also by other employees of the Reserve. They turn into various mythical creatures (Bolotnic, Vodyanoi, Koshchei, etc.) and interact with tourists on installations and playgrounds.

Sports and corporate events are being organized, and business tourism is developing. For example, the premises and equipment in the “Plavna” and “Serguch” hotel complexes are rented out for the needs of various organizations, excursions to the Nature Museum and the Forest Zoo are organized, where tens of thousands of tourists from Belarus and abroad are welcomed annually. Accompanying persons are provided everywhere to give guests the most positive impressions of the routes and exhibits, as well as broaden their horizons.

– Environmental education is another priority field of the Reserve's activity.

– Yes, our task is to tell tourists about the international significance of our specially protected territory, its contribution to the world wildlife conservation, promote respect for the environment and love for small homeland. Environmental education is carried out in two directions. Firstly, all routes and tours are organized in such a way that guests can get acquainted with the most interesting historical sites and natural monuments, meet with specific representatives of the animal and plant world. Secondly, we have the House of Environmental Education, where the main events of both



local, national and international levels are held: exhibitions, seminars, conferences, scientific councils and meetings. Here, visitors can receive advertising and informational booklets, take photos near full-length stuffed animals. There are environmental classes for children: The students test their knowledge gained in educational institutions on specially designed eco-paths, collect herbariums, create handicrafts from natural materials, participate in quests, quizzes, and environmental games.

Interactive information stands and posters about the life of the inhabitants of the Berezinsky Nature Reserve and its most interesting biological species have been created in the House of Ecological Education. For example, here you can get acquainted with the “Big European Five” – the biggest animals of Belarus, represented in life-size, find out which animals use the protected area as an international airport, and also get an idea of what kind of bird you are by comparing yourself with the wingspan of different birds, etc.

Last summer, during the holidays, an international environmental challenge competition was held in the

Berezinsky Nature Reserve together with the Russian public movement “Friends of the Protected Islands”. For two months, the young naturalists performed various tasks, for example, aimed at searching for certain plants in the forest, studying information about them and creating a small video report. My family and I have also participated: we filmed a report about how we found a 100-year-old birch tree with bear claw marks and measured its height. And for children, it was more interesting than the phone and the TV, although we see these wonders of nature every day.

Many universities and colleges bring their students to us for seminars, workshops and master classes. Often, after such outdoor activities, young people decide to commit their future to the Reserve. And this is encouraging, because the people who work in the protected area create the history and aura of this pristine corner of our Homeland. Therefore, everyone on his/her site strives to do their work as best and efficiently as possible. And it's worth a lot.

Alexandrina Parshina

Photos by Denis Ivkovich and from the archive of the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve

"SCHOOL OF COURAGE"

BATTLE THAT UNITES

Traditional Sambo Tournament for the prizes of the President held in Minsk.

■ Angela Zhilinskaya during the fight



Sport traditions are respected in Belarus. And the traditions that bring joy with medals are getting stronger every year and attract more and more attention. An excellent example of this is the International Sambo Tournament for the prizes of the President, which took place in Minsk in February. This year, for the 29th time, this tournament gathered strong, courageous athletes in a passion for their work. President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko also sent greetings to the participants and guests of the competition. "Your kind of martial arts is a school of diligence, skill and courage, a contest of characters based on the philosophy of dignity and nobility. Everything that shapes a real man," the greeting says. "And traditional annual competitions of the best sambists of the world in Minsk are a vivid example of how sport is able to unite people of different nationalities and cultures. It was so in the previous years. Let it continue to be so in the future." The President wished the participants of the tournament to demonstrate their best skills in every fight, to present the fans an exciting sports festival and to keep the special spirit of unity and brotherhood that reigns under the arches of the Palace of Sports in Minsk for the rest of their lives.

There are many people willing to come

The athletes fulfilled the wishes of the Head of State and gave the fans a real sports fest. By the way, despite the weekdays, there were many fans on the stands of the Palace of Sports. And it's not surprising. The Minsk Tournament traditionally gathers the best sambo wrestlers from different countries. The meeting of the world champions of different years on the mats is a usual thing for the tournament.

This year sambo wrestlers from 9 countries demonstrated their skills. And this is far from being a record of the tournament. Although today, when many countries are afraid to send their athletes to Belarus, that's worth a lot. In addition to the representatives from Belarus, sambists from Armenia, Bulgaria, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan performed at



■ Chairman of the Belarusian Sambo Federation
Alexander Kobrusev



the competition. "We have no problems with any team in the world. I am sure that more teams could have come to us, if there were no political difficulties. There are lot of willing participants. Last year 120 athletes took part in the championship, this year – 230. We are sure that next year even more guests will come to the 30th anniversary tournament. As organizers, we are ready to work actively to receive more guests and give our people one more sports festival," assured Alexander Kobrusev, Chairperson of the Belarusian Sambo Federation.

At the sambo tournament for the prizes of the President, athletes won 21 sets of awards. Belarusian athletes won 26 medals: 6 gold, 5 silver, 15 bronze. At home even the walls help. "I dream that every time at the awarding ceremony the anthem of ceremony would be played, that only Belarusian athletes would win. But sports are interesting because of there is always an intrigue, the strongest wins," Alexander Kobrusev. He noted that the strongest athletes came to the mats, which indicates a high status of this tournament. Moreover, Sambo Tournament for the prizes of the President is a test of the athletes' strength at the beginning of the new season. Judging by the performance of the Belarusians, they have enough energy for the season.

Sambo becomes the number one sport in February

26 Belarusian medals inspire optimism in Vladimir Yaprntsev, three-time world champion and member of the Executive Committee of the International Sambo Federation, who, by the way, stood at the origins of this tournament. In the 1990s Belarusian sambo, which in the Soviet time had rattled with victories, was going through

hard times. But thanks to the enthusiasm of the athletes, trainers and coaches, sambo was revived. "Thanks a lot to the Head of State for paying attention to us. In 1996, we held the first International Sambo Tournament for the prizes of the President in the athletics arena of the Seventh Army Sports Club in Uruchye, Minsk. Aleksandr Lukashenko personally visited the tournament, we presented him with a sambo jacket. Yes, it was a very modest tournament by today's standards, where only Belarusian, Russian and a few more invited athletes participated. But sambo declared itself at a high level. By the way, Sambo Tournament is the first in the country on the prizes of the President. And it's very pleasant that the attention of the state to it does not fade away. It is rather important to us. Sambo does not sound like Olympic sports. But in February we become the number one sport in our country," said Vladimir Yaprntsev. Traditionally, the best results in sambo are shown by women. "Yes, our women now have better results. And I am proud of them. I see what sporting feats our girls accomplish, and admire how they overcome difficulties," shares Vladimir Yaprntsev.

Who of the athletes impressed especially?

And this time ladies did not change themselves. Anzhela Zhilinskaya, Maria Kondratyeva, Karina Shut became the champions of the tournament for the prizes of the President. Anzhela Zhilinskaya is a sportswoman who is known all over the world, in the world of sambo for sure. She is a world and European champion and has been among the leaders of the world sambo for many years. Maria Kondratyeva is the current world champion in the

weight category up to 80 kilograms. And judging by her mood, she is not going to give up her title. Karina Shut won the bronze medal of the world championship last season. She admits that this season she is going to take revenge and change the bronze for gold. Belarusian men – Eduard Kutsko, Evgeniy Rebikov and Eduard Muravitsky – also climbed to the top step of the podium.

"I would like to thank everyone who worried about me and who organized this tournament. This year I did not manage to win a gold medal, although I tried very hard to take first place. But it didn't work out. I will get a gold medal next year. This is sport, things happen here. Today I'm in the first place, tomorrow is someone else. But I prefer when today I am in the first place, tomorrow – me, and the day after tomorrow – me too," shared her impressions Anfisa Kopaeva, silver medalist of the competition in the category up to 50 kilograms. Anfisa, the world champion in her weight category, admitted that the way to the final of the competition in Minsk was not easy, because the opponents were very outstanding. Unfortunately, two-time world champion Daniela Zhdan also failed to become the champion of the home tournament. The fact that even the strongest athletes in their categories lost a bit speaks about really serious competition at the tournament in Minsk. Kristina Sokolova (up to 59 kg) also became a silver medalist призёром. Bronze medals were won by Karina Zhoglik (up to 59 kg), Anastasia Skvortsova (up



■ The winner of the competition, Angela Zhilinskaya



■ The winner of the competition is Maria Kondratieva and Vladimir Yaprintsev

to 72 kg), Polina Lukyanchuk and Valeria Khrushcheva (both over 80 kg), Pavel Litvinov, Anton Kubyankovich (both up to 58 kg), Vladislav Sayapin (up to 71 kg) and Boris Bulyga (up to 98 kg, combat sambo).

"The physical form of the sportsmen was impressive. Everyone fought, everyone tried, everyone gave their best. Very strong wrestlers came to us, I can assess the level of the tournament as high. The competition amazed us," summarized the results of the tournament Yuri Rybak, head coach of the National Team of Belarus. He and his team have a lot of work ahead, as the season has just begun. The sambo wrestlers have just taken a breath after the tournament for the prizes of the President, as they have already started to actively prepare for the upcoming competitions. The European Championship is scheduled for April. But before that, our sambists will perform at the Sambo Founders Cup in Moscow.

The upcoming season will be challenging for the sportsmen. For the fans – insanely exciting. But the Chairperson of the Belarusian Sambo Federation is sure that everything will be fine: "The most important is that we have expert coaches who reveal the talents of their athletes and bring them to the podium. Belarusian sambo has many fans among the youth, many children are curious about sambo, which means that the traditions will only grow stronger."

Valeria Stetsko

PROJECT

THEIR LIFE



IN THE PROFESSION

The “Life in the Profession” project was launched at the Bolshoi Theater on February 5 with the benefit performance “Anna Karenina” staged by Yulia Dyatko with participation of Irina Eromkina, People’s Artist of Belarus. On February 14, the evening was dedicated to Lyudmila Khitrova, Honored Artist of Belarus. Her benefit performance was Sergei Prokofiev’s ballet “Romeo and Juliet” staged by Valentin Elizariiev, where the prima performs the title role. And on February 23, Marina Vezhnovets, Honored Artist of Belarus, came on the famous stage in a completely new image – Girl – in Igor Kolb’s production “Illusions of Love”.

Irina Eromkina

Igor Kolb, Chief Ballet Master of the Bolshoi Theater, answered the journalists' question how the idea of the project "Life in the Profession" arose and why these beautiful ballerinas became its heroines.

— It is fundamentally important for me, in life and in my profession, to say "thank you" on time, to give thanks without being embarrassed. The project "Life in the Profession" is a kind of gratitude to ballerinas who have already achieved a lot in their profession. And they are not so many years old. This is exactly the creative age when one can see the promising creative future of ballet dancers. To a great extent it depends on the repertoire policy of the theater. Behind the shoulders of three brilliant prima donnas of the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus there is a considerable history of professional, creative, personal, when there is something to talk about. And they themselves have an opportunity to

why not? So it was Marina who gave a push to the project, that's why we are presenting three ballerinas in the project. The performances were chosen by Irina Eromkina, Lyudmila Khitrova and Marina Vezhnovets. By the way, these three soloists together will be seen on stage in the premiere performance in April.



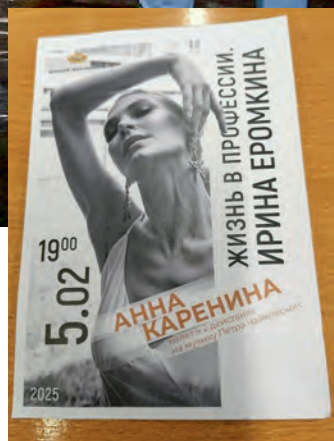
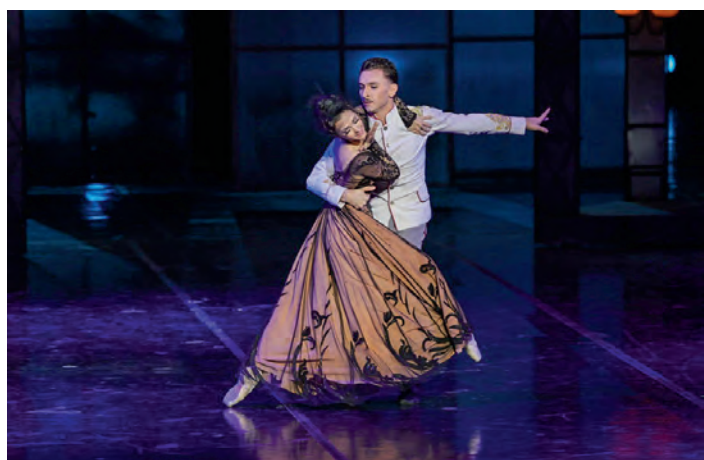
come to the office of the chief ballet master and discuss their future, including the repertoire movement, and not only in classical titles, which is the basis of any theater, but also to make proposals for participation in further performances. And when we began to calculate their steps in the profession, we came to the conclusion that ballerinas are really at that wonderful age when you, being at the peak of creativity, already know a lot and manage your creative life. I would like the ballet dancers of our theater to have a facet in the form of support of the theater in such evenings as "Life in the Profession". And it all started with the request of Marina Vezhnovets to dance a Girl in the ballet "Illusions of Love". At that moment I was so surprised, because this is absolutely not Marina's role, as it seems to me. But I thought to myself,



■ Irina Eromkina, People's Artist of Belarus, and Igor Kolb, Chief Ballet Master of the Theater, at the press scrum at the Tapestry Hall of the Bolshoi Theater

■ Spectators in evening dresses in the foyer before the performance "Anna Karenina" – beauty and aesthetics





- Scenes from the ballet "Anna Karenina". The part of Alexei Karenin was danced by People's Artist of Belarus Anton Kravchenko (left), the part of Alexei Vronsky by Konstantin Belokhvostik.
- Irina Eromkina's autograph session after the performance

Irina Eromkina was asked with what mood she is preparing to go on stage in 40 minutes and dance such a difficult role of Anna Karenina.

