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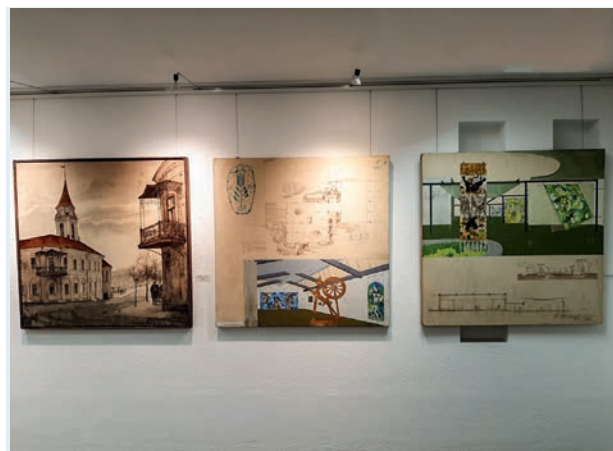


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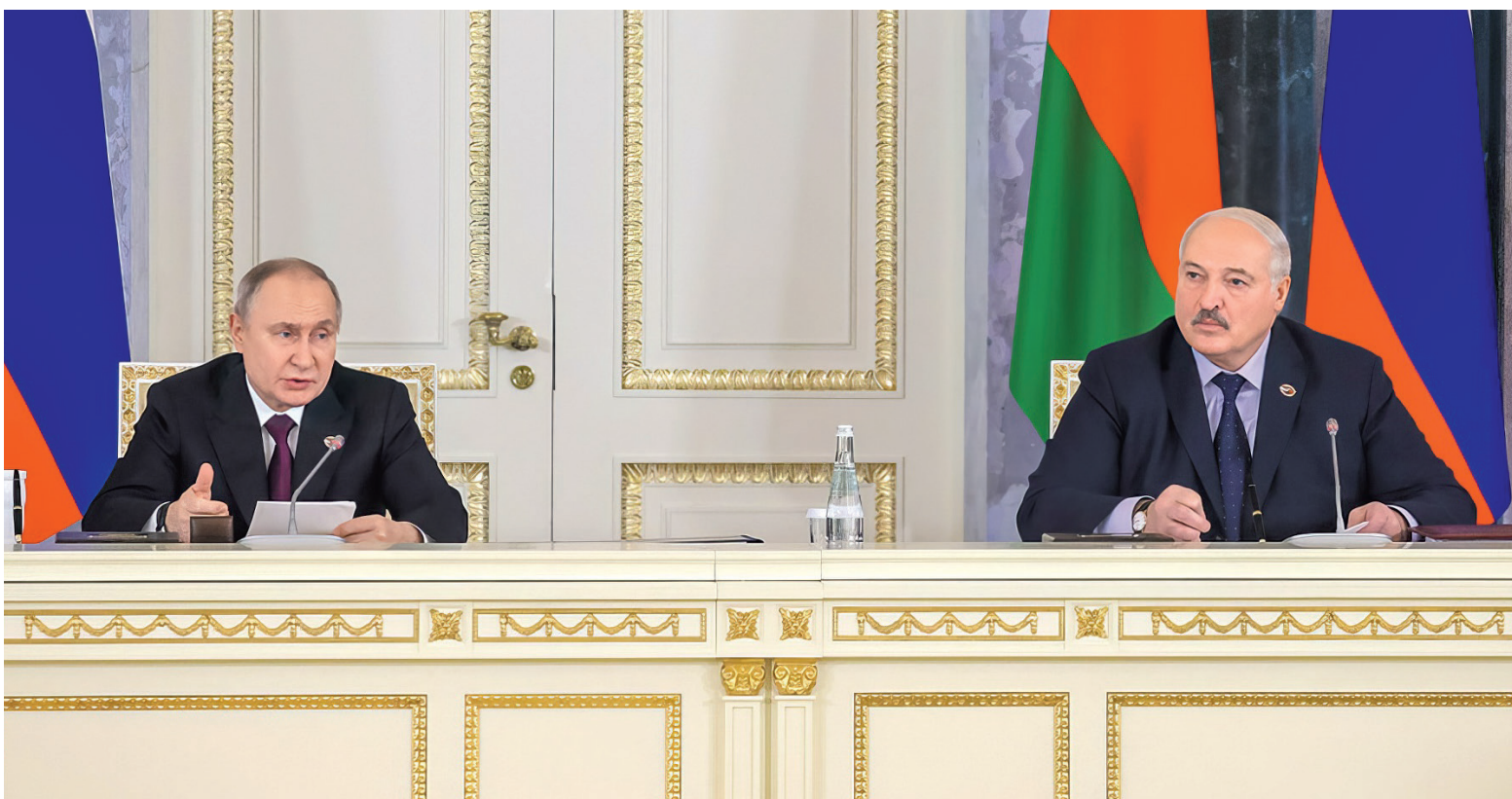


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CONTEXT

# EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN



**What the presidents of Belarus and Russia agreed on  
in St. Petersburg and what will be emphasised in union  
building in the next three years.**



**Without exaggeration, the end of January was marked by Belarusian-Russian integration. The key events of that three-day work visit of the Head of State to St. Petersburg were bilateral negotiations with the President of Russia and a meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Union State.**

### Dual carriageway

The meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Union State was traditionally preceded by a bilateral meeting of the presidents of Belarus and Russia. Negotiations took place in the Konstantinovsky Palace. In general, on this Sunday, the heads of state communicated for a total of more than eight hours in a variety of formats, including one-on-one, over a business lunch and tea, during joint events and travel. And that's not counting the meetings and events the day before.

In general, none of the world leaders meet more often than Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin. This emphasises the special nature of the allied relations between Belarus and Russia. Sanctions pressure pushed Minsk and Moscow towards closer cooperation in all areas. The results were not long in coming. Whatever sphere you take — economics, security, space, humanitarian ties — we have succeeded everywhere. Vladimir Putin drew attention to this at the beginning of his meeting with Aleksandr Lukashenko, “In general, the situation is developing very energetically. In the first 10 months of last year, trade turnover (according to our data) amounted to \$42.5 billion, and it is constantly growing. Russia is the largest investor: our investors invested \$4 billion in the economy of Belarus. This work is going on in a bilateral mode: our business operates in Belarus, but our Belarusian friends are increasingly exploring the Russian market. Relations are developing in all directions. Everything is growing at a fast, good pace.”

### Feature of the current moment

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that in the days preceding the meeting of the Supreme State Council, the presidents had very important events for the peoples of both countries. A memorial complex was opened near St. Petersburg in memory of civilians of the USSR — victims of the Nazi genocide during the Great Patriotic War, and then a requiem concert was held in the northern capital of Russia.

The President of Belarus also mentioned the event to put into operation a new wintering complex at the Vostok station in Antarctica. “As for Antarctica, the Soviet Union was correct not to divide anything, they worked together. We're glad we didn't separate. We are doing a common cause. And I thought: what country could provide such opportunities to a country like Belarus! After all, in Russia, by and large, we don't see any problems. Please come, work, let's work together, take, earn,

act. No country would be able to treat another the way you treat Belarus. Again, I'm projecting: what prevented Ukraine and the Baltic countries from working with us like that? This is our world, we have been building it for several decades, we won this terrible war together. Well, let's move in this direction! No, they don't want to — they are looking for a better life beyond the seas.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko formulated the peculiarity of the current moment as follows, “We are again faced with the question of the right to life of our civilization, to the preservation of primordial values and national cultures. We don't need someone else's, especially those blessings that were repeatedly implanted into our ancestors by fire and sword. And yet, both after the Victory and today we call for peaceful dialogue. But subject to respect for our historical memory and the truth about that war... Today they are sharpening their swords on our borders in order to come to us. They are coming back to us to make us 'better'. And where will we be? This is the main question we are trying to answer today. We respond and will respond. We will preserve our civilization, you can be sure of that.”

The Russian President, in turn, announced plans to inform Aleksandr Lukashenko in detail about what is happening in the zone of the special military operation. By the way, the leaders of the two countries managed to discuss issues of the economy and military-industrial complexes during informal communication during the day. “We don't hide anything. We discussed many problems, thought about how to further develop and what systems we will develop taking into account this bitter experience of a special military operation,” Aleksandr Lukashenko later reported.

### Aspects of collaboration

The main tasks and directions in the development of cooperation in the Union State, both in the current period and for the future, were outlined by the President of Belarus at a meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Union State. The Head of State said that by the end of 2023, the parties will update the historical maximum of trade in goods and services. “Vladimir Vladimirovich named a figure for ten months — more than 40 billion dollars, but if we take the year as a whole (goods and services) — it will be approximately 54 billion dollars. This is truly a historical maximum. Achieving high

## CONTEXT

results is largely the result of the implementation of 28 Union programmes, within the framework of which fundamental decisions were made. But we still have to develop general criteria for assessing the effectiveness of their implementation,” noted the President of Belarus.

The key reports at the current meeting of the Supreme State Council were the reports of governments on the implementation of the main directions of implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on the Establishment of the Union State for 2021—2023. The agenda also included the approval of a new programme document for the next three-year cycle — for 2024—2026. It involves continuing work to strengthen the common economic space and remove remaining barriers to trade.

### Basic agreements signed

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, it is important to strengthen the international positioning of the union, as is done in the EAEU. The President outlined the intensification of cooperation in the field of import substitution as the main task in the industrial sector, “A lot has been done here. We understood a lot that we didn’t understand two years ago. We couldn’t be brought to our knees. On the contrary, we mobilised and did a lot. Basic intergovernmental agreements have been signed on the recognition of technological operations, on the development of microelectronic technologies, the design and production of electronic components, electronic engineering, and on a unified industrial policy.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed his conviction that the decree prepared for signing will in fact ensure mutual recognition of technological operations. According to the President, governments should take measures as soon as possible to implement it unconditionally, without any derogations or exceptions.

### Opportunity to remove barriers

The President of Belarus also stated the need to eliminate at all costs everything that hinders mutual supplies of goods, level the operating conditions for enterprises, eliminate barriers in the field of government procurement, and remove restrictions on the transit of goods. “These topics are not new, but we still have a lot of rough edges in this regard. I would especially like to note that we have not yet fully decided on the most important issues. This concerns the creation of common markets for gas, oil and petroleum products. They will be beneficial for both Russia and Belarus,” the President said. According to him, these fundamentally important topics are regularly discussed during negotiations with the President of Russia. “The agreements have been reached. I think that governments need to more actively implement these agreements,” emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko.

### The paths that are chosen

The Head of State also mentioned the logistics of transporting Belarusian export goods through Russian ports. In this regard, there are proposals to increase the capacity of the Oktyabrskaya

Railway in the direction of the ports of St. Petersburg. “Millions of tons of Belarusian cargo have been redirected from the ports of the Baltic states to St. Petersburg, Murmansk, and the Black Sea ports. But there is tension. Vladimir Vladimirovich and I discussed this problem about three months ago. It was decided that the Oktyabrskaya Railway in the direction of St. Petersburg should work more intensively. At the first stage, a little money and a little work are needed to restore the routes,” Aleksandr Lukashenko shared the details.

### In line with information policy

The President of Belarus also noted, “I am sure everyone understands how important it is to pursue a coordinated information policy. There is a powerful information confrontation going on. Many call it war. But, thank God, we haven’t approached war yet, even in the media. But the confrontation is serious. I think if we create a normal media holding, taking into account (existing - editor’s note) trials and errors, there will be a good holding.”

New fresh ideas, and most importantly, breakthrough economic projects and specific proposals for the development of cooperation are expected from the 11th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia, which will be held in Vitebsk in June. As you know, a number of significant dates will be celebrated in the Union State this year. First of all, the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on the Establishment of the Union State.

### A whole range of questions

Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about the joint work carried out the day before with the President of Russia. “We really worked very hard these two days. We can say directly: from the south pole to the north. We also discussed the problems of Antarctica — more comfortable working conditions are being created there for Russians, a wintering complex has been created. But the most important thing is that no one separates anything there. Belarusians work together with Russians. Our station is nearby. And all kinds of assistance — both scientific and in everyday life — are provided to the Belarusian specialists who are stationed there,” the Head of State noted. And he continued, saying that they analysed the events that are happening in the world, “Take our aspiration — Russia and Belarus, the People’s Republic of China... Russia is at the forefront of this, because it bears the most burden. And he suffers more than anyone else.” The President emphasised that the advent of a multipolar world and the reluctance of the current monopolist to give up positions leads to conflicts at different points on the world map. “And the Houthis, and the Middle East, and the South China Sea, problems with Taiwan — all this is due to the fact that a multipolar world is coming. As the Russian Foreign Minister said, the monopolist does not want this. They are trying to maintain a unipolar world using different methods. We have reached armed conflicts,” stated Aleksandr Lukashenko. According to him, during the negotiations with Vladimir Putin, issues of economic cooperation were also discussed, including with countries in Asia and Africa, “We



also discussed work on the Asian continent, especially in Africa, where we are called.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also noted the work on developing cargo transportation along the Northern Sea Route, “We would really like this programme to be implemented faster. It would be easier for us to work. As you can see, there is a whole range of issues — from south to north.”

### Elections in a new format

The Head of the Belarusian State emphasised the fact that the meeting of the Supreme State Council was held on the eve of important internal political events; for the first time in the history of Belarus, a single voting day was to take place on February 25th of this year, “Following the example of Russia, we also established a constitutionally single voting day. On this day, deputies of Parliament and local councils will be elected (we have regional, district and village councils, as was the case in Soviet times). And on March 17th, presidential elections will be held in Russia.”

### Aspects of deepening integration

Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasised that a number of important decisions were planned to be made during the meeting. According to him, they are aimed at further deepening the integration of the two countries in the socio-economic and humanitarian spheres. “With the direct participation of Russia, the construction of the Belarusian nuclear power plant was completed in 2023. This, of course, is a very serious movement forward — not just a station has been built, but an industry is being created. In this sense, Belarus, of course, has become a nuclear power. This is a serious step forward in the development of the economy and the scientific sphere,” the President of Russia emphasised. Vladimir Putin also recalled that preparations are underway for a Belarusian cosmonaut to fly to the Russian segment of the International Space Station.

It is scheduled for spring of this year. “The draft of the main directions for implementing the provisions of the Treaty on the Establishment of the Union State for 2024—2026, submitted to the Supreme State Council, is aimed at further intensifying the entire multifaceted interaction of our countries. Including in industry, agriculture, energy, transport and logistics, and the information sector,” added Vladimir Putin.

### A strong foundation for partnership

The Russian President also recalled that the other day the 80th anniversary of the complete lifting of the siege of Leningrad was celebrated, and in July it will be 80 years since the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders. In May 2025, another significant anniversary will be celebrated — the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. “These are the most important memorable dates, significant for our two fraternal peoples, firmly connected by common history and spiritual values, family and kinship ties,” said Vladimir Putin. “It is on such a strong foundation that the true alliance and strategic partnership of Russia and Belarus is based, within the framework of which we have been jointly building the Union State for almost 25 years. And along this path we managed to achieve really a lot.”

As for some of the results of the Supreme State Council, it should be noted, first of all, that the Main Directions for the Implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on the Establishment of the Union State for 2024—2026 were approved. As you know, a decision was made to create a media company of the Union State. The Strategy for scientific and technological development of the Union State until 2035 has been defined. A plan of events for the Union State for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders has been agreed upon. The Union State Prize in the field of literature and art was awarded.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

# TIME CANNOT NUMB THIS PAIN

**There is symbolism in the fact that the plane of the President of Belarus landed at Pulkovo Airport on Saturday, January 27th. It was on this day back in 1944 that the Red Army troops completely broke the blockade of Leningrad. The feat of the city's residents, who survived almost 900 cruel days of deadly hunger, cold, and constant air raids, is an eternal example of courage and perseverance. On the other hand, it is a pain that cannot be forgotten. During the years of the siege, more than a million civilians died from hunger, disease and bombing. This is another example of Hitler's genocide, which the Belarusian people know first-hand. During the years of fascist occupation, our republic lost every third person. Therefore, the memorial complex erected near St. Petersburg, in the Gatchina District, in memory of civilians of the USSR — victims of the Nazi genocide during the Great Patriotic War — is also Belarusian history. Our pain and historical memory. On Saturday evening, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin came here to take part in the opening ceremony of the new memorial.**

## **Monument as a witness, prosecutor and judge**

Why was Gatchina chosen as the location for the new memorial? During the Great Patriotic War, numerous camps for prisoners of war were located here, as well as concentration camps where Soviet children were taken.

Nazi monsters pumped blood out of them for Wehrmacht soldiers. Think about it, more than 8 thousand children died in this area alone. Aleksandr Lukashenko said that on such sacred days it is very important for him to immerse himself in the thoughts and feelings of people who experienced hell on earth: "Even after 80 years, the memory of these events makes hearts clench, again experience the bitterness of loss and the joy of liberation and the incredible intensity of the struggle for life, for our Victory. The price of the Great Victory is our common pain. Common to all peoples sentenced to death by Nazi Germany. Belarusians feel it like no one else."

This pain is cast in bronze and engraved in stone on thousands of mass graves of unknown soldiers, in places of mass executions of civilians and selfless exploits of Red Army soldiers, partisans, underground fighters — from Moscow to Brest and Berlin, the Head of State noted, "Each such monument is a witness, an accuser and a judge. Each monument is irrefutable proof of the genocide of the Soviet people. This is a sentence for the ages, no matter how much someone might want it today."

By the way, the memorial ensemble at the Piskarevskoye cemetery is also dedicated to the memory of the victims of the siege and the fallen participants in the defence of Leningrad. About half a million Leningraders and defenders of the city are buried here. Among them there are many Belarusians, very young guys who came to study in the city on the Neva before the war. When the blockade began,



these 16-year-old boys, like adults, stood at the machines at enterprises and contributed to the fight against the enemy. During the blockade, many of them died and were buried at the Piskarevskoye cemetery.

### **This memory is forever**

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that the memory of the victims of that war, the heroism of our fathers and grandfathers today are still bothering others, and above all, the ideological henchmen of murderers and traitors, “Today they honour the executioners in their parliaments. It was they who started the war on graves and monuments in Poland, the Baltic states and Ukraine. Complete madmen! How can you think that by destroying a monument you will destroy the memory that lives in the hearts of the people? The people who have found the strength to build new peaceful relations with those states that just yesterday brought suffering and death to our lands. The memory of the heroism of the winners and their spiritual feat will be preserved forever. Including here. In this poignant image of the mothers and children of Leningrad, Khatyn, Babyn Yar and tens of thousands of Soviet cities and villages, destroyed and depopulated. For us, Belarusians, it is important that this mournful monument will preserve a piece of our wounded soul, the memory of the tragedy of our people.” The President pointed to the fact that in vast Russia and Belarus there are thousands and thousands of monuments, the vast majority of which were erected in memory of

Soviet soldiers, partisans, who defended their land with weapons in their hands. But those who performed the feat in the rear were not fully paid tribute. And the greatness of the memorial in Gatchina is that we pay tribute to those people and children who could not defend themselves, said Aleksandr Lukashenko, “The last drop of blood was squeezed out of them to give to the fascist soldiers. It probably makes sense that we are making up for what we may have missed during Soviet times.”

The President of Belarus thanked Vladimir Putin, the leadership of the Leningrad Region, the Russian Military Historical Society, the team of authors, and the entire Russian people for the creation of this monument, “Thank you from all the long-suffering Belarusian people! We cannot change the past, but we can protect the future. Let this memorial protect our common historical memory, the brotherhood of peoples and the strength of the indestructible unity of nations that united in the fight against world evil and defeated it. This is very important for us today.”

### **Followers of the executioners are doomed**

For Vladimir Putin, the 80th anniversary of the complete liberation of Leningrad from the fascist blockade is also a deeply personal date. In the fierce battles on the Nevsky Patch, on the legendary bridgehead only a few kilometres wide, his father fought and was wounded. And his older brother died during the siege while still a very young child. “For eight decades now, our pain for the terrible sacrifices

## REQUIEM FOR THE FALLEN



and mutilated destinies has not subsided,” the President of Russia said at the opening ceremony of the memorial. “Our compassion is passed on from generation to generation and has no statute of limitations. Just as the crimes of Hitler’s fanatics and their accomplices — those who cold-bloodedly planned and cruelly committed the genocide of the Soviet people. These crimes were not committed on the battlefield: the massacres of defenceless old people, women, and the disabled were systemic punitive actions.”

According to Vladimir Putin, the memorial has become a symbol of the moral duty to investigate all the crimes of the Nazis during the war and identify those responsible, “We see how these days the results of the Nuremberg trials, during which Nazism was given an unambiguous legal assessment, are actually being revised. And in some countries they not only rewrite history and justify the executioners. Revanchists and neo-Nazis adopted the ideology and methods of the Nazis. In the Baltic states, tens of thousands of people are declared subhuman, deprived of the most basic rights, and subjected to persecution. The regime in Kyiv exalts Hitler’s accomplices, the SS men, and uses terror against all undesirables. The barbaric shelling of peaceful cities and towns and the killing of old people, women and children continue.” The President of Russia

is confident that the followers of the Nazi executioners, no matter what they call themselves today, are doomed, “Nothing can stop the desire of millions of people — not only in our country, but throughout the entire planet — for true freedom, justice, peace and security.”

### **“We will preserve our civilization”**

The Presidents of Belarus and Russia laid flowers at the Eternal Flame and then toured the memorial complex. It is based on a 47-meter stele, on top of which there is a figure of a mother with children, echoing the image of the Motherland installed at the Piskarevskoye cemetery. A special feature of the monument are 150 sculptural compositions. Behind each of them are stories of real people. Monstrous stories, terrible ones that make your heart ache and bring tears to your eyes. Here is a two-year-old child who was burned alive along with his mother and 1,700 civilians at the Kamyshtov plant in the Belgorod Region, and a teacher who was shot along with school students in the village of Mikhizyeva Polyana, Krasnodar Territory, and teenagers who died in concentration camps in Karelia. And hundreds, thousands of families shot by the Nazis in the Oryol, Smolensk, Leningrad and Novgorod regions.

The words of the President of Belarus, spoken by him at the

Gazprom Arena stadium in St. Petersburg, were especially heartfelt and emotional. There was a performance-concert dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Leningrad. The leaders of Belarus and Russia also came there together. On the way, they also talked about dangerous trends in assessing the results of the Great Patriotic War. “Vladimir Vladimirovich and I discussed many ideas, tried to counter-propaganda by discussing them. And he named one terrible idea of vile people, who still cannot calm down,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Our vile young people who have not seen war, and have not seen serious grief. Who say that there was no need to defend Leningrad. It was necessary to leave it, and a huge number, more than a million, lives would have been saved. Dangerous trend. They, bastards, are trying to look from the past into the present day.” According to this flawed logic, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, since there was no need to defend Leningrad, then there was no need to defend Moscow, and there was no need to defend ourselves at all, “I agree with the President of Russia, who says that we would have lost our civilization and today we wouldn’t live on this land if we hadn’t fought for every piece of land. But, as I said, they look from the past to the present. And the logic is: ‘no need to resist, no need to fight’. Today they are sharpening their swords on our borders in order to come to us. They come back to us to make us ‘better’. And where will we be? This is the main question we are trying to answer today. We respond and will respond, rest assured. And may the memory of those who left us inspire us to create for the future of our peoples, for the sake of peace. We will preserve our civilization, you can be sure of that.”

### About the right to life

The President of Belarus emphasised that there is no example in the world comparable to the feat of the Leningraders, “Having overcome hunger, cold, thirst, having survived the endless deaths of relatives and friends, they retained their humanity. The fate of each of them is a story of spiritual achievement. We know this story from the recollections of eyewitnesses, archival footage, newsreels, and newspaper articles of those years. We remember. Let’s re-read it. We are reviewing. We are looking for answers to the questions that time poses to us, complex and fundamental questions. We are still trying to resolve these issues today. The most important of them is preserving the truth about that war. This truth demonstrates the depth of the moral decline of those who stood under the banner of Nazi Germany. It is casting a dark shadow over many Western European countries. This is our truth. But we are not talking about enmity with their peoples. We, the heirs of the victors, oppose the ideology of Nazism, from which the Germans, the French, and many, many other peoples suffered... We are

peaceful people. We don’t want war. But we are again faced with the question of the right to life of our civilization, to the preservation of primordial values and national cultures. We don’t need someone else’s, especially those blessings that were repeatedly implanted into our ancestors by fire and sword. And yet, both after the Victory and today we call for peaceful dialogue. But subject to respect for our historical memory and the truth about that war. We are open to any friendly steps towards — both in Russia and in Belarus.” Vladimir Putin fully supported the President of Belarus, “The aggression that our country faces today directly testifies: then, in 1945, Nazism was defeated, but not eliminated. Russophobia, xenophobia, and nationalism have become weapons of revanchists in many European countries. In



the Baltics. Unfortunately, in Ukraine. A real, authentic story hinders them and is unprofitable. Hence the constant attempts to revise and distort the causes, course and very results of the Second World War, to glorify the murderers and slander the heroes. They blatantly lie, in impotent anger they demolish monuments to those who liberated the planet from Nazism. And thereby they refuse, renounce their own ancestors. And this is also a crime. We will never betray the memory and feat of our fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. We will never forget their sacrificial path to the Great Victory.”

The honorary guests of the performance-concert were veterans of the Great Patriotic War, defenders and residents of besieged Leningrad, and home front workers. Leading Russian actors and musicians, using unique scenographic, lighting and visual effects, returned viewers to the tragic and heroic periods of the siege of Leningrad and its breakthrough.

Aleksandr Pimenov

# THINGS TO BE PROUD OF, or How Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin ‘travelled’ to the South Pole



**The humanitarian programme of the visit continued on Sunday. The presidents of the two countries, via video conference, held a ceremony for the commissioning of a new wintering complex at the Vostok station in Antarctica.**

The station itself was founded back in 1957 and remains the only operating Russian Antarctic station inside the continent. During Soviet times, it was reconstructed twice. But the infrastructure required complete replacement. The new wintering complex was assembled in Gatchina at the Experimental Plant of Building Structures with financial assistance from Novatek, one of the largest natural gas producers in Russia. By the way, Belarusian specialists were also involved in the work. “For the supply of pipes — this is the Byelorussian Steel Works, for cables and electrical products — the Minsk Electrotechnical Plant, the companies Belaruskabel, KATEK, Energokomplekt. Pumping equipment — Gidrodinamika company. I would like to thank Aleksandr Grigorievich and our Belarusian partners. I am confident that our cooperation will continue to develop in the future,” said Leonid Mikhelson, Chairman of the Board of Novatek.

The new wintering complex is, perhaps, the best gift for the anniversary, 70th Russian Antarctic expedition, which starts in the fall of this year, Vladimir Putin said in turn. He is convinced that the new station will strengthen cooperation between scientists from different countries, will become an open platform for solving pressing problems in the field of environmental studies and, of course, promoting joint scientific and innovative programmes within the framework of the Union State of Russia and Belarus, “We will definitely work together how the participants of the 16th Belarusian and 69th Russian Antarctic expeditions are now working shoulder to shoulder.”

## **“The guys are doing a very good job”**

According to the plan, Belarusian researchers were also supposed to take part in the video call. However, weather conditions prevented them from joining the event. The living and working conditions on the icy continent are indeed not at all warm. In winter, the temperature drops below minus 70 °C, and in the summer months it rarely rises above minus 30 °C. It was at the Vostok station in July 1983 that the lowest air temperature on the planet was recorded — minus 89.2 °C. Add to this the low oxygen content (altitude above sea level is almost 3.5 thousand meters) and hard ultraviolet radiation. And another five months of round-the-clock darkness every year — the polar night. In such an environment, polar explorers, including Belarusian ones, not only live, but also work. They conduct research on the study of climate and the Earth’s magnetic field, meteorological, geophysical, glaciological (on the study of natural ice) observations, study the properties of materials in low temperature conditions, and others. For example, as Vladimir Putin said, scientists have found that over the past approximately 420 thousand years, four complete climate cycles have passed, when global cooling was replaced by global warming. Aleksandr Lukashenko does not hide the fact that he was impressed by this information, “I say this jokingly: it would be interesting to know what period we are in and at what point we are, when this cooling or warming will come to us. I really want not only us, but also the planet to exist. And what you told me



is completely beyond comprehension. It is difficult to even realise that our researchers and scientists are making such conclusions.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated Russian polar explorers on the creation of the new complex, “The guys are doing a very good job. This is a lot of money, billions of roubles were invested to create such a comfortable and cosy beauty for work.” According to the President of Belarus, Antarctica is still the least explored continent on the planet, but Russia is a leader in this process and demonstrates very high rates, “No one can compare with this. We had a great country — the Soviet Union. We worked there together. If someone hoped that all this would perish, it turns out that it did not perish, but reached a higher level.” Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked the Russian partners who all this time have helped and are helping Belarusian scientists with accommodation at their stations, support research, share scientific data, and provide equipment, “I know that our equipment also works there (in Antarctica). I was given information: in 2018-2020, an ultraviolet photometer designed by a Belarusian university was put into operation here. I am confident the programme will continue using this equipment. In Belarus, I will pay closer attention to the development of this sector of science and practice. This will give a good impetus to development, and we will take it very seriously. We’re very proud to be associated with this.” Addressing the polar explorers and speaking about their work in the most difficult and harsh conditions, the President emphasised, “This is a feat. You accomplish a feat, we are proud of you. We, Belarusians, will be more actively involved in these processes. We are brothers, we have nothing to share. The contribution to science should come from both Russia and Belarus.”

## IN ADDITION

*With the support of the Head of State, in 2006 Belarus also began its journey to explore Antarctica. From 2007 to 2023, 15 Belarusian seasonal Antarctic expeditions were organised and carried out, in which more than 80 scientists and specialists took part. The 16th expedition is currently underway.*

*Since 2015, the Belarusian Research Station has been built in East Antarctica (near Mount Vechernyaya, Enderby Land). In 2021, the creation of its first stage was completed, and by 2026 it is planned to complete the formation of the second stage.*

*Scientific research of Belarus in Antarctica is carried out in accordance with the State Programme for the Development of the Activities of the Belarusian Antarctic Station for 2021–2025. The results obtained confirm the high scientific authority of Belarusian researchers in many areas. In particular, for the first time, monitoring of the biodiversity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of Antarctica was carried out using genetic methods. Belarusian physicists monitored the Antarctic ozonosphere. In the field of geoecology, for the first time, unique data have been obtained on the dynamics of the content of macro- and microcomponents in the natural waters of a little-studied region of Antarctica (Thala Hills). For the first time, emissions of persistent organic pollutants in Antarctica have been assessed over a 30-year period.*

*This year, Belarusian polar explorers completed a multi-day scientific expedition to a remote, unexplored area of the Antarctic mainland, which opens up new prospects for further expanding the geography of Belarus’ scientific and practical interests in Antarctica.*

Aleksey Fedosov



A VISIT IN THE CONTEXT OF SIGNIFICANCE

# ROADMAP OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES

**A** At the beginning of February, the official visit of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko to Uzbekistan took place. In Tashkent, the Head of State held negotiations with the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The meeting was held in a one-on-one format and in an expanded format with the participation of delegations. The presidents focused on issues of deepening interstate relations, intensifying trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian interaction. The parties will pay special attention to the development of cooperation ties in various industries, cooperation in agriculture, science, education and tourism. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Shavkat Mirziyoyev also discussed the regional and global agenda, interaction between the two countries in integration structures and in the international arena. As a result of the negotiations, a number of bilateral documents were concluded.

*The host party has already called the past official visit of the President of Belarus to Uzbekistan historical. In fact, in Tashkent, the heads of the two states repeatedly noted: our countries have achieved a 'reset' in cooperation and have managed to achieve more in recent years than previously in decades. In other words, relations between Belarus and Uzbekistan are relations with a mark of quality. But now it is extremely important not to waste time and maintain the momentum.*

### Basis for cooperation

The chronology of this visit is as follows. Although the plane of the President of Belarus landed at Islam Karimov International Airport in the evening, Aleksandr Lukashenko was able to meet with his Uzbek counterpart that day. The Head of State chose an unusual format, arriving at the Humo Arena ice palace, the largest in Central Asia. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Shavkat Mirziyoyev decided to watch the match of the Kazakhstan Open Hockey Championship between the Tashkent club, Humo, and the Nomad team from Astana. In general, the President of Belarus was expected in Tashkent and received as the dearest guest. Here is a warm welcome at the airport with a company of honour guard, flags of two countries hanging on the streets of the city, and welcome billboards, friendly comments and wishes of Internet users on local information resources ('Welcome!', 'Let Lukashenko's visit benefit both countries', 'Let the negotiations be fruitful'). And the solid motorcade for the Belarusian delegation of cars, accompanied by motorcyclists, rushing through the streets of Tashkent in the evening looked especially impressive. In a word, all the external paraphernalia of the official visit testified that Belarus and its leader are known, respected and appreciated in Uzbekistan.

The next day, in the Ko'ksaroy country complex (the current state residence of the President of Uzbekistan), the leaders of the two countries held negotiations in a narrow and extended format. And before that, Aleksandr Lukashenko laid a wreath at the Independence Monument in the New Uzbekistan Culture and Leisure Park.

What was discussed during the more than two-hour meeting in a narrow format, the Heads of State will later tell both members of the delegations and journalists. But the main thing that the President of Uzbekistan will immediately pay attention to is that Aleksandr Lukashenko's visit was highly anticipated. And the most important thing is that the parties were able to radically change the nature and content of Belarusian-Uzbek relations. The Uzbek leader especially noted, "Never before in the history of our relations have there been such results."

The President of Belarus knows what the recipe for this success is. But before speaking, Aleksandr Lukashenko cordially thanked his colleague for the traditionally warm welcome and reverent attitude towards the Belarusian

delegation on the hospitable Uzbek soil, "You and I have absolutely trusting, friendly relations. It probably couldn't be more trusting anymore. We are watching with great interest the transformations taking place in Uzbekistan. The only thing you need is time."

### It is important not to waste time

Further, all the attention of the two leaders during the negotiations was paid mainly to the economy. In a one-on-one format, the presidents, as they later said, 'literally with a pencil, by numbers and by letters', discussed every topical and pressing issue. And later, Aleksandr Lukashenko paid special attention to the fact that in recent years, supply logistics and the payment system have seriously changed, shaking both the commodity and energy markets. The entire structure of the international division of labour is going through a period of global transformation. There is more uncertainty and the level of confrontation has increased. Hence the important emphasis, "The foundation of any state is a strong economy that is not afraid of any shocks."

Of course, they also talked about specific projects that Uzbekistan is very interested in implementing today. And there are no questions about any of them from the Uzbek leader. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the current trade turnover figures — almost \$600 million — do not correspond to the existing potential, although they are a record figure. In his opinion, in the next year and a half we need to reach \$1 billion and look ahead. As long as there is agreement between governments and heads of state, much needs to be done.

Commenting on cooperation between countries in general, Aleksandr Lukashenko added that some areas are not



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developing as quickly as we would like. The Head of State stated that now in matters of bilateral cooperation it is important not to waste time, and Belarus is ready to make its contribution to the development of Uzbekistan, especially since it has many of the necessary technologies. However, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, there are many areas where Belarus has a lot to learn from Uzbekistan, “In any case, you can’t slow down.”

### Current projects for today and tomorrow

The presidents discussed cooperation in the pharmaceutical field in great detail. In particular, for the production of substances. Aleksandr Lukashenko proposed actively creating joint pharmaceutical production, noting that the President of Uzbekistan has good connections and relationships with the leaders of countries that produce substances.

Former Minister of Health of Belarus Vladimir Karanik said that these issues are being studied in detail within the working group. The parties will analyse the regulatory framework in order to understand what is preventing them from ensuring easier registration of medicinal products. At the same time, a list of the most popular drugs in Uzbekistan will be determined with the prospect of supplies to neighbouring countries, so that this is an economically profitable project. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, “Everything is correct. As for technical registration, we have a ‘dictatorship’. We can resolve this issue instantly.” Belarus is ready to help Uzbekistan in healthcare in general,

especially in the field of maternal and child health, to help staff a clinic in Uzbekistan, and to transfer acquired competencies in obstetrics.

The President of Belarus told his Uzbek partners that 2024 has been declared the Year of Quality. However, Belarusian quality is for a long time, and not for one year. The country produces a wide range of good quality products, which today are in demand in foreign markets — there is a great demand for Belarusian products. At the same time, as the President emphasised, we are ready not only to supply, for example, the same equipment, but also to create local service centres to service it. Such experience has been accumulated for a long time. Aleksandr Lukashenko proposed opening a comprehensive service centre in Tashkent or any other city in Uzbekistan.

Following the negotiations, the Head of the Belarusian State said that the negotiations in a narrow format can be called a meeting of not just friends, but very close friends and brothers, “I told him (President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev) that we are ready to come to the rescue with high technologies and do what you ask. We are ready for this.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Belarus, in cooperation with other countries, proposes a broad agenda, and especially issues related to the exchange of technologies. The Head of State cited as an example the powerful cotton production in Belarus, the raw material for which was cotton from Uzbekistan. He also recalled that Belarus suffered greatly during the Great Patriotic War, and other

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■ Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Aleksandr Lukashenko planted a tree on the Alley of Honoured Guests as a sign of their commitment to further strengthening friendly relations and partnership between the two countries and peoples.



republics of the Soviet Union helped to recover in the post-war years, and together they created a major high-tech industrial base. All this is preserved and is mainly in the hands of the state.

And the President also emphasised that today Belarus has everything that Uzbekistan needs technologically tomorrow. Aleksandr Lukashenko is confident that after the detailed and principled negotiations held in Tashkent, the parties will be able to significantly advance bilateral cooperation within a year.

### Focus on big things

At a meeting with media representatives following the results of official negotiations, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that they took place in an extremely open, friendly, brotherly atmosphere and were meaningful and productive. A wide range of issues were considered and the fundamental focus on building cooperation in all areas where Minsk and Tashkent have joint projects was confirmed. Of course, first of all we are talking about the trade and economic sphere. In general, countries have good results here. Last year, trade turnover exceeded a new historical high of half a billion dollars. However, the parties understand that the reserves are huge. One of them is the creation of new and expansion of existing partnerships at the regional level of the two countries. The Forum of Regions held the day before in Tashkent confirmed this. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, contacts have weakened in some places. But now is the time to resume them and fill them with specific projects. There are many of them, the President of Belarus is sure.

The priority issues during the negotiations were the deepening of industrial cooperation, the creation of joint ventures, and the provision of favourable conditions for the exchange of goods and services. Aleksandr Lukashenko set guidelines here too. When organising joint productions, there should be a focus on long-term cooperation and their systematic

localisation, which will ensure the creation of new jobs in Uzbekistan. The main guidelines are import substitution and technological sovereignty.