— My mood is calm. Today I am tuning in to the performance without too much excitement. Excitement gets in the way. And I think only about the fact that I will tell the audience the story of my heroine, which was written by Lev Tolstoy. It is very interesting. Everyone knows this story, reads it, tries to understand Anna. It is not the first time I have danced the image of Anna, but each time I perceive it in a different way. As a ballet dancer it depends on many things. And on the partner who is with you. Your partner is your assistant on stage. There are duets when there is such a merger, when you don't even feel your partner. Today I dance with Konstantin Belokhvostik. It's the first time I'm paired with him. We have, you might say, a duet premiere. And it creates an atmosphere of surprise. I don't know how he will behave on stage. For me, as a ballerina, this moment is interesting because it will allow me to experience the performance anew.

Why did I choose this performance? Anna Karenina is one of those roles that can be called a role of mystery. It gives the artist the opportunity to think about what the character was feeling, what she was dreaming of, what she was striving for, why she did what she did and not what she did, and whether she had a choice...

Anna Karenina encourages you to think. When we were working on the play, there was a conflict in my soul. I'm very different in life. And what I had to portray was my complete opposite. I'm a model mom. My children are the most important thing. And for Anna, love was the most important thing. I kept trying to figure out why she did what she did. Eventually I realized that Anna's emotions were so strong that she could not do otherwise, having stopped feeling what is the most important thing in life. She had fallen madly in love. I can't afford anything like that in life. On stage, yes. That's why I can say that gradually Anna and I found a common language. Every ballerina, it seems to me, strives to dance this part, to experience the storm of emotions that you can't experience in life.



■ Lyudmila Khitrova, Honoured Artist of Belarus, and Igor Kolb traditionally willingly communicate with journalists before the performance "Romeo and Juliet".

■ Photo exhibition in the lobby of the Bolshoi Theater dedicated to Lyudmila Khitrova

Lyudmila Khitrova

— Today's evening, — Igor Kolb shared with journalists, — is dedicated to the phenomenon of the Belarusian ballet — Lyudmila Khitrova, who chose the role of Juliet for her benefit evening, to feel herself in space and in the profession. The part has been close to Lyudmila since childhood. It was her dream. And today the role will be experienced by the prima in a different way, already with a sense of herself in her profession and in today's day. Of course, the theme of love is always relevant, the theme of tragedy, as well as of the first meeting, of a budding feeling. I know that artists have fears, when they feel that they don't fit the role and it's difficult to appear in front of the public in a slightly different way. But that's what these evenings are for. Of course there are risks. And yet... I know from history many ballerinas who have danced roles performed in their youth at a deeper age. We know Ulanova who danced Juliet at age 45. There are recordings of Irina Kolpakova, who danced at 30, 40 and 50 in Aurora. And when I talked to her, she reviewed her roles and said: when she was thirty, it was beautiful, and when she was 40, it was terrible... But she was not afraid of age, and every time she analyzed what was good and what she was not satisfied with. So I wanted the opportunities for our stars to be used in a timely manner. And that they could be in one evening what no one in the audience expected them to be. It's also an opportunity for artists to



realize who you are today, maybe revisit a part you've had to dance many times, and realize where to go next. It has to be done. I always believe in miracles. Although I prepare for the worst, I am sure inside that a miracle will happen.

I don't know whether the public liked our project, its beginning, but I have clearly defined one point for myself. It concerns my question to Irina Eromkina at the end of the performance: "Ira, are you happy?" And I heard on an exhalation an unequivocal: "Yes!". This is exactly what the project was worth starting, preparing for, and continuing to initiate.

Lyudmila Khitrova, who came out to the journalists 40 minutes before the performance, had such lightness and



- Scenes from the ballet “Romeo and Juliet”. Ballet soloist Konstantin Belokhovostikh plays opposite Lyudmila Khitrova.
- Lyudmila Khitrova’s autograph session lasted more than an hour. This beautiful evening has already become history.

airiness in her walk and figure, which is characteristic of her heroine, whose age, as we know, is quite young.

— In the world of ballet there is a stereotype that usually girls in the school aspire to dance the part of Odette-Odile from “Swan Lake”. This production is considered to be a reference performance. And I, studying at the Nizhny Novgorod Theater School, watched the play “Romeo and Juliet”. I don’t remember what theater came to us then, who danced on stage, but I fell in love with the image and the music. A dream to dance the part of Juliet appeared. And it came true in Minsk. I prepared the first performance with Lyudmila Henrikhovna Brzhozovskaya. Then the premiere took place not only for me, but also for my partner Egor Azarkevich. We were being introduced into the performance together. It’s a very interesting process when both partners haven’t danced the performance before. Of course, we watched different movies and ballet performances, and read a lot. In general, the preparation of each part, not only Juliet, is made up of cubes and puzzles, which are assembled into a common picture, – admitted Lyudmila. – Of course, life baggage affects each party. Juliet is a young character, and I hope that despite the fact that I have been dancing this role for many years, I will be able to show her youthful maximalism. As for Franco Zeffirelli’s movie “Romeo and Juliet”, I have seen

it several times. And preparing for the performance today, I asked our makeup artist to make my hair like that of Olivia Hussey, the performer of the role of Juliet in this movie. She inspires me. For me, it’s a Juliet reference, although I realize that we are all different. And I will, of course, bring my own personality to this character. Just as I did.

Before the performances the audience could get acquainted with photo exhibitions dedicated to prima ballerinas, and after the performance they had an opportunity to get autographs of the artists. As for the performances in which Irina Eromkina and Lyudmila Khitrova were soloists, it is enough to look at the faces of the applauding audience on the photos, as well as at the queues of spectators standing in line to get autographs from their favorite ballerinas. And I will say for myself: it was fantastic.

And on February 23, when the magazine was printing, Honored Artist of Belarus Marina Vezhnovets tried on a completely new image – a Girl in the production “Illusions of Love”. It was a benefit performance for the prima, who continued the project “Life in the Profession”, about which we will tell you in the next issue.

Valentina Zhdanovich
Photo by Viktor Drachev, author and
of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus



DEBUT IN STAGE DIRECTION

THESE PEOPLE IN A STRANGE APARTMENT



he premiere of the play "Idiots" based on the novel by the popular Swedish writer Fredrik Backman "Anxious People" at the Belarusian Youth Theater in Minsk was sold out. Young people were asking for an extra ticket a block away from the theater.



Theater-goers know about this performance, which used to be performed on the small stage of the Youth Theater. And now the play has been moved to the big stage. The premiere took place. In the theatre world, this is always an event that professionals follow closely, to see whether the performance has benefited from the new stage scale, or lost, what has changed in it... I will say right away, it won. The actors were in for a treat. Of course, it is not only a comfortable stage space. Also Backman's fiction with its depth of exploration of vulnerable human nature, which allowed the director Anatoly Lagutenkov to unite the seemingly incompatible — completely different people in the face of trouble, to reveal in them the essence that they hide in life under heaps of fears and illusions. And in some ways they remind us.

- Stage Director – Anatoly Lagutenkov
- Estelle – Elena Khristich
- In the roles of police officers, father and son, Aleksey Shutov – Jim, Nikolay Vorobey – Jack

Yes, the production, designated by genre as a lyrical detective story, based on Fredrik Backman, was staged by the popular Belarusian actor Anatoly Lagutenkov, who is closely involved in the repertoire of the Youth Theatre. And, it seems, he managed to subtly feel what will captivate the audience. Sincerity is the word for it! And, of course, an understanding of the director's profession. Well, it was not for nothing that he studied at the Academy of Arts, where he mastered the basics of acting and directing. He graduated from his alma mater in 2015 and was assigned to the Youth Theater.

In love with the works of Fredrik Backman, with quality literature

DIRECTORIAL DEBUT



■ Realtor – Natalia Podvitskaya

about human relationships, emotional experiences of ordinary people, their complexes and anxieties, according to the actors involved in the play, he managed to unite everyone with this love. And the authorship of the staging belongs to Anatoly. Of course, he says, the actors also helped during the rehearsals.

“We rehearsed with such great inspiration!” recalls Elena Khristich, who played the role of the venerable old lady Estelle. “It was a special time. What tasks did the director set for us? Play, he said, and as sincerely as you can, play for your own pleasure. Which is what we tried to do. Anatoly literally infected us with his liveliness and energy. He is a director who is interested in the logic of events and the motivation of human actions, the thought process. He revealed to us the cause-and-effect relationships of what was happening, encouraged us to delve into the details, understand the psychology of the characters. By the way, he immediately came up with stories for all of us, gave everyone a direction. And he united everyone. For example, I even debated with him. Anatoly heard me. A director who hears the actors, tries to understand them, is a professional. Perhaps he also has a keen director’s ear and an artistic and imaginative mindset because he is an actor himself. And, by the way, Tolya is a wonderful stage partner. Whether he succeeded as a director is up to you to judge.”

But we are not judges, not theatre critics, we are journalists and grateful spectators who followed the detective events taking place on stage throughout the performance. And a detective story in the theatre is fun. And not only that. It is also good for the mind. As is known, detective stories are preferred by people who look into the essence of things. The audience reacted to what was happening lively, not embarrassed by short remarks and infectious laughter. And at the same time, there were moments when it seemed the audience was not breathing. And in the finale there was an ovation... So, the beginning of the performance. There are incredibly unpleasant people on stage. They have all come to look at an apartment that is up for sale. Everyone likes the apartment, and everyone wants it. People are chattering like a flock of jackdaws. They interrupt each other, run, fuss. And you want them to shut up so much... And we, of course, if we leave the plot of Fredrik Backman’s novel, do not yet know that already in the second act we will gradually begin to love and justify them, and by the finale we will be completely moved. And we will perceive them as our own kind, as, say, relatives, in some ways similar to us. The reasons for their vanity and tightness will be revealed, their fears will be revealed, all masks will be thrown off. And the mannequin people (the plywood figures illustrate this) will become simple people, alive and real, made of flesh and blood. Not idiots! Normal. Similar to you and me. Weak in some ways, flawed



in some ways, small and funny in some ways, but kind, ready to help each other, understand and forgive everyone. And even to do good. The director will lead them to such an ending.

In the meantime, like a skilled puppeteer, he will hold the strings of the action in his hands, and as Elena Khristich put it, he will direct everyone along a given orbit, as if along an invisible bridge created for rapprochement. Therefore, we can say that the acting ensemble, in which each character is the main one, has come together in this performance. Everyone played their character at a decent level. Everyone is alive, with their own experiences, secrets, with their own pain, which they hide behind the “façade” that they are used to hiding behind in life.

The premiere production featured the following actors: Elena Khristich as Estelle, Anna Laukhina as Zara, Denis Moiseychik as Lennart, Tatyana

Novik as Anna-Lena, Marina Blinova as Ru, Aleksey Shutov as Jim, Lyubov Pukita as Yulia, Viktoria Chumak as a psychologist, Olga Lifputs, Nikolay Vorobey as Jack, Natalia Podvitskaya as a realtor, Sergey Sharangovich as Roger, Aleksandra Zmitrovich as the Robber. Respect also goes to lighting designer Vladimir Sergienko, who subtly felt the nuances of the mise-en-scènes. Musical design by Mikhail Korenev is also, as they say, on point. As are the sets by Tatyana Matseevich and costumes by Ekaterina Gerasimenko.

The plot is introduced to us by a theatre programme. A bank robbery. Hostage taking. A shot. In a small town on

- Take off your masks, gentlemen!
- Zara – Anna Laukhina
- Contact is being established. Next to Estelle on the left is Yulia (Lyubov Pukita,) on the right is Anna-Lena (Tatyana Novik).
- The final scene of the performance was given an ovation.



New Year’s Eve, a masked gunman takes eight hostages during a showing of an apartment for sale. The police immediately block all approaches to the house and prepare to storm the apartment. The atmosphere is tense. Soon the robber understands that in a confined space, among these unbearable people, the only hostage is himself. And the hostage will turn out to be a woman who has nothing to feed her children... And so everything will turn out that each character will tell his/her story, fortunately there will be time for this. And the team will even order pizza... And everything will turn out to

be simple. The hostage will be released. And we will gasp: the strange little apartment is not for sale. The show with the sale was arranged by a lonely and strange old lady Estelle, whose husband died long ago, her daughter left and there will be no one to arrange fireworks for the New Year...

In fact, the lyrical detective story “Idiots” at the Youth Theater is a very kind story that reminds us of how important humanity, compassion and love for one’s neighbor are in life. And as it turns out, it’s not at all scary to show them.