Taking into account the production and intellectual resources of the two countries, the Belarusian side sees huge potential in mechanical engineering, the agro-industrial complex, and light industry. The presidents specifically focused on the topic of deepening cooperation in the pharmaceutical field, including the issues of manufacturing Belarusian medicines in Uzbekistan and creating new joint productions.

### The diversity of relationships is obvious

During the negotiations, they also discussed cooperation with third countries, in particular Afghanistan. The presidents paid a lot of attention to this topic, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, "Neighbouring states, especially long-suffering Afghanistan (which Shavkat Miromonovich told me a lot about), need our help and support. And these are, first of all, medicines, food and clothing — what a person needs. We can do a lot in this direction and work with Afghanistan. All conditions for this have been created in Uzbekistan. This is a very interesting topic for us."

The countries also attach great importance to expanding interaction in the cultural and humanitarian sphere. Now Belarus and Uzbekistan actively cooperate in the field of science and education, implementing joint projects to exchange experience, train and train specialists. More than 5 thousand Uzbek students are studying in Belarusian universities and in joint programs, but a few years ago there were only a few dozens of them.

Belarus is ready to implement plans for scientific exchanges. The Forum of University Rectors and the Medical Forum held at the end of last year show the relevance and great prospects for cooperation in these areas. The President also noted the expansion of cooperation in the field of sports and tourism. The Belarusian side is ready to develop

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■ The presidents also got acquainted with one of the most innovative, high-tech production complexes in Central Asia — TEXNOPARK LLC. This is a group of 16 industries focused on the production of import-substituting industrial and electrical products, household appliances, and building materials. Among the main partners of the TEXNOPARK complex there are companies from China, Italy, and Korea.

contacts between the youth of the two states, to intensify joint events, especially since this year Tashkent has become the youth capital of the CIS.

An important topic of the negotiations is the international agenda. Aleksandr Lukashenko especially emphasised, “We will further develop our cooperation on international platforms. We are grateful to the Uzbek side and personally to the President for the constant support of Belarus in international organisations.”

In general, the Head of State expressed confidence that the agreements reached during the negotiations will open up good prospects for building a long-term equal partnership between Belarus and Uzbekistan. He also invited his Uzbek colleague to pay an official visit to Belarus at any time convenient for him and expressed hope for the continuation of a fruitful dialogue in Minsk.

### The road map has been built

It should be borne in mind that following the results of official negotiations between the two presidents, a whole package of documents was signed, including the Action Plan (Road Map) for the Development of Cooperation Between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2024 — 2025. In addition, agreements were signed on the use of electronic systems for certification of the origin of goods; in the field of intellectual property.

The Road Map for the Further Development of Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture for 2024 — 2026, the Program of Cooperation in the Field of Culture and Art, the Action Plan for the Development of Cooperation in the Field of Tourism, and a number of documents in the field of education were signed. The parties also signed an agreement on the establishment of sister-city relations and the development of multifaceted cooperation between Minsk and Tashkent.

To summarise, in general, based on the results of the joint statement of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the following main points emerge. During the high-level negotiations, the heads of state, in an atmosphere of traditional mutual understanding and openness,

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comprehensively discussed the most important issues of Belarusian-Uzbek relations and identified key directions for their further development. The parties are convinced that the visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of Uzbekistan will give additional impetus to strengthening political dialogue, trade and economic relations, expanding cultural and humanitarian exchanges, interparliamentary and interregional cooperation.

Belarus and Uzbekistan will continue to make efforts to further develop their partnership in all areas of mutual interest. The leaders of the two countries emphasised that the priority direction of Belarusian-Uzbek relations is the further expansion of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation. Positive dynamics in bilateral trade volumes was noted.

The parties noted the need to create favourable conditions for the active development of mechanisms to support export-import operations, as well as for holding exhibitions of industrial, agricultural, food and technological products, business forums, meetings and negotiations between business circles on a regular basis.

The presidents noted that one of the priority areas of bilateral cooperation is interaction between the regions of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The priority importance of cooperation in the field of agriculture, the integrated development of relations between the agro-industrial complexes of the two countries and ensuring food security was emphasised.

The parties confirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties in the fields of culture, education, science, art, cinematography, tourism, youth policy and sports. During 2024 — 2025, it is planned to hold the Days of Culture of the Republic of Belarus in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Days of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Republic of Belarus.

The heads of state noted the need to build up and intensify cooperation in the fight against terrorism, illicit drug and weapons trafficking, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other challenges and threats to regional and international security on the basis of bilateral and multilateral international treaties. The parties also intend to continue interaction in the international arena and expressed a mutual desire to develop cooperation in the UN, CIS, SCO and other global and regional structures.

### Aiming to go further

Uzbekistan highly appreciates the visit and negotiations with the President of Belarus. At a meeting with media representatives, the leader of Uzbekistan emphasised that the visit of his colleague and the entire Belarusian delegation at the beginning of the year is a good opportunity to analyse the state of affairs and formulate a new, broad agenda of mutually beneficial cooperation, taking into account the situation in the world. Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasised that Uzbekistan has great sympathy for Belarus and the Belarusian people, “We sincerely rejoice at the achievements

of the socio-economic development of your country. Despite the difficult situation, macroeconomic stability is ensured in Belarus, industry and manufacturing sectors are growing at a faster pace, inflation is being contained and incomes of the population are consistently increasing.”

The President of Uzbekistan noted that during the official negotiations held in Tashkent, the heads of state discussed in detail a wide range of areas for the development of cooperation, priorities and targets for the development of a multifaceted partnership were identified. In order to organise systematic mutual supplies, it was instructed to create a joint foreign trade company — both in Minsk and Tashkent; introduce export support mechanisms and an electronic product certification system. The parties also agreed to mutually create favourable conditions for cargo transportation and use multimodal corridors towards the markets of South Asia. Belarus and Uzbekistan intend to implement projects in the agro-industrial complex, electrical and textile sectors, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, urban planning, and public utilities. Road maps will be adopted and working groups will be created in each direction, Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasised.

### Solid basise for the future

So, what is the basis for further Belarusian-Uzbek relations based on the results of meetings and negotiations in Tashkent. Yes, the Roadmap for the Development of Cooperation Between Countries for 2024 — 2025 has been signed, which includes 81 events. It provides for industrial cooperation projects and access to joint high-tech production of export-oriented products. There were talks about entering the markets of third countries, primarily Afghanistan. In general, they were talking about multi-level strategic interaction between countries, which will deepen. The thesis was clearly stated that for Belarus, Uzbekistan is the main country in Central Asia. If we summarise the work of the Belarusian delegation over several days, it is obvious that we have reached a package of bilateral documents (45 documents), which includes bilateral interdepartmental, interregional agreements, and a number of contracts, the

#### VERBATIM

**Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus  
Sergei Aleinik about the results of high-level negotiations,**

**“The very detailed negotiations between the heads of state confirmed the historical nature of this visit. I can say with confidence that today the relations between Belarus and Uzbekistan and the leaders of our states are relations with a mark of quality.”**

## A VISIT IN THE CONTEXT OF SIGNIFICANCE

■ The Action Plan (Road Map) for the Development of Cooperation Between Countries for 2024 — 2025 was signed in Tashkent. Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Aleynik during the signing ceremony.



total value of which is about \$150 million. This is a serious contribution to the treasury of relationships that has been created over 30 years. Throughout history, the two countries have signed 70 documents, and the scope of the current agreements confirms the strategic nature of the relationship and the focus on moving forward. And at a fast pace.

### Afterword and some main points

Aleksandr Lukashenko's official visit to Uzbekistan is already being talked about as historic and breakthrough. Experts tend to believe that establishing relations with this post-Soviet country means establishing relations with the entire Central Asia. Uzbekistan is a country with a population of about 35 million and growing. This is, in general, the key state of Central Asia, and without it it is impossible to talk about any serious politics in the region. Therefore, the fact that we are building relations with this country is commendable.

Uzbekistan received the President of Belarus on a visit, bearing in mind that the country is now under all possible Western sanctions. It's worth imagining what a diplomatic gesture this is on the part of Uzbekistan and how other neighbouring countries in the region view this gesture. A step that shows that the Eastern European country of 10 million is warmly received by a key player in the Central Asia region, despite all the risks associated with this reception.

Another significant moment. During the negotiations between Aleksandr Lukashenko and his Uzbek colleague Shavkat Mirziyoyev, they talked about cooperation with third countries, in particular with Afghanistan. This signals trust.

After all, during the negotiations, fairly calm assessments of the current regime in Afghanistan were made. Very important rhetoric, political scientists say. In this region, the country that feared the Taliban most, and had reason to do so, was Uzbekistan. And today we saw that the President of Uzbekistan and the President of Belarus are discussing the topic of the Taliban without nervousness. This means that Uzbekistan is not afraid, as it was before, of a strike from the Taliban in any form. This also means that we are allowed to discuss the most sensitive topic of security in this region. The agreements were also substantive. For example, the parties agreed to build a large Belarusian dairy plant and poultry farm in Uzbekistan. This in itself is great for the reason that there is a growing population, a large market, and at the same time there is urbanisation. In conditions where they have a lack of cultivable land and there is a threat of constant problems with water, for them the intensification of agriculture and guaranteed food production on their territory is a very painful issue. Maybe even a key national security issue. And here, as political scientist Yuri Shevtsov notes, we get entry into this market and into such a serious topic for them. This is beneficial for Belarus. If we succeed in implementing this project, opportunities will open up to expand our cooperation in the field of product production and everything connected with it. This is an important export item for us. But it is planned to implement many other projects that should bring tangible dividends to the partners.

Vasily Kharitonov

Photo by BelTA

# CONTACTS FOR THE SAKE OF CONTRACTS



**On the eve of the official visit of Aleksandr Lukashenko, the 2nd Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan was held in the Uzbek capital. As a result, contracts and agreements worth \$150 million were concluded.**

## **Spirit of mutually beneficial partnership**

Let us recall that the 1st Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan was held in Minsk in 2019. Then the parties worked actively and agreed to meet a year later in Tashkent. But the pandemic and geopolitics made adjustments to the plans. However, this does not mean at all that regional cooperation was on pause: the laid foundation made it possible to work quite actively. This is also confirmed by the figures: between 2018 and 2022, trade turnover between the countries increased by more than 3 times. In 2023, the volume of mutual trade increased by another 12 percent and exceeded \$565 million. So, long-time friends and partners met at this forum. The Belarusian delegation was headed by Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Zayats. It also included Minister of Agriculture Sergei Bartosh, Minister

of Industry Aleksandr Rogozhnik, Minister of Sports and Tourism Sergei Kovalchuk, Minister of Education Andrei Ivanets, Minister of Health Aleksandr Khodzhaev, heads of regions and higher educational institutions. A delegation of business circles also came to the forum — almost 160 people representing 69 state-owned enterprises and private businesses.

## **Supply and demand**

One detail: the start of the plenary session of the forum was shifted by an hour. But the reason is valid — a bilateral meeting between Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Leonid Zayats and his Uzbek counterpart Zhamshid Khodzhaev in a narrow format. There were a lot of topics for discussion, and each one had great prospects. Most importantly, as the

## THERE IS A MUTUAL INTEREST



head of the Belarusian delegation later noted, the parties found mutual understanding in all areas. This includes industrial cooperation, agriculture, the processing industry, humanitarian issues, educational issues, cooperation in sports and tourism, training for the forestry industry, urban planning, and housing and utility services. In a word, a wide range of issues. By prior agreement, they are sealed with almost a hundred documents totalling more than a billion dollars. We are talking about both export projects and investment ones. They will form the basis of the roadmap for cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan for 2024 — 2025, the implementation of which will be under the personal control of the deputy prime ministers of the two countries. This basis allows us to say that Belarus and Uzbekistan are reaching a higher level of relations. “We will take these issues under control so that not a single point, not a single item is left behind,” emphasised Leonid Zayats. It is already known that it is planned to create joint production on the territory of Uzbekistan to produce baby food, textiles, passenger transport, and diesel generators. The Belarusian side emphasizes: we have no closed topics with our Uzbek partners. Moreover, there is every opportunity to increase mutual trade turnover to a billion dollars. Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Zhamshid Khojaev is also convinced of this, “The current trade turnover, which has increased compared to previous years, demonstrates a close relationship, but this is not the limit. My colleagues and I have analysed: we have every opportunity to increase trade turnover to a billion dollars.”

### There are a lot of common points

Governor of the Grodno Region Vladimir Karanik noted: while relations between the two countries at the level of presidents and governments have always been effective, the ties between the regions have not developed so actively. However, it was the 1st Forum of Regions of Belarus and

Uzbekistan in 2019 that gave them impetus. The Grodno Region has a successful case in this regard: over the past time, the Andijantechmash joint venture has been created to assemble Belarusian agricultural machinery, and food exports have increased. Moreover, the Grodno and Slonim meat processing plants supplied products to the state reserve of Uzbekistan. But Uzbekistan produces some of the components that are needed by Belarusian manufacturers and which can replace products from unfriendly countries, avoiding problems with logistics and payments.

Vladimir Karanik emphasises: when communicating at the level of leadership of the regions of Uzbekistan, you understand that there are a lot of points of contact: tourism, joint training of personnel, exchange of technologies in agriculture, mechanical engineering. And most importantly, the vector of cooperation set by the presidents is clearly understood locally.

Deputy Khokim of the Fergana Region — Head of the Regional Department of Investment, Industry and Trade Nuriddin Mamajonov, in turn, confirmed that the Forum of Regions is a very promising format of bilateral cooperation. The first forum at one time made it possible to establish direct connections: the region today is actively working with partners from the Gomel and Mogilev regions. Promising vectors — woodworking, agro-industrial complex, light industry. There are specific goals and objectives for further development, which the leaders of the countries are focusing on, Nuriddin Mamajonov emphasised.

### Cooperation is a priority

At the forum, Vitaly Vovk, General Director of Minsk Tractor Works OJSC, was surrounded by partners from Uzbekistan the entire time. And this is not surprising: the company does not lose contacts with local consumers and last year supplied a record number of tractors to the Uzbek market in recent years — 4,000.

## THERE IS A MUTUAL INTEREST



Now the parties intend to develop joint production of agricultural machinery. A pilot project will be launched this year — Belarus and Uzbekistan are creating an assembly plant for cotton-growing tractors. At the first stage, 500 tractor sets will be supplied. “Uzbekistan is moving towards developing its production base. It is very important for us to make a joint product that will be in demand in Uzbekistan and, perhaps, among our neighbours,” Vitaly Vovk shared his plans.

At the same time, Valery Ivankovich, General Director of the Minsk Automobile Plant, held negotiations with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Uzbek company Krantas Group, Mukhtor Karimov. During the cooperation of the companies since 2017, a path has been passed from chassis supplies to deep production cooperation with the full assembly of MAZ vehicles in Uzbekistan. During the negotiations, the parties discussed the results of the work, and also outlined plans for further cooperation.

Chairman of the Bellegprom concern Tatiana Lugina also shared certain successes with journalists. While for decades cooperation was based on the purchase of Uzbek fabrics, knitwear and fibres, over the past two years it has been possible to reach a fundamentally new level of business. Considering the shortage of seamstresses in the domestic market, the concern found an effective and beneficial solution for both parties. A number of Belarusian enterprises (Svitanak, Kalinka, Slavyanka, Orsha Flax Mill) already have experience in placing their orders with enterprises in



Uzbekistan. “We don’t just come here, we bring our fabrics, developments and documentation and work according to our standards, providing technical support and training local specialists,” said Tatiana Lugina.

According to her, this format of work for six months showed that it was also beneficial from an economic point of view. By the way, the products are produced under Belarusian trademarks. And, perhaps, the main conclusion from such cooperation, “While earlier we thought in the depths of our souls that Uzbekistan was our competitor, today we look differently. We talked here for a long time with our colleagues and drew up a roadmap for cooperation for two years between our light industry sectors. We must and will work together.”

### Vector is set

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Uzbekistan Leonid Marinich believes that there is very great interest in Belarus, in establishing direct business contacts and production facilities. And events such as the forum are nothing more than a generator of economic development of the two countries. The friendship between them has been preserved since Soviet times, but today Belarus and Uzbekistan continue to develop the format of cooperation. It is not for nothing that there is now a substantive conversation about the creation of joint productions and the implementation of projects in literally all areas of economic activity.

It only remains to clarify once again that today the most interesting and popular topics in Uzbekistan are industrial cooperation, education and medicine. Undoubtedly, cooperation in the field of agriculture is also gaining momentum. And the establishment of direct connections between ministries, departments and businesses proved its effectiveness directly at the forum.

Vladimir Velikhov

# IMPORTANT MISSION IS POSSIBLE



**Belarus always sincerely welcomes friends and partners interested in strengthening relations with our country. Aleksandr Lukashenko stated this during the ceremony of presenting credentials by ambassadors of foreign states.**

**S**o, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko accepted the credentials of the ambassadors of eight foreign countries. The Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, Japan, Nepal, the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Guinea presented their credentials to the Head of State. In essence, this ceremony marks the official start of their work in Belarus. In his address to the ambassadors, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that Belarusian foreign policy is based on the principles of respect, equality and justice. The President separately focused on cooperation with each of the countries represented by the ambassadors. Belarus has fruitful relations with many of the states, but with some there is still a lot of work to be done.

### Working together, not apart

In a word, the ceremony of presenting credentials is not just a tribute to protocol, it is the most important moment in establishing a new stage in relations between the countries. The opportunity to set the tone without intermediaries, clarify the nuances of interest, and just look into the eyes is worth a lot. Aleksandr Lukashenko personally greeted each ambassador, from whose hands he accepted letters. Such openness, hospitality and goodwill are related to our country's position when interacting with its neighbours around the world. And taking the opportunity, Aleksandr Lukashenko reminds of this. We proceed from the fact, the President emphasised, that improving the quality of life of people is possible subject to maintaining security, a just world, fair distribution of resources and labour results. This can be achieved if we work together, not separately. Only through peace and stability can a decent future be guaranteed for children and grandchildren. Therefore, the basis of Belarusian foreign policy is the principles of respect, equality and justice. Of course, special attention is paid to interaction with those states that want this, with which our country has a lot in common, with which we have no closed topics today.

This is the main theme of the speech of the President of Belarus to diplomats. And the emphasis is on the fact that today the world is completely different. The vast majority of states want to pursue independent policies in the national interests without regard to anyone else.

Also, according to tradition, Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined the contours of interaction with each of the states represented by the new ambassadors.



### About Azerbaijan

We value our strategic partnership with Azerbaijan very much, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised during the ceremony. He expressed special gratitude for his constructive approach to Ilham Aliyev, who recently received enormous popular support in the presidential elections. The Head of State proposed more actively using the agreements between the leaders of the two countries to resolve issues in areas of interest.



### About Uzbekistan

Comprehensive ties with Uzbekistan, which is considered here as a strategic partner in Central Asia, are extremely important for Belarus, the President stated. Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed gratitude to the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev for the recent warm welcome and substantive dialogue, which will very soon result in the implementation of new breakthrough projects and the development of interregional ties.

The Head of State expressed confidence that the new ambassador, as a person who has worked in Belarus and knows our country well, will be maximally involved in the implementation of agreements reached at the highest level and will use all his knowledge and experience to strengthen bilateral ties.



### About Kyrgyzstan

Speaking about cooperation with Kyrgyzstan, the President drew attention to the fact that this country is a friend and reliable partner for Belarus. The volume of mutual trade has been constantly growing in recent years. But we are capable of achieving much more, Aleksandr Lukashenko is confident. Both countries are capable of significantly intensifying trade and economic relations, giving them a systematic and targeted nature.



### About Türkiye

Türkiye is a long-time strategic partner of Belarus. Minsk and Ankara are united by the priority of national interests, ensuring national security, the importance of the traditional family, the preservation of historical memory and much, much more. The Belarusian side expects counter proposals and initiatives from Türkiye that will be implemented for the benefit of both states.

Later, during a brief conversation with Turkish Ambassador Güçlü Cem İşik, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “Thank you for your cooperation, but this is not enough between our countries. We must somehow move forward.” The President of Belarus asked the diplomat to convey his best wishes to President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, “I hope that we will talk about many issues in our relations in the near future.”



### About Japan

Regarding relations with Japan, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Belarus is counting on the resumption of full interaction.

We are ready to move along the path of cooperation as quickly and far as our Japanese partners are ready for this, he said. The President recalled that Minsk and Tokyo have unique experience in scientific and humanitarian cooperation, but at the same time suggested not limiting themselves to this, but moving forward and finding ways of cooperation. We are ready for this. We have a very high opinion of Japan — high-tech, with responsible, hardworking people, same as in Belarus. Let’s look for ways to cooperate in this difficult situation, Aleksandr Lukashenko suggested.

During informal communication after the official part of the event, the President, in a conversation with Hiroyuki Yamamoto, once again called on Japan for cooperation, asking a reasonable question: “What are you afraid of? We have common topics. Come to us, the doors are open for Japan.” The Head of State recalled that he had been to this country and was familiar with its people. In addition, Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that Japan should also work with Russia, “I know Putin’s position. Japan needs to cooperate with Russia. You are neighbours, they are not chosen, they are from God. Well, why not cooperate with us? We really hope that thanks to you we will be able to advance in many directions.”

In turn, the diplomat assured that the Emperor of Japan asked to convey his desire to promote bilateral relations. “This is good,” Aleksandr Lukashenko reacted.



### About Nepal

To develop ties with Nepal, the time has come to more effectively use the necessary resource, the President noted. He proposed starting with

projects to modernise the agricultural sector, industry and energy complex. “We are ready to share knowledge and experience in the scientific and technical field, to train your students in in-demand specialties,” said the Head of State.



### About the Sultanate of Oman

Relations between Belarus and the Sultanate of Oman have always been distinguished by a high level of mutual understanding, stated

Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Your country is one of our most important partners in the Middle East,” he said. “We need to resume contacts and cooperation. You have a wonderful country (I was in your country); you have wonderful people. Let’s cooperate.” The President declared his readiness to continue constructive political dialogue and implement joint investment, logistics and industrial projects. “I hope that you will be a frequent guest in the Belarusian government, organisations and enterprises,” the Head of State said, addressing the ambassador.



### About the Republic of Guinea

Africa has recently become one of the main guidelines of Belarusian foreign policy, stated Aleksandr Lukashenko. According to him,

Belarus is now actively working on the economic development of this continent and expanding its diplomatic presence. Having some experience of effective work in this region of the planet, we are ready to apply it to the Republic of Guinea, as the President said. The main driver, in his opinion, is projects in the trade and economic sphere. This is primarily cooperation in the field of agricultural mechanisation, joint mining, infrastructure development, and the organisation of a system for providing primary medical care to the population.

### Willingness to counter offers

Yes, the ceremony of presenting credentials only at first glance is of a purely protocol and formal nature. In fact, it is imbued with deep meaning and symbolism. The ambassador of any state, in accordance with his status, should not work to destroy relations between countries, but to strengthen them, to create them, which ultimately turns out to be a benefit for people. This is the great mission of a true diplomat, and for such partners all doors are open and there are no closed topics.

The Head of State, welcoming the diplomats, noted that with the presentation of their credentials, a new stage in their professional activities begins, “I am very glad that you decided to connect it with our country. For our part, we will do everything to ensure that this period leaves the best memories and benefits us.”

The President stated the fact that the diplomats’ mission begins on the eve of very important events for our country: elections of deputies to the House of Representatives and local councils, as well as the formation of the All-Belarusian People’s Congress. Suggestion from Aleksandr



■ President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Belarus Hiroiyuki Yamamoto

Lukashenko, “If you are interested in this experience of public administration, we are ready to share it.”

A truly significant event for Belarusians this year will be the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders. And a new message to foreign diplomats from the President of Belarus, “You will be able to see with your own eyes how Belarusians preserve the memory of the Great Patriotic War, its heroes and innocent victims.”

Another very significant wish from the President is related to the fact that 2024 has been declared the Year of Quality in the country. This is not just an improvement in consumer or performance characteristics of manufactured products, Aleksandr Lukashenko specified. This is a course towards modernisation, technical re-equipment of production, creation of new jobs and cost reduction. And here is a message to diplomats not to stand aside, not to be indifferent to the modern symbol of the year. “We really rely on you in this process. The doors are open for you in Belarus. I am convinced that such measures will give a serious impetus to our manufacturing sector. We are ready for your counter-proposals that will organically fit into the achievement of these goals in terms of modern projects, exchange of experience and the latest developments,” the Head of State noted.

### Reciprocity upon reciprocity

Belarusian foreign policy is based on the principles of respect, equality and justice. This statement contains the essence of the state’s peace-loving policy. We don’t want to fight with anyone and don’t intend to. And whoever comes to us with kindness, with an open soul and pure thoughts, we respond in kind. And this is not diplomatic etiquette or a fashion statement. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasises that hospitality is one of the main Belarusian brands, which we are very proud of and pass on from generation to generation. And the greatest values for Belarusians are peace and harmony, the opportunity to work and develop in peace. That is why we are unequivocal supporters of a single and indivisible security, we stand for a new, fairer world order, for opportunities for development and a decent future for all peoples, and not just for the so-called golden billion.

“I believe that you will love Belarus the way we love it, its residents and citizens, our guests...” the President said, addressing the ambassadors.

### Open intentions and favourable priorities

The diplomats themselves also outlined prospects for interaction with Belarus. Both before the start of the ceremony and after it ended, the ambassadors of foreign



countries spoke with journalists. A feature that media representatives drew attention to is that many diplomats (including the heads of diplomatic missions of Japan and Guinea) speak Russian very well and refused to use a translator. And this is another sign of openness and willingness to work and find a common language in all areas. Despite any external factors.

### Help develop interaction

As is known, diplomatic relations between Belarus and Azerbaijan were established on June 11th, 1993. One of the most important achievements of the past period was the advancement of bilateral relations to the level of strategic partnership.

The countries traditionally have close positions in the international arena, in fact pursuing an independent foreign policy, the unconditional priority of which is the interests of the two peoples. Ambassador Maharram Abysh oglu Aliyev emphasises that Azerbaijan has been friends with Belarus for many years, including at the state level, “I think this will continue. We have a lot of issues in bilateral cooperation that are important for both countries.” The most important task of the ambassador is to unite mutual efforts and help develop interaction between the two states, says the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Belarus.

### Close relationships needed

Back in the summer of 2017, at a meeting on foreign policy priorities, Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about the need to develop a full-fledged long-term strategy for cooperation between Belarus and African countries, “It is necessary to get away from the practice of working in this direction in bursts, from visit to visit. We should have a full-fledged long-term strategy for cooperation with this promising region.”

A lot has been done in this regard recently. And the President of Belarus shows by personal example how to work with this continent, repeatedly emphasizing that the future belongs to Africa. And they really are waiting for us there. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Guinea to Russia and Belarus concurrently Niankoye Haba emphasises: the countries of the African continent today need close relationships and assistance in order for Africa to develop, “We really

hope that cooperation between the Republic of Guinea and Belarus will help in this.”

The diplomat is confident that close cooperation will be established at the leadership level on both sides to work for the benefit of the two peoples. As for the areas in which Guinea is interested in developing, the priority is agriculture, education, and medicine. By the way, Niankoye Haba noted that the proposals that were worked out during Aleksandr Lukashenko's visit to Equatorial Guinea are also interesting to Guinea, “What you will do in Equatorial Guinea is also suitable for our country. We sincerely believe that we will find understanding on the part of our Belarusian friends.”

### Consider mutual needs

Erbol Sultanbaev draws attention to an important fact that always helps in the development of cooperation — the relationship between the leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Belarus, “A political dialogue has developed between them at a very high level. All this, along with the historical commonality of our peoples, is a powerful help in modern bilateral relations.”

In his diplomatic activities, the new ambassador will give priority attention to political, trade, economic and humanitarian interaction. This year, the next meeting of the intergovernmental commission is expected to be held in Bishkek, and the Days of Culture of Kyrgyzstan are

planned to be held in Minsk. In addition, the parties will develop direct contacts between the business communities of the two countries. We must proceed from mutual needs, opportunities and adopt each other's best practices, emphasises Erbol Sultanbaev.

The head of the diplomatic mission also considers it important to actively interact on the CIS, EAEU, and CSTO platforms. In his firm belief, both bilaterally and multilaterally there are all the prerequisites for interaction to deepen and reach a higher level.

### Work hard and in all areas

*Interaction between Belarus and Türkiye takes place in a wide range of areas and is supported by political contacts and dialogue at the highest level, at the level of intergovernmental communication, interparliamentary communication and serious interdepartmental cooperation.*

*The new Turkish Ambassador to our country is confident that the partnership will continue to develop. Güçlü Cem İşik admits that it is a great honour for him to present his credentials and emphasizes, "We have excellent relations between peoples and governments. Both the embassy and I will work very hard to ensure that cooperation develops every day and in all areas. There is something to work on, I was directed to work on our interaction in all areas. I will try very hard."*

### There are prospects for success

Rakhmatulla Nazarov sincerely admits that he is glad to work on the beautiful, friendly, hospitable Belarusian soil, and assures that he will make every effort to ensure that relations between Uzbekistan and Belarus develop progressively. As you know, Aleksandr Lukashenko recently visited Uzbekistan, the negotiations were intense, and many agreements were reached. As the head of the Uzbek diplomatic mission, the ambassador and his colleagues will have to make efforts to ensure that all these agreements are implemented. The diplomat emphasised that the economies of the two countries complement each other very well and the parties have very good potential for developing cooperation. The main attention will be paid to the implementation of joint projects aimed at developing markets in third countries. The ambassador noted that the Central Asian region is home to more than 70 million people, next to Afghanistan



with a population of 35 million, and even further away are the countries of South Asia: "In short, we have very great prospects to jointly achieve success and ensure the well-being of our peoples. Uzbekistan is interested in mutually beneficial cooperation with Belarus."

### Close exchange will continue

In March 2022, Aleksandr Lukashenko gave an interview to the Japanese TV channel TBS, during which they talked about bilateral relations between Belarus and Japan. Then the President drew attention to the similarity of peoples and economies. And also — to similar tragedies of two peoples. And despite this, the Japanese side imposed sanctions against us, the Head of State stated then, "We cooperated with you in overcoming the Chernobyl disaster. We have worked with you more than anyone else. And then you ran after America and introduced some dubious sanctions against us." Today, the new Ambassador of Japan to Belarus, Hiroyuki Yamamoto, who, by the way, visited our country in 1987, notes, "His Majesty the Emperor of Japan wishes to continue bilateral relations." During his work in his new position, the diplomat was involved in the development of cultural and humanitarian ties in our country and expects that close exchanges between Belarus and Japan will continue.

Aleksey Fedosov

# MORE THAN JUST PARTNERS

**A delegation of Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Minsk on a working visit. Over three days, the guests held a number of meetings and negotiations and visited leading industrial enterprises. The central event was the meeting of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko with the President of Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina Milorad Dodik.**

## **“You can count on us”**

This was not the first time for Milorad Dodik to visit Belarus. In June 2019, he already met with Aleksandr Lukashenko in Minsk while visiting the 2nd European Games. True, then in the position of Chairman of the Presidium of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This time he brought with him a solid delegation, the composition of which alone made it possible to judge what interests the Balkan partners in Belarus most of all. The ministers of scientific and technological development and higher education, health and social protection, agriculture, forestry and water management arrived in Minsk. In a word, the visit programme was very eventful. Everywhere guests were greeted warmly, including at the highest level.

“The ageless Milorad,” Aleksandr Lukashenko greeted his colleague with a smile. “You should know the main thing: if something in Belarus suits you in terms of technology and other issues in agriculture, industry, healthcare, we are always happy to provide you with help and support.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also stated that Belarus is closely monitoring the situation in the Balkans, “You know my attitude well. On all the cases and issues that exist, on the events that took place in our friendly Yugoslavia, when it was simply dismembered into parts. You know my position and attitude towards you in the most difficult times. I mean

Serbia when it was bombed. You know the relations that we are building with Bosnia and Herzegovina. We know that sometimes it's not easy for you there. But you fight bravely. We welcome this. Only courage, resilience and strength today, unfortunately, can determine the future of a particular country, region, territory. I think that you are steadfastly hanging in there, representing the interests of Orthodox people and people who trust and believe in you. We are on your side in this regard, and you can count on us. In a word, you have come to see your friends.”

## **“We remained consistent in our decision”**

Milorad Dodik also warmly greeted the President of Belarus, “I personally perceive you as a friend of our people and, more to say, as a brother.” The President of Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina recalled that his first meeting with Aleksandr Lukashenko took place back in 2000 at the celebration of the 2000th anniversary of Christianity in Jerusalem. Milorad Dodik added that the entire leadership of Republika Srpska is today under British and American sanctions, “Despite all the challenges, our friendship continues. I know that your country is also under pressure and sanctions from the West. We in Republika Srpska did not allow Bosnia and Herzegovina to vote for sanctions. Of course, it was not easy for us to



overcome the pressure from both Brussels and Washington. But we remained consistent in our decision.”

Later, in a conversation with journalists, the President of Republika Srpska noted that the meeting with the President of Belarus had been ‘exceptional’. According to Milorad Dodik, this was also an opportunity to personally thank Aleksandr Lukashenko for his support and cooperation. And not only today. The Serbian people still remember the visit of the President of Belarus to Belgrade in 1999. The country at the time was under NATO bombing, which the alliance called Operation Angel of Mercy. But the only one who showed mercy and calls for peace then was Aleksandr Lukashenko, who flew to Belgrade without any security guarantees from the West. “He was the only leader who supported and understood my people in 1999,” Milorad Dodik says now, emphasising his deep respect for the President of Belarus. “It was an act of personal courage, and we Serbs will never forget it. Your President is a living legend, he is a witness of the difficult times that Belarusians, Russians and Serbs went through.”

### **“We always talk about mutual assistance”**

Many Belarusians do not separate Serbia and the Republika Srpska in any way. And indeed, until 1991 they were part of a united Yugoslavia. However, now these are actually two

different government entities. Moreover, Republika Srpska is an integral part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today, these picturesque places attract more and more tourists. As one Serbian diplomat so emphatically said, they do not have five-star hotels, but they have five-star nature. And 270 sunny days a year and the most fertile soils allow successful farming.

Serbian farmers have known Belarusian technology since Soviet times. They are still interested in it. Milorad Dodik told reporters about specific agreements, “We are planning to purchase your equipment: electric buses, agricultural machines for a total amount of about 10 million dollars. We will be working on these issues in the near future.”

Belarusian experience in medicine is also in demand among guests. The leader of Republika Srpska especially thanked the Belarusian side for providing medical care to the citizens of his country at the Minsk Scientific and Practical Centre for Surgery and Transplantology. More than 20 people were treated here, including three children. The international agenda was also discussed at the meeting at the Palace of Independence. And here both countries are in a similar situation, since they are experiencing sanctions pressure from the West, the leader of Republika Srpska emphasised, “Therefore, we have mutual understanding without words. There is no need to explain much to each



other here. President Aleksandr Lukashenko is a rare leader who is familiar with all the details and understands us, and we always talk about mutual assistance.”

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs spoke in detail about the intensification of bilateral cooperation. The head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry Sergei Aleinik met with the leader of the Republika Srpska. The interlocutors discussed ways to intensify interaction in various fields, including industry, healthcare, education and scientific and technical cooperation. Current topics on the international agenda, including regional security, were also touched upon.

“I really appreciate your efforts.”

So, Milorad Dodik visited Belarus for the first time in 2019. Then he expressed his sincere admiration for what he saw and, turning to Aleksandr Lukashenko, said, “I really appreciate your efforts to make your country stable and successful.” During his current visit to Belarus, the President of Republika Srpska spoke about how the Bosnian region responded to sanctions against our country. The politician’s words are quoted by RT, “Bosnia and Herzegovina did not join the sanctions. Republika Srpska has not given consent, although the other part of Bosnia and Herzegovina wants it. I applaud the way Belarus is functioning despite the sanctions. Republika Srpska is in similar circumstances, but with a clear vision and decisive leadership, progress is being made.”

### PLANS ARE DETERMINED TO COME TRUE

Belarus, as a country with powerful industrial potential, is ready to contribute to the development of the Republika Srpska. This was stated by the Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko during a meeting with the President of Republika Srpska of Bosnia and Herzegovina Milorad Dodik. The parties discussed bilateral cooperation, as well as areas of development and collaboration.

The Head of the Belarusian Government noted that in the current difficult geopolitical situation, openness to dialogue and mutual trust are the main incentive for the development of bilateral cooperation. Speaking about specific areas of development of bilateral cooperation, the Prime Minister noted agricultural engineering, “We know that Belarusian tractor equipment has long proven itself in your republic. We have not stopped deliveries in recent years, despite the increasingly complex logistics and difficulties in concluding deals and contracts. In 2023 and the year before last, we supplied tractors to Republika Srpska and believe that their number can be significantly increased. Unlike many other manufacturers, we have not lost our competencies; on the contrary, we have reached a new qualitative level of development and produce more than 45 thousand tractors per year.”

The second area of interaction that the Prime Minister focused on was passenger transport, “We follow and know how much attention you pay to ensuring that the lives of citizens in Republika Srpska are comfortable. Therefore, we would be very happy to establish cooperation in the supply of passenger transport to your republic. You know that we have some experience in cooperation with other constituent entities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Belarusian public transport is also supplied to the city of Sarajevo.”

The Prime Minister also noted that members of the delegation visited Belarusian institutions and organisations, including the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Ministry of Education, “We hope to intensify cooperation in these areas. In my opinion, it is necessary to more actively use the potential of chambers of commerce and industry, business circles, and hold as many bilateral events as possible. I would like to propose forming and sending delegations from the Republika Srpska to our main exhibition events that will take place this year. This is the Belagro international exhibition in June, which is dedicated to the agro-industrial complex, as well as the Belarusian industrial and investment forum, which will take place in September.”

Roman Golovchenko expressed confidence that Milorad Dodik has a comprehensive vision of how further bilateral cooperation needs to be developed.

Vladimir Velokhov  
Photo by BelTA

# IN A NEW FORMAT AND WITHOUT FORMALISM

**The printing schedule for this issue of the magazine does not allow us to tell readers about the results of the most important political event, which for the first time in the country's electoral practice is a single voting day on February 25th. We will definitely report about them in our next issue. But we have information about readiness for the electoral process, competition among candidates for deputies and a responsible approach of voters themselves to the election, especially if we refer to the statements of the Chairman of the Central Election Commission Igor Karpenko, made the day before on the air of the Belarus1 TV channel.**



So, on a **single voting day**, citizens of Belarus had to elect more than 12 thousand deputies to local councils and 110 to the House of the National Assembly. As the Chairman of the Central Election Commission Igor Karpenko noted, a certain rivalry has developed among the candidates. For example, 265 candidates ran for the House of Representatives for 110 seats. As a result, by analogy with entrance exams, the average competition here was 2.4 people per place. There were constituencies where not only two, but also three people were competing for a seat in parliament.

More than 18 thousand people applied for local councils. This is approximately 1.5 people per seat. But here, too, there were some peculiarities: you need to understand that for the regional councils, the Minsk City Council, the competition was expected to be slightly higher than, for example, for the district councils.

Igor Karpenko did not hide the fact that there were cases when only one uncontested candidate appeared at the polling station. Such situations concerned, first of all, village or town councils. And here there was an explanation. As the head of the Central Election Commission clarified, residents of a particular village or rural locality, as a rule, elect deputies whom they know well, whom they themselves nominated, and who live directly there. And, as a rule, they support such parliamentary candidates in elections without any alternative.

The Chairman of the Central Election Commission also spoke about the party candidates. According to the Central Election Commission, more than 76 percent of parliamentary candidates had a party affiliation. But again, only a little more than one third of the candidates for local councils are party people. And this is also understandable, says Igor Karpenko. Because political parties that aim to come to power strive first of all to get into parliament. Because it is there that the laws by which society will live are

developed and adopted. Here, in the House of Representatives, deputies participate in determining the strategic directions for the country's development. In addition, from this year, parliamentarians in full will be included in the All-Belarusian People's Congress, in other words, they will be delegates of the All-Belarusian People's Congress. Namely, the All-Belarusian People's Congress will approve the Concept of National Security, the State Development Strategy for both the near and longer term.

According to the Chairman of the Central Election Commission, the emergence of a **single voting day** in Belarus is not only a convenient format for the country's citizens, but also a serious savings for the state. By combining two campaigns, parliamentary and local councils, the state saves due to the fact that fewer election commissions are formed and fewer electoral districts have appeared, especially for rural councils. "If previously at least 11 districts were formed by village councils, this was the lower figure, now there are only five," emphasised Igor Karpenko.

The Chairman of the Central Election Commission once again emphasised that elections are a serious socio-political event. And all the shows and various kinds of clashes that occur during the election campaigns of other countries, in his firm conviction, are aimed only at 'talking to voters, disorganising them, disavowing them with information, in order to bring to power those candidates who are.' "By and large," noted Igor Karpenko, "this multi-party system, which many people like to praise and talk about, today we see in advanced democracies, where two or three parties shuffle power among themselves. And sometimes the arrival of this or that candidate does not in any way affect the change in the socio-political course — foreign policy and domestic policy - in this country."

Vsevolod Yevseyev

# BELARUS – INDIA: MOVEMENT WITH A QUALITY MARK



Celebrations dedicated to the Indian Republic Day, held in Minsk, testified that the foundation, on which relations between Belarus and India continue to develop, is strong. They are built on the principles of equality, trust and respect and have remained warm and cordial in the new era of our history for more than 30 years. As we remember, the Indian diplomatic mission opened in Minsk in 1992, shortly after Belarus gained sovereignty. Since then, India for many Belarusians has no longer been just a distant, exotic and unknown country, but a reliable, time-tested partner: both in business relations and in international politics. This is a sufficient reason to further strengthen cooperation and bring it, as President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko said, to the level of strategic partnership.

Congratulating the President of India Droupadi Murmu and the people of this country on the national holiday — Republic Day, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “Belarus is watching with great interest the systemic transformations and successes of your beautiful country in the areas of the digital economy, space research, urban infrastructure and green energy.” The congratulation also states that the Belarusian side highly appreciates the significant contribution of the Indian state to ensuring international security, sustainable development, overcoming global challenges, as well as a constructive position on global and regional agendas on the platforms of international organisations and associations. The Head of State indicated Belarus’ interest in further strengthening interaction with India to the level of strategic partnership and readiness to implement joint projects in various sectors: mechanical engineering, electric transport, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and technology, science, education and culture. In conclusion, wishing his Indian colleague health and happiness, and all Indian citizens a peaceful and prosperous life, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “I will be glad to meet with you soon in Minsk or New Delhi to discuss practical steps to expand cooperation.”

And in this regard, we believe it is important to talk about how the 75th anniversary of the Indian Republic Day was celebrated in Minsk. The celebration began in the morning at the Indian Embassy, where we had the honour of being invited, with a ceremony of raising the national flag. It was a beautiful and impressive sight. Especially the moment when the flag, one of the state symbols of this great and friendly country, unfurled on a high flagpole, and dark red rose petals fell from it. It looked like a kind of flower fireworks display. And then the group of diplomats headed by His Excellency, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Belarus Alok Ranjan Jha, proclaimed the words ‘Glory to Mother India!’ three times. And later, after a short official part at the Embassy and watching a film about India, over lunch we learned: the original tradition of raising a flag with rose petals is maintained in India on Republic Day throughout government agencies and other organisations. Social media did not fail to capture this moment through photographs and videos.

And in the evening there was a reception. The Embassy of India organised it in one of the prestigious capital hotels — Renaissance Minsk Congress Hotel. At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Ambassador, representatives of diplomatic missions of different countries, a number of ministries and departments, international and public organisations that interact with the Indian Embassy in Belarus took part in the celebration. There were also Indian citizens with families who, for various reasons, live in our country. Also businessmen, doctors, and students. And, of course, friends of India, of whom there are many in Belarus. We,



journalists, who have visited this beautiful country more than once, also count ourselves among them. (We shared our impressions of traveling around India on the pages of the magazine in some essays in different years).

To attend such receptions means to feel the breath and unique atmosphere of great India. And the point here is not even in the smells of smoking incense and spices, which were slightly felt even before entering the hall, but rather, figuratively speaking, in the aroma of that inviting warmth and openness characteristic of Indians.

Each guest who arrived at the celebration was greeted by H.E. Mr. Ambassador at the entrance to the hall. Guests could express words of appreciation and gratitude to him and other embassy employees for the invitation to the

reception. And it felt nice to do so. In turn, the Ambassador thanked us for our cooperation, and we in return thanked him for the interest in our publication. Let us remind you that an interview with him was published in the last issue. Having entered the hall, we placed ourselves at a table closer to the stage so that the concert programme, promised after the welcoming speeches of the Ambassador of India Alok Ranjan Jha and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Sergei Aleinik, was in our view from a favorable angle. And here's the beginning. The national anthems of India and Belarus were played. The Ambassador's Assistant Yekaterina Novikova gave the floor to Alok Ranjan Jha. He cordially congratulated all those present on the 75th anniversary of Republic Day and, according to tradition, read excerpts from the speech of the President of India on the occasion of Republic Day to the guests. They were simultaneously broadcast in text format in Russian on large screens. We will familiarise the readers of our magazine with them.

***Excerpts from the speech of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Belarus, His Excellency Alok Ranjan Jha***

As has been the tradition, please allow me to begin by sharing with you some excerpts from the Honourable President's speech on the eve of the Republic Day.

***Excerpts from the speech of the President of India Droupadi Murmu***

My heartiest greetings to all of you on the eve of the 75th Republic Day! My heart is filled with pride when I look back and see how far we have travelled despite adversities. The 75th year of the Republic is truly a historic milestone in the journey of the nation in many ways.

The nation is in the early years of Amrit Kaal or the Era of Elixir, the period leading to the centenary of Independence (in 2047). This is the time of an epochal transformation. We are given a golden opportunity to take the country to new heights. Contribution from every citizen will be crucial to achieve our goals.

Republic Day is an occasion to recall our foundational values and principles. When we contemplate any one of them, we are naturally guided to the rest. Democracy implies diversity of culture, beliefs and practices. Celebrating diversity implies equality, which is upheld by justice. Freedom is what makes it all possible. The totality of these values and principles is what makes us Indian.

The ethos of our Republic brings together more than 1.4 billion of us to live as one family. For this largest family in the world, co-existence is not an imposition of geography



but a source of happiness, which finds expression in our Republic Day celebrations. Earlier this week, we witnessed the historic consecration ceremony of the idol of Prabhu Shri Ram in the glorious new temple constructed at His birthplace in Ayodhya. When this event will be seen in the wider perspective, the future historians will consider it a landmark in India's continued re-discovery of its civilisational heritage.

If we look at the year since the last Republic Day, there is much to be pleased about. The successful organising of the Group of 20 Summit in the capital, under India's presidency, was an unprecedented achievement. What was all the more noteworthy was the way the people were involved in the G20 events. The ideas and inputs travelled not downwards from the top but upwards from the bottom. The magnificent event provided lessons for all in making citizens participants in strategic and diplomatic matters that are, in the final analysis, going to shape their own future. The G20 Summit also boosted India's emergence as the voice of the Global South, adding a necessary element to the international discourse.

India is moving ahead with confidence, which comes from and is also reflected by the robust health of the economy. Our GDP growth rate has remained the highest

among major economies in recent years, and we have all reasons to believe that this extraordinary performance will continue in the year 2024 and beyond. What I find particularly noteworthy is that the same farsighted planning that fuels the economy has also given a push to the welfare drive to make the development inclusive in every sense of the term. There have been a number of mission-mode schemes to increase the ease of living for all citizens. From the availability of safe and adequate drinking water at home to the security of having one's own home. The government has not only expanded and enhanced the welfare schemes, but it has also redefined the idea of welfare itself.

In recent times, many conflicts have emerged around the world and several parts of it have been suffering from violence. When each of the two conflicting sides believes that it is right and the other is wrong, the way out should be found in the light of reason. Unfortunately, instead of reason, fears and prejudices have fueled passions, leading to relentless violence. There have been a series of humanitarian tragedies on a large scale, and we feel aggrieved over the human suffering. India has time and again shown that non-violence is not just an ideal that may be difficult to achieve but it is a distinct possibility – in fact, it is a lived reality for many.

India's ancient wisdom can also help the world find a way out of the global environmental crisis. I am glad to see India at the forefront of promoting renewable sources of energy and taking a leadership position in global climate action. India has launched the 'LiFE Movement' for adoption of environment-conscious lifestyle. The global community has appreciated our country's emphasis on individual behaviour-change for dealing with the issues of climate change.

The period of Amrit Kaal is also going to be the period of unprecedented technological changes. Technological advances like Artificial Intelligence and machine learning have moved from headlines into our daily lives at a breathtaking speed. There are numerous areas of concern in the foreseeable future, but there are also exciting opportunities ahead, especially for the youth. They are exploring new frontiers. It is, after all, their confidence that is building the India of tomorrow.

*Those were excerpts from the Honorable President's speech. Let me now add a few words of my own*

The year just gone by continued to witness India's meteoric rise under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. In 2023, India also became the most populous country on the planet—a largely young country which will continue to have a significant share of world's working age population for decades to come. In a few weeks' time 960 million Indians will participate in, what is, by a long margin, the largest exercise of democratic rights on this planet!



Amongst many notable achievements, I wish to particularly highlight one: the landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon. This is, undoubtedly, the biggest achievement of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It also marks a definitive turning point in India's space programme. Following the success of Chandrayaan-3, ISRO has unveiled ambitious plans for the coming years – a sample return mission to the Moon in next four years, a manned mission to space by next year, a permanent space station by 2028, and a human mission to the Moon by 2040. This is in addition to several other missions to study the Sun, Mars and Venus. ISRO is among a handful of space agencies in the world that are doing such wide variety of missions.





### *Excerpts from the speech of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Sergei Aleinik*

As in the past few years, the global geopolitical landscape continues to remain littered with difficulties. Occasional recurrence of COVID-19 pandemic; the situation in our neighbourhood; the conflict in West Asia (what some of you call the Middle East); ongoing political instability and violence in parts of Africa; and recrudescence of global ills such as maritime piracy are amongst the worrying elements on the global scene. It is in the face of such intense headwinds, that India and Belarus have managed to strengthen their bilateral ties.

In 2023, we exchanged several delegations in the field of defence research, science & technology, agriculture and food products, pharmaceuticals, textiles and business in general. There were visits by senior officials from both the countries. We had the honour of participation from Belarus in both the editions of the Voice of the Global South Summit which we hosted in our capacity as the G20 President. India's SCO presidency witnessed significant progress in Belarus' journey towards full membership of SCO.

Our longstanding cooperation in the international forums continued unabated in 2023. The Hon'ble Minister recently met our External Affairs Minister on the sidelines

of the NAM Summit in Kampala and I am certain that this meeting will provide further boost to our relations.

In conclusion, H.E. Mr. Ambassador shared the news that in December 2023, UNESCO included the popular folk dance Garba, originally from the state of Gujarat, on the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. We later saw this original dance live during the festive concert programme.

The encouraging fact that cooperation between Belarus and India on international platforms, including within the framework of the SCO and BRICS associations, is growing stronger was noted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Sergei Aleinik, whom we listened attentively after the speech of the Ambassador of India.

The unique path of the past decades has led India to the status of one of the world's leading powers. This became possible due to the wise and progressive approach of the leaders of India, and the sincere belief of the Indian people in a prosperous future.

The foundation of our cooperation was laid back in the days of the Soviet Union. Since then, the peoples of Belarus and India have maintained relations of warm friendship and mutual understanding, despite the distance and numerous geopolitical challenges. This April will mark 32 years since our countries have cooperated as sovereign and independent states.

Our views on the world and the global processes coincide. Belarus and India stand for justice and diversity of development paths; we stand against dictatorship and the pressure of illegal sanctions in international relations. We advocate the solution of world problems through the language of diplomacy and step by step we move towards a polycentric world enjoying equal rights.

Last year, Belarusian-Indian relations developed steadily and sustainably; political dialogue strengthened and trade and economic ties expanded.

Despite the difficulties, we managed to ensure the growth of trade. At the end of the last year, we approached the half-billion USD mark.

There were held the meetings of Joint Working Groups on Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Interbank Consultations, and a series of business events, including Industrial, Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Business Forums.

The parties continued effective work in the agricultural, industrial and pharmaceutical sectors. We have identified a list of mutually beneficial investment projects for joint implementation.



In August 2023, the capitals of our countries were connected by a direct flight, and this will contribute to the growth of business and touristic flows in both directions. Contacts in the field of scientific, technical and educational cooperation are developing dynamically. During the last year the countries signed more than 20 documents of inter-university cooperation. The number of Indian citizens studying in Belarus is growing. Over the past decade, the number of Indian students has increased from 70 to 1,000. Cultural ties are continuously expanding - the Program of Cooperation in the Field of Culture until 2025 has been signed. The International Yoga Day celebration in Belarus has become annual. Indian filmmakers take part in the Listopad Film Festival in our country.

At the same time, cooperation between Belarus and India is strengthening on the international platforms, including the SCO and BRICS.

Last year, the President of the Republic of Belarus took part in the SCO Council of Heads of State under the Indian Presidency. India was the first among the SCO countries to ratify the Memorandum of Obligations of Belarus for the status of an SCO member state.

Belarus has also applied to join the BRICS and is counting on the support of Indian friends in this matter.

The President of the Republic of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, appointed the new Heads of Diplomatic Missions in India, and set the task of bringing our bilateral relations to the level of strategic partnership. All our joint efforts will be subordinated to this goal.

Just last week, on the sidelines of the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Uganda, I had a productive meeting with my colleague, the Minister of External Affairs of India, Mr. Jaishankar. We agreed to intensify our contacts and develop a Joint Working Plan.



To implement these ideas, we are planning a series of events, in particular, the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Belarusian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation in the Field of Trade, Economy, Industry, Science, Technology and Culture.

Our current task is to analyze carefully the experience of cooperation between the two countries, take a critical approach to the areas in which we have not progressed, and study the experience of Soviet-Indian cooperation, in particular, in the pharmaceutical sector, as the Head of State said. Our goal is to find new points of growth and reach the level of strategic partnership between Belarus and India.

Important election campaigns will be held in Belarus and India this year. I am confident that we will pass them with dignity and continue to strengthen friendship and expand cooperation between our countries.

The year 2024 has been declared the Year of Quality in Belarus. I am convinced that this year our bilateral interactions will achieve new results through joint efforts and will be marked with a Mark of Quality.

In conclusion, Sergei Aleinik thanked H.E. Mr. Ambassador, the Indian diplomatic mission in Belarus for its invaluable contribution to the development of Belarusian-Indian cooperation, support in the implementation of all initiatives to strengthen the dialogue between Belarus and India, as well as for maintaining good and fruitful bilateral contacts. The minister also expressed confidence that joint work in the interests of Belarus and India will



bring increasingly tangible results, with a mark of quality, and wished India peace and prosperity, and well-being to the Indian nation.

The concert programme, which began immediately after the official part, was mainly dance. At the same time, it showed how attractive Indian culture is for Belarusians. In particular, Amrapali, Minsk Indian dance group, and the Sapna dance studio are successfully developing at the Indian Embassy, and at the House of Culture of the Minsk Automobile Plant, there is Indivara, the Indian dance school, which has existed since 1996. All these groups took part in the concert. And the folk dance Garba, included in the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, was presented to us by the artists of the Sapna studio.

As you know, culture brings countries and peoples together. At this stage of development of relations between our countries, experts assess as very important and promising the fact that Belarus and India have signed the Intergovernmental Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Culture for 2023-2025. The ceremony took place on November 9th, 2023 at the Ministry of Culture of India. In accordance with the signed programme, it is planned to hold Indian Culture Days in Belarus and Belarus in India, organise exchange of musical and artistic groups, mutual participation in various competitions and festivals. The programme also provides for cooperation between theatres, museums, galleries and libraries of the two countries, the organisation of mutual exhibitions and the exchange of experts.



...We recently spoke with Olga and Karan Parakh about how important various, including cultural, contacts between representatives of our countries are (interview with them on page...). They organized the Indian Cultural Centre in Minsk in 2018. "Do you know how to say 'drank tea' in Hindi?" Olga asked. And she herself answered, "We drank chai." And then we remembered a lot of consonant expressions. They also talked about the deep, centuries-old connections between Slavic and Indian culture. So, in fact, the foundation for building a majestic building called 'strategic partnership' between Belarus and India is centuries old. Strong. Thorough.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo by Ivan Zhdanovich and from the archives of the Embassy of the Republic of India in the Republic of Belarus

# LOVE FOR INDIA WITH A BELARUSIAN ACCENT

**We met Olga and Karan Parakh at a celebration dedicated to the celebration of the Indian Republic Day. We learned about this married couple back in 2017, when the Indian Cultural Centre opened in Minsk.**





■ The Centre of Indian Culture was opened in 2017. People come here to get acquainted with India, learn something new, and also for mood and warmth. All this and much more is presented here by the organisers of the Centre — Olga and Karan Parakh.



Even then the thought flashed through my mind: to write an article about the small island of India in Belarus. Moreover, we ourselves were already inspired by this great country, having visited there for the first time in 2016. But, as it happens, other topics were chosen, other problems were solved, and we have already visited India several times. The idea of meeting Olga and Karan and writing material about them matured gradually. We saw them during the autumn international exhibition Prodexpo 2024, when the couple presented India among presentations of cuisines from Armenia, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, and Iran, treating everyone to masala chai with sweets. I remember how the thought about Olga flew through my head: she is like a fresh wind, and about Karan: solid, like the earth...

Finally, the time has come. We met at the Indian Cultural Centre, which the couple organised. True, on the eve of the interview with Olga, Karan flew to Delhi, but he managed to tell us, “Everything that the wife talks about will be correct.”

Currently, they successfully continue to maintain the interest of Belarusians in India and awaken love for it in the hearts of those who are irresistibly attracted to this exotic country — the cradle of ancient civilizations. As Olga herself put it, together with her husband they continue to make people fall in love with it.

What they do for this, how they met each other, started a family, and how they themselves came to the desire to give India to Belarusians — this is what our conversation with her is about.

**“Olga, who appeared in your life earlier: Karan or India?”**

“I would say this: first there was love with India, and then with

Karan. Although, if we take it in terms of events, it all started with a vacation in Goa: In 2011, my friend and I took a ticket and flew there. At that time, I didn’t even know that Goa was a separate state of India, and I knew little about the country. But we liked it there so much that we decided to go to India next year and travel without a travel agency: see Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai... Six months later we started planning the trip. On one of the sites dedicated to India, we began to study how to fly to India on our own, how to book tickets... And Karan wrote to me. This was in the spring of 2012. I didn’t answer for a while, but then I finally decided to ask him about something about India. I also looked at Karan’s photos on Facebook...”

**“And you liked him?”**

“In any case, it didn’t give rise to the thought of ‘not communicating’ (*laughs*). This is how we began a correspondence. Gradually, feelings arose and a desire to meet. And already in the fall, when my friends and I flew to India, Karan occupied my thoughts. We first planned to go to Delhi and the next day to the Taj Mahal. But it so happened that our plane was late, and we arrived a day later. So our first live communication with Karan took place in the Taj Mahal, in this unique temple of love. There we realised: yes, there are feelings between us. A year later he flew to Minsk. By the way, Karan was struck by the absence of people on the streets and avenues, the large open spaces. Of course, cleanliness, including in the courtyards. Karan comes from Delhi, where there twice as many people as in whole Belarus. And a year later he came to ask for my hand.”



■ A seminar on spices conducted by Karan, one of the most popular among guests of the Centre

**“Was it a deliberate decision?”**

“Quite thoughtful: we were not 19 years old, but already under thirty. And parents on both sides accepted our choice. Although, I think, on the part of his relatives and my parents there were concerns, they say, ‘foreigner’, different

culture, traditions... But everything turned out great: my parents adore Karan. His mother passed away a year before we met, and his father, says Karan, completely trusts him, knowing that his son does not make hasty decisions. Every year his father comes to Belarus and sees that I share my husband’s traditions and, moreover, share them with my compatriots.”

**“How did you come up with the idea of creating a Centre for Indian Culture?”**

“When Karan came here, he asked everyone he met: what do you think about India, what do you know about my country?” The most popular answers were the following: India is *Seeta Aur Geeta*, it is poverty and dirt. When Karan heard about this, he felt sorry for his country: the culture in India is rich, and there is so much there that people don’t know about. In addition, it is a country with one of the fastest growing economies. The acceleration is incredible! As for Indians, they are huge patriots of their country. Indians wrested their independence from the British, so they value it very much. Did you know that every movie theatre plays the national anthem before a movie and Indians stand up and sing it? You have to see how they do it, how reverently they treat their culture. It was then, in 2017, that we set out to talk about India. First we made a website, it ‘worked’ for some time: we shared recipes, talked about yoga... But then we realised that there should be a place where people interested in India should meet and communicate live. Online will not replace the feelings and emotions that arise during live communication. One day, when they came home, Karan said, “We need to open a cultural centre where people will come, so we can talk about India.” And we opened it. This is the seventh year people have been coming to us. We immediately gathered teachers. We had a Hindi course, then a mehndi school. It was led by a girl whom we met in Goa, where we went on our honeymoon. There is yoga for adults and for children...”

**“Please tell us a little about mehndi for our readers.”**

“There is no clear opinion in which country this art appeared,

but it was first noticed in Ancient Egypt, Morocco and India. Today, it is mainly associated with Indian culture, in which it is still actively used. In India, great importance is attached to body painting; mehndi is used in many rituals, for example, wedding rituals. By the way, Karan and I also had our hands painted with henna before our wedding. The hands and even the face of the bride are covered with drawings. Moreover, the images have meaning, they are certain talismans and bring positive energy to the person who wears them.”

**“Probably, those who first simply came to the Centre become your teachers?”**

“You guessed it! For example, Yelena Shimko came to the Hindi course, and then she began teaching yoga and the transformation game ‘Lila’. And Irina Mikhalkovich danced at our wedding, so much so that the Indians themselves were surprised and asked: is she really Belarusian? There is also a dancer Nadya Sklyarenko, we learned about her at the Indian embassy. So they both began to conduct master classes in classical Indian dance. We also teach Hindi.”

**“And are you talking about Indian cuisine? You talked about this during the presentation of Indian cuisine at the international exhibition *Prodexpo-2024*... And Karan prepared masala chai so masterfully...”**

“We not only tell, but also show... And treat. Drinking masala chai in the evenings (black tea with milk and spices), having prepared it according to the Karan family recipe, is already a tradition in our family. Over the years, other Indian traditions have become close and dear to me. However, the cuisine is a different story. Karan, like all Indians, loves to eat. Eat tasty, high-quality food, not on the run. Indians have a high food culture. It is very important for them that the food is fresh, prepared no more than four hours ago. They eat slowly, savouring their food and chewing it thoroughly. Indians treat food with respect and will never place a bag of it on the floor under their feet. Products are



■ Today you can get acquainted with the ancient art of mehndi at the Centre of Indian Culture. Karan and Olga's hands painted with henna before their wedding.

what we get energy from. When Karan came to Minsk for the first time, I fed him pasta and potato pancakes. Although he still likes potato pancakes, but for two weeks in a row... After some time, he delicately hinted that he would like Indian food. It was trash! My sister Karana helped me out and told me over the phone how to prepare paneer bhurji, a dish of Adyghe cheese with vegetables and spices. Which is what I did. Karan had spices. It seems to me, as I already said in one interview, that Indians carry spices with them in their pockets — just in case (*laugh*)."

**"Do they teach Sanskrit at your Centre?"**

"Yes! This is an ancient language that is no longer spoken, but it is read and translated, in particular texts on Ayurveda and yoga. And we have mehndi. We also do meditations. We launch Hindi learning courses twice a year. We try to collect everything that concerns India, what makes it special, under one roof."

**"Is Indian cuisine your and Karan's specialty?"**

We usually fly to India with half-empty suitcases. And we load back. After all, Indians, my husband is an example of this, always miss their food, some special snacks... So we bring a lot of food. Yes, we generally have a lot of things around food (*laughs*). Karan reasons: earlier people started hunting in order to get food for themselves and eat. This is one of the basic needs. Now we earn money to buy food, cook and eat. And then everything else. Therefore, if we don't eat something tasty, or something unclear, or on the go, then what is everything for? Then we will not get pleasure from life. Yes, for Indians, I see from Karan, this is very important. We came here hungry, we need to cook. I will have this and that, but Karan will never. He'll just drink water. And then, when we cook, he will sit down and enjoy the food."

**"That's why he apparently wanted to show Indian cuisine to our people?"**

"Which he does successfully. Both in the Centre and in the restaurant. Indian cuisine has many different flavours. It's



■ In the life of Karan and Olga Parakh there were two weddings: one was arranged according to Indian traditions in India, the second took place in Minsk

"Of course, but the first violin in it is Karan. Therefore, with his super ability to cook, we are actively developing it. Karan conducted his first seminar on spices and masala chai in Russian. I was very worried... But now he does it with ease. And I'm proud of how well he knows Russian. He studied from films, in particular, with Dmitry Nagiyev (Russian theatre and film actor). He watched the series *Kitchen* without captions, where Nagiyev played the leading role, and other films.

I was happy to get involved in something that Karan is a pro at. He knows exactly what masala chai and authentic Indian cuisine taste like and what role spices play in it. I'm helping him from the point of view of adapting Indian cuisine to Belarusian realities: after all, we don't have all the spices, and even the products that are included in some Indian dishes.

impossible to even describe it, but once you taste the dish, you'll definitely remember it."

**"We know this well after our trips to India. And the other day we visited the Masala restaurant. But we will definitely return to the conversation about it separately and introduce it to our readers. This is truly a place about delicious food."**

"Karan dreamed of doing this as soon as we arrived in Belarus. And in 2021 it came true."

**"Do you and Karan have plans to go to India?"**

"Initially he had them. In India, it is traditional for parents to live with their son's family. But when we got married, I invited him to live in Belarus for a couple of years so that my parents could be convinced that their daughter was happy with a foreigner, and then we'll see. But now, when I say:

let's leave, Karan doesn't want to leave... Here he opened his favourite business and talks about India."

**"If a restaurant is a place about food, what can you say about the Centre?"**

"This is a place for the soul. People come to us for the mood, for communication. It's atmospheric here. It is not at all necessary that those who have visited India and fallen in love with this country come. There are a lot of people who like to learn new things. Some people go simply out of curiosity, others on purpose. Those who visit us begin to become friends with each other, many become our friends. Some people find out about us on social media, where we write about what we will surprise and delight our guests with, 'works' and 'word of mouth'; there have also been stories on television. We are, of course, pleased when people come and report that they visited India because they heard about it here. One woman who came for our meditation and 'cuisine' said that she was collecting money for a trip to China. And then, after a while, she came and said that she had been to India (laugh)."

**"But as we understand, the Centre is also a place about food? (laugh)"**

"No other way! After all, food is a basic need. And the culinary trend is very popular among people. We have large master classes in our program, where we prepare four dishes at once: rice, flatbreads, a vegetable dish and sweets. This set is called thali. Karan conducts it. But there are also separate master classes on flatbreads, samosas, and sweets. And for legumes. Karan also talks to guests about chickpea flour, trying to educate people

about how versatile and important this product is for health. We are vegetarians after all. Of course, spice seminars are in great demand. Even if you are not interested in India, you can use spices in preparing dishes from other cuisines. And we are happy to share our knowledge. And those who visit the Centre share their experiences. They write and ask. There was a case. One lady came to us constantly. Once I asked her: do you use spices? She said that her 9-year-old son said at school: my mother went to a seminar and began to cook better (laugh)."

**"Do you cook right here, at the table, where we are now talking?"**

"Yes. Right here. Karan and I found the ideal form of the seminar: first we give theory, with a presentation, showing spices, telling how to combine and use them, then we confirm all this with practice. We have an induction cooker. Take a frying pan and start cooking. And we show, for example, how heating spices changes their texture, taste and properties. You put the cumin on the frying pan and everyone smells it, the change in texture. Add this to regular kefir — and this is an original drink. Guests taste it. And it's the same with legumes. We cook and everyone tries. I am convinced that all people love to eat and at the same time want to stay healthy."

**"What do you think today we can adopt from the Indians into our everyday life, way of life, and vice versa?"**

"When I visit India, I always admire their ability to have fun and get together. There is no such thing as first cousin or second cousin in Hindi language. They are all relatives. This lives on in their modern culture. That's why there are weddings there: a thousand, two or more people."

**"Did you have many guests at the wedding?"**

"450 people. By Belarusian standards it is a lot, but by Indian standards it is not enough. Karan's sister had 4 thousand! There were only 10 people on my side at our wedding: my mother and my girlfriends from different countries (laughs). That's why I talked about their related traditions. Even in this example, everything is clearly visible. Our wedding lasted one day, but usually they celebrate for two or even three days. And that's just how Indians have fun. It happens that 30-40 relatives gather — oops, well, let's go in a crowd to eat ice cream at Indian Gate (Gateway of India) at 12 at night. Come on! They go and have fun. Or they hired a bus, went to a wedding - and the whole bus sang karaoke. Let's drink some masala chai or something else! You should learn from them this ability to get together and have fun. Moreover, they feel happy from little things: you are close to your loved ones, you ate delicious food, the weather is good outside..."

**"And these, in fact, are not trifles at all, but the basis..."**

"Yes, basis... India is about basic, that is, about basic things that bring happiness. Even if you look at their houses and hotels, they have no luxury. This is still important for us, but for the people I know in India, luxury comfort in their homes is not important. Their priority is what brings them happiness even without luxury. That's why in houses you will see tiles rather than laminate

■ Karan and Olga with their sons Kevin and daughter Kaya during a trip to India





floors. Or, let's say somewhere a wall has darkened from the rain. This does not upset the Indians; it fades into the background.

Family values and the ability to talk to each other sincerely are very important to them. In India they believe that marriage is not for one life, but for all seven. Karan is always surprised that our children can raise their voices at their parents, or

simply speak to their elders without due respect. And he saw: a 10-year-old child screamed at his parents. Never in India! There is a clear gradation between seniors and juniors. Even in the Hindi language there is the special address. I remember when Karan came to Belarus, he was surprised that, for example, we could call our mother-in-law with the second person singular 'you'. Or just by patronymic. For him it's all 'you'. And he, for example, will never sit at the table if my parents are still standing. With us it's the other way around."

**"In the Belarusian outback, especially in Western Belarus, this feature is also reflected in the communication between children and parents. There, children call their father and mother 'you' as in the second person plural, not to mention older ones, and especially senior non-family members."**

"Yes, and this, I think, is correct: then the cultural foundations of order and relationships are laid in society. We need to revive this in cultural and everyday terms. Because before, as we know, this was the case: the traditions of evening parties, folk holidays, joint work testify..."

**"Alas, now there are tendencies towards isolation: both of one person and of young families... There are, of course, exceptions..."**

"Karan is even surprised: you have people living on the same landing for years and not knowing each other. And here in India, even in Delhi, he says, those who live 2-3 houses away — you know them, and they know you. And if there is a holiday, the whole street will be celebrating. And city microdistricts and neighbourhoods live like this too. As for my wishes to the Indians... I lack some comfort in India, I mean indoors. There, when it's winter, and, for example, it's +5 outside, people freeze in their houses: there's no heating. In Delhi, you wake up, go to the shower — of course, the water is hot, but in the house, as we say, it's bone-chilling cold (*laughs*).

They also have small windows in their houses. We are used to having a lot of light..."

**"They have enough sun throughout the year, but with us it is a rare guest, especially in the autumn-winter period..."**

"Yes, Indians hide from the sun and heat. You can also learn from their calmness. I remember when we were going to a wedding with Karan's father and I had a little son in my arms, I kept worrying, "It's 12 at night, the child needs to sleep." My father-in-law, "Everything is fine, we'll get there soon. Let's stop and drink masala chai. Let the son sleep in the car. And tomorrow he will sleep..." And I looked at everything with different eyes: what a valuable moment in life we are living, but I don't feel it. Because of my anxiety, and a vain one at that. This is such a romance: we are driving through India at night, drinking masala chai, and the son is taking a nap in the car. We have so much vanity, empty worries, but we live and don't notice the beauty of life... But Indians know how to feel this moment."

**"Did you manage to learn this yourself?"**

"Did I have a choice? (*we laugh*). I have been living with an Indian for more than 9 years. Yes, I can say that I have become much more tolerant. This is tolerance for others, for some tense situations, anxieties. Karan says this: if you can change something, then take it and do it. And if you can't, why even think about it?"

**"He probably absorbed a similar attitude to life, to the world around him at the level of the cultural traditions of his people?"**

"Apparently, yes. Children absorb all this as they grow up, at the level of each family. This is how knowledge from Ayurveda is. I asked Karan earlier: do you use Ayurveda at home? He said: no. And then, when you start studying this science, you understand: its elements are present in the everyday life of Indians. In Indian cuisine, everything is done in accordance with Ayurveda. That's why Karan, when my throat hurts, says don't eat banana or yogurt. Ayurveda explains this: at such times, the body, which is fighting the disease, does not need excess mucus. In India, food can be medicine. As soon as a person gets sick, in such situations he is advised to take and cook, say, mung bean with rice, adding spices. Also drink a drink with turmeric, black pepper and honey."

**"There is also an interesting point with water. When we talked with Sangeeta Bahadur, who previously, before the tenure of Mr. Ambassador Alok Ranjan Jha, represented India as its Ambassador to Belarus, she remembered the rule that existed in their family: you need to drink water slowly and always while sitting..."**

"Yes Yes Yes! Right! I remember the first time Karan's father came to visit us in Minsk. And I drank water — by the way, Karan instilled this habit in me: be sure to drink a glass of water in the morning. So here it is. I was standing then, and my father-in-law told me: sit down and drink, because later you may have problems with your knees when you drink water while standing. We taught our children to do this too. Even Kaya, who is one and a half years old, drinks water while sitting. And Kevin, who is almost seven, is already doing this consciously. Karan says: our grandmother, mother, father did this. This is already their tradition, which we respect. And there is a rational grain in this! I later learned about this during Ayurveda courses at our centre: oh, that's why we do this at home! (*laughs*)."

**“Who do you collaborate with?”**

“Of course with the Indian Embassy. We go there on various occasions. And Mr. Ambassador takes part in our events from time to time when he is not busy. We also respond if anyone is interested in us. The University of Culture once invited us, where we gave a lecture on Indian culture. We also take students from BSU for internships, those who study the culture of the peoples of Asia and the East. Some Minsk children's clubs also approached us with a request to hold, interestingly, seminars on spices. The guys who visit us, after being inspired, draw scenes related to India, and then give us their paintings.”

**“If Belarusian schoolchildren want through you to find friends with schoolchildren in India in order to be friends...”**

“I think we can help them with this. And with joy. Of course, contacts such as school cultural diplomacy will be very useful. Children do not always respect those who are outwardly different from them. This skill of interethnic communication needs to be instilled in them. We live in a world where a person's nationality, race, and skin colour should not serve as a reason for any discrimination. And the children's world, what to hide, is sometimes cruel and selfish. I have not observed anything like this in relation to my son: he is also ‘special’, but very sociable, open, and positive. So we will think about friendship between Indian and Belarusian children. We are open to any cooperation.”

**“Have you travelled around Belarus with your Indian relatives?”**

“We went to Dudutki and visited Mir Castle. We have not been to Belovezhskaya Pushcha. As I said, we are vegetarians. And Karan's father too. He doesn't even eat pizza or pasta. And in Belovezhskaya Pushcha all dishes are prepared using game and other meat. This stops us. My father-in-law really likes our nature. And the fact that you can open the window at 6 am in the summer and breathe. And he only comes from May to August: he is afraid of the cold. He feels more comfortable this way. He admires nature. Always surprised. That it gets dark late here: at 10-11 pm. He likes people... He says: not aggressive, calm, patient. And he's also surprised that in our villages, grandparents of 70-80 years old live alone. Without family. Where are their children, he asks, their relatives? At that age, they always have someone nearby with the

■ At parting, we wished each other joy.



elderly. Old people are always with children. My grandmother, who will turn 90 this summer, lives alone in the village of Chebotary in the Logoisk District. My parents visit her once a week. Anil, that's the father-in-law's name, was so impressed that he expressed a desire to live in the village for 2-3 days to see how grandma managed.”

**“There are such rich mushroom places there...”**

“Yes, my parents are avid mushroom pickers. They are already retired. Dad worked in the fire department for many years. Mom was a laboratory assistant in the chemical industry: she did water tests. Both do not speak English. When Karan came to ask for my hand, he didn't know Russian, but with the help of Google he learned phrases and observed... (*laughs*). By the way, we also like to travel around Belarus. We already went to Grodno with the children. And Karan was in Vitebsk twice: once we went together, the second time he was invited when the Indian festival was held there. In Vitebsk, many Indian students study at the medical university. That's where he gave a master class on spices. We also went to the estates with him when the gardens were blooming. We also visited Nesvizh Castle. Of course, I would like to travel more — but we have the Centre, a restaurant and still small children. Also certain responsibilities towards parents, relatives and friends.”