Valentina Zhdanovich
Photo credit: the author

Evgeniy Arendarevich:

"THE AUDIENCE WILL NOT BE LEFT WITHOUT GOOD BELARUSIAN CINEMA"



Following the 100th anniversary of Belarusian cinema, the professional community found itself at the next stage of rethinking: what from the past to take into the future of the national cinematography, what to develop again? The voice of the members of the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers has become louder in such discussions – nowadays the departments of this Republican Public Association were formed in each region on the basis of local film distribution organizations, it can promote and implement legislative initiatives. In opinion of the Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers Evgeniy Arendarevich, the organization now is able to influence the processes related to cinematography across the country more actively – that's the point of discussion.

– How “crowded” is your creative organization now? Does it have a core of personalities, whose names are popular throughout Belarus, whose authority is high and indisputable?

– At the time of the extraordinary congress of the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers in July 2024 its members included around 470 people. Today, the Union joins 570 members. The Union's structure itself has been reformed: the Board was updated, which includes 17 prominent representatives of the Belarusian cinematography. Besides, amendments have been made to the Charter of the organization itself: the regulation to create the Presidium of the Union was adopted. The Presidium of the Union of Cinematographers includes: Chernetsky Ruslan Iosifovich, Karpilova Antonina Alekseevna, Stepanova Valentina Alekseevna and Girgel Sergey Nikolaevich. This way of work organization allows to discuss and make decisions more quickly. The members of the Union are directors, cameramen, screenwriters, film

experts, who have become masters of their craft and have actively shot films in the past years.

– To what extent is the development and existence of this creative Union related to the state of the film industry in Belarus?

– The Union – is an association of creative personalities hence it's definitely connected with the general state of the film industry. The question is what kind of connection it is: spreading what kind of sentiments and opinions are we talking about? The general conclusion is that the Belarusian cinematography has something to strive for and develop in, what means that the disputes and passions that raged in the past did not have a constructive basis that distinguishes creative discussion from criticism and interpersonal conflicts. The rich experience of previous years, attempts to overcome crisis phenomena are useful and considered while evaluating the general state of the Belarusian cinematography

and implementation of ways for further development.

The Belarusian Union of Cinematographers, being a public organization, strives to act as a moderator and a link between all interested parties in the country's cinematographic process. There are common themes, common activities and the vision of ways to achieve the goals is mostly common.

– Film production in the Republic of Belarus is mainly provided by the state – it is, in fact, the main producer, customer and source of financing. And “Belarusfilm” actually remains the main studio of the country, according to tradition. What is the strength or weakness of this tradition?

– At all the times, any state needs films which give the opportunity to address a viewer as a citizen. The viewer has the signs of gender and age, belongs to a certain social group, but among other things is also a citizen. And it is crucially important not to confuse duties, rights, true choice of the citizen and realization of rights, individuality and personality of the viewer, i.e. the consumer.

For the audience, the access to satisfy the demand for entertainment content is very wide: two clicks in a search system and you can watch any movie of any country and any genre. Given that, it is very important to position yourself skillfully in the fierce competition for audience attention. And here comes to mind proverbial “love can't be forced”. It's important to answer the question sincerely: “What can you do better than others, what can only you do and for whom? What is the uniqueness of your offer?”. If you find answers to these questions, the role of both the state and the film studio, which is an integral part of state media system becomes clearer.

Why try to compete for the audience's attention in the entertainment content segment, where the viewer already has preferences and favorites? Therefore, the government and the film studio raise and realize themes of national significance and scale at a high artistic level.

The Union of Cinematographers and the “Belarusfilm” Film Studio, as the flagship of the national film industry, have common topics for discussion and common tasks for implementation. The uniqueness of our country is in the fact that in difficult times, the government and the people know how to preserve peace and order in their homes: cleanliness on the streets, uninterrupted operation of all branches of the economic and industrial complex, and this is the daily concern of some people at specific enterprises and organizations. The theme of historical heritage, gratitude to the past generations of workers and heroes, as well as to the current generations, is being developed by the national cinematographers at the “Belarusfilm” Film Studio.

Documentaries and television publicism are well handled by colleagues working on television channels (by the way, the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers has opened a department of television workers).

The question of economic profitability cannot be separated from artistic achievements. But as we know, not everything

could be valued by money and economic profit. The history of world cinema knows examples of how the artistic merits of a particular picture were not always confirmed or determined by box office sales.

– In your opinion, does Belarusian cinema have its own face?

– There are certainly some distinctive features. Some people may consider them as positive, other ones as negative: but these are different sides of the same phenomenon. For example, the focus on academic tradition in the selection of themes and language of film narrative. However, over the past few years, there has been a tendency towards a more informal format of communication with the viewer. All these are signs that the Belarusian cinema is striving to keep up with the global development trends.

The glory of the Belarusian cinema of the past years was forged by masters who were distinguished by their maximum demands on themselves as an artist and on the creative team headed by the director. Hopefully, the glorious traditions of the past years will have the opportunity to develop today, including through events organized by the Union of Cinematographers.



■ Still of the movie “His Name was not Listed”

– There was a lot of sincerity and depth in the Soviet films on the war theme which is painful for the republic. What should modern war films be like?

– Modern technologies allow us to tell and reveal the theme of the heroic war past of our people on a new level. An example of a new and necessary approach was the joint work of cinematographers from Russia and Belarus on the project “His Name was not Listed” based on the composition of Boris Vasilyev. The film adaptation of the novel was made in the 90s, but for modern viewer it's important to tell history in a modern cinema manner. The premiere of the film “His Name was not Listed” is scheduled for the 1st of May.



■ The premiere of the film "Not on the list" will take place on May 1, 2025 and will be timed to coincide with the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War. The picture shows Vladimir Mashkov before the start of filming.

For comparison, I would say that love songs sound different 50 years ago and today. Old-school performance will find its audience, but the younger generation demands a more rhythmic and technological style.

– The variety of topics in Belarusian cinema... A dream or probable reality? Is it possible to consider competition as a positive one in film production in this context?

– Reasonable competition is for sure important and necessary for progress and development, primarily in the so-called commercial part of cinema: it is common practice to compare the budget spent, costs for promotion and advertising, box office earnings, collections, and so on. In the creative environment, there is a healthy degree of competition, but here, if comparison is possible, it is of a different kind: how well the concept was realized, how effectively the common language was found with the creative team, how the film was accepted by critics and viewers, and how timely it turned out to be (it often happens that a film is not accepted today but becomes a cult tomorrow)?..

Variety of themes is certainly important, but there's also a concept of priorities. Is it better to bake your own cake when, to put it crudely, they are already abundant on

the shelves, or should you seek the recipe for your own homemade rye bread that is needed every day? This is already a matter of repertoire policy and specifically of producers' decisions. State money is budget money, and the budget is the people's money, taxes, fees, etc. Be needed by people is what truly matters; and the theme and genre are the creators' issues.

– TV-cinema is a story of its own. Nowadays Belarusian TV channels offer series of foreign producers. But why don't we produce such a product by ourselves?

– TV-cinema is mostly about economic and artistic expediency. A lot depends on budgets, the cost of one episode with involvement of media actors for "recognizability" is quite high. Experience of TV series producing have both film studio and private individuals. So far, the ratio of price, resources-spent and the artistic and commercial outcome are barely noticeable. But considering that technological progress is constantly developing, the cost of series shot on digital cameras is much more cost-effective than what was shot on film fifteen years ago, we believe that we will have competitive TV series. I'm glad to say that TV channels consider the opportunity make more actively TV series. The example for it is the series "Filling station number 1" filmed by the team of the ONT channel.

– **For Belarus, directions such as documentary and animated cinema are no less important and can be considered as our brands. How can we raise their prestige in the eyes of the domestic audience?**

– The viewer needs to be educated and brought up since kindergarten and school. To show and explain the difference between what he/she sees on Tik Tok and on a big cinema screen. Documentary is of a great value in itself, because it gives the opportunity to present the topic in such a way that is not possible through neither feature films nor journalistic television report. Animated cinema is its own universe, influence of which the viewers from all over the world feel especially strongly during the recent years. It is precisely animation that, paradoxically, quite often allows us to maintain the notorious balance between art and commerce. That is why Belarusian animation and documentary films have potential, given their rich traditions and status in the international festival arena.

– **The National Film Festival held in Brest, aimed to popularize national cinema, where critics noted successes and analyzed mistakes. Would it be beneficial to revive this idea?**

– Considering the active work and interest of television channels and independent studios in the development of the film community and the formation of viewer loyalty towards national television and film production, the creation, or rather, the revival of the national film festival is more than necessary. There is a “Televershina” award, let there be both a festival and a national cinema award. It is important to create the phenomenon of the new cinema of the Republic of Belarus in a versatile way.

– **Is it possible to make purely Belarusian film with status of “national” so that it would be interesting both to us and to foreigners, for example, on film festivals?**

– National cinematography is something that any state can be proud of: its own world vision, so called its announcement to the world “this is who we are”. That’s why the need to preserve both the concept and the development of films in “national” format is crucially important.

There are around five thousand film festivals nowadays. There are a lot more of them than good movies. Such a Belarusian film, if it’s done well by film provider, will be interesting for residents of Republic as well. How profitable such a project will be, and whether it will be successful, for example, in Russian, is point at issue. In theory, it is possible, but when it comes to practice, a huge number of conditions must be face to claim success and audience’s attention. If to set a goal and make a film with such criteria – everything is possible. The example for it is the film “The Black Castle”. The plot of it is based on the composition of Belarusian classic Vladimir Korotkevich, the film cast includes Belarusian and Russian actors. More important is the fact that Belarusian classics was filmed – other depends on components of success. And there are a lot of them.

From the business point of view, success is possible, just this summer, the film “Not home alone” was released in Russia, which was shot in Belarus by Belarusian cinematographers as well. It was recognized by the viewers. Commercial success allowed the team to film a sequel to this story in the fall.

– **There was an experience of selecting projects on a competitive basis and then financing them – do you consider it useful?**

– Competitive selection for financing projects is neither good nor bad in itself. The issue is what comes out of it. There is an opportunity to look at competitive selection back by 10 year and make a conclusion that it could be better. But what is better and for whom is a different matter. After all, for an artist to succeed as a director, cinematographer, and screenwriter, practice is needed. Time, money and films are needed. And there are changes for the better. The decade of functioning of the Faculty of Screen Arts of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts is bearing fruit. Even though, not in the volume and quality that was expected at the beginning of the journey, the graduates still work for television channels and film studios.



■ Still of the movie “His Name was not Listed”

Quantity will inevitably turn into quality. A constructive and responsible dialogue is taking place between the Ministry of Culture, the film studio, the Academy, and television channels. We have each other, and therefore the audience will not be left without good Belarusian cinema. Systematic work is constantly conducted between the Belarusian Union of Writers and the Union of Cinematographers to find a national literary basis for replenishing the screenplay portfolio. It is important to strengthen trust and self-confidence among all participants in the cinematic life of the country.

Larisa Timoshik
Photos from open sources

"The Banner of Victory" was placed in the museum

More than forty unique works dedicated to the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory were included in the mobile cultural and patriotic exhibition project "The Banner of Victory", which was presented at the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus. The project is organized by the main museum of the country in cooperation with the Russian Orthodox Maecenas Club and the Russian Cultural and Educational Society.



So, the format of mobile projects, popular in the second half of the 19th and the first quarter of the 20th centuries, is being revived nowadays. And as Anna Kononova, General Director of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus, noted, the experience of a mobile exhibition project is very precious because it allows single educational idea unites several regions and even countries. “The Banner of Victory” is a good example of a good trip of a mobile exhibition project. The fact is that the same exhibition was already presented last year at the Museum of History of Mogilev, was presented at the Defense Museum of Brest Fortress and decorated the White Hall of All Saints Memorial Cathedral in Minsk. “We are very pleased that we are the one who is raising “The Banner of Victory” in 2025 year, when the celebration of the 80th





This time the main gallery of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus was filled with paintings by famous modern artists of the Russian Federation, who have high state awards. Most of the presented artistic works can be really called modern, because they were painted in 2010, 2014 and even 2023-2024 years. These are totally new works that are presented to the audience. And thanks to their help the process of understanding the historical events of the heroic war years becomes more valuable.

Anniversary of the Great Victory begins,” Anna Kononova figuratively expressed.

As for the features of the current exhibition, this time the main gallery of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus was filled with paintings by famous modern artists of the Russian Federation, who have high state awards. Most of the presented artistic works can be really called modern, because they were painted in 2010, 2014 and even 2023-2024 years. So, these are totally new works that are presented to the audience. And thanks to their help the process of understanding the historical events of the heroic war years becomes more valuable.



One of the organizers of the project, Vyacheslav Maksimenko, an authorized representative of the Russian Orthodox Maecenas Club, confirmed that there are indeed more than four dozen works dedicated to the Great Patriotic War on display. “We have started this project last year, when Belarus celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Republic. And now our “The Banner of Victory” continues to march in this anniversary year,” he noted.