**“What language do you speak at home?”**

“Karan tries to speak Hindi with the younger Kaya. We missed this moment with Kevin. But, by the way, after a trip to India, our son developed a desire to study Hindi. At the age of six, he visited there with us, so he already understands that he needs to know this language. With Kevin, Karan basically speaks English. With me, too, English, but sometimes he will say something in Russian and then Kevin asks, “Mom, why when you and dad speak Russian, does he understand you? And when I speak, he doesn't understand Russian...” (*we laugh*)”

Lively, emotional, open, fast, easy to communicate... Her voice is clear, fresh... Her laughter is contagious... That's how she is, Belarusian Olga, née Moroz, whom life offered to choose a path connected with India. And she, as happens in fairy tales, chose it almost across three seas and went straight... She flew, one might say... And only forward, mastering along the way the science of the value of living every moment of life in joy. Because, as she admitted, she met her own person, even if this person did not know the Russian language. (I'm tempted to say: the soul probably didn't remember what it knew). And then everything, as they say, fell into place: the Russian language, and the consent of parents on both sides, and two weddings — in India, and in Belarus, and two children were born, and the beloved business came into life with love...

Does Olga have to be upset? We never asked her this question. Then I thought: why? Do our sorrows, the trigger for which can be anything, determine the melody of life if we accept it as it is? Not at all. In any case, that's what we strive for. And we are glad that we are alive and well.

Olga and Karan Parakh, it seemed to us, succeeded in this.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo by Ivan Zhdanovich, as well as from the archives of the Parakh family

# THE DANGERS OF INFORMATION OVERLOAD

It would seem that a lot of information is good. But today scientists are increasingly talking about the dangers of technology, in particular, digital autism as one of the serious modern consequences of widespread informatisation. What is this phenomenon? Why and for whom is digital autism primarily dangerous? Why are children the first to be targeted? And are large amounts of information harmful to adults? Why does everyone need an information detox? This was told by a neurosurgeon, a researcher at the Department of Brain Tumours of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N. N. Aleksandrov, and a professor at the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Healthcare Personnel of the Belarusian State Medical University Gumen Ghorbannijad.



“We live in a time when we receive a huge amount of information every day. Access to it is easy — you don’t need to go to the library to order and borrow a book, just go online. And, paradoxically, we are seeing that people all over the world are experiencing a decline in their intellectual abilities. We are encountering such phenomena as digital autism, digital dementia, digital pseudo-moronism and information obesity. Despite the fact that we are dealing with an expansion of the volume of information, we are talking about a decrease in the level of IQ and intelligence.”

**“Although, it would seem, the more we master different knowledge, the more we develop.”**

“In the past this was indeed the case. Let’s take our region, Europe. It is now a developed continent, unlike what it was in the Middle Ages. At that time, the religious worldview dominated. Everything was built on the fact that one cannot doubt and must believe. If you have questions, contact the priest and he will tell you what to do.

The religious worldview included three key points: a person has enough existing knowledge, he cannot



doubt, but he is not smart enough to independently decide what is good and what is bad, so he should turn to the source of knowledge — a priest who will tell him what to do in that situation. or other situation. A person can only pray a lot and listen to what the priest advises. Printing played a major role in changing the worldview. The works of philosophers and other thinkers became widespread. Philosophers of that time worshiped the human mind and its power. People began to realise that they could think for themselves, have their own opinions and ideas. The church began to lose its influence, and secular centres of science and art began to emerge in cities.

Gradually, Europeans began to travel, and their ideas about the world around them expanded. This is how the Renaissance began in Europe. At this time, the man was forced to admit that he did not know much and had to think. It was at this time that many philosophers came to an important conclusion: until a person begins to question everything, he will not achieve the goal that is needed. And this is a very correct message, because our brain does not work any other way.

And to this day, the secular principle of education operates in Europe. For example, in countries such as France, school and religion run parallel, without intersecting. Science, critical and logical thinking is our left brain. The right hemisphere is responsible for religion, faith and mysticism, and they cannot work at the same time. In addition, a child's brain cannot simultaneously perceive conflicting information about human origins from the point of view of science and religion. In these countries there are churches, synagogues, and mosques, but at school the curriculum is studied in accordance with scientific achievements. Gradually, they began to introduce everything that slowed down the civilization of Europeans into their colonies: religion, myths. As a result, Europe developed rapidly while their colonies lagged behind. Even in those days it was known that nations in which science, culture and art are well developed are difficult to govern and not easy to colonise. They themselves strive to produce goods and sell, rather than purchase and import from other countries. As Friedrich Hegel wrote, 'independence from public opinion is the first effort in

achieving something great'. You should try to think for yourself and not trust the opinion of the majority."

**"And the more information we have, the better the result, right?"**

"Yes, but there are many techniques and things that affect people's intelligence and the way they think. This is not a random introduction, but a deliberate one. And most importantly, the impact on the developing children's brain. During childhood, the brain creates its own structures — neural connections. And this is the framework for our thinking throughout our lives. If the frame is built incorrectly from childhood, in the future this person will have problems with critical, logical thinking.

An example is a study conducted in the United States back in the 2000s, before the widespread use of the Internet. It showed that the time a child spends near the TV directly correlates with the education he will receive in the future. Children who watched television less than one hour a day achieved higher education in almost half of the cases. And only 10% of them received no education at all. And those who watched TV more than three hours a day, only in 25% of cases received at least some kind of education, and only 10% of them were able to graduate from university. Here you need to understand that modern television uses many techniques that affect the brain."

**"How do gadgets affect our brain? What is the negative impact?"**

"There are three centres in our brain. The so-called significance detection centre, it is responsible for attentiveness; the executive network is the consumption of information; the default system of the brain is responsible for reasoning. They cannot work at the same time.

When we receive information, it is first perceived by the significance detection centre, and in order for the default system to work, that is, to digest the received data and come to a conclusion, it takes a certain time. This is not fast thinking, but slow thinking. If a child is busy with gadgets for a long time, the brain begins to develop according to a different scenario, which is not typical for him.

We often see that children are given a gadget so that they can sit quietly and parents can go about their business. A tablet or other gadget takes away and concentrates the child's attention on the game or cartoon. Although, in order to think, we must concentrate our attention on our own thoughts and reflections. In this situation, the opposite happens.

In order for the brain to develop properly, form neural connections and build a framework for critical thinking,

a child must touch, smell, fall, rise, feel hot and cold, play games with peers on the street, be offended, angry, cry, laugh — experience everything a range of feelings and emotions, try and go through everything from your own experience. Only then is the neural framework of the brain fully created.

In addition, you need to remember that IQ develops from 3-4 years to grades 3-4. And here it is important that the brain receives the necessary training, like muscles, because after it the elasticity weakens.

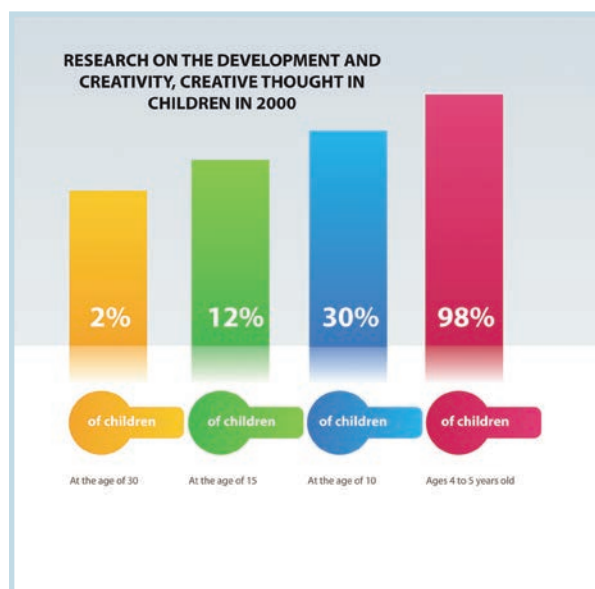
Dr. George Land conducted a study for NASA and set out to see how creativity and creative thoughts develop in children. The study involved 1,600 children. It turned out that between the ages of 4 and 5 years, 98% of children have an almost ideal high level of creativity. At 10 years old it drops to 30%, at 15 to 12%, and at 30 years old only 2% of creativity remains. At the same time, the structure of the brain itself does not change. The scientist came to the conclusion that this occurs due to 'poisoning' of the brain during receiving the wrong education.

Nowadays, the influence of gadgets is added to the wrong approach to education, and we can talk about such a phenomenon as digital dementia. This is a disorder of brain activity that entails decreased attention, concentration, and memory impairment due to frequent or constant use of electronic devices. Digital dementia occurs only in children. This is not a disease, but a condition of the brain. It is untreatable, and, unfortunately, remains for the rest of his life.

Children with digital dementia do not fully develop critical thinking; their brains can be controlled by gadgets. Various technologies are used for this. There are cartoons that, from the point of view of adults, are about nothing, but collect millions of views. The child rests his eyes on them and can stare for an hour without noticing anything around."

**"What technologies are used here?"**

"The combination of light, the selection of colours, our brain is pleased when we don't know what the end will be, a feeling of fear or laughter — all technologies are used so that the gadget can capture our attention. As for colours, at first glance, for example, the colour orange is just orange for us. For our subconscious, this is the colour of change, because this is how it is in nature. The leaves turn orange in the fall, which means summer is over and winter is coming. If the sun turns orange during twilight, it means the day is over and night is beginning. It is no coincidence that this colour is chosen for 'colour revolutions', because in the subconscious it evokes the necessary associations. Banks that want to be associated with innovative ideas choose orange as their corporate colour.



Colour combinations, music, movement — all this takes all our attention. And since the three centres in our brain do not work simultaneously, we receive information, but do not have time to analyse it and draw the right conclusions. Since we strive to absorb as much information as possible, we quickly scroll through the news feed or social networks, there is no time left for thinking and a critical look.”

**“This is already typical for adults. How do large amounts of information that we absorb from the Internet, social media and instant messengers harm adults?”**

“Here we can talk about such a phenomenon as information obesity. If a large amount of information arrives, it, again, is not processed. We may not even notice the time — it seems like we spent an hour on the Internet, but three have passed.

In order for a laboratory mouse to use drugs, it must be placed in a cage. It will press the pedal and get the drug. If you let her out of the cage, it will not press the pedal — it has a thousand other pleasures to occupy itself. Our brain has a different property: despite the fact that we have a lot of pleasures — sports, tourism, the library, dancing, we will still surf the Internet instead of going outside.

Receiving a large amount of information, we consider ourselves experts in all matters. In order to bake a Napoleon cake, just look up the recipe on the Internet. It may not work out like for a chef, but we still consider ourselves pros. You can also look on the Internet what

■ In addition, it must be remembered that IQ develops from 3-4 years to 3-4 grades. And here it is important that the brain gets the necessary training, like muscles, because after it, elasticity weakens.

to do if you have a headache. Here are the tips from the first link: take a pain reliever, drink water, find a cold dark place, use a cold compress, massage. And the person believes that he has enough skills to cure a headache. If he consults a doctor, he may suspect high blood pressure, a cold, increased intraocular pressure, a tumour in the brain and other pathologies.

Digital obesity gives us the illusion of knowledge. And under her influence, we write comments on how to cook a cake, how to treat a headache, about the launch of the shuttle — we are experts in all matters, from politics to medicine. The illusion of knowledge also affects further logical and creative thinking — why think and doubt if we already know everything or can look it up on the Internet. And we don’t always criticise the information we find on the Internet.

But I repeat that this is most dangerous for children and adolescents, because the brain gets used to receiving information in this way, through gadgets.

There is also an extreme degree of information obesity — information pseudo-moronism, this is a mental disorder characteristic of adults. In it, a person shows signs of dementia through extreme use of information, which leads to a severe cessation of critical thinking, absent-mindedness, deterioration of memory and attention, and a low level of self-control. Unlike digital autism in children, which is considered incurable, digital pseudodementia is correctable, and psychologists have their own techniques to treat such people.”

**“How to avoid becoming a victim of too much information?”**

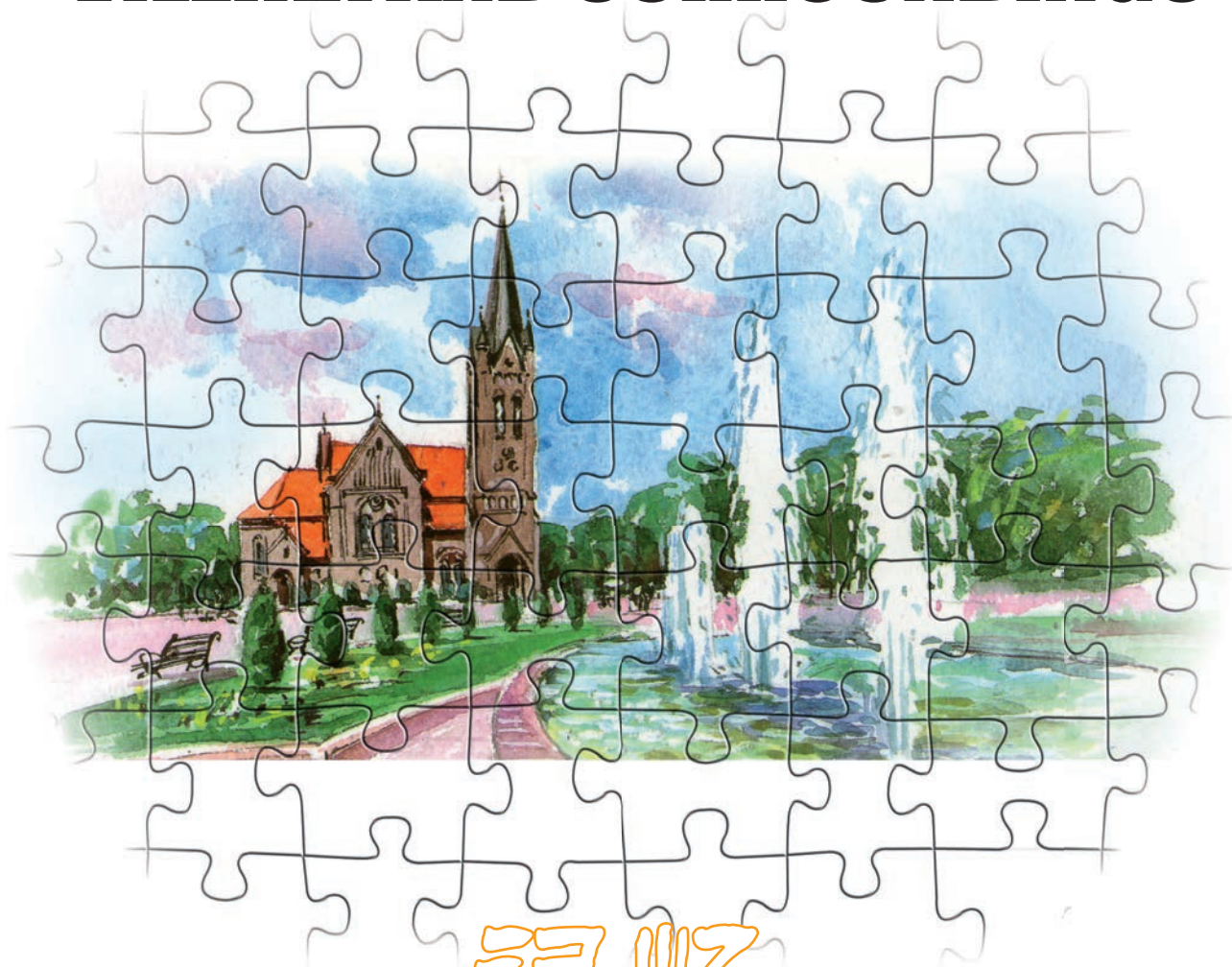
“Do an information detox — don’t use your phone for a while, limit your time on social media and think more, read books, play sports instead of watching pictures and videos. It’s not easy to do. Each of us, when we wake up, looks at our phone — check our email, check the weather, go to social media. It seems that we want to get minimal information, but often it takes too long.

Now, during globalisation, preventing digital autism is also a matter of national security for all countries, so that young people are less exposed to harmful influences, because this is our future, and so that adults are aware of the dangers that widespread informatisation can pose.”

Yelena Kravets

# MEMORY

## VILEIKA AND SURROUNDINGS



# 记忆

## 维列伊卡及其周边地区

The *Native Land* folding calendar (Minsk, Belarus publishing house) for states the following for January 21st, "This year marks 425 years since the first mention of the city of Vileika, Minsk Region in written sources (1599)." Wikipedia, however, argues that the date of birth of the city is November 16th, 1460... Well, without arguing, we will turn to the topic of the inhabitants of Vileika and its environs, those natives of the region who remained in memory for many centuries and decades.

What famous names are associated with this region? Who was born in different centuries in an ancient settlement located 103 km north-west of Minsk on the Viliya River... Belarusian conductor, music teacher, People's Artist of Belarus Mikhail Kozinets (1938 - 2021) comes from Tsyntsevichi. Since 1975, for many years he held the positions of artistic director and chief conductor of the National Academic Folk Orchestra of the Republic of Belarus named after I. Zhinovich. The state highly appreciated the merits of Mikhail Kozinets in the field of musical culture: Mikhail Antonovich was awarded the Order of Friendship of Peoples, the Order of Honour, the Francysk Skaryna Medal, the Spiritual Revival award of the President of the Republic of Belarus, he was awarded the title of Honoured Artist of the BSSR. The Belarusian theatre actor Nikolai Krasinsky (1891-1938), one of the leaders and organisers of the Belarusian Drama Workshop, which existed in Vilnius in 1922-1925, is from Vileika itself. Since 1923 he lived in the BSSR. For some time, he was the director of BDT-2 (now the National Academic Drama Theatre named after Yakub Kolas in Vitebsk). In 1928 he became the scientific secretary of the Belarusian State Museum. Since 1930, a new winding path began in the life of a native of Vileika — arrest, exile (to Shadrinsk, Sarapul), the last arrest — June 12th, 1938. On October 30th, 1938, the 'troika' of the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) of the Turkmen SSR sentenced him to death. In 1960, our compatriot was rehabilitated... The village of Korolevtsy (known since 1443 as the village of Izha) gave us the local historian, researcher of the history of the Belarusian Povilya (this is the designation of the historical region in the north-west of Belarus and the south of Lithuania, covering part of the territories of modern Vitebsk, Minsk and Grodno regions of Belarus, southern regions of Lithuania in the Viliya River basin) Anatoly Rogach (1947 - 2010). It was thanks to his efforts that many 'blank spots' were revealed in the history of the Vileika region itself. Many articles by Anatoly Rogach were included in the historical and documentary chronicle *Memory. Vileika District*.



■ Mikhail Kozinets, conductor, music teacher, People's Artist of Belarus (1938 - 2021)

1月21日的挂历“故乡”(明斯克,“白俄罗斯”出版社)中写道:“今年是明斯克州维列伊卡市建立(1599年)425周年”。然而,维基百科却给出了其他数据——1460年11月16日……好了,我们就不争论了,下面我们来谈谈维列伊卡及其周边地区的居民,那些在人们的记忆中留存了几个世的纪当地人。明斯克市西北103公里处维利亚河畔的维列伊卡,哪些著名

人物与该地区有关?白俄罗斯指挥家、音乐老师、人民艺术家米哈伊尔·科兹尼特出生在这里,他自1975年起多年来一直担任白俄罗斯共和国国家学术人民乐团的艺术总监和首席指挥。明斯克州政府在音乐文化领域赞扬了米哈伊尔·科兹尼,他被授予人民友谊勋章、荣誉勋章、弗朗西斯·斯科利纳勋章,此外,他被授予白俄罗斯苏维埃社会主义共和国《白俄罗斯共和国总统精神复兴》荣誉艺术家头衔。出生于维列伊卡的白俄罗斯剧院演员尼古拉·克拉辛斯基(1891-1938)是白俄罗斯戏剧讲习班的领导人和组织者之一,该讲习班于1922-1925年在维尔纽斯运作。自1923年以来,他住在白俄罗斯苏维埃社会主义共和国。他曾担任白俄罗斯戏剧剧院的院长(目前是以维捷布斯克

Yakub Kolas命名的国家学术戏剧剧院)。1928年,他成为白俄罗斯国立博物馆的科学秘书。1930年,这位维列伊卡人遭到逮捕,1938年10月30日,于土库曼苏维埃社会主

■ Leonid Avdey, Doctor of Medical Sciences (1929 - 1977)



Vileika is the birthplace of Doctor of Medical Sciences Leonid Avdey (1929-1977). In 1968-1977, the professor headed the Belarusian Scientific Society of Surgeons. In 1970-1977, he headed the Department of Hospital Surgery at the Minsk Medical Institute. Kondrat Terekh (born 1935), the last Minister of Trade of the USSR, who held the highest position in 1986-1991, is from Olkovichy in the Vileika District. For his work, he was awarded by the Soviet government with the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, Friendship of Peoples, and the Badge of Honour.

Many literary names are also associated with Vileika and Vileika region. By the way, a number of streets in the city are named after writers — Maxim Gorky, Adam Gurinovich, Edward Żeligowski (Polish revolutionary democratic poet; born in 1815 in the village of Korekovtsy, near Kostenevichi), Yakub Kolas, Yanka Kupala, Nikolai Nekrasov, A.S. Pushkin, L. M. Tolstoy. The poetess Anna Novik spent most of her life in Vileika, she was repeatedly arrested for participating in the national liberation movement in Western Belarus. Author of the collection of poems *My Spring*, the story *Second Meeting*, and the book of selected works *My Vileika Region*. Poet Ivan Lashutko (1933 – 2004), author of the books *Feast of Two*, *Heather Land*, *Holy Word*, was born in Boyary. The childhood years of the famous Belarusian writer Zmitrok Byadulya were spent in Dolginovo, Vileika District. Vladimir Popkovich, poet and translator, originally from the village of Dvoretz, author of the poetry collections *At Dawn*, *The Shortest Day*, *Grain*, translator of the works of many German writers into the Belarusian language.

Ivan Kondratyev (1849-1904), Russian poet and prose writer, is from the village of Kalovichy. It is believed that he is the author of the original text of the famous song *Across the Wild Steppes of Transbaikalia*, as well as the words of the romances *Charming Eyes*, *These Eyes Are Dark Nights*. “The shine of my eyes is familiar / To



■ The legendary Belarusian and Polish artist, a representative of avant-garde art, the founder of unism (this is his personal concept, affirming the unity of colour, line and rhythm in painting) Władysław Strzemiński (1893 – 1952)

义共和国被判处死刑。1960年，克拉辛斯基恢复了名誉。下面介绍的是来自科罗夫村（自1443年以来称为伊热村）的当地历史学家、白俄罗斯历史研究员 Anatoly

Rogach (1947– 2010年)，正是由于他的努力，许多“景点”在维列伊卡的历史中得到了揭示。Anatoly Rogach的许多文章都列入了历史纪录片《记忆。维列伊卡地区》。

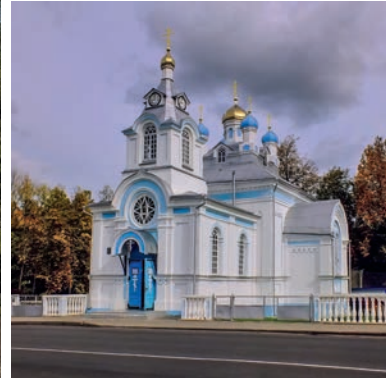
维列伊卡是医学科学博士 Leonid Avdeya (1929-1977) 的出生地。1968 – 1977年，他担任白俄罗斯科学学会的领导。1970 – 1977年 他担任明斯克医学研究所的医院手术系主任。来自维列伊卡 Olkovichy 地区的 Kondrat Terekh (出生于1935年)，是苏联的最后一位贸易部长，他在1986 – 1991年处于最高职位，他被授予苏联红色劳动勋章，人民友谊勋章，苏联政府的荣誉徽章。

许多文学名人也与维列伊卡和 Vileshchina 有关。顺便说一句，维列伊卡的街道以诸多名家的名字命名 – Maxim Gorky, Adam Gurinovich, Eduard Zheligovsky (波兰革命的民主诗人；1815年出生于 Korekovychy 附近的 Korekovtsy 村)，Yakub Kolas, Yanki Kupala, Nikolai Nekrasov, A.S. Pushkin, Anna Novik (因参加西部白俄罗斯的民族解放运动而屡屡被捕)，她是诗集《我的春天》，故事《二次会议》，《我的维利什奇纳》的作者。诗人伊万·拉什特科 (1933 – 2004年)，《两者的盛宴》，《希瑟领土》，《圣言》的作者，出生于博伊斯。著名白俄罗斯作家 Zmitrak Biaduli 的儿童时代活动在维列伊卡地区举行。诗人、翻译弗拉基米尔·波波科维奇来自宫殿村，他是《黎明时代》，《最短的一天》，《谷物》的作者，同时，他把许多德国作家的作品翻译成白俄罗斯语。

伊万·康德拉蒂夫 (1849– 1904年)，俄罗斯诗人和散文作家，来自卡洛维奇村。他拥有著名的歌曲“草原上的 Transbaikalia”，



■ Poet Ivan Lashutko (1933 – 2004)



everyone who loves black eyes! / These eyes are dark nights, / Everything starts to spin around if you look into them! / I'll just look / without speeches they sparkle! / If I want, I'll kill with my eyes, / If I want, I'll bewitch!..”

And the writer Ignat Khodko (1795 - 1861), author of multi-volume collections of works *Lithuanian Drawings* (1840 - 1863) and *Lithuanian Legends* (1852 - 1860), *Memoirs of a Treasurer* (1844), created mainly in Belarusian material, is from the village of Zabloschina.

In the pre-war period, the famous Belarusian poet Maksim Tank worked in Vileika... Władysław Strzemiński (1893 - 1952), a legendary Belarusian and Polish artist, representative of avant-garde art, founder of unism (this is his personal concept, affirming the unity of colour, line, and rhythm in painting) also lived in the city.

The literary, artistic, historical memory of our compatriots associated with Vileika, the Vileika District, resembles a unique multi-page encyclopaedia. Some of the famous natives are better known, some have long been forgotten. The anniversary of Vileika is an occasion to revive forgotten pages of the history of our Motherland, to tell about it through the fates of the natives of the Vileika region! Perhaps new streets will appear in the city with the names of famous residents of Vileika... And also our schools, libraries, cultural and educational institutions should bear the names of them, famous writers, cultural and artistic figures, statesmen. Such perpetuation, such preservation of memory is a real lesson in the historical, patriotic education of society, the development of pride in family and friends.

Mikola Bertlezh

“迷人的眼睛”，“这些眼睛是漆黑的夜晚”的原始文字。“明亮而又熟悉的眼睛/所有爱黑眼睛的人！/这些眼睛都是漆黑的夜晚/一切都来自它们！/我会从眉毛向下看/此处无声胜有声！/只要我想要 - 我会用眼神杀人/只要我想要 - 我会让它们跳动！

来自Zamloshchina村的作家Ignatius Khodko (1795-1861)，其作品《立陶宛图纸》和《立陶宛传奇》，《公爵纪念》，主要以白俄罗斯语书写。

在战前时期，著名的白俄罗斯诗人马克西姆·坦克（Maxim Tank）在维列伊卡工作。白俄罗斯和波兰传奇艺术家弗拉迪斯拉夫·马克西米利亚诺维奇·斯特拉齐希姆斯基（1893-1952）也曾在此生活过，Unism的创始人，这是他的个人观点，表示绘画中的颜色、线条和节奏的统一。

我们同胞的文学和艺术，历史记忆与维列伊卡相关，甚至可以叫做独立的百科全书。有些当地名人更名换姓了，有些长期以来一直被遗忘。维列伊卡的周年纪念日复兴祖国历史上被遗忘页面的机会，可以通过维列伊卡当地人的命运来证明这一点。也许新的街道将出现在这座城市中，并以维列伊卡名人的名字出现——著名作家，文化和艺术工作者，政治家，我们的学校，图书馆以及文化和教育机构也可以以他们命名。这种永久保存的记忆是在爱国教育中的真正课题，培养对祖国和家乡的自豪感。

尼古拉·伯勒日

# SINGER OF POLESIE REGION



**The exhibition Polesie Giant at the National Art Museum, dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the birth of the People's Artist of Belarus Gavriil Vashchenko (1928—2014), became the culmination of attention to this bright creative personality. The exhibition presents more than fifty paintings by the artist from the collection of the National Art Museum and the master's family. The exhibition opened in December, but interest in it did not wane even in February.**

In general, the whole past year was full of memorable events in honour of this outstanding figure of Belarusian fine art. The beginning of the year was marked by the opening of the *Dynasty* exhibition at the Palace of Arts Republican Art Gallery, where the master's iconic works from the collections of the National Art Museum, the National Centre for Contemporary Arts, from the collection of the artist's family, as well as works by his son Konstantin Vashchenko and granddaughter Angelina Vashchenko were shown. In March, the project *Wings*, from the paintings and graphic works of Gavriil Vashchenko, was presented at the Art Gallery of Polotsk. And on the master's birthday, June 20th, a large-scale exhibition of his work opened in the Gomel Art Gallery, which bears the artist's name.

The exhibition project *Polesie Giant* within the walls of the National Art Museum became a beautiful final chord of the maestro's anniversary year. The curators of the project faced an interesting task. However, making a retrospective exhibition of an artist is both simple and difficult at the same time — there is always the possibility of straightforwardness in interpreting the topic. However, the richness and versatility of Gavriil Vashchenko's creative heritage made it possible to avoid such pitfalls. The project *Polesie Giant* focused on his paintings from the museum's collections.



## Recognition requires a lot

Polesie for the People's Artist of Belarus Gavriil Vashchenko is not just the embodiment of the concept of 'small homeland'. In the context of this exhibition project, the definition of the 'native land' is considered not only as the place where the author spent his childhood. Here Polesie sounds like a powerful hymn to man and nature. Gavriil Vashchenko at one time discovered these places for Belarusian fine art, where authenticity rooted in past centuries has been preserved. His epic and at the same time piercingly lyrical landscapes of different years are comparable to monumental paintings and tapestries. In the presented paintings one can very clearly read the writing style of Gavriil Vashchenko, which has become 'brand identity' of the artist. His creative style combines the traditions of Belarusian icon painting and fresco painting with modern monumental art, the founder and pioneer of which, in fact, was the master.

Gavriil Vashchenko was truly a giant in the fine arts. He thought big, felt the pulsating nerve of existence itself. His best works (be it a thematic painting or a portrait, a landscape or a still life) embodied an entire era with its search for ideals and painful disappointments, complex social changes and human tragedies. Addressing current topics of his time and what concerned him personally — the tragedy of the Great Patriotic War, the Chernobyl



disaster, mythological and Christian themes — Gavriil Vashchenko avoided their straightforward interpretation, artificial scenes, and excessive narrative. The master always embodied his vision of the world through allegorical images, which are based on philosophical meaning, a deep perception of reality, and the creation of a generalised and symbolic picture. “Recognition gives only one advantage: it prohibits you from working worse than you can. And vice versa: it forces you to work better, as best you can,” said the maestro. And every time he proved it to everyone, but first of all to himself.

## The creative credo of the artist and man

The canvases of Gavriil Vashchenko convincingly testify: high art begins with living national roots. Through his personality, through his caring sense of his land, he said a unique word about both our past and today. Meanwhile, the works of Gavriil Vashchenko are a philosophical comprehension of the future. I met their author more than once. But the last conversation with the artist somehow revealed him in a special way: sincere in his aspirations to capture his homeland not through the eye of an outside observer, but with real emotional excitement. This is how he himself spoke about how he found himself in the art of painting, “I had a double birth. I graduated from the institute and was already a laureate of several competitions for young artists and participated in republican exhibitions. But I felt like a real creator when I moved from Moldova to Minsk — my homeland. I painted the still life *Cyclamens*. I did not copy it, but created it. It was my formal statement. I found my understanding of plasticity, my own style. And I felt a sense of civil belonging when I painted the painting *My Polesie*. These were the people I saw in the Pinsk and Gomel regions.”



And here is the answer to the question of what was most significant and influenced his work. Time? People? Personal thoughts? “The first, as probably for everyone in life, were childhood impressions. Then — poetry, music, literature, meetings with people. In Kyiv I studied at the School of Decorative and Applied Arts, then in Lviv at the Faculty of Monumental Painting. That was the time of the formation of national consciousness. That’s when I began to think about who I was, what I would do, what I would work on.” He has a rich creative path, he became a people’s artist of Belarus. And yet, it was interesting to hear how he himself assessed this path, how successful it was. Did he manage to fulfil his own potential? Gavriil Vashchenko, “Self-assessment is hard to do. Thank God for giving me longevity. I am very glad that during this time I was able to fulfil what was planned. As for my contribution to Belarusian art: I am, first of all, proud of the fact that I created the Department of Monumental Painting at the Academy and trained more than two hundred students. Of course, I am pleased that my personal works have received recognition: both at home and abroad.”

The master’s opinion was also interesting about what determines the artist’s personality, what most influences his creative portrait, “Time always influences. Sometimes they write that the artist was ahead of his time. No, he remains a representative of his time. Another thing is that future generations benefit from his discoveries; the achievements of a true creator remain for many times to come. But he is still an artist of his time. I have often been asked: does teaching interfere with creativity? I always answer: yes, on the one hand, teaching work takes a lot of time, but on the other, when you meet young people, the ideas, the

rhythm of life of another generation are passed on to you, they force you to keep in shape, to follow the directions that arise among young people. It turns out that on the one hand I give them my knowledge, on the other hand they feed me with rather bold views on reality. It’s the same in contemporary art.”

But how did the Master talk about how the works of Belarusian artists differ from foreign art? In general, does it matter where a person lives? “There is an understanding of art and civilization. Civilization is the property of the mind. Art is the soul of man. And the soul is always an expression of the mentality of the people. Where the soul is lost in art and the mind begins to predominate, art itself is lost. Unfortunately, humanity has chosen civilization as the primacy of today. In Russian fine arts, we have not lost, perhaps, the most important thing — school. That’s why it is competitive abroad too.”

Should an artist be a free person? Does today’s time give the artist the opportunity to fulfil himself? Here is the master’s opinion on this matter, “It seems to me that in art the national idea should always inspire. If it exists, then great works are created.”

More from Gavriil Vashchenko’s answers in that dialogue, “I don’t agree, I never recognise it as sincerity when an artist says that he paints for himself. When I put the canvas, I wanted to share my thoughts with someone. I painted a painting and brought it to the exhibition because I want to talk to the viewer. But for this I must use a language with which I can be understood. In other words: in order to talk, you need to learn to talk.” Interesting, but what to talk about? “I spoke about the history of my people, about my homeland,” was the confession of the interlocutor.



What was the main motive for Gavriil Vashchenko in his work that forced him to turn to this or that topic? “The main impulse for me is simply thinking about certain events, about my attitude towards them. And then the collection of facts begins that would confirm this idea. For example, the painting *Ballad of Courage* was painted. This happened thirty years after the war. It was important for me to understand how, decades later, I perceive the hard times of war that befell my country. At that time, a lot of people who were directly affected by the war wrote about the war. I wanted to look at events precisely from the height of time. But it was necessary to find a plastic solution to the topic. The search lasted a long time. Once I went into the forest, got tired, lay down under the trees and saw above how the pines closed. That’s when a rather unexpected point of view on the picture appeared. Some events are when I look from above: from a distance of 30 years. And others - if I myself witness. This was the principle of constructing the painting...”

These are just a few excerpts from that dialogue. They still seem meaningful to me today. After all, those answers are not only the thoughts of a talented artist, a person with extensive life experience, devoted to his country. It is also a contemporary’s view of the future in its thorough combination with the past. And such a philosophy, such a dialectic always deserves respect.

## Stork as the embodiment of a symbol

Gavriil Vashchenko dedicated more than one of his paintings to Polesie and the people who surrounded him since childhood. All these works are, in fact, a family tree in drawn images. Mom Nadezhda Mikhailovna, brother Nikolai, grandfather Mikhail and grandmother Synkleta — a simple rural woman who gave birth to 12 children, outlived them all and died at the age of 119 years. Gavriil Vashchenko painted her portrait for the 40th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War and dedicated it to all the women who spent years waiting on the doorstep for their husbands, children, and grandchildren. Today the painting *Memory* is one of the brightest pearls of Belarusian national fine art.

When creating a new work, he always proceeded from the theme, and not from a documentary sketch. He said: you can go to plein airs or paint from life as much as you like, but the picture is first of all born from the theme that you want to reveal. And it’s not for nothing that I loved to remember the formula of Academician Pavlov, who argued: if there is an idea in the head, the eyes begin to see the facts. There was a time when he was invited to Moscow and promised to create good conditions, provide housing. But Gavriil Vashchenko did not even think about agreeing. After all, he left Chisinau, leaving his apartment there, his job at an art school, to return to his homeland. Always, both



in Moldova and in Minsk, he painted his Polesie and dear Poleshuks, and let the tragedy of Chernobyl pass through him. He loved and knew his Belarus.

Gavriil Vashchenko has many different awards and regalia. The paintings are in almost 30 museums around the world. But most of all he valued the title of People's Artist of Belarus, awarded to him in 1988. Konstantin, youngest son of Gavriil Vashchenko, "As far as I remember my father, he always drew. After working at the theatre and art institute, I immediately went to the workshop. He painted without interruption or doubt. Returned late in the evening. And he always worked alone. He took me with him very rarely. But not for me to watch him. He gave me a piece of paper and a pencil. Work! However, I was never taught how to draw. Every time I entered his workshop, I was surprised: how much hard work, perseverance, and sincere love for his work he had. My father was a man of a philosophical way of thinking, and this is probably connected with his native Polesie. Extraordinary people live there. There is something elusive in this land..."

He, like no one else, knew how to draw flight: birds soaring up, feathers of clouds scattered across the sky — Gavriil Vashchenko had a special, acute sense of height and air. And today his paintings seem to blow with the wind — sometimes a bitter autumn wind, filled with the cries of cranes and the smell of ripe apples, sometimes the swaying of summer heat, sometimes the light, blooming breath of spring. Next to them you can breathe deeply. It was Gavriil Vashchenko who made the stork spreading its wings a symbol, first of his native Polesie, and then of the whole of Belarus — and he was never offended that other artists



quickly picked up this image, without remembering the original authorship: the main thing is that the white wings spread over the Motherland, protecting and defending...

### Winding roads of fate

He was born in 1928 in the Gomel Region: in the village of Chikalovichi, Bragin District, into a simple peasant family. And his last name initially sounded purely Belarusian — Vashchanka. It was only later, while studying in Kyiv, that the passport officer 'rewrote' it in the documents in the Ukrainian way — and Gavriil Kharitonovich was never able to return the original sound of the family name. He inherited the sense of beauty from his mother — genuine, unclouded, truly folk: the Polesie peasant woman was a skilled embroiderer, from whose hands elegant patterns came out. Since childhood, the future artist was fascinated by the nature of his native land — discreet and magically attractive, which in the spring was flooded with melt water so that there was a real sea all around. And then in 1941 war broke into this beautiful world...