Academician of the Russian Academy of Arts, People’s Artist of the Russian Federation Pyotr Stronsky also came to present his works at the exhibition. He stressed that the best works had been selected for the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus. The artist himself brought two



80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY



paintings to the exhibition, and both of them are of a particular importance to him. "There is a portrait of my father, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War. The picture shows the plot when the father rereads those triangle letters that he sent to his mother from the front. On the background of the canvas, four more of his brothers go to the front. This is the story of our family, the story of my father and my uncles, who defended their homeland in the war against Nazi Germany and militaristic Japan. The

second work is a portrait of the legendary Georgy Shiroky, a marine who defended Malaya Zemlya near Novorossiysk and took part in the combat actions for the defense of Leningrad. He is a legendary man who is easily recognized when you come to the exhibition: a peakless cap, chest of medals and a special sailorly spirit....," said Pyotr Stronsky. Archpriest Fyodor Povny, Rector of the Parish in honor of All Saints of the Minsk Diocese of the Belarusian Orthodox Church, was the guest of the grand opening



It is important to note once again despite all the stylistic diversity of the works presented by these and other authors, they have a common desire to show the attitude towards war as a huge human tragedy, the memory of which is preserved to this day in almost every family in both Russia and Belarus.



ceremony of the exhibition project. He noted that great art is designed to capture the history and special spiritual state of a person, as well as reflect eternity throughout time. "Otherwise, it becomes decorative and commercial. Art is one of the most effective ways for people to preserve historical truth along with prayer. Prayer is most often true if it comes from a sincere heart and out of sincere love for God. And great eternal art must also be truthful. Its censor is the conscience and spirit of the artist. When the spirit of

an artist hears the spirit of God, his canvases also become a prayer," he concluded. "The Great Victory of 1945 is the greatest event for our people. It took place at the level of the biblical battle of the good forces with the forces of darkness. And "The Banner of Victory" is a symbol of the crushing of the darkness of Nazism. The further we move back in time from 1945, the more the real story will be mythologized. Only art and great literature will preserve the spirit of truth." Franz Korzun, a researcher at the exhibition department





of the National Art Museum and supervisor of the project, clarified that despite the fact that the project as a whole is dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory, the current exhibition primarily represents a cross-section of how the theme of war is reflected in the work of artists of the post-war generations. There are wartime subjects, still-life paintings and landscapes, portraits of veterans, illustrations for works about the war. For example, Lyudmila Yuga, Honored Artist of the Russian Federation, showed a series of illustrations to Alexander Tvardovsky's poem "I was killed near Rzhev".

Among the authors of the exhibition are Anton Stekolshchikov, National Artist of the Russian Federation, Alexander Polozov, Honored Artist of the Russian Federation, Alexey Burtosenkov, full member of the Russian Academy of Arts, Boris Sergeev, Honorary member of the Russian Academy of Arts, and other famous masters of fine arts of modern Russia.

However, it is important to note once again despite all the stylistic diversity of the works presented by these and other authors, they have a common desire to show the attitude towards war as a huge human tragedy, the memory of which is preserved to this day in almost every family in both Russia and Belarus.

As for the mobility of "The Banner of Victory" project itself, Minsk is the final point where it is represented in Belarus. Next, the exhibition will be returned to Russia, where there are museums that also want to see it on their sites.

Vsevolod Evseev



САЦЫЯЛЬНАЕ СЛУЖЭННЕ

На варце традыцыйных каштоўнасцяў

“Захаваўне міжканфесійнай і міжнацыянальнай згоды – адзін з важнейшых фактараў, з якім звязана развіццё нашай краіны”, – заўважыў Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак падчас сустрэчы, якая прайшла ў Доме прэсы і была прысвечана ролі традыцыйных канфесій на сучасным этапе развіцця краіны.

На 2024 год у Беларусі налічвалася 3419 рэлігійных абшчын, прадстаўлена 25 канфесій і кірункаў. На тэрыторыі нашай краіны пражываюць прадстаўнікі 156 нацыянальнасцяў. Як раскажаў Упаўнаважаны, найбольш масава ў беларускую рэспубліку прыбывалі прадстаўнікі розных народаў у пасляваенныя гады – яны ехалі дапамагаць аднаўляць яе пасля Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Тут яны знаходзілі сяброў, стваралі сем’і. Часта заставаліся маладыя людзі, якія праходзілі ў нашай краіне вайсковую службу, атрымлівалі адукацыю. Міграцыйныя працэсы не спыніліся, калі Беларусь стала самастойнай дзяржавай. Тут знаходзілі дом бежанцы з тэрыторый, на якіх адбываліся ваенныя канфлікты. Сёння ў краіне створаны ўмовы для таго, каб прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў маглі захоўваць сваю культуру і рэлігію, што служыць умацаванню грамадства. У той жа час шмат робіцца і для падтрымкі традыцыйных канфесій.

Павелічэнне рэлігійных арганізацый звязана з перыядам станаўлення незалежнай дзяржавы. Так з 1989 па 1996 год іх колькасць падвоілася. “На пераломе грамадска-палітычных фармацый узнік пэўны вакуум у духоўным развіцці, менавіта з гэтага пачалося адраджэнне, духоўны рэнесанс у грамадстве”, – адзначыў Аляксандр Румак.

Актыўна аднаўляліся храмы, вярталіся святыні, прычым ініцыятыва ішла знізу, ад простых людзей.

Сям’я ў прыярытэце

Упаўнаважаны раскажаў, што сёння традыцыйныя канфесійныя структуры Беларусі маюць вялікі ўплыў у грамадстве. Больш дзвюх трэцяў рэлігійных арганізацый, зарэгістраваных у нашай краіне, – абшчыны Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквы і Рымска-Каталіцкага касцёла. Прадстаўнікі абедзвюх канфесій актыўна супрацоўнічаюць з рознымі міністэрствамі і ведамствамі. Асвета, выхаванне падрастаючага пакалення, захаваўне



■ Аляксандр Румак

Паводле 2024 года у Беларусі налічвалася 3419 рэлігійных абшчын, было прадстаўлена 25 канфесій і кірункаў. У краіне пражываюць прадстаўнікі 156 нацыянальнасцяў.

традыцыйных каштоўнасцяў, умацаванне статусу сям’і – асноўныя кірункі, у якіх вядзецца сумесная работа прадстаўнікоў канфесій і дзяржаўных устаноў. Намеснік старшыні Пастаяннай камісіі па міжнародных справах Палаты прадстаўнікоў, старшыня Экспертнага савета пры Упаўнаважаным па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Алег Дзячэнка, звярнуў увагу, што ў апошнія гады дзяржава шмат зрабіла для замацавання хрысціянскіх каштоўнасцяў у нацыянальным заканадаўстве, напрыклад, як норма ў Канстытуцыі прадстаўлена традыцыйнае разуменне сям’і і шлюбу.

Сёння ў гарадах Беларусі можна ўбачыць банеры з сацыяльнай рэкламай у абарону жыцця і сямейных каштоўнасцяў. Серыя плакатаў была распрацавана па ініцыятыве Дабрачыннага фонду “Пакроў” пры падтрымцы Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквы, Міністэрства працы і сацыяльнай абароны, Міністэрства аховы здароўя.

Па ініцыятыве Беларускай Праваслаўнай царквы і Саюза пісьменнікаў створаны Грамадскі савет па маральнасці, які аб’ядноўвае прадстаўнікоў канфесій, дзяржаўных і грамадскіх арганізацый, творчай інтэлігенцыі.

Добрае сэрца

Рэлігійныя арганізацыі далучаюцца да дабрачынных акцый, рэалізуюць сацыяльныя праграмы, накіраваныя на дапамогу дзецям, інвалідам, састарэлам, займаюцца рэабілітацыяй людзей з алкагольнай і наркатычнай залежнасцямі. Прадстаўнікі царквы і касцёла наведваюць бальніцы, пансіянаты.

Дзякуючы праекту Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквы “Сэрца Беларусі” і створанай ў рамках яго інтэрактыўнай карце, можна даведацца пра тое, якія сацыяльныя ініцыятывы рэалізуюцца ў розных кутках Беларусі, далучыцца да іх альбо звярнуцца па дапамогу.

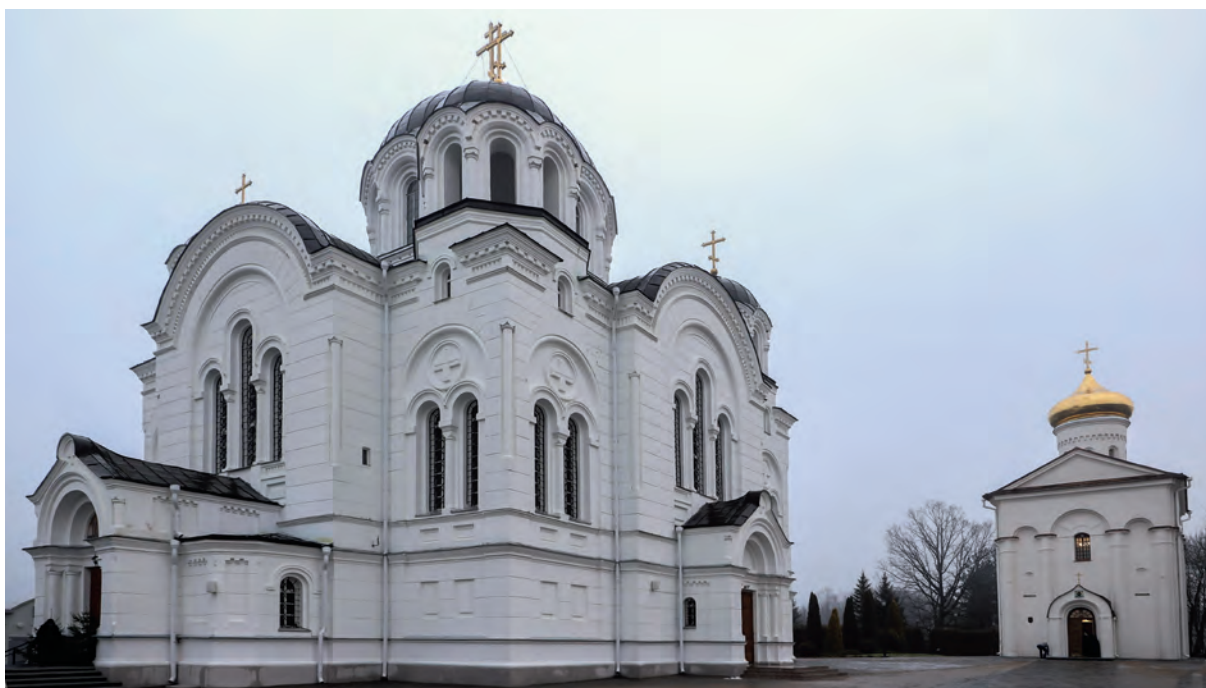
Як сказаў прэс-сакратар Мінска-Магілёўскай архіепархіі Рымска-Каталіцкай царквы, ксёндз Юрый Ясевіч, многія праграмы па сацыяльным служэнні прадстаўнікі касцёла рэалізуюць разам з тэрытарыяльнымі цэнтрамі сацыяльнага абслугоўвання насельніцтва. Ён адзначыў, што сёння супрацоўніцтва паміж дзяржавай і рэлігійнымі арганізацыямі вядзецца па розных кірунках. Сярод найбольш важных – захаванне і аднаўленне спадчыны. Сведчаннем таму, што духоўнай сферы надаецца асаблівая ўвага, можа быць той факт, што пасля пажару ў Будслаўскім касцёле першай прыйшла дапамога менавіта ад дзяржаўных органаў кіравання.

Адраджэнне святыняў

Пытанні захавання гістарычнай памяці, у тым ліку пра подзвігі і трагедыі, якія адбываліся на беларускай зямлі ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, таксама не застаюцца без увагі канфесій. Так, дзякуючы супрацоўніцтву Праваслаўнай Царквы сумесна з Белтэлерадыякампаніяй, быў падрыхтаваны фільм “За паству і Айчыну”, які расказвае пра подзвігі прыхаджан і святароў. Ён быў прадстаўлены ўпершыню 9 мая 2024 года, пасля ўдзельнічаў у кінафестывалі “Лістапад”.

Сёння царквы і касцёлы адкрыты не толькі для вернікаў і паломнікаў. Актыўна развіваецца рэлігійны турызм. Пры храмах ствараюцца музеі, іх тэрыторыя добраўпарадкавана, многія святыні сталі візітнымі карткамі як сваіх населеных пунктаў, так і Беларусі. Сярод такіх аб’ектаў – Жыровіцкі манастыр. На значнасць святыні для ўсяго праваслаўнага свету і на тое, што гэта жамчужына павінна атрымаць годную агранку, звярнуў увагу Прэзідэнт краіны Аляксандр Лукашэнка. Таму ў Жыровічах не толькі вядзецца работа па рэстаўрацыі аб’ектаў манастыра, прыгажае тэрыторыя ўсяго аграгарадка. Сёлета тут будучь адзначацца два





■ На тэрыторыі Спаса-Ефрасінеўскага жаночага манастыра адкрылася пасля рэстаўрацыі Спаса-Праабражэнская царква (на здымку – справа)



юбілеі – 555-годзе з’яўлення цудадзейнага абраза Божай Маці Жыровіцкай і 505-годзе манастыра. Да 900-годзя рыхтуецца Спаса-Ефрасінеўскі стаўрапігіяльны жаночы манастыр у Полацку. Пасля рэстаўрацыі на яго тэрыторыі адкрылася Спаса-Праабражэнская царква, пабудаваная яшчэ пры жыцці Ефрасініі Полацкай. Гэта адзіны на тэрыторыі Беларусі храм XII стагоддзя, які цалкам захаваўся да нашых дзён. 90 працэнтаў яго сцен пакрыты старажытнымі фрэскамі. Над іх раскрыццём некалькі гадоў працавалі лепшыя рэстаўратары Беларусі і Расіі. Ва ўрачыстым адкрыцці святыні пасля рэстаўрацыі ўзялі ўдзел Патрыярх усяе Беларусі, Мітрапаліт Мінскі і Заслаўскі Веніямін, Старшыня Савета Рэспублікі Наталля Качанова, міністр культуры Руслан Чарнецкі, старшыня Віцебскага аблвыканкама Аляксандр Субоцін, старшыня Полацкага райвыканкама Ігар Марковіч, ганаровыя госці і жыхары горада. Спаса-Ефрасінеўскі манастыр з’яўляецца адным з найбольш запатрабаваных аб’ектаў рэлігійнага турызму. Так, за мінулы год яго наведалі толькі ў складзе экскурсійных груп (якіх было каля дзвюх тысяч) больш за 45 тысяч чалавек.