All that was left of their native village was ashes; the Vashchenko family miraculously survived the raid: they were already being led to execution when a motorcyclist rushed up to the fascist detachment with orders and, apparently, ordered them not to linger. And the people



deprived of their homes were left alive — the enemies had no time to kill...

The elder brother Nikolai was at the front, and Gavriil reached the partisans. Years later, these memories were echoed in the films *Breakthrough* and *Ballad of Courage*. But then he did not even think about becoming an artist, he simply drew homemade playing cards — and maps, which was much more serious, that the partisans used to mark the location of Nazi troops. It was with these 'works' that after the war he went to enter art school — quite suddenly, without expecting it from himself, he was going to be a railway worker, where students were given rations and their own corner in the dormitory — and suddenly he read in a newspaper thrown on the street: the Kyiv School of Applied Arts is announcing an intake of students. He picked it up and went there — from torn Belarus to a destroyed city, where he had to sleep in the assembly hall of the school, in which at night students sometimes froze to death. And he survived. In cold and hunger, on a meagre bread ration. And he remained true to his calling. In his first year, he was taught by Tatyana Yablonskaya, the future famous and great. "Our teachers were educated in Paris and Vienna. We learned about all the trends and movements in painting first hand. During class, the teacher could pull out a folder with sheets of

paper and say that 'this was how Misha Vrubel painted'," the artist recalled. It was during his years of study that he discovered a craving for monumental art.

He worked for a year and went to finish his studies in Lvov, then on assignment to Chisinau, to the sunny Moldovan land, which greeted him hospitably and generously. They received him well, appreciating the talent of the young master, and gave him an apartment. At the age of 29 he became a member of the Union of Artists of the USSR. He could have lived in the lush, bright south, but... in his paintings there was still only Belarusian Polesie, discreet brown-ochre tones — the colours of his native land. And at the first opportunity in 1961, Vashchenko returned to Minsk: the artist Vladimir Stelmashonok said that at the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute (now the Academy of Arts) a competition was open for the vacancy of the head of the Department of Decorative and Applied Arts. It was in this university that Vashchenko spent the next four decades, training a whole galaxy of masters.

But teaching, which he threw himself into, did not interfere with his own creative development. Being a realist, Gavriil Vashchenko never confined himself to any narrowly defined boundaries. By the way, his very still life *Cyclamens*, which he showed in 1966 at a youth exhibition at the Palace of Art, caused a heated discussion

## MARK IN ART



— even the word ‘formalism’, which was deadly at that time, was mentioned. However, he was not very worried about the judgment of the crowd and the mutterings of envious people: and this same image of cyclamens, bought by chance in a flower shop near his house, went to Moscow, to VDNKh, during the Days of Belarusian Culture. The still life returned from there with a bronze medal, which was truly fantastic. He recalled in his autobiographical book, “When I moved to Minsk, here they immediately labelled me and often pressed me. They greeted us with hostility and designated us as formalists. And since I stood for the fact that culture is always national, I was declared a nationalist.” Recognition in the capital of the Soviet Union was salvation, and also the help of the director of the National Art Museum Yelena Aladova, the good genius of Belarusian artists of the 20th century. It was she who ‘pushed’ through the exhibition the works of Vashchenko, Savitsky, Shchemelev, which art functionaries did not want to allow into all-Union exhibitions, and the works returned from there with awards. This is how his *Ballad of Courage*, a painting depicting a partisan forest as a fortress from a bird’s eye view, received a silver medal named after Mitrofan Grekov. Thus, the work of Gavriil Vashchenko *My Polesie*, in which the famous storks circle, was awarded a gold medal at VDNKh.



And it was Vashchenko who saved the capital's Red Church from demolition and alterations: in it, dilapidated, there was a warehouse for a film studio and it was assumed that there would be a Cinema House in this place. The artist was offered to design the interior and make stained glass windows. "I dedicated the stained glass windows to the theme of cinema," Vashchenko later said. "If you look closely, the three 'roses' in the church are a typical photographic lens. Moreover, the colour scheme was not chosen by chance — these are combinations of the colours of the flags of all the union republics. By the way, this building was going to be demolished. But when Pyotr Masherov, the then head of the republic, saw what an ensemble I managed to create there (the sun just illuminated the stained glass windows, and they sparkled), he was amazed and said that we shouldn't destroy such beauty!"

### Field with golden ears

The day of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant became a black day for Gavrill Vashchenko. His native village found itself in the exclusion zone... Outwardly he was calm, but pain broke through in the pictures: swift horses trying to get away from trouble, covered by a poisonous cloud — *Radiation, Chernobyl Requiem, Wormwood Star, Mother Martyr, Trouble, Chernobyl Apple*

*Trees...* He only managed to visit his native places after the disaster once, when he risked going to the exclusion zone together with the filmmakers who took part in the 1990s make a documentary about the artist.

His works were scattered across dozens of countries and museums; in Gomel, he opened his own gallery, donating his canvases to his compatriots. In the studio he kept the most valuable things, things that could not be sold under any circumstances — portraits of relatives and friends. Either in British Cambridge or in the USA, Gavrill Vashchenko was recognised as a 'Man of the Epoch', 'Man of the 20th Century' — but he did not listen to anyone's promises, did not wallow in flattery and remained faithful to his Motherland. All directed towards the sky, he was flesh and blood of the Polesie land that his ancestors ploughed. His work *Memory* — an old woman in a peasant's headscarf, a dark face, like from an ancient icon, framed by a white towel, in her hands a clay bowl with eggs.

Gavrill Vashchenko was given 85 years of age, but the field he cultivated is still sprouting golden ears of corn to this day. And already his students release their students into the world. The tree of life stretched its branches to the sky, and above it, white storks embrace Belarus with their wings...

Veniamin Mikheyev

# БЕЛАРУСКА-КІТАЙСКІЯ СТАСУНКІ Ў ГАЛІНЕ ЛІТАРАТУРЫ І МАСТАЦТВА ГАА МАН

## 中国与白罗斯文艺界的交往 高莽

У сярэдзіне лета я раптам атрымаў ліст з Беларусі. Дзесяцігоддзямі я не кантактаваў з беларусамі, дык хто б мне пісаў? Але, прачытаўшы ліст, усё зразумеў. Беларускі выдавец і пісьменнік Алесь Карлюкевіч запытаўся ў галоўнага рэдактара часопіса “Русская литература и искусство” спадарыні Ся Джунсянь пра маё дачыненне да арганізацыі стасункаў паміж Беларуссю і Кітаем, і яна наведміла Карлюкевічу мой электронны адрас. З таго часу і пачалася нашая з ім перапіска.

Раней Беларусь была адной з рэспублік у складзе Савецкага Саюза. Пасля распаду СССР у 1991 годзе Беларусь стала незалежнай і пачала развіваць уласную краіну ў адпаведнасці са сваімі нацыянальнымі асаблівасцямі.

### Погляд у гісторыю

За непасрэднай адзнакай гісторыі стасункаў паміж Кітаем і Беларуссю лепш звярнуцца да навукоўцаў, хто гэтай тэмай займаецца. Я магу толькі ўзгадаць пэўныя кантакты паміж літаратурнымі і мастацкімі коламі дзвюх краін.

Ужо ў 1930-я гады кітайскі паэт Ся Сань наведваў Беларусь і прыняў удзел у Кангрэсе Міжнароднага з’яднання рэвалюцыйных пісьменнікаў, які праходзіў ў сталіцы – Мінску. У ранні перыяд пасля ўтварэння Новага Кітая, калі мы пісалі пра савецкіх пісьменнікаў, сярод іх былі і беларускія аўтары, але тады мы іх называлі агульным імем – “савецкія пісьменнікі”, не падкрэсліваючы іх нацыянальную прыналежнасць.



今年盛夏，我突然收到一封电子邮件，来自白罗斯共和国。几十年来，我与白罗斯人没有什么来往，谁会给我发邮件呢？阅读之后，才解开疑惑。白罗斯出版家兼作家阿列希·卡尔久凯维奇向《俄罗斯文艺》杂志主编夏忠宪女士问及我有关白罗斯与中国交流的往事，于是她便把我的地址告诉了对方。从此，我们二人之间便开始了通信。

白罗斯原属苏联加盟共和国之一。1991年苏联解体后，白罗斯独立，开始按民族特色发展自己的国家。

历史回顾

我国与白罗斯直接交往的历史，需有关学者考证。我只能回忆两国文艺界的某些接触。

早在上世纪30年代，我国诗人萧三到过白罗斯，出席在首都明斯克举行的国际革命作家大会。新中国建立初期，我们在介绍苏联作家时，就有一些白罗斯作家，但当时都统称“苏联作家”，没有突出其民族性。

当时我国介绍的有著名诗人杨卡·库帕拉(1882-1942)著《芦笛集》(文光书店, 1949); 雅库勃·柯拉斯(1882-1956)的短诗《献给国土解放者》(收在上海时代出版社出的《苏联卫国战争诗选》，1950)。

1950年还发表了另一位诗人彼·勃罗卡夫(1905-1980)的诗作《白罗斯》，雅·布雷尔(1917-2006)的《扎波罗吉村的黎明》等。1952年，诗人阿·库列绍夫(1914-1978)的《只有前进》汉译文面世。除诗人的作品外，见诸中国报刊的还有伊·沙米亚金的儿童读物。上世纪50年代中期到60年代初期，这些作家的作品曾多次刊登在我国的各种报刊杂志上。

经过“文革”长期的沉寂，我国又开始介绍苏联文学作品，其中除老一辈的作家以外，还译介了一批新的作家，如：伊·梅列日(1921-1976)的小说《沼泽地上的人们》(1983)，同年发表了伊·沙米亚金(1921-2004)的一些短篇小说《迟来的春天》《父与子》等；瓦·贝科夫(1924-2003)的《方尖碑》《活到黎明》《一去不复返》《索特尼科夫》以及阿·阿达莫维奇(1927-1994)的长篇纪事文学作品《围困记事》等。实际上，白罗斯的一些代表性作家都已在我国报刊上露面。

白罗斯在上世纪50年代用本国文字出版了约20种中国文学作品，如《中国作家短篇小说集》(1953)；丁玲的长篇小说《太阳照在桑干河上》(1954)和鲁迅的短篇小说选(1955)等。

1957年白罗斯雕塑家谢·谢里哈诺夫(1917-1976)曾在北京为齐白石老人和蒋兆和先生塑过胸像。近年，白罗斯独立以后，又有一位白罗斯雕塑家弗·斯洛博德奇科夫在北京国际雕塑公园塑了三座作品。白罗斯还重新开始注意我国古代和现代的文学与艺术。2007年雷戈尔·鲍罗杜林出版了《东方诗韵》，除了朝

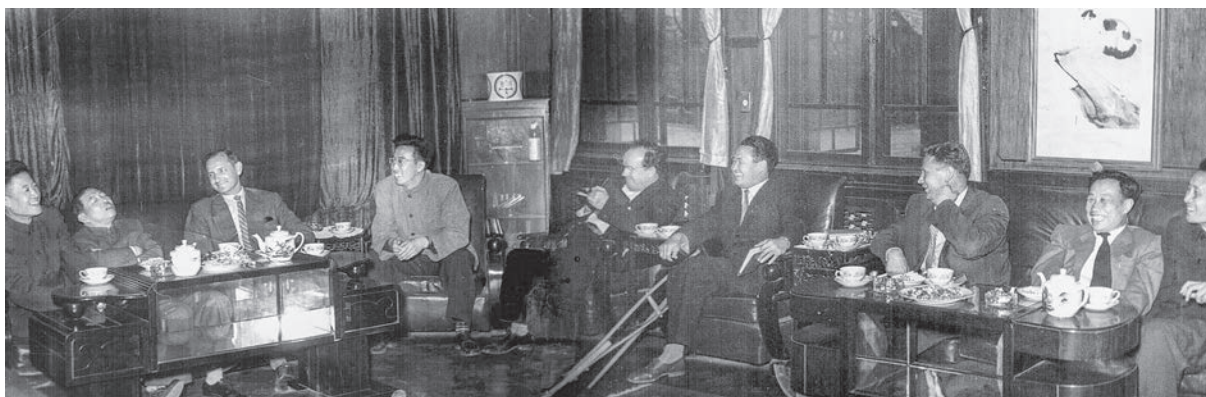
У гэты час наша краіна пазнаёмілася са зборнікам знакамітага паэта Янкі Купалы (1882-1942) “Жалейка” (выдавецтва “Вэньгуан шудзянь”, 1949), вершам Якуба Коласа (1882-1956) “Абаронцам роднай зямлі” (уклучаны ў зборнік “Выбраныя вершы пра Вялікую Айчынную вайну” выдавецтва “Шыдай чубаньшэ” (Шанхай), 1950). У 1950 г. таксама былі апублікаваны верш “Беларусь” у выкананні яшчэ аднаго паэта Пятруся Броўкі (1905—1980), аповесць “У Забалоцці днее” Янкі Брыля (1917—2006) і іншыя. У 1952 г. выйшаў кітайскі пераклад “Толькі наперад” паэта Аркадзя Куляшова (1914-1978). Акрамя твораў паэтаў, пабачылі свет і дзіцячыя апавяданні Івана Шамякіна, якія друкаваліся ў кітайскіх перыядычных выданнях. З сярэдзіны 1950-х да пачатку 1960-х гадоў творы гэтых пісьменнікаў шмат разоў перавыдавалі на старонках розных газет і часопісаў у Кітаі.

Пасля доўгага перыяду маўчання падчас “культурнай рэвалюцыі”, ў Кітаі зноў пачалі друкаваць творы савецкай літаратуры. Акрамя пісьменнікаў старэйшага пакалення, перакладалі і творы новых пісьменнікаў, напрыклад, раман “Людзі на балоце” Івана Мележа (1921-1976) быў выдадзены ў 1983 годзе. У тыя ж гады апублікаваны “Позняя вясна”, “Бацькі і дзеці” Івана Шамякіна (1921-2004), “Абеліск”, “Дажыць да світаньня”, “Пайсці і не вярнуцца”, “Сотнікаў” Васіля Быкава (1924-2003), дакументальны раман-хроніка “Блакадная кніга” Алеся Адамовіча (1927-1994) і іншыя творы. Увогуле, творы найбольш самавітых беларускіх пісьменнікаў былі прадстаўлены на старонках перыядычных выданняў Кітая.

У 1950-я гады ў Беларусі было выдадзена на беларускай мове каля дваццаці кітайскіх твораў: “Зборнік апавяданняў кітайскіх пісьменнікаў” (1953), раман Дзінь Лін “Сонца над ракой Сангань” (1954), “Выбраныя апавяданні Лу Сіня” (1955) і іншыя.

У 1957 г. у Пекіне беларускі скульптар Сяргей Селіханаў (1917-1976) выканаў бюсты Цзі Байшы і Цзян Джаахэ. У апошнія гады, ужо пасля атрымання Беларуссю незалежнасці, яшчэ адзін беларускі скульптар Уладзімір Слабодчыкаў вылепіў тры скульптуры ў Пекінскім міжнародным парку скульптур. У Беларусі аднавілася ўвага і да кітайскай старажытнай і сучаснай літаратуры і мастацтва. У 2007 годзе пабачыў свет вершаваны зборнік Рыгора Барадуліна “Туканне паэзіі Усходу”, у які, акрамя карэйскіх, в’етнамскіх і японскіх вершаў, увайшлі творы дзесяці кітайскіх паэтаў, у тым ліку паэтаў старажытнасці – Ван Вэя, Лі Бо, Ду Фу, Бай Цзюйі, Ду Му, Су Шы, Сінь Цзіцзі, і сучаснасці – Лю Дабая, Лян Дзундая і Кан Байцзіна.

Акрамя гэтага, надрукавана анталогія замежнай паэзіі ў перакладах Міколы Мятліцкага, куды ўвайшлі творы васьмідзесяці сямі паэтаў, у тым ліку дзевяць вершаў Ван Вэя. Аднак шкада, што беларускае навуковае асяроддзе яшчэ не мае дастатковага разумення пра сучасную і найноўшую паэзію Кітая.



### Асабісты досвед

У 1950-я гады я сапраўды меў дачыненне да Беларусі. У 1955 годзе я наведаў Беларусь у складзе дэлегацыі руска-кітайскага сяброўства. У Другую сусветную вайну Беларусь падвяргалася бамбардзіроўкам нямецкіх захопнікаў, і шмат што было разбурана. Калі мы знаходзіліся з візітам, уся краіна якраз наоў адбудоўвалася. У той час мы пазнаёміліся з некалькімі людзьмі з літаратурна-мастацкіх колаў. І галоўнымі з іх былі скульптар Заір Азгур і паэт Максім Танк. Пазней я ліставаўся з Заірам Азгурам і перакладаў вершы Максіма Танка.

Калі пачалася палітыка рэформаў і адкрытасці і Кітай выйшаў з ізаляцыі, усё больш культурных скарбаў іншых краін сталі для нас дасяжнымі. У гэты час я падрыхтаваў для часопіса “Савецкая літаратура і мастацтва” (“Сулянь взны”) матэрыял пра ілюстрацыі беларускага жывапісца Паплаўскага, а таксама сам намаляваў партрэты некаторых беларускіх пісьменнікаў для выкарыстання ў розных выданнях.

Мае веды пра беларускую літаратуру і мастацтва дастаткова абмежаваныя, не кажучы ўжо пра тое, што да распаду Савецкага Саюза прадстаўнікі ўсіх нацыянальнасцяў, якія там пражывалі, па нашым разуменні, былі “савецкімі людзьмі”. Азгур, Танк і іншыя – усе яны выбітныя дзеячы літаратуры і мастацтва Беларусі, і іх варта помніць.

### Рукі Заіра Азгура

Заір Азгур – самы вядомы беларускі скульптар. Да сустрэчы з Азгурам мы бачылі выкананы ім рэльеф помніка-абеліска на плошчы Перамогі ў цэнтры Мінска, строгая і ўрачыстая скульптурная работа, яна натхняла людзей на перамогу.

Першы раз я сустрэўся з Заірам Азгурам у 1953 годзе. Я памятаю адчуванне яго вялікай, шырокай рукі, якая моцна паціскае маю. Ён быў сярэдняга целаскладу, замест гальштук – шаўковы шалік у кветачкі, і размаўляў бесперапынна. Скульптар выказаў павагу да старажытнай традыцыйнай культуры Кітая і бясконца ўхваляў Новы Кітай. Ён быў так захоплены размовай,

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1957 г. Трэці справа – Максім Танк

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У той жа час, Мікола Метрыцкі выдаў адну замежную паэтычную зборку, якая атрымлівае 87 паэтычных творы, сярод якіх 9 паэтычных творы Вань Вэй. На жаль, беларуская навука пра наш сучасны паэтычны творчым ведае не так шмат.

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Першы раз я сустрэўся з Заірам Азгурам у 1953 годзе. Я памятаю адчуванне яго вялікай, шырокай рукі, якая моцна паціскае маю. Ён быў сярэдняга целаскладу, замест гальштук – шаўковы шалік у кветачкі, і размаўляў бесперапынна. Скульптар выказаў павагу да старажытнай традыцыйнай культуры Кітая і бясконца ўхваляў Новы Кітай. Ён быў так захоплены размовай,

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што сказаў: “Мне проста неабходна наведаць Кітай!”. Тон яго быў сцвярдзальны, а настрой сур’ёзны. Пасля паўзы ён дадаў: “Калі я ў гэтым жыцці не паспею, хай мой сын з’ездзіць!”. Яго словы нібы выразаныя скульптурным нажом засталіся ў мяне ў сэрцы.

У 1954 годзе я зноў сустрэўся з ім у Маскве. Заір Ісакавіч сказаў, што нядаўна скончыў бюст Лу Сіня. Я падумаў, што беларускаму працаўніку мастацтва, далёкаму ад кітайскай рэчаіснасці, нялёгка было ствараць Лу Сіня, вялікага сучаснага кітайскага мыслера і пісьменніка. Але калі мы бачым працу Азгура, мы можам толькі шчыра захапляцца яго стараннасцю. Пазней ён перадаў бюст кітайскаму ўраду, а ўрад перадаў скульптуру ў мемарыяльны музей Лу Сіня.

Я да гэтага часу памятаю снежны дзень 1956 года, калі ў мемарыяльным музеі Лу Сіня ў Пекіне сабралася шмат наведвальнікаў. Нямала з іх стаялі ў цэнтры залы і доўга любаваліся бюстам Лу Сіня ў выкананні Заіра Азгура. Па бляску іх вачэй можна было ўбачыць глыбокае замілаванне і ўдзячнасць гэтаму далёкаму і незнаёмаму скульптару.

Аднойчы я сустрэў спадара Лінь Фэя, даследчыка творчасці Лу Сіня. Калі размова зайшла пра гэтую скульптуру, Лінь Фэй высока ацаніў работу майстра. Ён адзначыў: “У халоднай суровасці схавана палкасць, што стварае ўражанне моцы і размаху ад глыбіні думак Лу Сіня, нават яго рукі поўны жадання змяніць стары парадак і старыя ідэі”.

Азгур размаўляў нібы афарызмамі: “Мастацтва выконвае важную адукацыйную ролю. Мастацтва не павінна гвалтоўна насаджаць гледачам свае ўласныя ідэі, а павінна натхняць людзей”. Яшчэ ён сказаў: “Камяні і метал, як і людзі, маюць свой характар. Граніт, мармур, бронза, сталь – у кожнага свой “нораў”. Такую глыбокую думку могуць сфармуляваць толькі скульптары, якія карысталіся гэтымі матэрыяламі і добра знаёмыя з імі. Ён стварыў скульптуры знакамітасцей сусветнай культуры: акрамя скульптуры Лу Сіня (1953), Азгур – аўтар бюста індыйскага пісьменніка і вучонага Рабіндраната Тагора (1956). Заір Ісакавіч надзвычай умела апрацаваў граніт, выкарыстоўваючы паліраваную частку, каб выразіць скуру Тагора, яго цёмны твар і рукі, і ямчатую паверхню – для белых валасоў і барады, што дало вельмі добры эфект і моцнае адчуванне тэкстуры. Скульптар літаральна ажывіў граніт. Гледзячы на статую, можна адчуць мяккасць скуры і пышнасць барады і валасоў. Азгур таксама зрабіў скульптуру рускага кампазітара Мусаргскага (1958), амерыканскага паэта Уйтмэна (1959) і іншых. Пранізлівыя вочы герояў, іх цвёрдая пастава і задумліва-медытатывная вытанчанасць пакідалі на людзей незабыўнае ўражанне. Найбольш выдатным творам яго позняга перыяду стала вялікая скульптурная група, прысвечаная народнаму паэту Беларусі Якубу Коласу, яна размешчана на праспекце сталічнага Мінска і суправаджае гараджан дзень і ноч.

问!” 语调肯定，态度严肃。停了一会儿，他又加了一句：“倘若今生今世我去不成，也得让我儿子去一趟！”他的话，像用雕刻刀刻在了我的心上。

1954年，我在莫斯科又见到了他。他说最近完成了《鲁迅雕像》。我心里想，一位远离中国现实的白罗斯艺术家，创作鲁迅这么一位中国现代伟大思想家和文学家，决非易事。可是当我们看到作品时，不能不对他的苦心经营表示由衷的钦佩。后来，他把这座雕像赠给了我国政府，政府又转给了鲁迅纪念馆。

我还记得，1956年，在北京一个大雪纷飞的日子，北京鲁迅纪念馆里来了很多参观者。不少人站在大厅中央久久地欣赏阿兹古尔的鲁迅雕像。从观众闪光的眼睛中已经看出他们对这位远方的、陌生的艺术家的深情与谢忱。

有一天我见到鲁迅研究专家林非先生，谈起这座雕像，他对作品评价很高，说：“在冷峻中满含着热情，给予了他沉思的力量与气魄，就连他的双手，也充满着一种想要改变旧秩序与旧思想的力度。”

扎·阿兹古尔说话像警句一般：“艺术具有重要的教育作用。艺术不应当向观众硬性地灌输自己的思想，而应当感染他们。”又说：“石头和金属同人一样，有自己的性格。花岗石、大理石、青铜、钢——各有各的‘脾气’。”只有使用过并熟悉这些材料的雕塑家才能说出这种深邃的道理来。

■ Гаа Ман з дэлегацыяй 1961 г



У савецкі час Азгур двойчы стаў лаўрэатам Дзяржаўнай прэміі СССР, абіраўся акадэмікам Акадэміі выяўленчага мастацтва СССР, удастоены званняў Народны мастак СССР і Герой Сацыялістычнай Працы СССР.

У 1990-м годзе мне перадалі з Беларусі альбом Заіра Азгура. Радкі надпісу на кнізе былі крываватымі, і было відаць, што скульптар ужо з цяжкасцю трымае ручку ў руцэ. Я зноў успомніў пра яго магутныя рукі, ці маглі яны яшчэ трымаць скульптурны нож? Я падлічыў, што на той год Заіру Ісакавічу было ўжо пад восемдзесят! Заір Азгур ніколі не быў у Кітаі, і ў яго сына не атрымалася наведаць Кітай, але сэрца мастака знайшло свой шлях ў нашу краіну разам са скульптурай Лу Сіня. У ёй кітайскі народ убачыў палымянае сэрца скульптара.

## Вершы Максіма Танка

Адночы падчас паездкі ў Савецкі Саюз у 1954 годзе мы ў цягніку неспадзявана сустрэлі беларускага паэта Максіма Танка. Пад грукат колаў, ён урыўкамі расказваў пра сваё жыццё.

Максім Танк (1912-1995) нарадзіўся ў сялянскай сям'і ў Заходняй Беларусі. У 1939 годзе гэтая тэрыторыя была перададзена з-пад улады Польшчы Савецкаму Саюзу. Яго дзяцінства і юнацтва былі горкімі і поўнымі барацьбы. У 1932 г. апублікаваў свой першы твор, у якім усхваляў забастоўку шахцёраў, юнацкія вершы выражалі імкненне народа да свабоды.

У савецкі час пачалася новая старонка творчасці Танка, ён актыўна ўдзельнічаў у грамадскім і літаратурным жыцці, апяваў братэрства і дружбу паміж людзьмі ўсіх нацыянальнасцей Савецкага Саюза. У гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны паэт працаваў у фронтавой газеце. У яго вершах адлюстраваны гераізм савецкага народа, самаахвярнасць і ўпэўненасць у перамозе. У гэты перыяд ім напісана шмат вершаў, у якіх адлюстравана любоў савецкіх людзей да партыі і Радзімы.

Пасля вайны кола ідэй у паэзіі Максіма Танка пашырылася, і важнае месца заняла тэма абароны міру. Танк далучыўся да Савецкага камітэта абароны міру. Вясной 1949 года ў якасці аднаго з савецкіх пасланнікаў міру ўдзельнічаў у першай Сусветнай канферэнцыі міру, якая адбылася ў Празе.

У той раз, у цягніку, ён падзяліўся ўспамінам: “Падчас канфэрэнцыі міру, прыйшла захапляльная навіна. Народна-вызваленчая армія Кітая перайшла раку Янцзы і вылучылася на поўдзень! Тады я падумаў пра кітайскую раку Янцзы, пра якую я даведаўся на ўроку геаграфіі ў пачатковай школе. Думаў пра сваё дзяцінства, пра прыгнечаных кітайскіх працоўных, якія да вызвалення, на працягу тысяч гадоў жылі на берагах Янцзы, разважаў пра іх барацьбу, і больш таго, як яны зараз заможна і шчасліва жывуць, усё гэта я апісаў у вершы “Сіняя рака””.

У 1957 годзе Максім Танк прыехаў у складзе саветскай дэлегацыі дзяржаў культуры для ўдзелу ў мерапрыемствах, прысвечаных восьмай гадавіне

他曾创作世界文化名人雕像：除了鲁迅像（1953）之外，还有印度作家、学者泰戈尔的半身像（1956）。他极其巧妙地处理了花岗岩，用抛光部分表现泰戈尔的皮肤——黝黑的脸与手，用麻面表现了白色的头发与胡须，效果甚佳，质感极强。他真的使花岗岩有了生命。面对着这座雕像，观众可以感觉到皮肤的柔润和须发的松软。他还塑造了俄国作曲家穆索尔斯基（1958）、美国诗人惠特曼（1959）等人，人物炯炯有神的目光、刚强有力的姿态和深思冥想的风采，给人留下难忘的印象。他后期最突出的作品是为白罗斯人民诗人雅库勃·柯拉斯拉创作的大型雕塑组像，立于首都明斯克大街上，与市民们日夜相伴。

苏联时代，阿兹古尔两次获苏联国家奖，被选为苏联美术研究院院士，还先后荣获了“苏联人民艺术家”和“苏联社会主义劳动英雄”的称号。

1990年，有人从白罗斯给我捎来了阿兹古尔的画册。书上的题词字迹弯弯曲曲，显然他已难以控制手中的笔了。我又想到他那双有力的大手，还能握雕刀吗？我又计算了一下，那一年阿兹古尔已是八十开外的老翁了！

扎伊尔·阿兹古尔未曾来过中国，他的儿子也没有来过中国，但他的心早已随着他塑的《鲁迅雕像》来到了我国。我国人民通过他的作品看到了一颗炽热的心。

## 马克西姆·唐克的诗

1954年的一天，我们在苏联火车上意外地与白罗斯诗人马克西姆·唐克相识。伴随着车轮的隆隆声，他谈到了自己的生平片段。

马西姆·唐克(1912-1995)出生在白罗斯西部的一个农家。那个地区于1939年才从波兰统治下归入苏联版图。他的少年和青年时代辛酸且充满了斗争。1932年他发表了第一首歌颂矿工罢工的作品,青年时代的诗表达的尽

到了苏联时代，唐克创作开始了新的一页，到他积极地参加社会活动和文学活动，歌唱苏联各族人民之间的兄弟友谊。在伟大的卫国战争年代里，唐克在前线报社工作。他的诗表达了苏联人民的英雄气概、忘我牺牲的精神和必胜的信心。在这个时期，他写了很多反映苏联人民对党、对祖国的爱戴的诗作。

战后，唐克的诗的思想范围扩大了，保卫和平委员会的主题占有重要的地位。他是全苏保卫和平委员会的委员。1949年春天，作为苏联和平使员会之一，他参加了在布拉格举行的第一届世界和平大会。

那次，我们在火车上相识时，他曾回忆起当时的情况，说：“和平大会正在进行的时候，来了一个振奋人心的喜讯：中国人民解放军跨过长江，南下了解放了！那时我想起小学时代在地理课上了解的中国长江，想到我的住居，想到压迫的中国劳动大众，想到他们的斗争，更想到从

заснавання КНР, і мы сустрэліся зноў. Першага кастрычніка ён стаў на глядзельнай пляцоўцы на плошчы Цян'аньмынь і назіраў за вайсковым парадом і масавым шэсцем, яго ўзрушанасць перайшла ў паэзію. У Пекіне ён наведаў музей Гугун, музей Лу Сіня і магілу Цзі Байшы, у прыгарадзе сталіцы пагатурыў з сялянамі, ва Ухане ўдзельнічаў у цырымоніі адкрыцця моста праз раку Янцзы і наведаў мемарыяльны музей Цсюй Юаня, у Лаяне паэт любаваўся пячорамі Лунмэнь і храмам Баймасы, у Нанкіне пабываў у маўзэале Сунь Ятсэна, сустрэўся з кітайскімі пісьменнікамі на чале з Ба Цзінем у Шанхаі, наведаў былою рэзідэнцыю Лу Сіня і ўсклаў кветкі каля помніка Пушкіну.

Па прыездзе ў Кітай, Танк асабліва хацеў наведаць старога Цзі Байшы, але, на жаль, мастак памёр. Таму, паэт наведваў яго магілу, каб аддаць пашану і на мове паэзіі вызначыць захапленне выключнаму мастацкаму таленту Цзі Байшы, прыгажосці яго стварэнняў.

Я памятаю, што ён доўга стаяў у задумненнасці каля статуі Цсюй Юаня, якая знаходзіцца перад мемарыяльным музеем Цскай Юаня на возеры Дунху ва Ухані. Пазней паэт напісаў такія вершаваныя радкі:

- Што вы хіліцеся, вербы, над вадой, / Што там бачыце  
світаннем на зары? / Залатыя касякі дзівосных рыб? /  
Можа, россыпы нефрыту з бірузой? // І ў адказ я чую  
ціхі пошум-гул: / - Ты ў крутыя віравыя тоні глянь, /  
Толькі ветру не будзі ды трыснягу, / І пабачыш: як  
жывы там Цюй Юань!..

Візит у Китай пакинуў у Максіма Танка глыбокае ўражанне. Ад'езджаючы, ён сказаў мне: “Я хачу напісаць некалькі вершаў, якія апяваюць Кітай. І напісаць яго павінен іх добра, каб яны былі вартыя вялікіх дасягненняў брацкага кітайскага народа!”

У 1948 годзе Максім Танк узнагароджаны Дзяржаўнай прэміяй СССР. У 1968 годзе яму прысвоена званне народнага паэта Беларусі, у 1972 годзе абраны акадэмікам Акадэміі навук Беларусі, у 1974 годзе атрымаў званне героя Сацыялістычнай Працы, а ў 1978 г. – Ленінскую прэмію.

Минула більш за п'яцьдесят гадоў, у іх было нямала перашкод і цяжкасцяў. Алесь Карлюкевіч і яго дачка паведамлялі ў сваіх лістах, што ў дзевяцітомным зборы твораў Максіма Танка і ў матэрыялах Літаратурнага музея знайшлі запісы пра мяне, таксама захаваўся альбом, які я перадаваў паэту.

Шчыра кажучы, я не памятаю, які альбом я перадаваў. Калі Танк быў у Кітаі, я зрабіў эскіз яго партрэта, а паэт пакінуў на ім надпіс. Гэты партрэт быў надрукаваны ў зборніку вершаў, які мы пераклалі сумесна са спадаром Гэ Баацсюанем, але, здаецца, Максіму Танку партрэт не перадавалі. Магчыма, гаворка ідзе пра мой альбом “Зборнік эскізаў”, ці, хутчэй за ўсё, пра невялікі альбом “Баявое жыццё Маркса і Энгельса”.

Я быў глыбока крануты тым, што Максім Танк нават у сталым узросце помніў пра сваіх кітайскіх сяброў.

今以后那儿将日益繁荣起来的幸福生活，于是写成诗篇《蓝色的大江》。”

1957年，唐克随同苏联文化代表团来到我国参加国庆8周年盛典，我们又见面了。10月1日，他站在天安门前的观礼台上，饱览阅兵仪式和群众大游行，兴奋的心情顿时化成诗句。他在北京游览了故宫博物院，在郊区访问了农民，参观了鲁迅博物馆，拜谒了齐白石墓；在武汉参加了长江大桥通车典礼，访问了屈原纪念馆；在洛阳观赏了龙门石窟、白马寺；在南京拜谒了中山陵；在上海会见了以巴金为首的中国作家们，参观了鲁迅故居，到普希金纪念碑前献花。

唐克来到中国时就特别想拜会齐白石老人，可惜老人已仙逝。于是他去了墓地凭吊，并用诗的语言表达了对齐白石高超艺术的颂扬和对美的礼赞。

我记得他在武汉东湖屈原纪念馆前长时间地对着屈原雕像沉思。后来他写了这样的诗句：

垂柳呀，你们为什么弯身探向水面？/天空吐霞光时，你们在水中有何发现？/你们看见了碧玉宝石的产地？/或是珍奇的金鱼在那里成群游玩？//垂柳悄悄地向我开言：/“你亲自向湖水深处看一眼，/不过，千万不要惊醒风儿和芦苇，/你会在湖心里看见活的屈原。”

访问中国给唐克留下深刻的印象，临别时他对我说：“我还要写一些歌唱中国的诗。要写好，让它能无愧于兄弟般的中国人民的伟大成就。”

马克西姆·唐克于1948年获国家奖。1968年获白罗斯“人民诗人”称号，1972年被选为白罗斯科学院院士，1974年获“社会主义劳动英雄”称号，1978年获列宁奖金。

风雨雨50多年过去了。阿列希·卡尔久凯维奇父女在信中告诉我，他们在马克西姆·唐克的九卷全集中和文学博物馆里，发现了他有我的记录，还有我寄给他的画册。

我在记不起我曾给他画了。当年他在中  
国访问时，我给他画过肖像。他在画上签  
了名，但那张画像用戈宝权先生的译名  
的《速写集》似乎没有给他写信。恩格  
斯在《斗生》小型画册。

马克西姆·唐克直到晚年还惦记着中国朋友，使我不胜感动。

瞻望明天

中白文艺交往的前景怎样呢？我不由得想到卡尔久凯维奇父女以及他们的团队。阿列希·卡尔久凯维奇是白罗斯文学艺术出版公司负责人，《文学与艺术报》主编、白罗斯国立传媒大学教授，出版过20余部著作。他很重视中国文学艺术作品。更何况他还有一个研究中国文学的女儿维罗妮卡。维罗妮卡曾在白罗斯学习中文，2006年至2007年到上海进修，2009年至2011年又来到北京进修，专攻中国文学，

### 3 надзеяй глядзім у будучыню

Якія перспектывы літаратурнага і мастацкага абмену паміж Кітаем і Беларуссю? Не магу не ўспомніць бацьку і дачку Карлюкевічаў і іх калег. Алесь Карлюкевіч – кіраўнік выдавецтва “Літаратура і мастацтва”, галоўны рэдактар газеты “Літаратура і мастацтва”, выкладчык факультэта журналістыкі Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта, выдаў больш за дваццаць кніг. Ён надае вялікае значэнне кітайскай літаратуры і мастацтву. Больш за тое, у яго ёсць дачка Вераніка, якая даследуе кітайскую літаратуру. Вераніка вывучала кітайскую мову ў Беларусі, з 2006 па 2007 год праходзіла стажыроўку ў Шанхаі, потым з 2009 па 2011 год стажыравалася ў Пекіне па спецыяльнасці кітайская літаратура. Яна апублікавала шмат артыкулаў па кітайскай літаратуры. Яе перавага ў тым, што ёй больш не трэба звяртацца да рускай мовы пры даследаванні і перакладах кітайскіх твораў, а можа непасрэдна выкарыстоўваць арыгінальны тэкст. Для Беларусі гэта новая адпраўная пляцоўка для перакладу і знаёмства з кітайскай культурай.