Яўген **Кручкоў**
Фота БелТА і РУП “Дом прэсы”

ТРЭЦЯЕ ПАКАЛЕННЕ — НА РАДЗІМЕ ПРОДКАЎ

У канцэртах, абрадах, мерапрыемствах, якія нашы суайчыннікі праводзяць за мяжой, вельмі часта ўдзельнічаюць дзеці і моладзь. Многія з іх – прадстаўнікі другога, ці нават трэцяга пакалення, што нарадзіліся за межамі Беларусі. Чаму блакітнавокую краіну яны любяць не менш, чым іх бацькі і дзяды, якія тут, нарадзіліся і выраслі, а пасля воляй лёсу апынуліся ў чужых краях?

Адзін з адказаў на гэта пытанне я пачула ад намесніка старшыні нацыянальнай культурнай аўтаноміі беларусаў Карэліі Аляксандры Перхінай: “Хочацца пазнаць, адкуль мы. Трэба ведаць гісторыю той зямлі, на якой нарадзіліся нашы продкі, дзе яны пралівалі пот, слёзы, кроў, калі яе баранілі. Але і даследаванні “па крыві”, калі ты разумееш, якім быў твой род, не менш важныя. Добра, калі яшчэ ёсць сваякі старэйшага ўзросту, у размовах з якімі атрымліваеш зачэпкі, што дазваляюць узнаўляць сямейнае дрэва. Калі як грыбніцу распутваеш свой радавод,

робіш столькі адкрыццяў! Напрыклад, па лініі бабулі ў маім родзе былі лётчыкі, у тым ліку герой Савецкага Саюза. А мой муж – з нашчадкаў вядучага ювеліра фірмы Фабержэ”.

Дзяўчына прызналася, што ніколі ў яе не было адчування, што Беларусь – замежжа. Тут яна мае багата сваякоў, да якіх яе сям’я ў госці ездзіла ў кастрычніку-лістападзе. Яе бабуля ўвесь час казала: “Вось збярэм агарод і паедзем у Беларусь, як белыя мухі паляцаць”...

Мары здзяйсняюцца

Нашы суайчыннікі робяць вельмі шмат, каб любоў да Беларусі прывіваць сваім нашчадкам з самага “нежнага ўзросту”. З малымі яны развучаюць вершы, песні, праводзяць заняткі па роднай мове, чытаюць беларускія казкі, ставяць спектаклі, робяць лялек-абярэгаў ды іншыя вырабы. У розных кутках свету беларусы замежжа ствараюць як дарослыя, так і дзіцячыя вакальныя і танцавальныя калектывы. Але дзеці і ўнукі перасяленцаў бачаць сны пра Беларусь не толькі дзякуючы такой рабоце. Любоў перадаецца і праз рэчы з бабуліных куфраў, якія беражліва захоўваюцца ў сям’ях, і праз цеплыню, з якой старэйшае пакаленне ўзгадвае пра радзіму, праз вандроўкі па мясцінах, дзе нарадзіліся продкі...

У мінулым годзе ў вясенняй творчай стажыроўцы для беларусаў замежжа, якую праводзіў Рэспубліканскі цэнтр нацыянальных культур, узяў удзел сямігадовы Мірон з Карэліі – сын Аляксандры Перхінай. Маладая мама расказала, што малы напісаў у лісце да Дзеда Мароза сваё жаданне: наведаць Беларусь – чароўную зямлю,



якую так любяць яго маці, бабуля, прабабуля... Мара малаго хутка збылася, разам з бацькамі ён упершыню прыехаў у Мінск, прайшоў шэраг майстар-класаў, усклаў кветкі ў Хатыні, нават пазнаёміўся з міністрам культуры. Бацькі Мірона расказалі, што хлопчыка з сабой на стажыроўку ўзялі яшчэ, каб паглядзець, якія з ведаў, што яны атрымаюць падчас стажыроўкі на занятках з майстрамі народнай творчасці, можна пераняць для работы з дзецьмі.

Назіраючы за юным удзельнікам стажыроўкі, нашы суайчыннікі з Карэліі адразу зрабілі для сябе пэўныя высновы. Так, яны заўважылі, што лозапляценне для дзетак малодшага ўзросту наўрад ці падыходзіць, хлопчыку было цяжка працаваць з пруткамі, за тое Мірону вельмі спадабаліся заняткі керамікай. Цікавым адкрыццём для суайчыннікаў стала набіванка – калі пры дапамозе розных штампікаў з нацыянальнымі ўзорамі можна рабіць адбіткі на тканіне. Такія майстар-класы, Аляксандра Перхіна ўпэўнена, можна прапаноўваць і самым маленькім, і моладзі. Дзяўчына падзялілася, што кожная стажыроўка, на якую суайчыннікі прыязджаюць у Беларусь, дае неацэнны вопыт. Адна справа шукаць інфармацыю ў інтэрнэце, іншая – атрымліваць яе непасрэдна ад народных майстроў і педагогаў устаноў культуры. Так можна даведацца пра нюансы, пра якія на віртуальных рэсурсах не прачытаеш. Напрыклад, пра тое, што для пляцення кошыкаў, каб яны атрымаліся надзейнымі, ладу трэба збіраць у пэўны час. Калі гэта не ўлічыць, выраб можа папросту разваліцца ўжо пасля аднаго паходу ў лес...

У Карэліі беларусаў больш за 23 тысячы – гэта трэцяя па колькасці этнічная група пасля рускіх і карэлаў, пры тым, што ў гэтай шматнацыянальнай рэспубліцы пражываюць прадстаўнікі 130 народаў. У многіх гарадах Карэліі створаны беларускія гурткі, творчыя калектывы. Самая ж вялікая колькасць нашых суайчыннікаў у гэтым паўночным расійскім рэгіёне – у Петразаводску. Аляксандра і яе муж прадстаўляюць яшчэ і аб'яднанне беларускіх фермераў у Карэліі. Яны плануюць стварыць вялікі беларускі падворак, на якім будуць праводзіцца святы, тое ж Купалле. Сужэнцы падзяліліся, што падчас стажыроўкі больш за ўсё іх уразілі людзі, іх адкрытасць, святло ў вачах, гасціннасць, шчырая гатоўнасць дзяліцца сваімі ведамі. “На поўначы, адкуль мы прыехалі, у людзей зусім іншы менталітэт, там кожны сам па сабе”, – заўважыў Вячаслаў Перхін. “Там людзі не жывуць вёскамі, яны нават, калі ў вёсцы набываюць дом, вязуць яго куды-небудзь у глыб у лес, каб абсталявацца абасоблена, сваёй сям’ёй, – працягнула Аляксандра. – Часам здаецца, што яны пазбягаюць зносін, ні з кім не хочуць дзяліцца сваімі сакрэтамі, у іх не дапытася, дзе, напрыклад, яны ягад набіралі”. Беларусы ж не такія. Гэта адчуваецца нават у дыяспары. “Мы заўсёды нясем з сабой

вяселосць, любім пачасаць языкамі, паспяваць. Маю бабулю ў той глухой вёсцы, дзе ў яе дача, мясцовыя завуць “няўрымслівай беларускай”, мая маці – заўсёды душа любога калектыву, – заўважае дзяўчына. – На любых мерапрыемствах, якія праводзяцца ў Карэліі, дзе розныя народы прадстаўляюць сваю культуру, беларусаў заўсёды чакаюць. Мы ж ідзем да людзей з усёй душой, нясем пачастункі, сала з уласных падворкаў”.

Хлеб пахне радзімай...

Падчас размовы з Аляксандрай я адчула, што люблю да Беларусі ў яе найперш ад бабулі – Веры Цімафееўны. Кожны раз, калі прадстаўнікі малодшых пакаленняў бываюць у нашай краіне, рыхтуюць бабулі гасцінцы. А яна звычайна просіць, каб ёй з



бацькаўшчыны прывезлі яблыкі ці хлеб. Старая ўдыхае водар бохана і кажа, што ён пахне радзімай. Бабуля Аляксандры – з той вялікай хвалі перасяленцаў – беларусаў, якія прыехалі ў Карэлію пасля Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Дом яе згарэў у гады вайны, малой дзяўчынкай яна апынулася ў канцлагеры. Пасля вызвалення, калі вярнулася на радзіму, людзі жылі ў зямлянках, разам з маці яны туліліся па сваяках. Ужо ў 16 гадоў Вера сама вырашыла паехаць у Карэлію на будоўлю чыгункі па лепшую долю: там абяцалі добрыя заробкі і ўласнае жыллё. Насамрэч жыць доўгі час давялося ў вагонах, цягач на плячах цяжкія шпалы... Не раз яна думала вярнуцца дамоў, але ўсё не выпадала: то дамовы былі з чыгункай, па якіх яна павінна была адпрацаваць некалькі гадоў, то пайшоў рост па кар’ернай лесвіцы, а з ім і новыя абавязкі. Абзавялася сям’ёй, уласным жыллом – і вось ёй ўжо пад 90 гадоў...

У далечыні ад радзімы бабуля Вера працягвае збіраць зёлкі так, як навучылася яшчэ малой у сваёй бабулі-траўніцы. З-за вайны жанчына не паспела пераняць усе веды, але і ў Карэліі яна выкарыстоўвае назвы пэўных раслін, якія ў дзяцінстве чула ў сваёй вёсцы,

ведае “зёлкавы” фальклор (напрыклад, як зёлкі перавязаць, у які кут пакласці, каб засцерагчы дом ад няшчасцяў). А яшчэ ў сям’і як напамін аб каранях захоўваюцца даваенныя ручнікі, прывезеныя з радзімы.

Беларуская матрошка

Наталля Ганчарова – член праўлення самарскай абласной арганізацыі беларусаў і выхадцаў з Беларусі “Руска-беларускае братэрства – 2000” – расказала пра сваю сямейную рэліквію – ліст дзядулі з фронту. У Вялікую Айчынную вайну ён ваяваў на тэрыторыі Беларусі. “Калі перачытваю дзядулін ліст, напісаны 80 гадоў таму хімічным алоўкам, наварочваюцца слёзы. У той час, відаць, нельга было расказаць пра баі, людзі былі зацікаваныя ў здароўе адзін аднаго. Дзядуля

міжнародныя фестывалі “Беларусь – мая песня!” і “Адзінства”. У час іх правядзення гучаць музычныя творы не толькі на беларускай, але і на іншых мовах, бо мэта такіх мерапрыемстваў – захоўваць і ўмацоўваць сувязі паміж народамі. Праводзяцца і сустрэчы, звязаныя з памяццю пра Вялікую Айчынную вайну. З кожным годам павялічваецца колькасць жадаючых паўдзельнічаць у такіх мерапрыемствах.

Наталля Ганчарова расказала, што сёння палітыка, якая праводзіцца ў Расіі, спрыяе таму, каб людзі пазнавалі свае карані, захоўвалі традыцыі. У розных гарадах створаны дамы сяброўства народаў, працуюць нядзельныя школы па вывучэнні роднай культуры. Гэта спрыяе і абуджэнню цікавасці ў дзяцей да здабыткаў іншых народаў. Беларускія песні



хваляваўся за жонку, дзяцей, сваю маці”, – падзялілася Наталля. Яна выкладае ў Самары ў цэнтры пазашкольнай творчасці. Сваім вучням жанчына таксама паказвала ліст з фронту. Нават самым маленькім дзецям хацелася патрымаць такую рэліквію ў руках. Увосень Наталля прыязджала ў Беларусь на творчую стажыроўку для кіраўнікоў, салістаў і ўдзельнікаў вакальных калектываў беларусаў бліжняга і дальняга замежжа. Разам з ёй была яе маленькая дачка Сафія. Нягледзячы на юны ўзрост (4 гады) дзяўчынка ўжо выступае з мамай на сцэне, чытае вершы на беларускай мове. Да паездкі малая сур’ёзна рыхтавалася – вучыла верш “Жураўлі на Палессе ляцяць”. Калі ж яна апранула нацыянальную сукенку, доўга круцілася перад люстэркам і прыгаворвала, што яна – беларуская матрошка.

У Самары нашы суайчыннікі ўдзяляюць асаблівую ўвагу рабоце з дзецьмі. Шмат гадоў там праводзяцца

і танцы з задавальненнем выконваюць не толькі хлопчыкі і дзяўчынкі з сямей нашых суайчыннікаў, але і маленькія артысты, якія не маюць беларускіх каранёў.

Нашы суайчыннікі наладжваюць сувязі з установамі Беларусі. Так, самарскі цэнтр дадатковай адукацыі сябруе з Палацам дзяцей і моладзі “Золак” у Мінску. Бібліятэка народаў Паволжжа праводзіла тэлемасты з калегамі з Беларусі. Адзін з іх быў прысвечаны 80-годдзю вызвалення нашай краіны ад нямецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў.

“Радзе, што Беларусь і Расія як былі, так і застаюцца сёстрамі, што не парушаюцца сувязі, якія стагоддзямі наладжваліся нашымі продкамі, – заўважыла Наталля. Гэта грэе душу, усяляе надзею на будучае, хочацца верыць, што і нашы дзеці захаваюць гэта супрацоўніцтва”.

Алена **Дзядзюля**

ДАВАЙЦЕ СЯБРАВАЦЬ МУЗЕЯМІ...



Такія словы прагучалі падчас сустрэчы дырэктараў музеяў, якія займаюцца захаваннем і папулярызаваннем этнаграфічнай спадчыны. Прэзентацыю міжнароднага праекта “Традыцыі народаў культуры ў музейнай прасторы Беларусі і Расіі” правяла рэдакцыя “Гістарычнага часопіса”.

Як заўважыў галоўны рэдактар выдання Аляксандр Корзюк, з 2022 года ў БГЧ выходзіць серыя тэматычных нумароў “Музеі Беларусі”, але сёння ўжо трэба гаварыць пра праекты, якія рэалізуюцца і за межамі нашай краіны. У спецыяльным выпуску выдання прадстаўнікі музеяў Новасібірска, Іркуцка і Смаленска падзяліліся ўласнымі напрацоўкамі, звязанымі з захаваннем і папулярызаваннем матэрыяльнай і духоўнай спадчыны.

Гэтыя ўстановы з’яўляюцца партнёрамі Беларускага дзяржаўнага музея народнай архітэктуры і побыту.

“Асноўная місія нашага музея – адраджаць, захоўваць і перадаваць падростаючаму пакаленню помнікі драўлянага дойлідства, нашы песні, танцы, традыцыі, – падзяліўся дырэктар беларускага скансэна Эдуард Багдановіч. – Калі я пачаў знаёміцца з кірункамі работы музея “Смаленская крэпасць”, калег з Іркуцка, Новасібірска, зразумеў, што мы робім адну справу, місіі ў нас супадаюць, але кожная ўстанова мае сваю спецыфіку. Пазнаючы адзін аднаго, мы ўзбагачаемся, дэдукаемся пра новыя метады і формы работы”.

На сустрэчу прыехаў дырэктар Дзяржаўнага музея “Смаленская крэпасць” Сяргей Піляк. Гэта ўстанова яшчэ маладая, створаная ў 2020 годзе, тым не менш яе супрацоўнікі ажыццявілі шэраг міжнародных праектаў. Напрыклад, у Беларусі былі прадстаўлены такія

выстаўкі, як “Саюзная крэпасць” (зроблена па матэрыялах даследавання фартыфікацыі Беларусі і Расіі), “Смаленская крэпасць у артэфактах бібліятэк і архіваў Саюзнай дзяржавы”, прайшло некалькі міжнародных дыялогавых пляцовак. Сяргей Піляк заўважыў, што калі раней музеі абменьваліся выставачнымі праектамі, то сёння вядзецца пошук новых форм узаемадзеяння. Летась, напрыклад, сумесна з беларускімі калегамі быў праведзены пленэр “Пад мірным небам”, прысвечаны 80-годдзю вызвалення Беларусі ад нямецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў.



Беларуская хата ў сібірскім скансэне

Вельмі шчыльныя сувязі наладжаны паміж беларускім і сібірскім скансэнамі. Так, нядаўна ў Сібіры на тэрыторыі Архітэктурна-этнаграфічнага музея “Тальцы” была адрэстаўравана хата беларускага перасяленца. У час Сталыпінскай рэформы ў Іркуцкую губерню прыбыло больш за сто тысяч чалавек – прадстаўнікоў розных нацыянальнасцяў. Людзі шукалі лепшай долі, тут можна было атрымаць добры надзел зямлі, у дадатак даваліся “пад’ёмныя” каля ста рублёў (у той час за 40 можна было набыць карову). Сюды ехалі сем’ямі, вёскамі. Адным з лакальных пасяленняў беларусаў у Прыбайкаллі стаў Баядаўскі раён, вёскі Тургенеўка, Васільеўка, Талстоўка, Лідзінск.



Як расказаў дырэктар Архітэктурна-этнаграфічнага музея “Тальцы” Уладзімір Ціханаў, устаноўлена, што толькі пяць этнічных груп з тых, хто прыбылі на Іркуцкую зямлю ў часы Сталыпінскай рэформы, пакінулі матэрыяльную культурную спадчыну, якая карэнным чынам адрозніваецца ад мясцовай. Сярод іх былі і беларусы. Так, у Сібіры было прынята будаваць дамы з “кругляка”, а беларусы захоўвалі свае традыцыі пабудовы: бярвёны абчэсвалі. Цяпер у музейным комплексе “Тальцы” ствараецца новая зона, прысвечаная менавіта перасяленцам. Для аднаўлення беларускай сядзібы быў абраны і прывезены на тэрыторыю музейнага комплексу дом, пабудаваны ў 1909 годзе перасяленцам з Пружанскага павета Гродзенскай губерні. Зруб выдатна захаваны, а вось, каб аднавіць інтэр’ер сядзібы, супрацоўнікі сібірскага скансэна звярнуліся па дапамогу да Беларускага дзяржаўнага музея народнай архітэктуры і побыту. Па драўлянай архітэктуры Сібіры можа прасачыць, як людзі асвойваліся на новай тэрыторыі. Ім трэба было адваёўваць сабе тэрыторыю ў прыроды, выкарчоўваць лес, прыстасоўвацца пад мясцовы клімат. Так, калі жылы беларускі дом быў зрублены па беларускай традыцыі, то ўжо па гаспадарчых пабудовах можна бачыць, што шмат чаго перасяленцы пераймалі ў іншых народаў. Уладзімір Ціханаў спадзяецца, што беларуская экспазіцыя будзе спрыяць развіццю новых музейных

праектаў. Ён расказаў, што ў Іркуцкай вобласці пражываюць прадстаўнікі каля 180 нацыянальнасцяў і этнічных груп. Тут створаны дзяспары, якія імкнуцца захаваць народную культуру, беларуская – адна з найбольш актыўных. У Сібіры праводзяцца Каляды, Купале ды іншыя святы. Музей заўсёды гатовы прадставіць беларусам сваю пляцоўку. Супрацоўніцтва з дзяспарай дазволіць вярнуць жыццё ў стары дом: музей захаваў матэрыяльную культуру, а суайчыннікі могуць падзяліцца духоўнымі і культурнымі здабыткамі.

Тальцы з’яўляюцца першым у Расіі этнаграфічным музейным комплексам пад адкрытым небам, які будзецца на навуковай аснове, з улікам гісторыка-культурнага заніравання. Сёння на 70 гектарах зямлі знаходзіцца 217 аб’ектаў нерухомасці, і праца па развіцці тэрыторыі працягваецца. Як падзяліўся Уладзімір Ціханаў, сёння музей архітэктурна-этнаграфічны музей “Тальцы” адзіны ў Расіі выкарыстоўвае для развіцця ўнутраныя рэзервы. Ён мае ўласныя плотніцкія брыгады.

Гэты музейны комплекс з’яўляецца метадычным цэнтрам Сібіры і Далёкага Усходу па праблемах развіцця музея пад адкрытым небам, аказвае метадычную дапамогу іншым этнаграфічным установам. Сёння яго супрацоўнікі шукаюць новыя формы работы, ламаюць стэрэатыпы ў падачы інфармацыі, імкнуцца прыцягнуць увагу наведвальнікаў да этнаграфічнай спадчыны нават падчас фестываляў джаза і оперы.

Запрашаем на вячоркі

Дырэктар беларускага скансэна падчас сустрэчы падзяліўся некаторымі сваімі сакрэтамі: “Пры прыёме на работу я найперш высвятляю, на што здольны кандыдат: ці ўмее ён спяваць, танцаваць, іграць на музычных інструментах, пісаць сцэнарыі”. Менавіта з такімі супрацоўнікамі музей становіцца незалежным, ён можа зладзіць любое мерапрыемства, не будзе хвалявацца, напрыклад, што запрошаныя калектывы не змогуць даехаць. У якасці экспанатаў у беларускім скансэне ў Строчыцах выступаюць будынкi і гаспадарчыя комплексы. Такое асяроддзе ўплывае на спецыфіку работы музейнай установы. Тут адраджаюцца абрады і традыцыі. Напрыклад, сёлета на Шчодры вечар тут праводзілася рэканструкцыя абраду абыходу двароў, “пазычаная” ў жыхароў вёскі “Пагост” Жыткавіцкага раёна, а ў наведвальнікаў, якія прыедуць у Строчыцы на Масленіцу, ёсць магчымасць пазнаёміцца з абрадамз Гарадоцкага раёна Віцебскай вобласці “Пахаванне Дзеда”, стаць удзельнікамі абрада “Наведванне маладухі”... Супрацоўнікі музея праводзяць народныя гульні, запрашаюць на традыцыйныя танцы, развучваюць разам з гасцямі беларускія песні...

Алена Дзядзюля

ЧЫМ ГАНАРЫЦЦА ПІНСКІ ПАЛЯШУК

Сэрца Палесся, край дрыгавічоў – гэта ўсё пра Піншчыну. З даўніх часоў гэтыя землі прыцягвалі падарожнікаў. Пэўным чынам на папулярнасць краю сыграла прырода. З аднаго боку, дзякуючы Дняпра-Бугскаму воднаму шляху, Прыпяці і яе прытокам развіваўся Пінск, горад стаў буйным гандлёвым цэнтрам. З другога – у вёсках, раскіданых па астраўках, не занятых рэкамі і балотамі, захоўваўся архаічны уклад. Сёння ўжо цяжка паверыць, што раней Палессе стварала ўражанне залітых вадой прастораў. Але ў старажытных летапісах і картах на гэтых землях ўзгадавалася ці то возера, ці то мора, якое празвалі “Герадотавым”.

Некрануты край старажытнасцяў

Пра мясцовых жыхароў, якія праз пакаленні перадавалі свае сакрэты жыцця на вадзе, складаліся легенды. Казалі нават, што хутчэй рыба патоне ў вадзе, чым паляшук. Сярод даследчыкаў, якія звярнулі ўвагу, што на Палессі выдатна захаваўся фальклор, культура і традыцыі, былі Ісак Сербай, Дзмітрый Булакоўскі. “Некранутым краем старажытнасцяў” назваў Палессе і Якуб Колас, які прыехаў сюды працаваць пасля заканчэння Нясвіжскай настаўніцкай семінарыі. Сваю любоў да гэтых мясцін ён перадаў у знакамітай трылогіі “На ростанях”.

Нават у пачатку мінулага стагоддзя сюды яшчэ ездзілі па экзотыку. Так, знакамітая амерыканская даследчыца і падарожніца Луіза Арнер Бойд, якая пабывала ў Пінску і навакольных вёсках у 1934 годзе, захаплялася не толькі некранутасцю прыроды, палескімі вёскамі, дзе, як ёй падалося, людзі жывуць у “драўляным стагоддзі” – у архаічных хатах, пакрытых балотным трыснягом. Яе ўразіла, як палешукі на сваіх лодках-пласкадонках умеюць арыентавацца “сярод бязмежных, нерухомых вод, пакрытых высокай травой і кустоўем”. Асаблівыя ўражанні ў падарожніцы выклікаў мясцовы кірмаш, які ішоў не толькі на сушы, але і на рацэ – прама з лодак, на якіх былі дастаўлены тавары. Звярнула яна ўвагу і на тое, што прырода паўплывала на характар людзей, што жывуць на водных шляхах.

У наш час Піншчына ўжо не падобна на тую “палескую” Венецыю, якой яе ўбачылі падарожнікі XIX і пачатку XX стагоддзяў, але і сёння сюды варта ехаць па ўражанні. Тут можна пазнаёміцца са старажытнымі абрадамі і нават паўдзельнічаць у іх – напрыклад, у вёсцы Мёрчыцы, дзе створаны



■ Вулічная скульптура палешука

цэнтр традыцыйнай культуры і побыту “Спадчына Палесся”. Па-ранейшаму ёсць цікавасць у турыстаў і да Кудрычаў. У былой рыбацкай вёсцы на беразе Ясельды яшчэ захаваліся старыя, крытыя трыснягом, будынкі, борці. Па раёну можна выправіцца і ў літаратурныя вандроўкі. У Пінкавічах можна патрапіць у былую школу Коласа – тут створаны літаратурна-краязнаўчы музей. Рудка – радзіма “палескай ластаўкі” – паэтэсы Яўгеніі Янішчыц. Музей у Лапаціне прысвечаны Аляксандру Блоку – паэт тут служыў у гады Першай сусветнай вайны. Падчас Вялікай Айчыннай вайны менавіта на Піншчыне быў створаны адзін з першых партызанскіх атрадаў, які даў першы бой ворагу 28 ліпеня 1941 года...