У кожным лісце Алесь Карлюкевіч і яго дачкі я адчуваў захопленасць справай і добразычлівасць. Пасля некалькіх дзесяцігоддзяў праз іх – маіх сяброў, я аднавіў духоўную сувязь з беларускім літаратурна-мастацкім асяродкам. Алесь Карлюкевіч – дальнабачны выдавец, ён і яго дачка зразумелі бліскучыя перспектывы развіцця супрацоўніцтва паміж нашымі краінамі і будуць амбіцыйныя планы, як знаёміць з літаратурай і мастацтвам Кітая на беларускай мове. Вакол іх сабралася моцная каманда паплечнікаў, якія гэтак жа з энтузіязмам прэзентуюць кітайскую літаратуру і мастацтва, сярод іх Мікола Мятліцкі і Навум Гальпяровіч, намеснік старшыні Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, які нядаўна наведаў Кітай. Зараз Алесь Карлюкевіч рыхтуе да перакладу і выдання кнігу “100 кітайскіх вершаў”.

Я цвёрда веру, што калі ў Беларусі ёсць такія ўлюбёныя ў сваю справу людзі, культурныя стасункі паміж нашымі краінамі будуць усё больш квітнеючымі!

**Скарочаны пераклад з артыкула, надрукавага ў газеце “Вэны баа” 2 лістапада 2011 год**

Гаа Ман (1926 – 2017) – знакамiты кітайскі перакладчык і мастак. Ён пераклаў на кітайскую мову творы А. Пушкіна, М. Лермантава, І. Буніна, Л. Талстога, І. Тургенева, М. Горкага, У. Маякоўскага, А. Ахматавай, Б. Пастэрнака, М. Цвятаевай, В. Мандэльштама, Б. Ахмадулінай і інш. Ён першым пазнаёміў кітайскага чытача з творчасцю У. Высоцкага, ім першым у Кітаі былі перакладзены п’есы У. Маякоўскага “Клоп” і “Лазня”, паэма А. Ахматавай “Рэквіем”. Сярод арыгінальных твораў Гаа Мана – “Нататкі пра рускае выяўленчае мастацтва”, “Крылы гісторыі – Учываючыся ў рысы знакамiтых людзей літаратуры”, “Даўно не бачыліся, Масква!”, “Сухастой”, “Падарожжа на святую гару” і інш. У 1997 годзе за ўклад у развіццё кітайска-савецкіх

яй发表多篇有关中国文学的论文。她的优势是研究和翻译中文作品不必再借助于俄文，可以直接利用原文。这是白罗斯译介中国文化的一个新起点。

阿列希·卡尔久凯维奇父女俩每次给我来信，都热情洋溢，语词亲切。他们是我几十年后重又神交的白罗斯文艺界的朋友。阿列希·卡尔久凯维奇是位有远见的出版家，他和女儿看到两国之间合作发展的光辉前景，便雄心勃勃地准备用白罗斯文多多介绍我国的文艺。他们周围还有一支强大的合作团队，同样是热心于介绍中国文艺的人士，如梅特里茨基、还有前不久来中国访问的作协副主席加里佩洛维奇等人。现在阿列希·卡尔久凯维奇正准备翻译出版《中国历代诗词100首》。

我深信，白罗斯有了这样热心的人，我们两国的文化交流必将日趋繁荣！

### 2011年11月2日《文艺报》文章节译

高莽先生（1926–2017）是中国著名翻译家和画家。他翻译过的作家包括亚历山大·普希金、米哈伊尔·莱蒙托夫、伊万·蒲宁、列夫·托尔斯泰、伊万·屠格涅夫、马克西姆·高尔基、弗拉基米尔·马雅可夫斯基、安娜·阿赫玛托娃、鲍里斯·帕斯捷尔纳克、玛琳娜·茨维塔耶娃、奥西普·曼德尔施塔姆、贝拉·阿赫玛杜琳娜等。他是第一个向中国读者介绍维索茨基作品的人，首位在中国翻译马雅可夫斯基的戏剧《臭虫》和《澡堂》，和阿赫玛托娃的诗《安魂曲》的人。高莽先生的原创作品有《俄罗斯美术随笔》《历史之翼——品读文化名人》《久违了，莫斯科！》《枯立木》《圣山行》等。1997年，俄罗斯总统因其对中苏中俄文学艺术交流的贡献而授予“友谊”勋章。

尽管高莽先生在20世纪50年代和80年代就与白罗斯作家和艺术家有过交流，但高莽先生直到2011年才重新接触白罗斯文学界。2011年底，中国著名翻译家为《文艺报》撰写了《中国与白罗斯文艺界的交往》一文。在其中，高莽先生回忆了他与扎伊尔·阿兹古尔和马克西姆·唐克的会面。高莽先生（笔名乌兰汗）成为人民文学出版社（北京）1958年出版的白罗斯人民诗人马克西姆·唐克诗集《唐克诗选》的译者之一。此外，他还画过马克西姆·唐克、雅库布·柯拉斯、扬卡·库帕拉、瓦西里·贝科夫、阿莱斯·阿达莫维奇等人的肖像。

然而，从今天的角度来看，这篇文章的内容特别有趣。高莽先生提问：“中白文艺交往的前景怎样呢？”这篇文章发表以来的十多年里，中国和白罗斯的翻译家、出版商和研究人士做了很多事情。白罗斯已经出版了翻译成白罗斯语的中国诗集《龙翼之下——中国诗人百人》、《莲瓣菊花——20世纪中国诗人

і кітайска-расійскіх літаратурных і мастацкіх стасункаў Прэзідэнт РФ ўзнагародзіў яго ордэнам Дружбы. Нягледзячы на тое, што Гаа Ман у 1950 – 1980-я гады меў стасункі з беларускімі пісьменнікамі і мастакамі, у наш час у беларускую літаратурную прастору Гаа Ман вярнуўся толькі ў 2011 годзе. Знакаміты кітайскі перакладчык у канцы 2011 года напісаў для газеты “Вэнь баа” артыкул “Беларуска-кітайскія стасункі ў галіне літаратуры і мастацтва”. У ім Гаа Ман успамінае свае сустрэчы з Заірам Азгурам і Максімам Танкам. Менавіта Гаа Ман пад псеўданімам У Ланьхань стаў адным з перакладчыкаў зборніка народнага паэта Беларусі Максіма Танка “Выбраныя вершы”, выдадзенага ў 1958 годзе ў выдавецтве “Жэньмінь вэньсюэ чубаньшэ” (Пекін). Акрамя гэтага, ён напісаў партрэты Максіма Танка, Якуба Коласа, Янкі Купалы, Васіля Быкава, Алеся Адамовіча і іншых.

Аднак змест артыкула асабліва цікава разглядаць з вышыні сённяшняга дня. Гаа Ман задаецца пытаннем: “Якія перспектывы літаратурнага і мастацкага абмену паміж Кітаем і Беларуссю?” За больш як дзесяць гадоў, якія прайшлі пасля з’яўлення гэтага артыкула ў друку, кітайскія і беларускія перакладчыкі, выдаўцы і даследчыкі паспелі зрабіць нямала. У Беларусі выдадзены зборнікі кітайскай паэзіі ў перакладзе на беларускую мову “Пад крыламі Дракона. Сто паэтаў Кітая”, “Пялёсткі лотаса і хрызантэмы. Сто паэтаў Кітая XX ст.”, “Гімн святлу” Ай Цзіна, серыя “Светлыя знакі: паэты Кітая” і інш. Дарэчы, Гаа Ман выступаў дарадцам у зборы серыі “Светлыя знакі: паэты Кітая”, кітайскі перакладчык быў ўключаны ў Міжнародны рэдакцыйны савет серыі. У Кітаі былі выдадзены калектыўны збор твораў беларускай літаратуры – “Выбраныя творы сучасных беларускіх пісьменнікаў”, асобнай кнігай выдадзена апавесць Андрэя Федарэнкі “Шчарбаты талер”, рыхтуецца да выдання збор твораў Алеся Бадака і Алеся Карлюкевіча.

Часопіс “Belarus. Беларусь” таксама стаў прадстаўнічай пляцоўкай для знаёмства беларускіх і кітайскіх чытачоў і з самімі літаратурнымі перакладамі, і з артыкуламі пра перакладчыкаў і выдавецкія праекты. На старонках часопіса апублікаваны пераклады з дзіцячай літаратуры – казкі Уладзіміра Караткевіча “Чортаў скарб”, “Пік-Пік і Пепіта на паляванні” Людмілы Рублеўскай і “Шчаслівая кніга” Кацярыны Хадасевіч-Лісавой, падборка дзіцячых вершаў Янкі Журбы, Авяр’яна Дзеружынскага, Рыгора Барадуліна, Уладзіміра Караткевіча і Васіля Віткі. Працягам перакладчыцкай ініцыятывы стала з’яўленне ў друку кітайскага перакладу апавесці Уладзіміра Караткевіча “Дзікае паляванне караля Стаха”. У Мінску апублікавана двухмоўнае руска-кітайскае выданне “Шубуршун і яго сябры” Алеся Карлюкевіча. Іншы важны перакладчыцкі праект – зборнік беларускага фальклору “Прымаўкі ды прыказкі – мудрай мовы прывязкі” (2017 г.) і “Хадзі, сонейка, да нас...” (2019 г.).

Вераніка Карлюкевіч



■ Гаа Ман

百人》、艾青诗集《光明赞歌》、《光明迹象：中国诗人》系列丛书等。《光明迹象：中国诗人》系列丛书的顾问是高莽先生，他被列入该系列的国际编辑委员会。在中国，出版了白罗斯作家作品合集《白罗斯当代文学作品选》，安德烈·费多连科的中篇小说《有缺口的塔勒》。阿列斯·巴达克和阿列斯·卡尔柳克维奇的作品集正在准备出版。

《白罗斯》杂志也成为白罗斯和中国读者了解文学翻译以及有关译者和出版项目的文章的重要平台。杂志最早选入的是童话故事——弗拉基米尔·卡罗特科维奇的《该死的宝藏》，之后刊载了卢德米拉·鲁布斯维娅和叶卡捷琳娜·哈达塞维奇-里索娃雅撰写的童话故事的中译本。此后，相继刊登了白罗斯文学大师：杨卡·卓巴、阿弗里扬·哲祖鲁辛斯基、雷戈·波罗杜林、弗拉基米尔·卡罗特科维奇和瓦西里·维特科的儿童诗歌。白罗斯文学作品翻译成中文的活动正由弗拉基米尔·卡罗特科维奇的小说《斯塔赫国王的狂猎》所续写。中俄版本的阿列斯·卡尔柳克维奇的《书博耳顺和他的朋友们》已在明斯克出版。另一个白罗斯语-汉语大型出版项目是白罗斯民间文学遗产翻译：《谚语和俗语——连接智慧的语言》和《太阳，到这里来……》。

# ПАЭЗІЯ НАВУМА ГАЛЬПЯРОВІЧА ГУЧЫЦЬ ПА-КІТАЙСКУ

Перакладчык рускай і беларускай літаратуры, прафесар Нанькайскага ўніверсітэта Гу Юй працягвае знаёміць кітайскіх чытачоў з сучаснай беларускай паэзіяй. Гу Юй ужо пераклаў творы Максіма Танка (сто вершаў), Якуба Коласа, Янку Купалу, Максіма Багдановіча, Цётку, Анатоля Сыса, Міколу Пракаповіча і іншых беларускіх паэтаў.

А ў сённяшнім нумары мы прапануем яго пераўвасабленні на кітайскую мову вершаў Навума Гальпяровіча.

Паэт, празаік, перакладчык і журналіст Навум Якаўлевіч Гальпяровіч нарадзіўся ў 1948 годзе ў Полацку. Пасля заканчэння сярэдняй школы працаваў на Полацкім шклозаводзе, затым у полацкай аб'яднанай газеце “Сцяг камунізму”, рэдактарам радыёвяшчання вытворчага аб'яднання “Палімір” у Наваполацку, супрацоўнікам наваполацкай гарадской газеты “Хімік”. З 1981-га ўласным карэспандэнтам Дзяржтэлерадыё БССР па Віцебскай вобласці. Навум Якаўлевіч – аўтар шматлікіх рэпартажаў, аналітычных матэрыялаў. З 1997 года жыве ў Мінску. Працаваў намеснікам галоўнага рэдактара ў часопісе “Вожык”, намеснікам старшыні Саюза пісьменнікаў. Зараз Навум Якаўлевіч – намеснік дырэктара – загадчык аддзела музычных і літаратурна-мастацкіх праграм дырэкцыі канала “Культура” Беларускага радыё Нацыянальнай

## 纳乌姆·加尔 佩罗维奇的诗 以中文问世

俄罗斯、白罗斯文学翻译家、南开大学教授谷羽先生继续向中国读者介绍当代白罗斯诗歌。谷羽先生已翻译马克西姆·唐克（100首）、雅库布·柯拉斯、扬卡·库帕拉、马克西姆·波格丹诺维奇、泰特卡、阿纳托利·西斯、米科拉·普罗科帕维奇等白罗斯诗人的作品（几十首）。在本刊中，我们介绍他翻译成中文的纳乌姆·加尔佩罗维奇的诗歌。

дзяржаўнай тэлерадыёкампаніі, вядучы аўтарскай культуралагічнай праграмы “Суразмоўцы” на тэлеканале “Беларусь 3”. За творчыя і грамадскія здабыткі адзначаны медалём Францыска Скарыны, званнем “Заслужаны дзеяч культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь”;

Дебютаваў вершам у 1967 годзе на старонках газеты “Хімік” (Наваполацк). Аўтар кніг паэзіі “Сцяжына”, “Брама”, “Востраў душы”, “Струна”, ц “Святло ў акне”, “Тэта ўсё для цябе”, “Голас і рэха”, кнігі прозы “Шляхі і вяртанні”, а таксама шматлікіх публікацый у калектыўных зборніках. На вершы Навума Гальпяровіча напісаны песні кампазітарамі Эдуардам Зарыцкім, Уладзімірам Буднікам, Алегам Елісеенкавым, Валерыем Івановым і інш. Асобныя творы перакладзены на рускую, балгарскую, румынскую, марыйскую і польскую мовы.

Наум Гальпировіч має щесня стасункі з Кітаєм. Сам паэт сцвярджае, што кітайская тэма адыграла значную ролю ў яго жыцці: “Вось ужо больш за дзесяць гадоў там жыве і працуе мая дачка, на нашым радзё “Беларусь” мы арганізавалі вяшчанне на кітайскай мове, і ў мяне з’явілася шмат сяброў з ліку мастакоў, журналістаў, пісьменнікаў, дыпламатаў гэтай вялікай краіны. Незабудьнае ўражанне на мяне аказаў выдатны дзеяч культуры спадар Гаа Ман. Я пазнаёміўся з ім падчас майго першага візіту ў Пекін. Гэтае знаёмства перарасло ў сапраўднае сяброўства. Гаа Ман нават напісаў мой партрэт з вершам-прысвячэннем, які я беражліва захоўваю ў сваім кабінэце. Мне двойчы давалося павываць у Кітай, і я захоплены гэтай краінай, яе людзьмі, і сваімі ўражаннямі не раз дзяліўся ў сваіх вершаваных і празаічных творах.”

Адзін з такіх вершаў Навума Гальпяровіча – “Пад адным небам”, прысвечаны Гаа Ману. У перакладзе кітайскага русіста спадара Лю Вэньфэя верш быў надрукаваны па-кітайску ў кнізе ўспамінаў пра Гаа Мана “Дзеяч мастацтва з “пячоры тыгра”” (Пекін, 2023). Другі пераклад, карыстаючыся рускамоўнай версіяй у выкананні беларускай паэткі Юліі Алейчанка, зрабіў спадар Гу Юй. Кітайскі перакладчык адзначыў, што гэта верш, які “са шчырымі эмоцыямі, лёгкай мовай і гарманічнай рыфмай апісвае сардэчнае сяброўства паміж вучонымі дзеячамі з Кітая і Беларусі, краане чытачоў”.

Навум Гальпяровіч таксама далучыўся да перакладчыцкай дзейнасці. У яго пераўвасабленні на беларускай мове загучалі вершы старажытнакітайскіх паэтаў Лі Бо, Ду Фу і Мэн Хаажаня і паэтычныя творы паэтаў сучаснай і найноўшай літаратуры Вэнь Ідо, Сьюй Джымо, Ван Годжэня і іншых.

Вераніка **Карлюкевіч**

诗人、小说家、翻译家和记者纳乌姆·雅科夫列维奇·加尔佩罗维奇1948年出生于波洛茨克市。高中毕业后，他在波洛茨克玻璃厂工作，然后在波洛茨克联合报纸《共产主义之旗》工作，担任新波洛茨克市《波利米尔》工业协会广播电台的编辑，并担任新波洛茨克市的《化学工业的工作者》报的记者。自1981年起，任白罗斯苏维埃社会主义共和国维捷布斯克州国家广播电视台的记者。加尔佩罗维奇是众多采访报道和分析文章的作者。1997年迁居明斯克。曾任《小刺猬》杂志副主编、作家联盟副主席。加尔佩罗维奇现任国家广播电视公司白罗斯广播电台《文化》频道副主任兼音乐与文学艺术节目部主任、《白罗斯3》电视频道的自编文化节目《熟人》节目的主持人。由于他的创造性和社会成就，他被授予弗朗西斯卡·斯卡里纳奖章，即“白罗斯共和国荣誉文化工作者”称号。

1967年，他在新波拉茨基市的《化学工业的工人》报上首次亮相，发表了第一首诗。著有诗集《路径》、《门》、《灵魂之岛》、《琴弦》、《窗外的光》、《这一切都是为了你》、《声音与回声》，散文集《路径与回归》，并且在许多合集中发表作品。作曲家爱德华·扎里茨基、乌拉基米尔·布德尼克、奥列格·埃利森科夫、瓦列里·伊万诺夫等的歌曲都是根据纳乌姆·加尔佩罗维奇的诗歌创作的。加尔佩罗维奇的作品已被翻译成俄语、保加利亚语、罗马尼亚语、马里语、波兰语和汉语。

纳乌姆·加尔佩罗维奇与中国关系密切。中国主题在他的生活中发挥了重要作用。诗人指出：“我的女儿在中国生活和工作了十多年，我们在白罗斯广播电台组织了中文广播，我结识了很多朋友——来自中国这个伟大国家的艺术家、记者、作家和外交官。中国杰出画家、翻译家高莽先生给我留下了深刻的印象。我第一次去北京时就认识了他。那次相识发展成为真正的友谊。高莽先生还为我画了一幅肖像，并附有一首诗。我曾两次访问中国，我对这个国家、这个国家的人民很着迷，我不止一次地在我的诗歌和散文作品中分享了我的印象。”

纳乌姆·加尔佩罗维奇的诗《同一片天空下》是献给高莽的。这首诗由俄语学者刘文飞教授翻译的，译文收录在献给高莽先生的回忆文集《“老虎洞”的艺术家》中（北京，2023年）。第二个翻译文本是由谷羽先生根据白罗斯诗人尤利娅·阿列伊琴科的俄语译本完成的。中国译者说明，这是一首“以真挚的情感、流畅的语言、和谐的音韵，写出了白罗斯和中国两位学者的真挚友情，读来让人感动”的诗。

纳乌姆·加尔佩罗维奇本人也参加了翻译工作。他将中国古代诗人李白、杜甫、孟浩然的诗翻译成了白罗斯语，也翻译了现当代诗人闻一多、徐志摩、汪国真等人的诗作。

维罗妮卡·卡尔柳凯维奇（韦兰妮）

## ПАД АДНЫМ НЕБАМ

Памяці Гаа Мана

Качка па-пекінску і сівы стары  
З кім я пачуваўся сціплым сынам...

Як было прыемна гаварыць  
Нібы дома, пасярод Пекіна.  
І нібы спыніўся раптам час,  
Праляталі светлыя імгненні  
І яднала душы светла нас  
Шчырае паэзіі служэнне.

І радніла чыстая любоў  
Для краіны для яго далёкай  
Мы шукалі сярод новых слоў  
Свет эмоцый, чысты і высокі.  
Не дзяліў нас прывідны туман  
І адчуў у момант я знянацку,  
Што падобны ў нечым Гаа Ман  
Раптам на майго сівога бацьку  
І сядзеў тады, нібыта сын  
У бацькоўскім ціхім родным доме  
І я ведаў, што чужым Пекін  
Для мяне не будзе ўжо ніколі

## 同一片天空下 ——献给高莽

北京烤鸭和丰盛酒宴，  
接待我像待儿子一般。  
这土地既神圣又古老，  
这是北京宽阔的街道。  
平心静气地亲切交谈，  
转眼飞逝了响亮瞬间。  
明亮的诗句多么温馨，  
让我们的心相互亲近。  
情感纯洁使精神愉悦，  
爱我远在万里的祖国。  
反复寻思新颖的词语，  
表达情感的崇高含意。  
迷蒙的云雾难以遮蔽，  
我看自己就像在家里：  
发现身材魁梧的高莽，  
像我可爱的父亲一样。  
如同儿子在他的身边，  
中午时分在家里吃饭。  
这样的交谈暖意融融，  
我感觉北京不再陌生。

谷羽译

2023, 5, 11 早晨6点

\* \* \*

Агеньчык дрогкі у тваіх руках,  
Дзе воск і ладан, дзе спакой і спевы,  
Ён праз стагоддзі, морак і залевы  
Не згаснуў, не змарнеў іне зачах.

У нас дзве свечкі. Я тваю здаля  
Убачыў, каб аднойчы запаліцца.  
Каб у імкненні радасным адкрыцца,  
Каб зноў намацаць пакручасты шлях.

Гараць дзве свечкі. Быццам дзве сястры,  
Два лёсы, дзве душы, і дзве пяшчоты,  
Дзве зоркі ў небе і дзве адзіноты,  
І дзве сасонкі ў залатым бары..

\* \* \*

你手里的火光怯懦地抖颤，  
那是蜡烛神香，虔诚心愿。  
回应它的是天堂的歌声。  
其余的都不过是过眼云烟。

我们有两只蜡烛，从老远  
我看见你的蜡烛，想点燃。  
为了欢乐的瞬间释放光明。  
即便伸手触摸也决意向前。

两只蜡烛燃烧，恰似两姊妹，  
相互挂念、相互温柔地关怀，  
两处孤独，渴望走向永恒，  
记住造物主，向他伸出手来！

\* \* \*

傍晚寂静。绘画。高更。  
预感到忧愁和寒冷。  
心灵等不到改朝换代。  
永恒之路却依然存在。

画布上面的生命持久，  
还有神秘的塔希提岛。  
命运和发现的交叉路口，  
你听，时间在飞速奔跑

墙上剥落的黄色与蓝色  
注视，意识即刻被点燃  
傍晚寂静。绘画。高更——  
塑造世界的永恒顶点。

\* \* \*

Жоўты колер. Карціна. Гаген.  
Прадчуванне зімы і самоты.  
І чакае душа перамен,  
Пра якія я мроіў употай.

На палотнах чужое жыццё  
І жанчыны, якіх мне не ўбачыць.  
Час бязлітасны фарбы не сцёр  
І не здолеў настрой перайначыць.

І жаданне імкнення са сцен,  
Дзе чакаюць сінеца і вецер.  
Жоўты колер. Карціна. Гаген –  
Як маленькая кропка ў Сусвеце.

## НАЧНЫЯ ЎСКРАІНЫ

Маналог гарадскіх ускраін  
У асенняй начной пары...  
Як дзяцінства сваё, чытаю  
Я і вуліцы, і двары

Адступаюць туга і гора  
І вяртаюць душу назад.  
І зусім не чужы мне горад.  
Што схаваўся за свой фасад.

А вакол літары і цені.  
І лістоты калянай тлум.  
І загадкавае спляценне  
Даўніх мараў і дзіўных дум.

І салодка душа згарае  
На бязлітасным тым кастры  
Адзінокіх начных ускраін.  
Дзе і вуліцы, і двары.

## 郊区夜晚

受伤的星光锐利，  
静静倾听市郊的独白。  
我阅读这街道和院落，  
似乎又回到童年时代。

忧伤和痛苦悄然消失。  
往昔心情竟重新归还，  
不觉得城市属于别人，  
灵巧地藏在了房子后面。

四周是灯光还有阴影。  
落叶的声响带来寒意。  
往日幻想与内心隐秘  
出乎意外交织在一起。

心灵就这样神秘燃烧，  
那堆篝火竟然看不见，  
孤零零郊区夜晚，  
释放出朝霞般的光焰。

2023. 7, 16 谷羽译

Навум Гальпяровіч  
纳乌姆·加尔佩罗维奇



ORIGINAL HISTORY

# HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM IN POSTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS



The exhibition Art Museum is 85. Posters and Photographs is dedicated to the anniversary year of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus

## ORIGINAL HISTORY

*In general, the museum collection dates back to January 24th, 1939, when the resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the BSSR 'On the Organisation of the Art Gallery in Minsk' was issued. The current exhibition includes more than three dozen posters and 35 photographs from the archives of the museum and the Belarusian State Archive of Film, Photo and Sound Documents, reflecting the most significant pages of museum history, starting from 1939 and ending with the events of last year. It should also be said that the surviving posters were presented as exhibits for the first time.*



Undoubtedly, posters for exhibitions, lectures, concerts, museum events and other events are very original markers of the history of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus. Actually, the exhibition activities of first the State Art Gallery of the BSSR (1939—1957), then the State Art Museum of the BSSR (1957—1993) and finally the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus (since 1993), of course, have always been very rich and varied. It is not for nothing that today's collection of posters in the museum amounts to more than two thousand units. Unfortunately, the posters of the first exhibitions held in the gallery in the pre-war period have





not survived. Such, for example, as *The Art of the Belarusian SSR*, dedicated to the Ten Days of Belarusian Art in Moscow (1940), and *Artistic crafts of the Peoples of the USSR from the State Historical and Art Museum-Reserve of Zagorsk* (1941). However, from the post-war period, the current exhibition presents the most striking examples of posters, illustrating the very wide geography of the museum's exhibition activities — from Australia and Ethiopia to the USA and Japan. They clearly demonstrate cooperation with such leading museums of the world as the State Hermitage, the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, the Prague National Gallery, the Dresden Gallery, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. As they demonstrate a variety of visual techniques such as watercolour, lithography, etching, silk-screen printing, offset printing. They are also an eloquent reflection of their time.

The earliest posters in the exhibition — from 1945 and 1946 — contain a complete list of artists participating in the exhibitions. Which, in fact, is not typical for posters of a later period. For example, in 1957, the Grodno offset printing factory produced a poster of the State Art Museum of the BSSR with a circulation of 500 copies. The poster contained information about the museum's collections, opening hours and address, and the Ministry of Culture of the BSSR was also noted. For the first time, the prototype of the museum logo appears on the poster — the facade of the main building of the museum. The gallery moved to this building, designed by architect Mikhail Baklanov, in 1957.

The next advertising poster for the museum appeared only in 1989, on the 50th anniversary of the institution. The basis was taken from Ivan Khrutsky's work *Portrait of an Unknown Woman with Flowers and Fruits*. In the upper right corner



## ORIGINAL HISTORY

of the poster there was the inscription 'State Art Museum of the BSSR' in four languages: Belarusian, Russian, English and French.

It must be said that the creation of posters for art exhibitions was carried out by professional graphic artists who received special orders. Sometimes a single module was used for interchangeable texts, images of exhibits and photographs of artists. Nevertheless, often posters were original works. Museum posters were posted on pedestals around the city, capturing the attention of passers-by and encouraging the public to visit the museum.

The exhibition features posters by Pavel Semchenko, Adelaide Betanova, Yelena Los, Sergei Sarkisov, Vladimir Vasyuk. Although, it must be admitted, artists often did not sign their works.

Posters for the exhibitions *The Art of Ancient Cities of Belarus of the 9th-14th Centuries* and *Icon Painting of Belarus of the*

*17th-18th Centuries* (1990) performed by Vladimir Vasyuk contained the museum logo for the first time — a visual code that can be quickly read in an urban space saturated with various information. Since 2005, the museum logo has become a permanent attribute of posters. This is how the visual formation of the individual corporate style of the National Art Museum begins. In other words, we can say that posters no longer serve only an informational function; their meaning and role have expanded significantly. They become elements of the museum image, the first participants in museum communication, and form the image of the museum.

By the way, posters for exhibitions and other museum events of the last ten years are presented in the exhibition in digital format.

A fund of museum photographs was gradually formed. The exhibition displays unique footage from the opening of the Gallery in 1939 with the participation of its first director



Nikolai Micholap (1939-1941). In 2020, the museum archive received copies of photographs from August 1941, taken by the personal photographer of Adolf Hitler and his inner circle, Walter Frenz, which show Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler entering the halls of the State Art Gallery in Minsk. These photographs in the exhibition of the pre-war Art Gallery are the only ones that have been found so far.

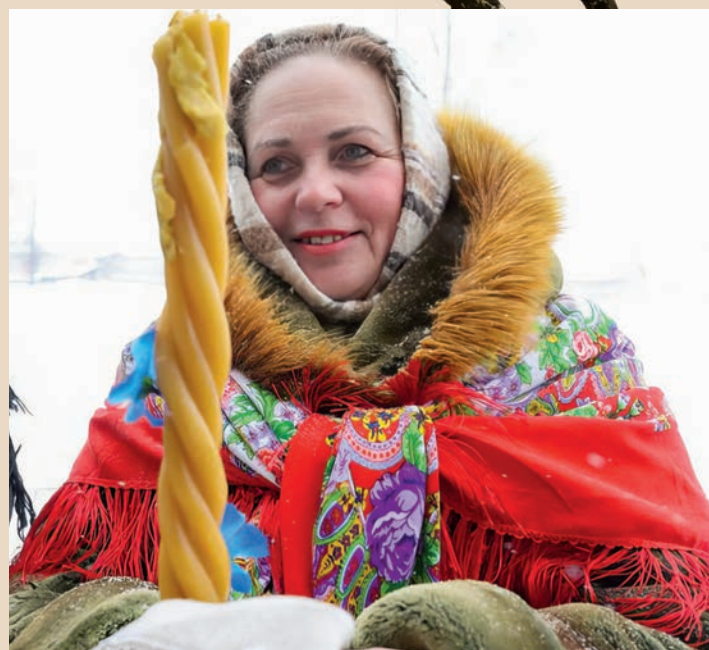
The Belarusian State Archive of Film, Photo and Sound Documents of the city of Dzerzhinsk provided invaluable assistance to the museum, donating it more than a hundred photographs.

Since the 1950s, the museum has had full-time professional photographers, whose responsibilities included photographing museum events and museum items. The exhibition presents photographs reflecting the time and its attributes, the interiors of exhibition halls, museum visitors, as well as important events in the history of the country's main artistic treasury.

Aleksandr Pimenov



## IN HARMONY WITH NATURE AND WEATHER



## HOW BELARUSIANS WERE AWAITING SPRING IN FEBRUARY

### There is no bad weather

Have you noticed a paradox when the last month of winter, which is shorter than all others in the year, sometimes still seems very long? Why is that? Probably, a great desire to speed up the arrival of spring, warmth, sun and increasingly clear blue skies prevents people from adequately perceiving bad weather as a natural process of life. Such haste seems to block the flow of joy, preventing one from remembering and realising the deep meaning of the famous song, which contains wonderful words: every weather has its grace...

Yes, sometimes our thoughts about the 'terrible, slushy' February, which in 2024 turned out to be not at all frosty and snowy in Belarus, also hinder this. And at such moments, if there is no desire to flounder in such mental waves, we look for ways to raise the degree of positivity in our mood. And there are many of them! There would be, as they say, a desire to reverse the polarity of annoying thoughts, which not only entail negative feelings, but are also harmful to health. Both psychologists and biologists talk about this today. And social media are replete with life hacks: how not to become dependent on 'bad' weather.

In such cases, everyone saves themselves as best they can. Someone relies on the refrigerator: they take out food from there and, to the sound of their favourite melodies, prepare dishes that promote the production of 'happiness hormones' with the dominant endorphin. The more active ones rush to the pool or, despite the rain and snow, for a daily jog. And someone, covered with a warm blanket with a purring cat at his side, immerses himself in a fascinating book... There is also a wonderful way that can be especially good for city dwellers: going to the theatre or the Philharmonic. I know from myself: a high-quality performance in a drama or opera will instantly lift the weather blues. However, personally, all of the above makes me quite 'positive' when suddenly viscous thoughts arise that the winter has dragged on. You can also take it and go to the outback... Which we sometimes do with pleasure.

### Gramnitsy, or Strachanne, or the Presentation of the Lord in Novoye Polesye

One could see how bright the world around us can be, even with its February weather, unfavourable for mood and holidays, by visiting the village of Novoye Polesye in the Gomel Region, in the Lelchitsy District. Townspeople, like tourists, already go there for something positive: they watch how villagers celebrate the ritual holiday of Gramnitsy, which has pre-Christian roots, and even take part in it. This happens annually on February 15th on the Orthodox holiday of the Presentation of the Lord. By the way, what is typical for Belarusian culture: some customs and rituals have been preserved since ancient times and are carried out today with Christian dominants. The main characters in Gramnitsy in question are members of the folk group Paleskia Napevy. It operates on the basis of the Novoye Polesye Rural Club Branch of the Lelchitsy District Centre for Culture and Folk Art. Local enthusiasts, as we learned, carefully preserve and





continue what they inherited from their elders: a special style of performing traditional songs, which was included in the State List of Historical and Cultural Values of Belarus back in 2009.

On the holiday, women, as usual on Gramnitsy, gathered in the village club, and then walked around the village with ritual spring songs. Let us note that such a detour-amulet is also part of an ancient tradition; it is always performed with a fir tree decorated with homemade multi-coloured paper flowers, blessed with candles, and also an icon. A girl held the fir tree in her hands, and several boys carried it on a sled at the front of the procession. With requests to the Almighty for blessings, for a quick spring and wishes for everyone's health, prosperity, and peace, the fir tree was fixed on a cross, decorated with towels tied on it, in the centre of the village. Afterwards, spring songs were sung, and round dances were held. The ritual holiday ended with treats, dancing and cheerful ditties to the accordion and tambourine.

It was fun, tasty, positive. And it seemed that spring would come almost tomorrow.

### To the origins of traditions: Gramnitsa — the wife of Perun

It is unlikely that anyone will be able to tell at least in some detail how our distant ancestors celebrated this holiday, even in pre-Christian times. Folklorists believe that in rituals such as the one preserved in Novoye Polesye, there are only reflections, some fragments of a once integral ideological system of beliefs. Moreover, we repeat, researchers of Belarusian folk culture do not doubt that Gramnitsy, like some other rituals, existed from ancient times — that is, even in pre-Christian times. Some experts even draw parallels between the beliefs of the ancient Slavs and the Vedic culture, widespread in ancient India. After all, as you know, it is not for nothing that many languages that currently exist on



the European continent belong to the large group of Indo-European languages.

It is not difficult for us to assume that from year to year our ancestors, observing various natural phenomena, analysing and comparing them, understood a simple truth: in a certain time period, when winter is gradually losing its strength, and spring still does not have the full strength, a special, turning point occurs in nature. And they came to the conclusion: it is on this day that Winter meets Spring. In Slavic beliefs they were revered as powerful forces, as goddesses. Therefore, previously it was customary to write these words with a capital letter. By the way, Belarusians also preserved the ritual of Gukanne Viasny (Invocation of Spring), which was carried out in honour of the Slavic goddess of Spring. As for Gramnitsy, folklore sources contain information about the veneration of the wife of one of the main gods of the pagan pantheon, the god of fire Perun, on this day. And her name was Gramnitsa. After all, for some reason, in the ritual held in Novoye Polesye, a girl is ahead of the entire festive procession! And the girl symbolises the feminine principle, and also the youthful beginning of a new annual cycle. Even on this day, it was customary to honour the fire of heaven, which was reflected in the beliefs and rituals associated with the Gramnitsy candle. On this day, in some regions of Belarus, people observed the first thunder and lightning. By the way, this phenomenon may surprise us even today. And if it catches you on the road, then you might get wet in the rain. As we know, thunder in nature in our climate zone heralds the approach of heat. There are popular beliefs that it is thunder that opens and awakens the earth after winter rest, which for our ancestors was the nurse. Therefore, it was revered and called Mother Earth. As cultural experts testify, when they heard the first thunder, the ancestors of the Belarusians imagined that it was Perun's thunder that was driving out evil spirits from the earth, and lightning was purifying it with its

fiery arrows. Surely they have seen more than once how a powerful lightning strike could throw a tree to the ground or set it on fire, or fire from the sky could ignite residential buildings.

### **Gramnitsy candle — a symbol of fire and heavenly power**

Research by experts also says that in ancient days, the main character of Gramnitsy, the day of the meeting of Winter with Spring, was the Gramnitsy candle. It was considered a talisman for the home; various rituals were performed with its help, including when livestock was driven out into the field for the first time after winter. Making a Gramnitsy candle was considered a sacred act, a kind of rite. It is believed that the owner of the house himself smelted the candle during a sacred ceremony on the eve of the holiday. Already on a holiday, with a lit candle, he walked around the home, carried out special manipulations on domestic animals in order to protect them from evil spirits, diseases, envy and the evil eye. In later Christian times, Gramnitsy candles began to be blessed in churches.

Our ancestors also associated many signs with this candle. For example, they even tried to determine what spring and summer would be like based on its sound. And based on the weather that was on Gramnitsy, they made forecasts: how soon real spring would come. If there was a thaw, then it was assumed that spring would be early and warm, and summer would not keep us waiting. And if there is frost and cold on Gramnitsy, then it will be cold, and warmth will not come quickly. If it snows, get ready for a rainy and cold spring.

### **Christian accents in an ancient holiday**

Centuries later, Gramnitsy found their place and a new meaning in the Christian calendar. On this day, all believers celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. What does it mean? This holiday reflects a special moment from biblical history:



the meeting of the elder Simeon and the baby Jesus, which took place in the Jerusalem Temple on the fortieth day after the Nativity of Christ.

Having united with folk tradition on the lands of Belarus, the Presentation of the Lord acquired additional significance in our country. And among believers this holiday began to be perceived as a meeting of winter and summer.

Some of our contemporaries honour two traditions: folk and Christian. First they go to church, candles are blessed there, and then at home they manipulate the blessed candle — those rituals that they know about from parents, loved ones, which were inherited from grandfathers and great-grandfathers. You can find a lot of interesting information on this subject on the Internet, with links to studies by cultural scientists and folklorists.

However, over time, rituals, of course, undergo changes. Previously, when a family returned from church, the first thing the owner did was to symbolically set fire to the hair on his head in a cross pattern, and then to his wife and children, according to seniority. And after that, the whole family went to perform the same ritual on domestic animals — they also had crosses burned into their fur. This was done, as already noted, to protect all household members from evil spirits, as well as from envy and the evil eye. At the end of the



ceremony, the owner tapped the walls of the house, barns and outbuildings, as well as the ceilings and attic with a candle. In some villages, the candle was not simply placed behind the icons in the 'red corner' of the house — it was then hidden in some distant corner so that the evil spirits would not even suspect its existence.

Until the next Gramnitsy, the house, there was such a belief, was protected by this candle: a kind of home amulet. They could only get it out for very important events. For example, they always took it with them when they went to woo a girl, or also when women gave birth to a new member of this family. Healing candle wax — and this is what people considered it to be — was given to the sick so that they would get better quickly. The Gramnitsy candle was also given into the hands of a dying person: this was to make it easier for them during the transition to another world. This candle always stood in the corner on Dziady and Radunitsa — on important folk holidays of honouring and commemorating ancestors. It also played its role on special days of the agricultural calendar: it was lit when animals were driven out into the field for the first time, when the first furrow was ploughed, when the first sack of grain from the new harvest was poured. And finally, the Gramnitsy candle, there is such a belief, protected the house and people from lightning strikes, so it was always lit during a thunderstorm.

By the way, even today in Belarusian villages and even in city apartments you can see a cross made by a burning candle above the front door. For this rite, some Christians invite priests to the house to consecrate their home.

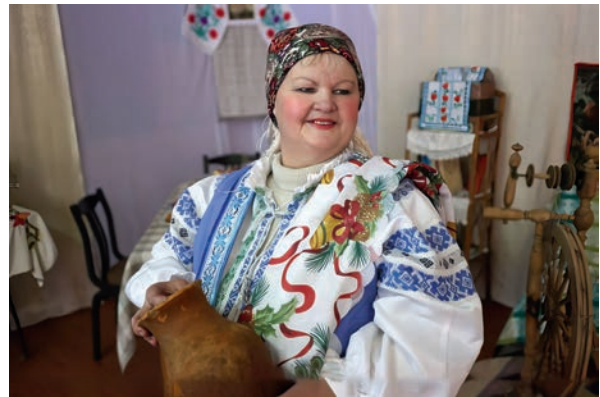
### Revival and continuation

After many years of atheism during the Soviet era, Gramnitsy in Belarus were revived, emerging from the depths of family traditions into the social sphere only in the 1990s. Now they are alive in the family life of residents of villages and cities, especially among older Christians and those believers who visit churches on this day. Catholics go to church to bless the Gramnitsy candles on February 2nd, and Orthodox Christians go to church on February 15th.

If the weather on Gramnitsy is calm and windless, then even in the capital you can see how, after the temple service, believers carry lighted candles in their hands, carefully covering them with their hands so that the light does not go out. Cultural institutions and schools also celebrate the meeting of Winter with Spring: they hold various games, competitions, attractions, and perform ritual songs. And in the villages there are mass celebrations with theatrical performances and round dances.

### Traditions are alive

With many interesting details, it was possible to recreate the authentic Slavic holiday of Gramnitsy in the village of Gribany, Mogilev District in 2021. This is how colleagues who attended the festival and learned what the main mystery of this ancient belief tell about it.



In one of the village houses — at the house of the owner, who kept the Gramnitsy candle-amulet for the whole previous year, women of different ages gathered. Everyone was dressed up, in traditional costumes. They sang songs and talked about life. Meanwhile, from the candle cinders that were collected throughout the year, a large Gramnitsy candle was made. Among those gathered there were also old-timers who witnessed this ritual at a time when it was popular among the people. Therefore, they could make their own adjustments to its implementation. "And that candle is a talisman against evil spirits for the whole next year," said one of the ritual participants, Lyudmila Korneychuk. "And now we are all working together to restore it bit by bit to pass it on to the next generations."

As it turns out, making a Gramnitsy candle is an entire art. The women handled the work deftly; from the outside it seemed that the lukewarm wax was easily placed on the candle without any problems. But in practice everything turned out to be not so simple. When the main attribute of the ceremony was completed, the women began decorating the candle. After all, a craving for beauty was characteristic of our ancestors.

A special place in this ritual has always been given to men. They had to use flint and flax to light a sacred fire — a symbol of purification and protection. Women were not allowed to participate in this part of the ceremony. And only after the fire burned out, the women came to it with Gramnitsy and ordinary candles. The hostess, who kept the amulet in her possession, lit a candle from the fire. After this, other women could receive the sacred fire: each one carried small candles to her home.

Ancestors believed that the Gramnitsy candle helped drive away evil spirits from livestock and protected the house from storms. "We always agreed in advance on which farmstead the candle would be given to. We looked at who had problems with livestock during the year — the cows didn't give milk, the piglets didn't survive, or the chickens didn't lay eggs. It was believed that if you walk around the barn with a lit Gramnitsy candle, then all the livestock will be protected, and all troubles will pass," said another



participant in the ritual, Svetlana Simakova. After the candles were lit, the men and women, singing, went to the house of the hostess, who was to be given the amulet.

In 2021, the weather turned out to be truly wintry, with large snowdrifts. And while the elders walked through the village singing, the youth managed to roll around in the snow. "It's great that our young people have touched such an ancient sacrament with us. The guys and girls were interested in everything we did. The young people asked many questions while preparations for the ceremony were underway and enthusiastically learned songs," shared Svetlana Simakova. "With such young people, we can be sure that the traditions of our ancestors will live on for many centuries after us."

For the first time, 3rd year students of the Mogilev State College of Arts took part in such a large-scale authentic celebration: Yulia Avtushenko and Aleksandra Lappo. Before this, girls took part in various rituals, performed them in college and recreated only small parts of them in the format of a holiday. But for the first time, in the village, with songs, in real winter. "There are a lot of people, all of different ages — it's interesting and educational," shared Aleksandra Lappo. "We studied this ritual in classes on directing folk rituals and holidays. But then we just read about him in books, but today we were able to plunge into this atmosphere, learned a lot of new things that were not written about in books."

"It is important that such original, interesting traditions continue to live. Our unique Belarusian culture is formed from them. And we, as her heirs, must preserve traditions, continue, and not let this disappear," added Yulia Avtushenko.

Meanwhile, the ceremony of Gramnitsy came to an end. According to tradition, the hostess of the house where the candle was given invited the guests to the table. And there was bread from the oven, pancakes, porridge, pickles... Everything was very tasty. "The hostess will have to take care of the Gramnitsy candle for a whole year. She will wrap it in canvas and hide it on the wooden trim above the front door. And she will use it as a talisman to ward off evil spirits from the barn, and thunder and lightning from the house. And a year later, on February 15th, everything will happen again, and the candle will go to help another housewife," noted Svetlana Simakova.

As Anna Feoktistova, Head of the Methodological Department of the Centralized Club System of the Mogilev





District Regional Cultural Centre said, the institution pays a lot of attention to folk rituals. “We regularly hold popular holidays — Kupala, Kalyady, Maslenitsa and others. But we also try to find and revive less popular, and for some, even unfamiliar holidays and rituals. Gramnitsy became such a holiday this year,” noted Anna Feoktistova. “And the most important thing is that our cultural heritage is really interesting to people. And the participants of the holiday were performers of Mostovchanka and Lenok folk ensembles of the Mostok and Gribany rural clubs. They actively support our ideas, and young people also join them. And it’s great that we have such an interesting exchange of experience and knowledge.”

### To believe or not to believe?

Over the years, many different beliefs and recommendations have formed among the people about what can and cannot be done on the holiday of Gramnitsy.

On the holiday, it is forbidden to be sad, cry, suffer, or complain about your fate. According to signs, all this can bring even greater misfortunes to the sufferer, which will haunt him for a long time.

It is not recommended to plan long trips or go to the forest on this day, as the weather is unstable. You can’t get angry and quarrel, or swear: everything will come back as a boomerang in triple size. You should not swim or steam in a sauna, as you may get sick. It is forbidden to clean, wash, even do needlework — you will get sick. And if you take the trash out of the house, then, they say, you will take your happiness away.

If you have a dream on the night of February 15th, then you should not tell it to anyone: it could be prophetic. But it is possible and necessary to meet relatives and close friends, treat them to pancakes and pies, always round like the sun, symbolising the arrival of warmth. Thanks to a shared meal, good relationships will only strengthen. It is also useful to

check and ventilate the seeds stored for sowing so as to use them later.

### ‘Chyrachka’ lives in Polesie

The Belarusians, as we have already said, have another interesting and also ancient, pre-Christian rite: ‘Gukanne Viasny’ — ‘Invocation of Spring’. There is no exact date for this ritual rite. For example, in Polesie they began to call for Spring already at the end of winter, and in the last days of Maslenitsa week, if it began in February. This is partly due to the moving calendar dates for the beginning of Lent before Easter. In 2024, Spring will be invoked both at the end of February and in March, and Maslenitsa Week will begin only on March 11th: 56 days before the Christian holiday, before Great Week — that’s what the Orthodox call this time. We will tell you about Maslenitsa in the next issue, but we will introduce our readers to ‘Chyrachka’.

This holiday takes place in the agricultural town of Tonezh: in the Gomel Region, in the Lelchitsy District. The ancient ritual, which was inherited from distant ancestors by the residents of the agricultural town, was included in the State List of Historical and Cultural Values of Belarus in 2016. It is held in Tonezh on the last day of Maslenitsa week, which is a distinctive ethnic feature of the inhabitants of the ancient Turov land.

The ritual ‘Chyrachka’ received its name from small ducks, which, according to legend, bring spring on their wings, making funny sounds during this period.



Tonezh residents bake birds from dough for the festive event on the evening before the ceremony. On Sunday morning, children decorate the forest fir tree with flowers. You need to climb higher into the sky, so that both the birds and the sun will notice the elegant appearance, and call on Spring. Bird cookies are shared with all the residents they meet on their way to 'Chernichevskaya Mountain' behind the village. There they light fires and fry eggs and lard on them. They play folk games and ride down the mountain if there is snow. They also burn an effigy of Winter there, which is used to determine whether spring will come soon.

The Chyrachka ritual has been around for hundreds of years, and all residents of Tonezh are very proud of it, as an intangible historical and cultural value of Belarus. Ritual actions are carried out by girls with the help of older women — this is mainly the Tanyazhanka folklore group and its companion — the Veras children's ensemble. Both groups belong to the Tonezh Rural House of Culture branch of the Lelchitsy District Centre for Culture and Folk Art.

Let us note that previously the 'Gukanne Viasny' rituals were common in different regions of Belarus. As well as now. But in each area they still have their own flavour. Thus, in the agricultural town of Bezdezh in the Brest Region, in the Drogichin District, already in February, the Museum of Folk Art, Bezdezh Apron, holds 'Gukanne Viasny' with a rich entertainment program. These are various competitions, fortune-telling, tasting of national cuisine. Guests are shown the museum's exhibition and treated to aromatic tea infused with herbs and pancakes. Tourists can watch the process of burning the effigy of Winter, take part in fun games that rural youth enjoyed until the mid-twentieth century, and also take part in master classes on making linen amulets.

All of the above confirms how rich our country is in both interesting rituals and talented people. Belarusians have managed to preserve their traditions and folk customs, which make our culture unique and vibrant. And most importantly: they have that positive charge that we all so need.



### Instead of an afterword

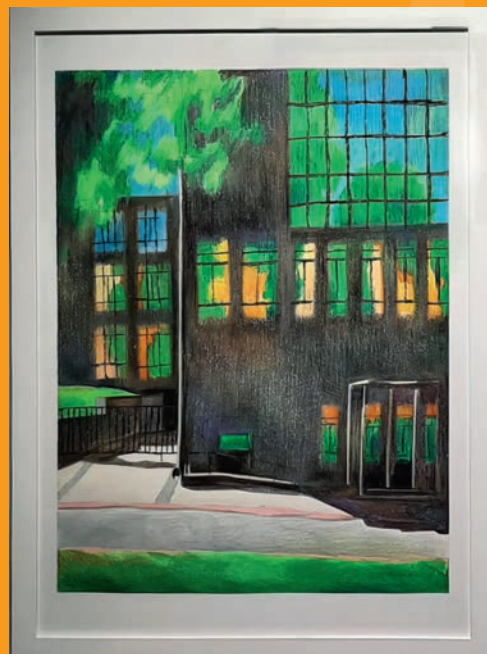
I think I will not sin against the truth if I note: at the heart of all folk holidays there is both the veneration of higher powers and the desire of people to live in harmony with nature, the Universe and each other. However, from this 'external' list, researchers of folk culture sometimes miss one very significant detail: it is important that we ourselves learn to live in harmony, first of all, with ourselves. The priority 'in any weather' is to accept every moment of life with a positive attitude, with gratitude to the Creator simply for the fact that we live. Over the years, you realise more and more how beneficial it is, by the way, and good for your health, to create, figuratively speaking, sunny weather within yourself and call upon warmth and tranquillity from the depths of your being. And then unite with others in joy, not only in festive round dances. As they say, if every brick is good and strong, then the wall will turn out strong. And high quality! In 2024, the Year of Quality announced in Belarus, this is, as they say, on topic. However, we will talk about this later, talking about other folk rituals and holidays, which even today have their development and continuation.

Mikhailina Cherkashina  
Photos of BelTA and from open sources

ART PLATFORM / OPPORTUNITY TO BE SURPRISED

# IN THE FAMILIAR

SEE THE UNUSUAL



**The young Belarusian artist and illustrator Mikhail Daylidov called his exhibition project Disputes of the Year. In it, the author enters into a peculiar game with time and numbers. The exhibition will include 48 graphic works, exactly the same number of hours in two days.**



“Impressions and moods — a lump of memories in my throat — these are my ‘disputes of the year’. Everything is fast and spontaneous. Old diaries, read and redrawn through the prism of other angles and ages. It’s nice to walk slowly, look for subjects where you haven’t lost them, draw and collect bricks, from which conceptual mansions of nature, streets, and buildings will later grow.” This is how Mikhail Daylidov himself deciphers and presents the concept of this very original exhibition project.

At one time, he never imagined that he would become a children’s book illustrator. “I couldn’t even imagine this!” Mikhail Daylidov admitted. And today the young artist designs books for children in one of the republican publishing houses in his own original manner, complementing the works of modern Belarusian authors with new meanings. It’s anything but pop. More like a door to another dimension. And now the collection of fairy tales becomes an artefact.

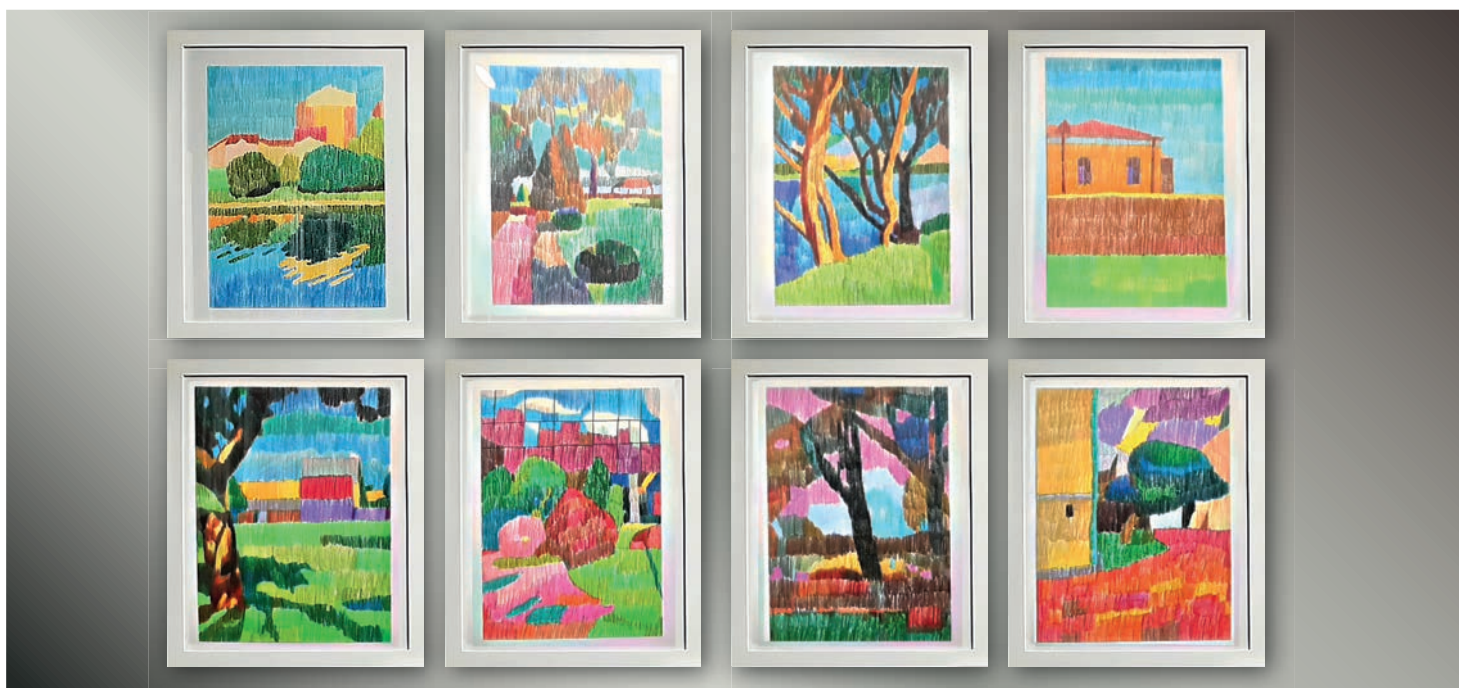
According to Mikhail, anything can be an illustration: you can even paint an oil painting for this purpose! Or you can make dolls and a dollhouse, arrange them, photograph them, and this will also be a book illustration. Modelling from plasticine, cutting from paper, making three-dimensional appliqué are quite old, hackneyed techniques, but they require certain skills. And he uses the most primitive method — paper, gel pen, felt-tip pens...

He doesn’t go to art stores; the stationery department is enough for him. He did not paint a single canvas in his life, since he graduated from the Academy of Arts as a designer. But what we usually call a ‘picture book’ is designed in such a way that

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curiosity awakens not only in children, but also in adults. For an amateur, the inexperienced will say, but the advanced will begin to look for roots in the Russian and Belarusian avant-garde, in the works of Chagall and Malevich, in the geometry of El Lissitzky or in the exhibitions of the scandalous *Jack of Diamonds*, from Konchalovsky to Tatlin and Lentulov.

The book has always been an artist's refuge, Mikhail Daylidov is sure. His own craving for book illustration takes its roots from childhood: from the huge parental library, the files of the *Ogonyok* magazine from the 1980s... A children's book, and even one written by modern writers, provides the opportunity for creativity and co-creation, when the artist adds some elements to the text with his work, the new, unplanned meanings that are sprinkled in by the author, like seasoning: the main thing is not to overdo it.



There is a reinforced concrete, powerful classic — a plot illustration that fully reflects the text. For example, Kukryniksy's *Kashtanka* is a work of art, Mikhail believes. He himself cannot say which path he is going personally. This can be either a very winding path or a straight one. You just suddenly want to make some book completely different from the previous one.

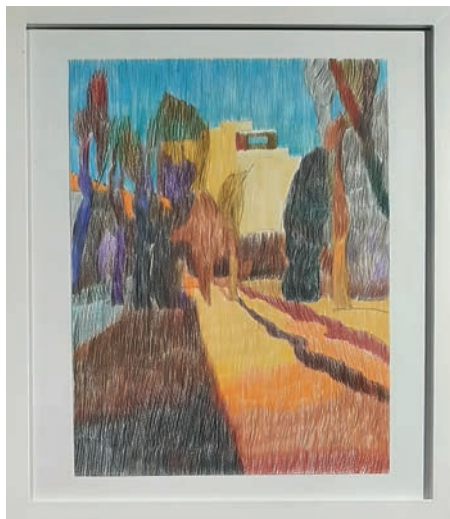
He claims that he does not read the books he is working on. But here it's still a little disingenuous here: a children's book with short stories or poems sticks in the memory by itself, you don't need to sit over it for long nights, biting into the text. "It turns out that I'm twisting the plot somehow differently, putting another plot into it," Mikhail tries to explain the nuances of his creative approaches. By the way, he never designed well-known classics like *The Snow Queen*. He believes that this is where the illustrator's kneeling instinct kicks in. He can't

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just take this fairy tale and dissect it! Plus, observation works — all this has been done before you many times. Although he often thinks: how would he draw the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm with all these famous images? How would you illustrate Lermontov's *The Novice*, Pushkin's *The Captain's Daughter*, *Robinson Crusoe*? Scary! Same as to climb a glass skyscraper.

It's easier to work with modern books; reverence for the classics isn't as pressured, the illustrator admits. And then he thinks again: it would be great to design for *New Land* by Yakub Kolas, for example. Or the poems of Mayakovsky, Yesenin, Blok — here the artist can play with the era!

Perhaps the most striking feature that can be seen in Mikhail is constant dissatisfaction with himself. And it's not like the desire 'Faster! Higher! Stronger!', we are not talking about



sports. Rather, an eternal search and dissatisfaction with already found solutions. Did? Found? Well done, look again, continue on. The complex state of the soul, eternally in the process of growth. Slow and gradual creative maturation. The poet Vladislav Khodasevich probably said it best, "So my soul follows the path of grain..."

And art inevitably moves along the same path, even where the conversation is about such a seemingly simple thing as a children's picture book.

So at his current exhibition with its original and sometimes even intriguing title *Disputes of the Year*, Mikhail Daylidov is trying to see the unusual in seemingly familiar subjects. Even famous metropolitan buildings and entire neighbourhoods in bright author's works unexpectedly appear before the viewer in a special way, although if you look closely, you can guess their familiar silhouettes. This results in a pleasant surprise, a desire to look more closely at completely non-linear plots, to 'decipher' them to the end and get real aesthetic pleasure.

Mikhail Veremeyev

# IMAGES FROM UNEXPECTED SYMBOLS AND METAPHORS



Dmitry Mokhov's personal exhibition Nostalgia for the Present in the Minsk Vysokoye Mesto Art-Lounge did not go unnoticed by lovers of theatre, cinema and architecture.



Dmitry Mokhov is a professor at the Department of Monumental and Decorative Art of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts. More than 90 of his works were presented at the personal exhibition *Nostalgia for the Present*. Among them there are architectural projects for theatre and cinema, drawings, sketches and photographs of sets and costumes, watercolours, photographs and drawings from travel. By the way, Dmitry Mokhov developed projects for the restoration of such architectural monuments as the Vitebsk City Hall, the Slutsk Gate in Nesvizh, and the interiors of the National Library of Belarus. Yes, he came to the theatre through architecture and cinema, and participated in staging plays. After viewing this exhibition, it is interesting to see how a completed project emerges from the drawings. In all the master's works one can trace the depth of the idea and the breadth of his horizons.



The geography of performances designed by Dmitry Mokhov (and there are more than two hundred of them) includes Belarus, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Among the most significant, staged directly on the Belarusian theatre stage: *Eugene Onegin* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1985), *Prince Novogradsky* by Andrei Bondarenko (1992), *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare (1987), *Generals in Skirts* by Jean Anouilh (1989), *Zoyka's Apartment* by Mikhail Bulgakov (1990), *Rogneda and Vladimir* by Aleksei Dudarev (1998), *Little Lord Fauntleroy* by Frances Burnett (1998). Dmitry Mokhov's productions have always been attracted by the filigree construction and the philosophical depth of scenographic thinking. In general, the master has an inherent desire to create an expressive image, woven from unexpected symbols and



metaphors, using various means of theatre and the art of architecture. Meanwhile, Dmitry Mokhov participated in the creation of iconic Belarusian films such as *Christ Landed in Grodno* (1967), *I, Francysk Skaryna* (1970), *Alpine Ballad* (1965).

A creative meeting with a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists and the Belarusian Union of Theatre Workers, Dmitry Mokhov, took place at Vysokoye Mesto art lounge as part of the personal exhibition *Nostalgia for the Present*. The professor of the Department of Monumental and



Decorative Arts of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts spoke about the synthesis of different types of art, about unique restoration projects, about the magic of scenography and about live pre-computer cinematography from the position of an eyewitness, participant and creator. Those present at the meeting were convinced that the world-famous artist-architect and set designer is also an excellent storyteller. He is always ready to share stories that themselves deserve to be subjects for productions.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

# МЕСЦА СІЛЫ

Весткі з Беларусі

ГОЛАС РАДЗІМЫ

**Менавіта так многія нашы суайчыннікі, якія сёння жывуць за мяжой, называюць куток, дзе нарадзіліся. Успаміны саграваюць душу, а перанятыя ад бабуль і матуль мелодыі, танцы і рамесніцкія сакрэты натхняюць на творчасць. У розных краінах свету можна пачуць “Купалінку”, пакаштаваць дранікі і мачанку, убачыць рэчы з беларускім арнамантам. Любоў да роднай зямлі дапамагае аб’ядноўваць беларусаў замежжа. Яскравым прыкладам таго стаў IV фестываль мастацтваў беларусаў свету. Яго ўдзельнікі не толькі паказвалі свае таленты, але і дзяліліся ідэямі. Пра вынікі фестывалю і новыя праекты, якія распрацоўваюцца дзякуючы прапановам нашых суайчыннікаў, гутарым з дырэктарам Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур Вольгай Якабсон.**



– Мінуты год быў насычаны падзеямі. Безумоўна, самая яскравая з іх – IV фестываль мастацтваў беларусаў свету, які сабраў 250 удзельнікаў з 12 краін. Нашы суайчыннікі прыехалі паказаць і расказаць, як беражліва збіраюць матэрыялы, захоўваюць, развіваюць і папулярызуюць беларускую культуру. Мы лічым, што і беларусы Аргенціны таксама ўзялі ўдзел у фестывалі, хаця фінансавыя магчымасці і не дазволілі ім прыехаць. Але яны далучыліся ан-лайн. Падчас галаканцэрта мы змаглі іх пабачыць на экране ў прыгожых нацыянальных строях, якія ім былі перададзены ў рамках дзяржпраграмы “Культура Беларусі”. На экране

трансліраваўся беларускі народны танец і тое, як за акіянам гатуюць беларускія стравы. На фестываль прыехала шмат калектываў. Разам з рэжысёрам Нінай Восіпавай мы правялі сур’ёзную папярэднюю работу, калі праглядалі відэафрагменты выступленняў беларусаў замежжа, якія яны прапаноўвалі для галаканцэрта. Нашы суайчыннікі працуюць у розных жанрах: гэта і аўтэнтычныя песні, і эстрадныя, і аўтарскія. Прыязджалі цудоўныя танцавальныя калектывы. У рамках фестывалю прайшла выстаўка рамёстваў. Былі прадстаўлены вышыўка, валянне, вырабы з саломкі, разьба па дрэве, габелены, лялькі. Госці прывезлі карціны, фатаграфіі, кнігі.



■ Адкрыццё IV фестывалю нацыянальных культур

**– Ці можна сказаць, што фестываль перастаў быць толькі святам, на якім раскрываюцца таленты, але і з’яўляецца месцам для новых адкрыццяў, ідэй, праектаў?**

– Фестываль дае магчымасць сустрэцца разам вялікай колькасці ўдзельнікаў. Яны становяцца адной сям’ёй. Нараджаецца сяброўства паміж беларусамі Іспаніі, Казахстана, Італіі, Латвіі, Літвы, Эстоніі, Башкартастана, Карэліі, Кабардына-Балкарыі ды іншымі. Гэта цудоўная магчымасць аб’яднацца, і што важна, на сваёй гістарычнай радзіме. Невыпадкова адно з мерапрыемстваў, якое прайшло ў рамках фестывалю, – дыялогавая пляцоўка “Беларусь – краіна яднання”. Падчас такіх сустрэч завязваюцца і партнёрскія сувязі, беларусы розных краін пачынаюць ездзіць адзін да аднаго ў гасці, праводзіць сумесныя мерапрыемствы. Акрамя таго, нашы суайчыннікі аказваюць вялікі ўплыў на тых, хто пражывае тут. На галаканцэрце сярод гледачоў прысутнічалі Міністр культуры, Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў, прадстаўнікі Міністэрства замежных спраў, дэпутаты. Усе былі вельмі ўражаныя. Прадстаўнікі Міністэрства замежных спраў шмат разоў сустракаліся з беларусамі замежжа і ведалі, што суайчыннікі цэняць і любяць Беларусь, але наколькі моцнае і шчырае гэта пачуццё, можна было адчуць

менавіта падчас канцэрта. Гледачы прызнаваліся, што пасля фестывалю пачыналі больш цаніць тое, што маюць, і на што, магчыма, у паўсядзённым жыцці не звярталі ўвагі. Напрыклад, на Мінск яны глядзелі вачыма беларусаў замежжа і адчувалі, які ён цудоўны.

**– Каштоўнасць фестывалю і ў тым, што беларусы замежжа маюць магчымасць наведаць не толькі сталіцу, але і рэгіёны...**

– Сапраўды, усіх удзельнікаў мы падзялілі на групы і ў кожны з шасці рэгіёнаў выехаў творчы дэсант з беларусаў замежжа розных краін. Яны сустракаліся з мясцовымі жыхарамі, расказвалі пра месцы свайго пражывання, паказвалі сваю творчасць. Гэтымі

сустрэчамі былі задаволены ўсе: і жыхары рэгіёнаў, і гасці. А яшчэ фестываль паказвае, наколькі моцныя сувязі з радзімай. Так на канцэрце ў Мінскай вобласці выступаў Пётр Пучок з Казахстана, які сам піша песні. Сталы мужчына хваляваўся як юнак, бо не ведаў, як успрымуць яго творчасць. І прэм’ера песні прайшла на “ўра”. Мужчына прызнаўся, што на радзіме не быў з 1970-х гадоў – ён быў малы, калі сям’я з’ехала ў Казахстан падымаць цаліну. Фестываль



■ Самыя юныя ўдзельнікі фестывалю

скончыўся, а ён разам з жонкай вырашыў затрымацца, з'ездзіць у вёску, дзе нарадзіўся, знайсці бацькоўскую хату. Аказалася, што суседзі яшчэ памяталі яго сям'ю. Пётр Пучок набраў зямлі ў сваёй вёсцы, прывёз у Казахстан, высыпаў на магілу бацькі, раскажаў, якой прыгожай стала Беларусь, якія цудоўныя людзі тут жывуць. Калі ён дзяліўся гэтым, у яго былі слёзы на вачах...

**– Напэўна, такую любоў да Беларусі не могуць не адчуць і тыя, хто знаходзіцца побач з нашымі суайчыннікамі?**

– Калі беларусы замежжа прыязджаюць на фестывалі ці стажыроўкі, яны наталяюцца нашай культурай. Свае адкрыцці і веды стараюцца захаваць у краінах пражывання, падзяліцца імі. Прыемна, што людзі, якім яны раскажваюць пра нашы традыцыі, пра краіну, яе дасягненні, хочуць сюды прыехаць і ўбачыць усё на ўласныя вочы. Так, у фестывалі ўзяў удзел калектыў “Капялюш”. Ім кіруе беларуска, астатнія пяць чалавек – іспанцы. Калі мы пацікавіліся ва ўдзельнікаў калектыву, што ім спадабалася, яны наперабой дзяліліся думкамі. Найперш іх уразілі людзі. Усе, да каго тут яны звярталіся з пытаннямі ці просьбамі, нават, калі проста на вуліцы высвятлялі дарогу, усміхаліся, імкнуліся дапамагчы. Ім спадабаліся чысціня і прыгажосць сталіцы і рэгіёнаў. Госці паабяцалі, што возьмуць сваіх сяброў і зноў сюды прыедуць. Як расказала кіраўнік Усеіспанскай асацыяцыі «IsBelarus» Святлана Яськова, іспанцы вельмі любяць падарожнічаць, але звычайна двойчы ў адну краіну не ездзяць, бо хочуць адкрыць для сябе як мага больш новых мясцін. Аднак у Беларусь яны любяць прыязджаць і на другі і на трэці раз. Святлана Яськова прывозіць сюды іспанскіх студэнтаў. Адзін з іх папрасіў знайсці таленавітае дзіця забмежаванымі магчымасцямі, якому б ён мог аказаць фінансавую дапамогу і такім чынам падтрымаць заняткі творчасцю.

У грамадскіх аб'яднаннях нашых суайчыннікаў за мажой ёсць не толькі беларусы, а проста людзі, якія шчыра захапляюцца нашай культурай. Як, напрыклад, Яўген Трыстан з Казахстана. Яго маці – украінка, бацька – рускі, а сам ён з дзяцінства захаваўся ў Беларусь. Ён выдатна спявае па-беларуску. Па слоўніках і падручніках самастойна вывучыў нашу мову і гаворыць на ёй цудоўна, без акцэнта. Хлопец навучыўся плесці паясы з беларускім арнамантам, марыць зрабіць дуду і граць на ёй.

**– Падчас фестывалю беларусы замежжа дзяліліся прапановамі, якія б хацелі рэалізаваць. І я бачу, што некаторыя ідэі ўжо пачалі ўвасабляцца.**



■ Фестываль аб'яднаў беларусаў з розных краін

– Цікавы праект прапанавала Яўгенія Караткевіч. Яна родам з Магілёва, але цяпер жыве і працуе ў Маскве. Дзяўчына спявае, сама піша песні, здымаецца ў кіно. Займаецца і дабрачыннымі праграмамі для дзяцей з парушэннямі слыху, якія мараць правялікую сцэну. Да Міністра культуры Яўгенія звярнулася з просьбай дапамагчы зрабіць падобны праект і з беларускімі дзецьмі. Плануецца яго рэалізаваць у Магілёве. А ўжо ў снежні, у Міжнародны дзень інвалідаў, Яўгенія выступіла ў Мінску разам з вучнямі сталічнай школы для дзяцей з парушэннямі слыху. Наогул, у беларусаў замежжа шмат ідэй. Напрыклад, кіраўнік культурна-асветніцкага аб'яднання беларусаў Іарданіі Аксана Чамеза робіць праект “Тэрыторыя шасці поціскаў рук”, калі анлайн сустракаюцца юныя беларусы з розных краін.

**– Не раз даводзілася чуць ад беларусаў замежжа нажаданні аб стварэнні дзіцячых праектаў, падчас якіх хлопчыкі і дзяўчынкі змогуць прыехаць у Беларусь і больш пра яе даведацца. Але навошта чакаць: у нашай краіне праводзіцца шмат разнастайных мерапрыемстваў, да якіх могуць далучыцца і суайчыннікі.**

– Калі ёсць магчымасць, беларусы замежжа прывозяць дзіцячыя і падлеткавыя калектывы. Яны могуць далучыцца да ўдзельнікаў фестывалю “Вянок сяброўства”, “Залатая пчолка”, “Звіняць цымбалы і гармонік”. На трэці фестываль мастацтваў беларусаў свету прыязджаў цудоўны дзіцячы калектыў з Ізраіля. У чацвёртым фестывалі ўзялі ўдзел юныя таленты з Таганрога, а раней яны ўжо выступалі на фестывалі “Кліч Палесся”. Спадзяёмся, што ў далейшым такія творчыя стасункі будуць развівацца. Моладзь і падлеткі павінны сустракацца, ствараць свае праекты, якія таксама спрыяюць папулярызацыі беларускай культуры.



■ Яўгенія Картакевіч

**– Ужо вядома, якія веды змогуць атрымаць беларусы замежжа, калі прыедуць у гэтым годзе ў Мінск на творчыя стажыроўкі?**

– Творчыя стажыроўкі сапраўды даюць магчымасць прыехаць на радзіму і атрымаць новую інфармацыю, якую пасля можна выкарыстаць у сваёй дзейнасці. Такія сустрэчы вельмі запатрабаваныя, мы нават сталі іх праводзіць два разы на год. Сёлета ўпершыню пройдуць тры стажыроўкі, пры гэтым плануецца сабраць людзей у адпаведнасці з іх патрэбамі. Раней на стажыроўкі прыязджалі 20–40 чалавек. Сярод іх былі кіраўнікі вакальных ці харэаграфічных калектываў, майстры дэкаратыўна-прыкладнага мастацтва, кіраўнікі грамадскіх аб'яднанняў. У рамках адной стажыроўкі мы стараліся паказаць ім як мага больш, праводзілі майстар-класы па харэаграфіі, вакале, рамёствах, наведвалі рэгіёны. У іх была магчымасць пагутарыць з бабулямі, якія спяваюць аўтэнтычныя песні, разгледзіць узоры на рушніках, пабачыць, як гатуюцца традыцыйныя стравы. Канешне, беларусам замежжа цікава ўсё. Але зразумела, што чалавек, які, напрыклад, раней не цікавіўся рамёствамі, наўрад ці зможа ствараць складаныя вырабы, а людзям, якія не займаліся харэаграфіяй, складана рэтрансліраваць новыя веды, звязаныя з танцамі. Таму ў гэтым годзе стажыроўкі будуць тэматычныя. У сакавіку мы збіраем майстроў дэкаратыўна-прыкладнай творчасці. У рамках стажыроўкі пройдуць сустрэчы і заняткі з майстрамі, якія будуць знаёміць нашых суайчыннікаў з рознымі рамёствамі. Прыедуць і вышывальшчыцы, і тыя, хто займаецца саломпляценнем, лазой, ткацтвам паясоў, разьбой па дрэве. Запланаваны выезды ў рэгіёны, дзе таксама пройдуць майстар-класы, а беларусы замежжа змогуць даведацца пра розныя тэхналогіі і асаблівасці работы мясцовых майстроў. На другую стажыроўку, якая пройдзе ў верасні, мы прымаем заяўкі ад вакалістаў, кіраўнікоў дзіцячых і дарослых калектываў. Натуральна, праграма максімальна ствараецца з улікам запытаў нашых

суайчыннікаў. Вядуцца перамовы з Нацыянальным акадэмічным хорам імя Цітовіча, калектывамі рэгіёнаў, майстар-класы пройдуць і ва Універсітэце культуры і мастацтваў. У лістападзе мы будзем чакаць харэографію. Сваім майстэрствам будуць дзяліцца вядучыя калектывы.

**– Такія стажыроўкі могуць быць узаемакарыснымі? Беларусы замежжа могуць угадаць песні, якія пачулі ад сваіх продкаў, яны ствараюць музеі, дзе захоўваюцца старыя рэчы, маюць сямейныя рэліквіі. Напэўна, ім таксама ёсць пра што раскажаць і чым уразіць нашых даследчыкаў?**

– Добра было б, каб яны падзяліліся сваімі ведамі. Майстроў дэкаратыўна-прыкладнай творчасці мы будзем прасіць, каб яны прывезлі паказаць хоць бы некалькі рэчаў з гісторыяй, што захоўваюцца ў іх, альбо маглі прадставіць вырабы, над якімі працуюць, асабліва, калі выкарыстоўваюць прыёмы, якія перадаюцца праз пакаленні.