Над ракой Пінай

Сучасныя жыхары Пінска ганарацца сваім горадам не менш, чым іх папярэднікі, якія сто гадоў называлі яго “палескім Ліверпулем” ці

Сёння гэта святыня з’яўляецца адной з візітных картак горада, асабліва прыгожа ансамбль манастыра выглядае з боку ракі Піны. Манастыр францысканцаў – адзін з буйнейшых у Беларусі архітэктурных ансамбляў у стылі барока. Яго вяршыня – кафедральны касцёл Узнясення Найсвяцейшай Дзевы Марыі. У мінулым годзе ён быў адзначаны ў рэспу-



■ Палац Бутрымовічаў
■ Пінскі арган

бліканскім конкурсе “Пазнай Беларусь” як адзін з лепшых аб’ектаў рэлігійнага турызму. Гэта адзін з трох беларускіх храмаў, які мае статус малай базілікі (побач з Будслаўскім касцёлам і касцёлам Святога Ксаверыя ў Гродне). Яго інтэр’еры здзіўляюць багаццем дэталей і вобразаў. Напрыклад, у роспісе з пакланеннем вешчунёў замест біблейскіх пастухоў пакланіцца Ісусу прыйшлі мясцовыя жыхары – юны пастушок, стары паляшук у лапцях, кабета ў палескім строі, шляхціц з гасцінцамі ў кошыку. “Пінскую мадонну” мастак Альфрэд Рэмер таксама пісаў з мясцовай жыхаркі. Маладая жанчына з распушчанымі

“палескай Масквой”. Нездарма на знакамітай пінскай “пешаходцы” гасцей сустракае ганарысты паляшук, які важна загібае пальцы і заяўляе: “Па-першае, я з Пінска”. Калі б бронзавую вулічную скульптуру можна было б ажывіць, такі персанаж мог бы гадзінамі распаўядаць пра гісторыю і культуру свайго краю.

На жаль, на сёння з шасці манастырскіх ансамбляў Пінска цалкам захаваліся толькі францысканскі.

валасамі, што відаць з-пад хусткі, басаноў ідзе па аблоках, якія нагадваюць мясцовыя туманы. У касцёле захоўваецца адзін са старэйшых і самых вялікіх арганаў Беларусі (ён мае 1498 труб). Паслухаць гэты інструмент можна падчас свят, фестывалей арганнай музыкі.

Ці не за кожным домам пінскай пешаходкі, якую часам мясцовыя завуць “Арбатам”, стаіць гісторыя. Больш за сто гадоў Палескаму драматычнаму тэатру.



Яго візітная картка – спектакль “Пінская шляхта” па п’есе Вінцэнта Дуніна-Марцінкевіча.

Сярод выпускнікоў былой мужчынскай гімназіі, пабудаванай яшчэ ў сярэдзіне XIX стагоддзя, – вучоны хімік, першы прэзідэнт Ізраіля Хаім Вейцман, архітэктар Іван Жалтоўскі, інжынер-электроншчык, вынаходнік у галіне тэлевізійных сістэм Ісак Шэнберг, адзін з заснавальнікаў расійскай фармакалогіі Міхаіл Машкоўскі.

На закладку палаца Матэвуша Бутрымовіча ў 1784 годзе прыязджаў кароль Станіслаў Аўгуст Панятоўскі. Менавіта ён і заклаў першы камень у падмурак будынка. Месца для палаца выбіралася з відам на раку Піну. Калі высветлілася, што тут б’юць падземныя ключы, была пабудавана дрэнажная сістэма. Сёння тут працуюць палац па рэгістрацыі шлюбав і філіял краязнаўчага музея, экспазіцыя, якога знаёміць з гісторыяй як самога будынка, так і яго знакамітых гаспадароў. Сярод іх былі прадстаўнікі і такіх родаў, як Орды і Скірмунты.

Падчас прагулкі па “пінскай пешаходцы” можна заўважыць пад нагамі шасціграннікі так званай “трылінкі”. У 30-я гады мінулага стагоддзя інжынер Уладзіслаў Трылінскі прапаноўваў выкарыстоўваць замест камянёў пліткі, якія рабіліся з колатага базальтавага каменя, залітага бетоном. Такія будаўнічыя матэрыялы яшчэ называлі “пінскай косткай”. Трылінкай у тэя часы былі забрукаваны вуліцы і плошчы палескіх гарадоў і дарога на Брэст.

Паглыбленне ў гісторыю

У будынку найстарэйшага архітэктурнага помніка Пінска – іезуіцкага калегіума – размясціўся Музей Беларускага Палесся. Летась гэта ўстанова адсвяткавала стагоддзе. У фондзе музея захоўваецца каля ста тысяч экспанатаў. Больш даведацца пра Пінск як горад дзевяці стагоддзяў можна дзякуючы экспазіцыі, прысвечанай гісторыі ад старажытнасці да

- Драўляны веласіпед
- Макет комплексу іезуіцкага манастыра
- Узоры ганчарных вырабаў



пачатку XX стагоддзя. Сярод экспанатаў – старажытныя фібулы, прасніцы, тураўскі саркафаг XII стагоддзя, калекцыя керамічнай пліткі, статут Вялікага Княства Літоўскага, выдадзены ў Вільні ў 1694-м, зброя і адзенне салдат вайны 1812 года. Асобная экспазіцыя звязана з Вялікай Айчыннай вайной. Цэнтральнае месца ў ёй займае кіцель легендарнага партызанскага камадзіра Каржа. Яго перадала музею дачка Васіля Захаравіча – Зінаіда. Асобныя экспазіцыі знаёмяць з этнаграфіяй, рамёствамі і промысламі гэтага краю. Маецца тут і ўнікальны экспанат – драўляны веласіпед, зроблены мясцовым умельцам Васілем Ільчыкам у 1931 годзе. Асаблівы ж гонар музея – “Палеская Трэццякоўка”. У яго карціннай галерэі сабрана шыкоўная калекцыя жывапісу, у тым ліку работы Шышкіна, Паленкова, Перова, Макоўскага, Пэна, Цвірко, Масленікава.

Таццяна **Бузіноўская**

НЕВЫЧЭРПНАЯ КРЫНІЦА – РОДНАЯ МОВА

Штогод у лютым Інстытут мовазнаўства Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук праводзіць тыдзень беларускай мовы. У гэты час праходзяць канферэнцыі, круглыя сталы, сустрэчы акадэмічных вучоных з пісьменнікамі, выкладчыкамі, школьнікамі і студэнтамі, праводзіцца рэспубліканская дыктоўка па беларускай мове, інтэлектуальныя гульні, прэзентацыі кніг.

Як заўважыў дырэктар Інстытута мовазнаўства Ігар Капылоў, сёння ў нашай краіне вялікая ўвага ўдзяляецца патрыятычнаму выхаванню, захаванню гісторыка-культурных каштоўнасцяў, спадчыны. Вялікую работу ў гэтым кірунку вядуць мовазнаўцы, у іх шматлікіх працах зафіксаваны не толькі моўныя скарбы... Па сабраных за 95 гадоў работы Інстытута мовазнаўства матэрыялах можна вывучаць гісторыю народа. І крыніца гэта сапраўды невычэрпная.

Даследаванні старажытных крыніц

Захаванне і папулярызацыя моўнай спадчыны як сведчанне нацыянальна-культурнай ідэнтычнасці беларусаў з самага пачатку заснавання Інстытута знаходзілася ў сферы ўвагі вучоных. Слоўныя скарбы, захаваныя ў старажытных пісьмовых крыніцах, вывучаюць супрацоўнікі аддзела гісторыі беларускай мовы. Дзякуючы іх фундаментальным працам можна не проста пазнаёміцца са старой лексикай, вялікая ўвага ўдзяляецца асвятленню гісторыі беларускай мовы, яе значэнню, ролі і функцыі ў грамадска-палітычным і культурным жыцці продкаў. Праз свае кнігі яны даносяць да сучаснікаў словы вядомых культурных і грамадскіх дзеячаў, як напрыклад, у такой працы як “Мова выданняў Францыска Скарыны”. Нядаўна пабачылі свет манаграфіі “Лексіка старабеларускай літаратурнай пісьмовай мовы XIV–XVI стагоддзяў” і “Мова беларускага летапісання ў кантэксце развіцця

беларускай літаратурнай мовы старажытнага перыяду”. Апошняя праца – гэта новы напрамак даследаванняў у інстытуце, упершыню летапісы разглядаюцца як ядро фарміравання нормаў літаратурнага пісьмовага ўжывання. Ужо даследаваны граматыка і лексіка старабеларускай мовы, а ў 2025 годзе будзе завершана даследаванне гістарычнага сінтаксісу.

Вучонымі шмат зроблена па вяртанні нашых хрысціянскіх каштоўнасцяў – праваслаўных кніжных помнікаў, такіх як Слуцкае Евангелле, Жыцце Ефрасінні Полацкай, Полацкае Евангелле, Жыровіцкае Евангелле, Жухавіцкае Евангелле.

Сярод самых вялікіх дасягненняў вучоных – “Гістарычны слоўнік” у 37-мі тамах. Гэта першы і адзіны ў айчынай гуманітарнай навуцы даведнік, які з максімальнай паўнатай адлюстроўвае багацце слоўнага фонду беларускай мовы XIV–XVIII стагоддзяў і выступае надзейнай крыніцай пазнання мінулага. Як заўважыў Ігар Капылоў, практычная, навуковая, сацыяльная значнасць, адсутнасць аналагаў у свеце даюць усе падставы лічыць “Гістарычны слоўнік” праектам стагоддзя беларускай гуманітарыстыкі і адным з найважнейшых здабыткаў. На бягучую пяцігодку вучонымі абрана новая тэма даследаванняў – “Стварэнне і лінгвістычнае суправяджэнне тэкставай базы старабеларускай мовы як асновы вывучэння, выдання і папулярызацыі пісьмовай спадчыны”. Актуальнасць яе абумоўлена

неабходнасцю ўсебаковага вывучэння пісьмовай спадчыны, укаранення ў гісторыка-лінгвістычную дзейнасць новых распрацовак ў галіне штучнага інтэлекту. Сярод задач, якія стаяць перад вучонымі – вяртанне пісьмовай спадчыны, якая знаходзіцца за межамі Беларусі і недаступна шырокаму колу карыстальнікаў. Адна з такіх крыніц – “Слоўнік актавай мовы” Івана Насовіча, які знаходзіцца ў архівах бібліятэкі Санкт-Пецярбурга.

Паспець сабраць і захаваць!

Яшчэ ў савецкі час была сфарміравана моцная школа дыялектолагаў. У 1950–60 гады яны ўзяліся за маштабныя даследаванні моўных скарбаў, якія збіралі ў экспедыцыях па вёсках усёй Беларусі. Адзін з вынікаў іх працы – “Дыялекталогічны атлас беларускай мовы”. За яго беларускія вучоныя адзіныя сярод дыялектолагаў Саветаў Саюза былі ўганаваныя дзяржаўнай прэміяй СССР. Яшчэ адно дасягненне ў гэтым кірунку – “Лексічны атлас беларускіх народных гаворак”, які складаецца з унікальных лінгвістычных карт. Яны дэталёва адлюстроўваюць, на якіх тэрыторыях ужываюцца розныя словы беларускіх народных гаворак. А гэта 35 тысяч адзінак! Моўныя багацці розных раёнаў Беларусі зафіксаваны ў рэгіянальных слоўніках, сярод якіх – тураўскі, “Слоўнік паўночна-заходніх гаворак”, “Мова Сененшчыны”. Упершыню ў гісторыі славянскага мовазнаўства беларускімі дыялектолагамі быў падрыхтаваны цэлы комплекс тэматычных слоўнікаў, у якіх абагулена лексіка, якая падказвае, якія словы нашы продкі ўжывалі для апісання жывой прыроды, характарыстыкі чалавека і яго дзейнасці, сельскай гаспадаркі, іншых вытворчых заняткаў.

Сёння вядзецца праца па стварэнні зводнага слоўніка беларускіх народных гаворак. Па сутнасці, яна павінна стаць помнікам мове народа. На жаль, калі знікае вёска, людзі пераязджаюць у гарады, мяняюцца лінгвістычны ландшафт, словы, якія перадаваліся праз пакаленні ў пэўнай мясцовасці сыходзяць з ужытку. Таму і сёння вучоныя спяшаюцца сабраць у экспедыцыях тое, што яшчэ не знікла, сістэматызаваць, даследаваць і захаваць ў слоўніку. Між іншым, дыялектныя слоўнікі таксама могуць служыць

крыніцай, якая будзе жывіць літаратурную мову. Часта імі карыстаюцца пісьменнікі, асабліва, калі апісваюць мінулае, побыт вяскоўцаў.

Дзякуючы рабоце вучоных сталі даступнымі масаваму чытачу многія архіўныя матэрыялы. Так, была надрукавана кніга “Язэп Драздовіч. Моўная і этнаграфічная спадчына”, якая сёння запатрабавана рознымі даследчыкамі.

Новыя кірункі

Вялікая работа звязаная з унармаваннем сучаснай беларускай літаратурнай мовы. Інстытут з’яўляецца навуковым цэнтрам, дзе вядзецца работа па



■ Дырэктар інстытута мовазнаўства Ігар Капылоў і дырэктар Рэспубліканскага інстытута кітаязнаўства Анатоль Тозік

кадэфікацыі норм. Ім падрыхтаваны комплекс граматычных слоўнікаў, якія вытрымалі ўжо не адно выданне. Супрацоўнікі інстытута ўнеслі важкі ўклад у падрыхтоўку закона Рэспублікі Беларусь “Аб правілах беларускай арфаграфіі і пунктуацыі”, увядзенне ў дзеянне якога мае выключна важнае значэнне для павышэння прэстыжу беларускай мовы як дзяржаўнай, забеспячэння адзінага моўнага рэжыму ў навучанні і ў друкаваных выданнях.

Вучонымі былі апублікаваны манаграфіі, тэматычныя зборнікі, шматлікія навуковыя артыкулы, якія знаёмяць з сучаснымі даследаваннямі па праблемах лексікалогіі. Першы ў гісторыі беларускай



■ Падчас святкавання юбілею Інстытута мовазнаўства былі адзначаны лепшыя вучоныя. Сярод іх – Алена Боганева.

лексікаграфіі тлумачальны слоўнік беларускай мовы быў створаны на базе 2,5 мільённай картатэкі, ён адлюстроўваў тагачасны стан развіцця лексіка-фразеалагічнага складу беларускай мовы. У ім тлумачылася значэнне амаль 98 тысяч слоў. Цяпер вядзецца праца па падрыхтоўцы новага тлумачальнага слоўніка. У ёй будзе выкарыстаны новы матэрыял, іншыя падыходы, слоўнік павялічыцца ў аб'ёме.

Яшчэ адзін напрамак работы Інстытута мовазнаўства – руска-беларускія моўныя сувязі, супастаўляльныя даследаванні моў. Развіваецца і такая тэма даследаванняў як кітабістыка, калі вывучаюцца і друкуюцца рукапісы татараў, вяртаецца невядомая раней і маладаследаваная пісьмовая спадчына. На працягу многіх гадоў вучоныя працуюць на стварэннем этымалагічнага слоўніка, ужо надрукавана 14 тамоў.

Агульнаславянскі лінгвістычны атлас – яшчэ адзін праект, якім вучоныя займаюцца на працягу некалькіх дзесяцігоддзяў. Ён – міжнародны, даследаванні вядуць прадстаўнікі ўсіх славянскіх краін. Такая праца важная не толькі для мовазнаўцаў, але і

гісторыкаў, вучоных, якія займаюцца тэмай этнагенэзу славян.

Ужо створаны база даных для беларускага фальклорна-этнолінгвістычнага атласу, электронная версія ўнікальнага рукапіснага архіва, які быў сабраны вучонымі з удзелам студэнтаў, выкладчыкаў яшчэ ў канцы XX стагоддзя. Было даследавана каля 22 тысяч вёсак, сабрана каля 26,5 тысяч моўных адзінак.

Яшчэ ў 1960-х гадах, калі ніхто не ведаў пра штучны інтэлект, дзякуючы супрацоўніку Інстытута мовазнаўства Віктару Мартынаву вяліся даследаванні, прысвечаныя ўзаемасувязям лінгвістыкі, сіміётыкі і кібернетыкі. Працу працягнулі яго вучні.

Была падрыхтованая серыя канкардансаў. Створаны нацыянальны корпус тэкстаў беларускай мовы, з аб'ёмам у адзін мільярд словаўжыванняў. Для гэтага былі выкарыстаны шматлікія крыніцы, у тым ліку тэксты Бібліі Скарыны, корпус тэкстаў XIX і XX стагоддзяў, беларускія дыялектныя тэксты, корпус юрыдычных тэкстаў. У межах працы над гэтым праектам створана граматычная база беларускай мовы на 266 тысяч парадыгмаў. Дзякуючы сучасным тэхналогіям, якія дазваляюць абагуліць усе моўныя багацці, мы маем самы



вялікі слоўнік беларускай мовы, які па словах Ігара Капылова, уваходзіць у трыцятку найбуйнейшых слоўнікаў свету. Дасягненні мовазнаўцаў сёння даступныя дзякуючы сучасным тэхналогіям. Напрыклад, створаны электронны слоўнік беларускай мовы Івана Насовіча, анлайн-версія кітайска-беларускага слоўніка. Інтэрнэт-карыстальнікі ўжо высока ацанілі адзіную праграму праверкі беларускай арфаграфіі, унікальны сінтэзатар беларускай мовы з выкарыстаннем нейрасетак. Вядуцца даследаванні, звязаныя з выкарыстаннем штучнага інтэлекту ў стварэнні і рэдагаванні тэкстаў розных жанраў.

Яўген Кручкоў



Пра што можа расказаць старая рэч з бабулінага куфра? Як навучыцца ствараць вышыўкі як у неглюбскіх майстрых? Ці магчыма ўзнавіць тэхнікі, як ткалася панёва? Як перадаць моладзі любоў да народных традыцый? І чаму не трэба насіць аўтэнтыку? Адказы на гэтыя пытанні можна было атрымаць падчас міжнароднага круглага стала “Тэкстыльныя традыцыі гомельска-бранскага памежжа”, які прайшоў у Цэнтры даследаванняў беларускай культуры мовы і літаратуры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук.

Зазірнём у куфар калекцыянера?

Сустрэча была прысвечана выставачнаму праекту “Злучаючы берагі” – у рамках яго ўпершыню была прадстаўлена буйнейшая калекцыя народнага тэкстылю заходняй Браншчыны, у тым ліку і каштоўныя рарытэты канца XIX – пачатку XX стагоддзяў. Ручнікі, абрусы, жаночыя галаўныя ўборы, і нават традыцыйныя строі з панёвай (“архаічная спадніца”) выстаўляліся ў галерэі “Другі паверх” Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук. Усяго больш за 200 прадметаў з калекцыі краязнаўцы і этнографа з горада Навазыбкава Бранскай вобласці Аляксея Беласа. Як заўважылі беларускія даследчыкі, усё гэта – каштоўнейшы матэрыял для работы вучоных, бо традыцыю не магчыма “загнаць” у адміністрацыйна-тэрытарыяльныя рамкі. На памежных тэрыторыях захавалася культура, абрады, строі пэўных этнічных груп. Жыхары суседніх вёсак маглі пераймаць адзін у аднаго тэкстыльныя традыцыі, “пазычаць” у таленавітых гаспадынь элементы крою і вышыўкі. Калі ж у бранскіх вёсках прыслушацца да гаворкі старых жанчын, можна і сёння пачуць беларускія словы. Сваю калекцыю Аляксей Белас збірае ўжо больш 20 гадоў, першымі “прадметамі старыны” абзавёўся яшчэ школьнікам, з цягам часу захапленне стала прафесіяй, пасля школы ён нават пайшоў вучыцца на партнога. Пазней засвоіў і тэхніку ручнога ткацтва.

Сёння ў яго калекцыі больш за 1200 прадметаў тэкстылю. Прычым рэчы ён не проста збірае ў куфры, як гэта раней было прынята ў вёсках, але і актыўна папулярызуе, вазіў іх на выстаўкі ў Бранск і Маскву. Падчас круглага стала ён запрасіў беларускіх даследчыкаў прехаць папрацаваць з рэчамі, сабранымі з розных вёсак Браншчыны...

Дзякуючы калекцыі Аляксея Беласа на Браншчыне пачалі развівацца маладзёжныя праекты, звязаныя з вывучэннем народнай культуры і традыцый. Такім вопытам ён таксама гатовы дзяліцца з калегамі з Беларусі. Тым больш, што ў рабоце з моладзю выкарыстоўваюцца новыя метады работы, а не толькі лекцыі, выстаўкі, экспедыцыі ў вёскі і тэлемасты з навучальнымі ўстановамі Беларусі. Бранскія хлопцы і дзяўчаты праводзяць фолк-квэсты, фэсты, фотасесіі ў народных строях, здымаюць відэаролікі і робяць музычныя эксперыменты пры апрацоўцы народнага фальклору.



Я не нашу аўтэнтыку!

Беларускія даследчыкі ўпэўнены, што сёння моладзі трэба прывіваць ашчаднае стаўленне да старых рэчаў, бо кожнае іх мыццё дрэнна ўплывае на вырабы. У наш час такая спадчына продкаў з адыходам у вёсках саміх традыцый ткацтва і вышыўкі ўжо можа прыраўноўвацца да музейных экспанатаў альбо аб'ектаў даследавання. Словы “Я не нашу аўтэнтыку!” павінны стаць дэвізам для работы з моладдзю ўпэўнена старэйшы навуковы супрацоўнік аддзела



■ Аляксей Белас і Галіна Рудніцкая

фалькларыстыкі і культуры славянскіх народаў Цэнтра даследаванняў беларускай культуры, мовы і літаратуры Ірына Смірнова. Падчас круглага стала яна расказала пра свае даследванні строяў, якія яшчэ ў мінулым стагоддзі насілі жанчыны на беларуска-расійскім памежжы. Адным з самых цікавых быў неглюбскі, дакладней строй, які быў распаўсюджаны на пэўных землях Беларусі і Расіі.

Сёння яшчэ трэба ведаць, як апрацаваць складаны неглюбскі строй, як жанчыны раней насілі тую ж панёву, як маглі падтыкаць яе падол. Не так проста разабрацца і з завязваннем хусткі. Тут трэба ведаць нават якая прычоска, ці дадатковыя прыстасаванні павінны пад ёй быць, каб задаць пэўную форму галаўному ўбранню.

Важна да дробязяў улічваць розныя дэталі строя. Нават з упрыгажэннем трэба быць асцярожнымі. Раней неглюбскія жанчыны выкарыстоўвалі бусы, гарлячкі, і стужкі. Да самаробных бурштынавых завушніцы мацавалі “пушкі” (іх рабілі з пуху качара). Калі бусы апрацаваць няправільна вобраз ужо можа быць парушаны. У неглюбскай традыцы іх насілі высока, “пад горла”.

Мала проста сабраць усе элементы строя, трэба яшчэ ведаць, якія сэнсы ў яго канструкцыі стараліся закласці старыя майстрыцы. Так, у строях неглюбскіх жанчын угадваліся вобразы сусвету, птушкі. Без такіх

ведаў у сучасніц, якія самастойна сабе падбіраюць ці шыюць народны “гардэроб”, як заўважыла Ірына Смірнова, можа атрымацца незразумелы вобраз, “шумны”, а традыцыю ўсё ж трэба паважаць.

Вопытным шляхам да такіх адкрыццяў прыйшлі студэнты і выкладчыкі, якія вывучалі песні і традыцыі Неглюбкі і іншых вёсак Гомельшчыны. Як расказала дацэнт кафедры народна-песеннай творчасці і фальклору Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта культуры і мастацтваў Таццяна Пладунова, з канца 90-х пачатку 2000-х гадоў яны зацікавіліся абрадам “Пахаванне стралы” ў Веткаўскім раёне. У той час яшчэ было багата носьбітаў, і энергія, якая адчувалася падчас народных абрадаў, была незвычайнай. “Уявіце: 40 жанчын ідуць з аднаго канца вёскі і галосцяць так, што неба разрываецца, і з другога – яшчэ столькі ж. Падавалася, што на цябе абрынулася энергія неба, якое гучыць”, – узгадала першыя экспедыцыі са студэнтамі Таццяна Пладунова. У вёсках студэнты павінны былі засвоіць мясцовыя напевы, а пасля на іх аснове зрабіць мастацкую праграму па абраду “Пахаванне стралы”. Паралельна ўсплыла яшчэ адна задача: апрацаваць студэнцкі калектыў. Вопратка рабілася па традыцыях вёскі Неглюбка. Калі элементы строяў былі сабраныя, высветлілася, што цяжка зразумець, як іх апрацаваць. Часам самі носьбіты рабілі падказкі, дапамагалі завязваць хусткі на мясцовы манер, ці рабілі заўвагі, што ў іх вёсцы пэўныя рэчы апрацавалі не на “Стралу”, а на “Каляды”...

Пазнаванне новага, адраджэнне страчанага і ўкараненне у сучаснае асяроддзе – вось тры кірункі, у якіх сёння вядзецца работа вучоных акадэміі навук, звязаная з вывучэннем тэкстыльных традыцый. Пра гэта расказала Марыя Віннікава – старэйшы навуковы супрацоўнік аддзела старажытна беларускай культуры Цэнтра даследаванняў беларускай культуры мовы і літаратуры. Яна падзялілася, што ёй удалося разабрацца з сакрэтамі па ткацтву панёў, змагла даследчыца зрабіць і рэканструкцыю ўнікальнага добушскага строя, які, здавалася, быў страчаны...

Пра асаблівую неглюбскую вышыўку – белымі ніткамі па белым фоне – расказала выкладчык секцыі вышыўкі Беларускага саюза майстроў народнай творчасці, выкладчык студыі беларускай вышыўкі Галіна Рудніцкая: “З гэтай вышыўкай трэба пасябраваць, зразумець яе і тады ўбачыце, што яе можна раскласці па тэхнічных прыёмах”. Так, яна заўважыла, што белая вышыўка часта была з адздабляльных швоў, такіх як верхаплут. Элементы, выкананыя ў гэтай тэхніцы, прыгожа спалучаліся з лікавай гладдзю. Галіна Рэмаўна – аўтар серыі дапаможнікаў і ўзорнікаў, прысвечаных розным тэхнікам вышыўкі, у тым ліку і больш старажытным з распаўсюджаны сёння крыжык, які прыйшоў з Заходняй Еўропы і масава стаў “пакараць” нашы землі ў XIX стагоддзі.

Алена **Дзядзюля**



This snowy February

COUNTRY IN THE HEART OF EUROPE



Magazine for those
who want to know

ISSN 2415-394X



9 772415 394005



2 5002