**– Набірацца ідэй, натхняцца і сустракацца з рамеснікамі нашы суайчыннікі могуць не толькі на стажыроўках...**

– Мы запрашаем беларусаў замежжа на ўсе фестывалі, якія праводзяцца ў нашай краіне. Даведацца пра час і месца іх правядзення можна з календара падзей, які



■ Падчас галаканцэрта

размяшчаецца на сайце нашага цэнтра. Дзякуючы падтрымцы Міністэрства культуры ў кожным рэгіёне, нават раёне маюцца свае фестывалі. Нам ёсць што паказаць. Такія мерапрыемствы падабаюцца мясцовым жыхарам, прывабліваюць турыстаў. І, канешне, на кожным фестывалі можна сустрэць майстроў, убачыць іх унікальныя вырабы, паўдзельнічаць у майстар-класах. Так, многа рамеснікаў прыязджае на Славянскі базар. Шыкоўнае мерапрыемства, у якім бяруць удзел лепшыя майстры з усёй Беларусі, – “Веснавы букет” – у маі пройдзе ў Мінску ў Верхнім горадзе. Летам запрашаем у Гродна на Фестываль нацыянальных культур. Цудоўны фестываль – “Александрыя збірае сяброў”! Увосень

можна прыехаць у Копысь на фестываль “Гліна спявае”. Рамеснікаў можна сустрэць і на святах гарадоў.

**– Наколькі ў беларусаў замежжа запатрабаваны, так бы мовіць, рэгіянальныя асаблівасці: абрады, рамёствы, танцы, характэрныя для пэўнага рэгіёна?**

– У кожнага беларуса ёсць сваё месца сілы – там, дзе яны нарадзіліся, дзе жылі іх бабулі і дзядулі. Таму на стажыроўках мы імкнёмся не абмяжоўвацца толькі Мінскам, але і выезджаць у рэгіёны, альбо запрашаць майстроў з розных раёнаў. На стажыроўках беларусы замежжа, якія сёння пражываюць у розных краінах, часам знаходзяць сваіх землякоў, аднавяскоўцаў. Калі даведваюцца, напрыклад, што родам з аднаго горада, пачынаюць высятляць, на якіх вуліцах жылі, у якіх школах вучыліся, з кім сябравалі.

**– У Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы быў прэзентаваны ваш праект, прысвечаны матэрыяльнай культуры “Дакрануцца душой да спадчыны”. Калі разглядаеш стэнды з фатаграфіямі, на якіх прадстаўлены традыцыі, рамёствы, абрады, унесеныя ў ахоўныя спісы нашай дзяржавы і ЮНЕСКА, ураджае, як шмат у Беларусі ўдалося захаваць і аднавіць. Напэўна, такі праект будзе цікавы і беларусам замежжа.**

– Гэту выстаўку мы паказвалі і на фестывалі мастацтваў беларусаў свету, яна экспануецца ў розных рэгіёнах Беларусі. Сабраныя матэрыялы былі разасланыя па пасольствах. Першым адгукнулася пасольства Рэспублікі Беларусь у Турцыі, тэксты былі перакладзены на турэцкую мову. Выстаўку паказваюць у пасольстве пры правядзенні мерапрыемстваў. Таксама гэты выставачны праект быў зроблены і ў рускамоўным варыянце. Ён быў прадстаўлены ў Маскве ў дзелавым культурным цэнтры, і сёння “перамышчаецца” па розных рэгіёнах Расіі, а пазней патрапіць у краіны, дзе пражываюць беларусы замежжа.

**– Сёлета мы адзначым 80-годдзе вызвалення Беларусі. Што гэта дата азначае для беларусаў замежжа?**

– Многія з тых, хто прыязджае ў Беларусь, хочуць наведаць Хатынь, Дзяржаўны музей гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, Трасцянец. З удзельнікамі фестывалю, якія выезджалі ў Гомельскую вобласць, мы пабывалі ў мемарыяльным

комплексе Ала, прысвечаным спаленай вёсцы, пра якую кажуць, што гэта “дванаццаць Хатыняў”. Калі ўся наша дэлегацыя ў паўсотню чалавек спынілася каля ўваходу ў мемарыяльны комплекс, мяне ўразіла, што экскурсавод, якая нас сустракала, была без мікрафона. Ёй нават не давялося напружваць голас, настолькі гэта незвычайнае месца. Стаяла пранізлівая цішыня, нават не спявалі птушкі. Людзі, калі чулі пра жахі вайны, плакалі. Тэма памяці аб вайне блізкая нашым суайчыннікам. Так, з Усुरыйска да нас звярнулася кіраўнік грамадскага аб’яднання беларусаў з просьбай дапамагчы знайсці спасылкі на фільмы і сцэнары, прысвечаныя вызваленню Беларусі. Цяпер мы збіраем інфармацыю, якую можна перадаць беларусам замежжа, каб яны маглі правесці ў сябе мерапрыемствы, звязаныя з вызваленнем Беларусі. Яны заўсёды імкнуцца адзначаць памятныя даты, нават у тых краінах, дзе сёння гэта праблематычна, як, напрыклад, у краінах Балтыі. У Італіі нашы суайчыннікі ў Дзень Перамогі сустракаюцца і спяваюць ваенныя песні. Будуць праводзіцца розныя мерапрыемствы, і, канешне, цікава пра ўсё гэта сабраць матэрыялы. Пару гадоў таму разам з дэпутатамі Палаты Прадстаўнікоў Нацыянальнага сходу мы рыхтавалі фотавыстаўку беларусаў замежжа, па якой можна было бачыць, як многа робіцца нашымі суайчыннікамі для захавання памяці. У гэтым годзе мы плануем падобны праект падрыхтаваць да Дня народнага адзінства.

Алена **Дзядзюля**

Фота Лізы Голад



■ Вольга Якабсон: “Тут беларусы наталяюцца нашай культурай”



**У верасні мінулага года ў Мінскім дзяржаўным лінгвістычным універсітэце адкрыўся Цэнтр азербайджанскай мовы і культуры. Сёння тут створаны невялікі музей, цэнтр прадстаўляе выдатную магчымасць больш даведацца пра традыцыі і гісторыю Азербайджана, што бяспрэчна вельмі важна для падрыхтоўкі спецыялістаў па міжкультурнай камунікацыі і развіцця сувязяў паміж краінамі.**

“Запрашаем у нашы сэрцы, у нашу культуру, у Азербайджан,” – звярнулася да ўдзельнікаў майстар-класа “Азербайджанскія дываны: гісторыя і сучаснасць” госця з усходу, загадчык кафедры рэгіёназнаўства Азербайджанскага ўніверсітэта моў, прафесар Сеўдагюль Аліева.

Гэта сустрэча стала першым значным мерапрыемствам цэнтра. Як заўважыў Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак, гасцям з Азербайджана сапраўды ўдалося ўразіць распедамі пра культурныя здабыткі азербайджанскага народа. Ён нагадаў, што ў Беларусі пражываюць прадстаўнікі 156 нацыянальнасцяў, сярод іх па колькасці азербайджанцы знаходзяцца на дзявятым месцы. Упаўнаважаны адзначыў, што Кангрэс азербайджанскіх абшчын з’яўляецца адной з вельмі актыўных арганізацый у нашай краіне. Пазнаёміцца з азербайджанскімі, а таксама з танцамі

іншых народаў усходу можна дзякуючы калектыву “Легенды Каўказа”.

Першая пазнавальная сустрэча, якая прайшла у гэтым годзе ў цэнтры МДЛУ, была прысвечана азербайджанскім дыванам. Іх замыславатыя ўзоры, ярскія фарбы натхнялі людзей з усяго свету. Калі ўважліва ўгледзецца ў карціны еўрапейскіх сярэднявечных мастакоў, на некаторых з іх можна заўважыць азербайджанскія дываны, якімі гаспадары ўпрыгожвалі свае дамы. Самы вялікі дыван Сярэднявечча (65 квадратных метраў) Шэйх Сафі захоўваецца ў Лондане ў музеі Вікторыі і Альберта. У 1539 годзе яго пачалі ткаць па заказе шэйха для мячэці ў Тэбрызе. У пачатку XVIII стагоддзя сярод руін разбуранай землятруса мячэці яго заважыў адзін з англійскіх калекцыянераў, які прапанаваў аднавіць культывае збудаванне пры ўмове, што дыван дастанеца яму.

У 2010 годзе мастацтва ткацтва дываноў Азербайджана ўнесена ў спіс ЮНЕСКА. У краіне вельмі ганарацца сваім культурным здабыткам: узоры дываноў можна пабачыць на будынках, у метро, у аэрапорце, у рэкламе, на модных сучасных таварах. Узоры і самі дываны пазіцыянуюцца на разнастайных мерапрыемствах, у тым ліку міжнароднага ўзроўню. Так, падчас адкрыцця Еўрапейскіх гульняў гіганцкі дыван-самалёт знаёміў гасцей цырымоніі з адным з галоўных сімвалаў Азербайджана. Дарэчы, першы ў свеце музей дываноў адкрыўся менавіта ў гэтай краіне.

Ткацтва на тэрыторыі Азербайджана вядома з I-га тысячагоддзя да нашай эры. “Дываны – гэта гісторыя, гэта наша жыццё. У іх перададзена колеравая гама, якую людзі бачылі вакол сябе. Афарбоўка магла мяняцца і ў залежнасці ад гісторыка-палітычных падзей. У часы войн, няшчасцяў ткаліся цёмныя дываны, а ў шчаслівыя дні колеры на іх падаваліся сакавітыя, яскравыя”, – падзялілася прафесар Сеўдагюль Аліева.

Дываны ляжалі на падлозе і віселі на сценах. Тканымі вырабамі накрывалі сталы і канапы, з іх рабілі сумкі і нават мэблю. Яскравыя фарбы для дываноў бралі ў прыроды. Калі фарбавалі воўну, у справу ішлі кветкі, плады, ягады. Так, чорны колер можна было атрымаць пры выкарыстанні маладых грэцкіх арэхаў, а з шалупіння цыбулі, шафрана атрымліваліся “сонечныя” колеры, для вырабу фарбы падыходзілі нават чырвоныя жучкі. У залежнасці ад рэгіёна дываны маглі розніцца таўшчынёй, узорами,



■ Прафесар Сеўдагюль Аліева (злева) з удзельнікамі сустрэчы

расфарбоўкай. Так, нецяжка здагадацца, чаму ў бакінскай школе ткацтва вырабах прысутнічаюць блакітны, жоўты і шэры колеры. У Баку заўсёды свеціць сонца (360 дзён у годзе!). Майстры гянджынскай школы перадавалі ў вырабах розныя адценні чырвонага колеру. Гэта тэрыторыя, дзе жылі заможныя людзі, якія цанілі якасныя тавары, і адна з асаблівасцяў мясцовых дываноў – дакладныя лініі...

Адказваючы на пытанні студэнтаў, якіх уразіў майстар-клас, Сеўдагюль Аліева, запэўніла, што ў азербайджанскай культуры шмат іншых здабыткаў, якім можна прысвячаць асобныя сустрэчы. Так, адзін з наступных майстар-класаў мог бы быць прысвечаны нацыянальным хусткам – кялагаям. Кажуць, яны робяць жанчын прыгожымі.

Алена **Дзядзюля**

Фота аўтара



# МАЙСТРЫ-ТКАЧЫ МАДЖАРСКІЯ

У 1913 годзе вершам “Слуцкія ткачы” Максім Багдановіч кунтушовыя паясы, якія ткаліся на нашых землях у XVIII–XIX стагоддзях, фактычна зрабіў адным з культурных сімвалаў Беларусі. Гэтыя высокамастацкія вырабы натхнялі мастакоў, дызайнераў, пісьменнікаў. Узоры паясоў можна пабачыць на вокладках кніг, афішах, плакатах. Але, што датычыцца гісторыі стварэння гэтых вырабаў, да апошняга часу ў ёй заставалася яшчэ шмат невядомага, пры тым што да вывучэння такой тэмы падыходзілі даследчыкі розных краін, бо слуккія паясы лічаць сваімі палякі, літоўцы, украінцы. Не трэба забывацца, што гэтыя мастацкія вырабы ўсё ж маюць свайго аўтара. Дызайн і ўзоры паясоў распрацоўваў армянскі майстар Ян Маджарскі.

Каб знайсці адказы на многія спрэчныя пытанні, звязаныя з вытворчасцю кунтушовых паясоў і біяграфіяй іх майстра, было праведзена новае даследаванне, у выніку якога пабачыла свет кніга “Маджарскія: армянскі род у гісторыі Беларусі”. Аўтар ідэі і кіраўнік праекта, генеральны дырэктар Фонда развіцця і падтрымкі армяназнаўчых даследаванняў “АНІВ” Армен Хечаян заўважае: “Наш фонд разглядае вывучэнне гісторыі першую чаргу, як тое, што нас звязвае як мост, які злучае народы. Так, адзін з тэм, якая тычыцца беларуска-армянскіх адносін, звязана з Вялікай Айчыннай вайной. Разам з Інстытутам гісторыі НАН і Упраўленнем па ўвекавечанні памяці абаронцаў Айчыны і ахвяр войн Узброеных Сіл Беларусі мы рэалізавалі праект “Воіны-армяне ў баях за Беларусь”. Тэма слуккіх паясоў таксама сведчыць пра сувязі Беларусі і Арменіі. Новае даследаванне, якое стала магчымым дзякуючы нашаму супрацоўніцтву з Нацыянальным гістарычным архівам, упершыню раскрывае ролю Яна Маджарскага ў стварэнні слуккіх паясоў,



знаёміць з прадстаўнікамі гэтага роду і паказвае гісторыю мануфактуры. Работа вялася калектывам даследчыкаў амаль пяць гадоў”.

## КРОПКИ НАД “І”

Выданне “Маджарскія: армянскі род у гісторыі Беларусі” падрыхтавана на высокім акадэмічным узроўні. На аснове вывучэння дакументальных матэрыялаў зроблены шэраг адкрыццяў і ўдакладненняў. У дадатку ў кнізе пададзены дакументы, сярод якіх інвентары маёнткаў, даведкі, кантракты, пастановы дваранскіх сходаў, выпіскі з метрычных кніг, асабістыя лісты Яна і Леана Маджарскіх. Падчас працы над праектам нарэшце ўдалося расшыфраваць дзелавыя запісы

бацькі і сына Маджарскіх, зробленыя армянскай графікай, якія захоўваюцца ў фондах Нацыянальнага гістарычнага архіва Беларусі. Асобнае даследаванне было праведзена, каб знайсці ілюстрацыі – іх у кнізе больш сотні, у тым ліку раней невядомых ці малавядомых. Ілюстрацыі выяўлены ў архівах і музеях Беларусі, Расіі, Польшчы, Украіны, Італіі,

Францыі, Вялікабрытаніі, а таксама ў прыватных калекцыях.

Кніга ўжо атрымала высокія водгукі вядомых спецыялістаў з Беларусі, Расіі, Польшчы і Арменіі. Зробленая на аснове гэтага даследавання выстаўка з такой жа назвай “Маджарскія: армянскі род у гісторыі Беларусі”, адкрылася ў Нацыянальным гісторыка-культурным музеі-запаведніку “Нясвіж”.

## СУСВЕТНЫ ЗДАБЫТАК

З гісторыяй вытворчасці случкіх паясоў звязана вялікая колькасць міфаў і гіпотэз. Некаторыя з іх “перакачоўвалі” з аднаго даследавання ў другое. Але дзякуючы праведзенай архівістамі рабоце сёння на многія пытанні знойдзены дакладныя адказы.

Можа падацца, што новае выданне – яшчэ адна кніга пра случкія паясы. Насамрэч яна расказвае пра лёсы людзей і эпоху, у якой яны жылі, дазваляе па-іншаму паглядзець на тое, як узнік выраб, які праславіўся на ўсё свет. На жаль, доўгі час роля майстра недаацэнвалася. Менавіта дзякуючы асабістаму густу і таленту Яна Маджарскага паясы са Слуцка сталі сапраўдным сусветным брэндам. Пацвярджэнне таму – яго вырабы спрабавалі капіраваць на іншых фабрыках, выкарыстоўвалі меткі майстра, каб выдаць сваю прадукцыю за случкую. Пра талент Маджарскіх сведчыць і тое, што на іншых мануфактурах не ўдалося стварыць новых брэндаў шаўковых паясоў, якія былі б настолькі вядомыя і запатрабаваныя.

Многія факты з біяграфіі Яна Маджарскага да апошняга часу былі невядомымі. Існавалі нават розныя версіі пра яго паходжанне: венгерская (маўляў, на гэта ўказвае прозвішча майстра), турэцкая (у Стамбуле жылі жонка і дзеці). Прадстаўнікі рода Маджарскіх змаглі інтэгравацца ў шляхецкую супольнасць Рэчы Паспалітай, таму сёння іх сваімі



■ Дырэктар фонда развіцця і падтрымкі армяназнаўчых даследаванняў “Анів” Армен Хечаян і дырэктар музея-запаведніка ў Нясвіжы Дзмітрый Яшчанка на адкрыцці выстаўкі

лічаць народы, якія раней у яе ўваходзілі. Дарэчы, Маджарскія валодалі землямі і маёнткамі на тэрыторыях сучасных Асіповіцкага, Баранавіцкага, Ляхавіцкага, Навагрудскага, Чэрвеньскага, Слуцкага і Нясвіжскага раёнаў. Іх нашчадкі парадніліся з прадстаўнікамі мясцовай эліты. Так, унучка Леана Маджарскага Эльжбета ўзяла шлюб з Чэславам Манюшкай. У іх сям’і нарадзіўся знакаміты кампазітар Станіслаў Манюшка.

Пра самаідэнтыфікацыю Яна Маджарскага сведчуць яго прыватныя запісы. Напрыклад, у сваім лісце ад 29 мая 1776 года ён пазначаў: “Рукой маёй ўласнай па-армянску падпісваюся”. Каб атрымаць дваранскі тытул, Ян Маджарскі ў 1780 годзе ездзіў па дакументы аб сваім паходжанні да армянскай абшчыны горада Стамбула.

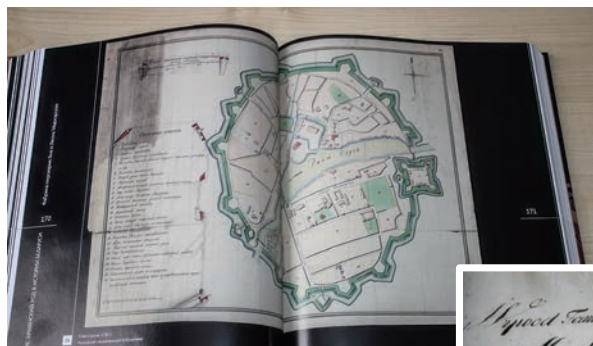
Самі кантушовыя паясы з’яўляюцца сусветным здабыткам. Гісторыя іх узнікнення і развіцця звязана з узаемапраціканнем культур і густамі розных народаў.

Цікава прасочваць, як нараджаўся такі феномен, як случкі паясы. Мода на падобныя аксесуары (а паясы былі абавязковай часткай кунтушовых строяў) прыйшла з Асманскай імперыі. Таму і называліся яны спачатку персідскімі, а фабрыкі, дзе іх выраблялі, – персіярнямі. Як расказаў кандыдат гістарычных навук, архівіст, гісторык, адзін з аўтараў даследавання Дзяніс Лісейчыкаў, трэнд улавілі армянскія рамеснікі і пачалі ткаць для хрысціянскіх рынкаў. Некаторыя з іх працавалі ў Асманскай імперыі, частка майстроў асела ў Рэчы Паспалітай.

БЕЛТА



Ян Маджарскі напачатку прыехаў працаваць у Станіславаў (сучасны Івана-Франкоўск). Адтуль таленавітага маладога майстра перавабіў Міхал Казімір Радзівіл «Рыбанька». Ён першапачаткова запрасіў яго на сваю шпалерную фабрыку ў Нясвіжы. Раней было невядома, калі дакладна Ян Маджарскі прыехаў на нашы землі. Большасць даследчыкаў спасылалася на кантракт нясвіжскага ардыната Міхала Казіміра Радзівіла з Янам Маджарскім, які



■ План Фёдора Крамера 1797 года. Будынкі персіярні ў Слуцку, якія планавалася перабудаваць пад казармы Нізаўскага пяхотнага палка

■ Малюнак герба «Дар» рода Маджарскіх

быў падпісаны ў студзені 1758 года. У гаспадарчых дзённіках Рыбанькі архівістам ўдалося адшукаць запіс аб тым, што з 16 студзеня 1757 года работнікам персіярні прызначаюцца «страўнае» (выплаты на харчаванне).

Менавіта гэта дата сведчыць, што фабрыка-персіярня пад кіраўніцтвам Яна Маджарскага афіцыйна пачала працаваць у Нясвіжы. І менавіта там былі вытканы першыя паясы. Праз амаль чатыры гады: яна была пераведзена ў Слуцк. Гэты горад перайшоў ва ўладанні Міхала Казіміра пасля смерці яго брата Гераніма Фларыяна, у якога не было дзяцей.

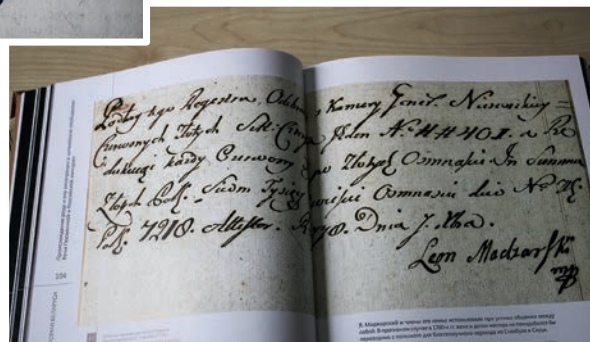
## НОВЫЯ АДКРЫЦЦІ ЯШЧЭ НАПЕРАДЗЕ

Ці змог бы талент Яна Маджарскага так раскрыцца, калі б ён не прыехаў працаваць на беларускія землі? Напрыклад, у Станіслававе, дзе ён пачынаў сваю працоўную дзейнасць, была вялікая канкурэнцыя, а на беларуска-літоўскіх землях персіярня стала першай. Акрамя таго, Радзівілы, як заўважае, Армен Хечаян, далі майстру карт-бланш, ён мог ствараць, што дазволіла яму выпрацаваць уласны стыль. Амбіцыйныя Радзівілы не шкадавалі сродкаў на свой бізнес-праект. З аднаго боку сачылі за густамі шляхты, з іншага, не баяліся прапанаваць новае. Нельга не ўлічваць іх прадпрыемальніцкія здольнасці. Вялікая ўвага ўдзялялася арганізацыі збыта паясоў, тым больш што яны адносіліся да катэгорыі, як сёння

кажуць, «лакшэры-тавараў». Слуцкія паясы былі запатрабаваныя элітай. Чалавек, які іх набываў, такім чынам падкрэсліваў свой высокі статус, заможнасць. Часам паясы ткаліся і для асаблівых заказчыкаў, як, напрыклад, для вышэйшага кіраўніцтва Праваслаўнай царквы ў Вялікім Княстве Літоўскім. Так, па замове епіскапскага двара быў вытканы амафор для Віктара Садкоўскага, які адначасова быў Слуцкім архімандрытам. Гэта ўнікальны выраб: адзіны твор з выявай жывой істоты – Агнеца Божага. Сёння ён захоўваецца ў фондах Нацыянальнага гістарычнага музея Рэспублікі Беларусь.

Радзівілы ўсяляк апыкалі майстра і стараліся стварыць таму выгадныя ўмовы для працы. У кантракце, заключаным у 1776 годзе, было прапісана, што Ян Маджарскі становіцца арандатарам слуцкай мануфактуры, атрымлівае правы кіраваць ёй па сваім разуменні. Адзінае, што агаворвалася, новыя работнікі

павінны набірацца выключна з радзівілаўскіх уладанняў. Так з сярэдзіны 1770-х мануфактурай кіравалі Ян Маджарскі і яго сын Леан... Сабраны падчас працы над гэтым праектам матэрыял мог бы легчы ў аснову мастацкіх твораў і фільмаў. Чаго толькі варта сюжэт, калі Ян Маджарскі спрабаваў уцячы ад Радзівілаў, каб з'ехаць у Стамбул да жонкі і дзяцей, якіх не бачыў каля дзясятка гадоў. Вернутаму ўцекачу



■ Распіска і подпіс Яна Маджарскага. 7 снежня 1778 года

Рыбанька паабяцаў даставіць яго сям'ю. Каб знайсці родных майстра, выплаціць іх пазыкі і прывезці са Стамбула, спатрэбілася каля чатырох гадоў...

Армен Хечаян упэўнены, што многія адкрыцці, звязаныя з родам Маджарскіх, яшчэ наперадзе, што праца, зробленая яго камандай, натхніць на пошукі іншых даследчыкаў: трэба адшукаць партрэты Маджарскіх, даведацца пра лёсы дачок Яна, працягнуць вывучаць радзівілаўскія архівы.

Алена **Дзядзюля**  
Фота аўтара

# ПАД ЗАСТУПНІЦТВАМ ДРАКОНА



**Стала добрай традыцыяй  
напярэдадні кітайскага  
новага года праводзіць  
сустрэчы ў сценах  
Рэспубліканскага  
інстытута кітаязнаўства  
імя Канфуцыя  
Белдзяржуніверсітэта.  
Сёлета тут прайшло  
ўрачыстае гашэнне  
паштовай маркі  
"Год Дракона" з серыі  
"Усходні календар".**

Упаўнаважаны і Паўнамоцны пасол Кітайскай народнай рэспублікі ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь Се Сяюн на цырымоніі гашэння маркі "Год Дракона", адзначыў, што рэалізацыя доўгатэрміновага праекта з выявай жывёл кітайскага гараскопа садзейнічае культурнаму абмену паміж Кітаем і Беларуссю.

У цырымоніі гашэння ўзялі ўдзел міністр сувязі і інфарматызацыі Канстанцін Шульган, начальнік упраўлення Кітая і азіяцка-ціхаакеанскага супрацоўніцтва галоўнага ўпраўлення Азіі, Афрыкі і Лацінскай Амерыкі МЗС Беларусі Вадзім Сянютя, рэктар БДУ Андрэй Кароль, дырэктар Рэспубліканскага інстытута кітаязнаўства імя Канфуцыя Анатоль Тозік, старшыня Беларускага таварыства сяброўства і культурнай сувязі з замежнымі краінамі Ніна Іванова, прадстаўнікі таварыства сяброўства "Беларусь-Кітай".

Раней у серыі "Усходні календар" ужо былі выпушчаны паштовыя мініяцюры, прысвечаныя гадам Пацука, Быка і Труса. Як нагадаў міністр сувязі і інфарматызацыі Канстанцін Шульган, былі рэалізаваны і іншыя паштовыя праекты, прысвечаныя беларуска-кітайскім сувязям, юбілейным датам, звязаным з дыпламатычнымі адносінамі, культурай. Так, у 2020 годзе была выпушчана марка "Сусветная спадчына ЮНЕСКА ў жывапісе Беларусі і Кітая". Паштовая мініяцюра была падрыхтавана па матэрыялах Нацыянальнага музея Рэспублікі Беларусь і Нацыянальнага музея Кітая.

Се Сяюн заўважыў, што кітайскі фальклор, традыцыі выклікаюць цікавасць у розных краінах свету. Гараскоп і дванаццаць сімвалаў з'яўляюцца адной з важных частак культуры Кітая, бо ў ім перададзены ўяўленні і светаўспрыманне народа. На ўсходзе

вераць, што год нараджэння можа ўплываць на характар і лёс чалавека. Так, людзі, народжаныя ў год Дракона, валодаюць развітымі лідарскімі якасцямі і творчымі здольнасцямі, мудрасцю, яны поўныя энтузіязму і мэтанакіраваных. З самой міфічнай істотай звязаны вялікі комплекс уяўленняў. Спавод Се Сяюн расказаў пра некаторыя з іх. Гэта міфічная істота, паводле ўяўленняў кітайцаў, спалучае ў сабе рысы розных жывёл, яна ўвасабляе высакародства і аўтарытэт. Таксама ёй прыпісваюць такія якасці, як мудрасць, храбрасць, здольнасці да пераадолення розных складанасцяў і дасягнення вялікіх мэт. Менавіта дракон у старажытным Кітаі сімвалізаваў найвышэйшую ўладу, таму яго выяву можна было пабачыць на імператарскім троне і адзенні.

Пасол выказаў спадзяванні, што бягучы год дзякуючы заступніцтву дракона павінен быць паспяховым.

"Калі азірнуцца на мінулы год Труса, можна адзначыць, што пад стратэгічным кіраўніцтвам і дзякуючы асабістаму садзейнічанню Старшыні Сі



Алена Дзідэюля

Цзіньпіна і Прэзідэнта Аляксандра Лукашэнкі кітайска-беларускія адносіны ўсебаковага стратэгічнага партнёрства працягваюць дасягаць новых узроўняў і становяцца мадэллю новага тыпу міжнародных адносін. Паміж абедзвюма краінамі паглыбляецца палітычны ўзаемадавер, два паспяховых візіты Аляксандра Лукашэнкі ў Кітай за год дэманструюць высокі ўзровень і асабліваць кітайска-беларускіх адносін," – заўважыў дыпламат. Па яго словах, за мінулы год эканамічнае супрацоўніцтва прывяло да бліскучых вынікаў. Двухбаковы таваразварот вырас на 67,3% і дасягнуў максімальна рэкорднай адзнакі ў 8,443 мільярда долараў. Сярод праектаў, якія актыўна развіваюцца, – "Адзін пояс, адзін шлях", кітайска-беларускі індустрыяльны парк "Вялікі камень". Колькасць пародненых гарадоў, абласцей і правінцый паміж Кітаем і Беларуссю дасягнула 40 пар.

Яўген Кручкоў

Бушур Бозо Алмохаммад:

# "Я ЖЫВУ Ў КРАЇНЕ МАГЧЫМАСЦЯЎ"



БЕЛТА

У 2003 годзе Бушур Бозо Алмохаммад прыехаў у Беларусь з Сірыі атрымліваць медыцынскую адукацыю. За гады вучобы абзавёўся сябрамі і, можна сказаць, сэрцам прыкіпеў да нашай зямлі. Таму пазней, калі паўстала пытанне аб далейшым прафесійным росце, ён ужо не вагаўся, дзе будзе павышаць кваліфікацыю, і атрымліваць практычны вопыт. Жыццё закруцілася. Тут ён завёў сям'ю. Дзякуючы жонцы, якая мае эканамічную адукацыю, зацікавіўся фінансамі і паступіў у Інстытут бізнеса Белдзяржуніверсітэта, а цяпер ён там выкладае. Бушур вывучыў беларускую мову, навучыўся гатаваць мясцовыя стравы, палюбіў ездзіць на вёску і наогул прызнаецца, што лічыць сябе беларусам. Дарэчы, ён атрымаў беларускае грамадзянства. Безумоўна, мне цікава было пачуць яго асаблівы погляд на Беларусь (ён можа паглядзець на яе і звонку, і ў той жа час добра ведае знутры). А яшчэ яго ўнікальны жыццёвы вопыт будзе карысным іншым, для каго наша краіна стала другім домам.

**– Вернемся на 20 гадоў назад. Як вы наважыліся паехаць вучыцца ў далёкую краіну?**

– Гэта было пасля заканчэння школы ў Сірыі. З дзяцінства я марыў стаць урачом. У той час у маёй краіне гэта было даволі складана, прыватнай ці платнай адукацыі яшчэ не было, а ў дзяржаўных навучальных установах колькасць месцаў была абмежаваная. Сярод моладзі было прынята ездзіць вучыцца за мяжу. Калі я з бацькамі абмяркоўваў свае планы на будучыню, яны мне прапанавалі таксама паехаць вучыцца і прапанавалі пашукаць навучальную ўстанову ў краінах СНД (справа ў тым, што яшчэ, калі быў Савецкі Саюз, ўсталяваліся сяброўскія адносіны паміж ім і Сірыяй) Мне было смянацца гадоў. Я ніколі нікуды далёка ад дома не выязджаў. Таму найперш шукалі месцы, дзе маглі быць сваякі ці сябры. Знаёмыя знайшліся ў Расіі, Украіне, Беларусі і Арменіі. Пра Расію яны казалі, што там дарагія адукацыя і жыццё, плюс узгадвалі ліхія 90-ых гады. А пра Беларусь былі толькі станоўчыя водгукі. Адзін мой знаёмы, які на той час ужо атрымаў у Беларусі адукацыю, і застаўся ў ёй жыць, знайшоў працу, абзавёўся сям'ёй, хваліўся, што тут высокі ўзровень адукацыі, ціха, спакойна, чысціня, цудоўныя людзі. Гэта мяне і прывабіла.

**– Было нешта, што вас уразіла, калі прыехалі сюды?**

– Канешне. На ўсходзе на той час мы мала ведалі пра гэту краіну. Безумоўна, я моцна хваляваўся, калі глядзеў на карту, як далёка мне трэба ляцець. Першая асацыяцыя з назвай "Белая Русь" была што раз белая, напэўна, там доўгі час ляжыць снег, што там холадна. Я запасаўся цёплымі рэчамі. Некалі, калі яшчэ быў Савецкі Саюз, мая маці паспела па ім паездзіць, была ў Ерэване, Піцеры, Маскве. І яна паказвала мне фатаздымкі з тых часоў. І я думаю што і ў Мінску будзе нешта такое, як на гэтых старых здымках, што па вуліцах ездзяць "Лады" і "Волгі". З аэрапорта я ехаў з раскрытым ротам. Мяне здзівіла сучасная еўрапейская архітэктура, уклад жыцця. Уявіце я ж толькі першы раз у жыцці выехаў за мяжу, бо раней калі мы з сям'ёй і выбіраліся куды-небудзь адпачываць, то ўсё роўна заставаліся ў сваёй краіне, бо ў нас ёсць і горы, і мора.

**– Як вы рашыліся ехаць у невядомую краіну, ды яшчэ без ведання мовы, на якой тут размаўлялі. Недахоп такіх ведаў абмяжоўвае магчымасці?**

– Гэта ўсё вырашаецца. Людзей хутчэй спыняе страх перад невядомасцю. Трэба было толькі яго пераадоліць. Усё ж я ўпершыню начаваў не дома, побач не было бацькоў. На ўсходзе ў нас морцныя сямейныя сувязі. Напрыклад, у нас не прынята прымаць ежу паасобку. Мы заўсёды чакаем, калі збярэцца ўся сям'я. Адарвацца сапраўды было

складана. Але я ведаў, што не магу адмовіцца, сказаць, што хачу назад. На ўсходзе мужчына не можа паказаць сябе перад сваякамі слабым, адмовіцца ад свайго слова. Тым больш, што бацькі ў мяне інвэсціравалі, укладвалі свае надзеі.

**– Як у вашай краіне цэніцца прафесія ўрача?**

– Да людзей якія лечаць, у нас ставяцца з вялікай павагай. А яшчэ ў нас медыцына пераважна прыватная. Урач можа адкрыць прыватны кабінет, купіць ці арэндаваць абсталяванне, заключаць дамовы з бальніцамі. Калі гэта добры і вопытны спецыяліст, ён можа атрымліваць добры прыбытак.

**– Ваша першая адукацыя – медыцынская. Можаце параўнаць, чым яна розніцца ў Беларусі і, напрыклад, у вашых знаёмых, якія яе атрымалі ў іншых краінах?**

– У Сірыі вельмі многа даецца тэорыі, яна займае каля 80 працэнтаў часу студэнтаў. У Беларусі ўпор робіцца на практыцы. Усё ж малюнак і цела выглядаюць па рознаму. Мы маглі працаваць з “натурай”. Напрыклад, калі вывучалі судовую медыцыну, маглі разразаць цела, каб дазнацца прычыну смерці. Мы прысутнічалі на родах, чаго ў Сірыі няма, бо там іншы менталітэт. Я помню, як у Беларусь прыезжалі студэнты з іншых краін, напрыклад, з Амерыкі, Англіі. Многія здзівіліся, што нідзе няма столькі магчымасцяў папрактыкавацца. Кожнае лета я мог праходзіць практыку тут ці на радзіме. Я выбіраў другі варыянт, каб пабачыцца з роднымі. Заўважаў, што мае калегі, якія падчас вучобы ў Сірыі былі загружаны лекцыямі і кнігамі, не маглі прымяніць свае тэарэтычныя веды, а для мяне гэта ніколі не было праблемай. Наогул, маладыя людзі, якія атрымлівалі адукацыю ў Беларусі, хутчэй рабілі сваю кар’еру.

**– Пасля таго, як вы атрымалі медыцынскую адукацыю, паехалі ў Сірыю. Чаму вырашылі вярнуцца ў Беларусь?**

– У Сірыі вельмі моцныя сямейныя сувязі, мы заўсёды трымаемся сваіх родных. І я напачатку думаў атрымаць дыплом і жыць побач з бацькамі. Калі я закончыў медуніверсітэт, быў урачом агульнай практыкі, а ў маёй краіне патрэбны ўрачы вузкай спецыялізацыі. Так, калі баліць сэрца, пацыент пойдзе да кардыёлага, а не да тэрапеўта. Я разумеў, што трэба далей вучыцца. Прасцей было паехаць туды, дзе я ўжо ўсё ведаў. Калі вучыўся, сітуацыя ў Сірыі змянілася, бацькі мне нават казалі не прыязджаць да іх на канікулы, бо можа быць і такое, што пасля я не змагу ўжо адтуль выбрацца. Гэта сумеснае рашэнне.

Тут я працягваў вучобу і адначасова падпрацоўваў. А ў 2013 годзе, калі столькі людзей з Сірыі становілася бежанцамі, прыняў рашэнне застацца. Мне тут было добра. Навошта было рызыкаваць і ехаць куды-небудзь яшчэ. Я тут усё ведаў, меў працу, да мяне

прыязна ставіліся пацыенты. Я працаваў у 3-й клінічнай бальніцы, у 4-й паліклініцы. Пасля каранавірусу, абвастрыліся праблемы з сэрцам, таму вырашыў развівацца ў іншай сферы. Пайшоў атрымліваць другую адукацыю, фінасовую. Пазней мяне запрасілі выкладаць...

**– Лічыце, вам удалося ў Беларусі рэалізавацца?**

– Многае залежыць ад чалавека. Калі чалавек не будзе вучыцца, ён перастане развівацца. Калі ён задаволіцца тым, што ёсць, застаецца стаяць на адным месцы. І ў Афрыцы знойдуцца магчымасці для тых, хто шукае. Трэба толькі ўлічваць асаблівасці

**Знаёмыя, якія жывуць ў Еўропе, калі прыязджаюць сюды, прызнаюцца, што ім тут вельмі падабаецца і калі б была магчымасць, яны б хацелі тут застацца. Іх уражвае чысціня, клімат, тое, што многа зеляніны. Адзін мой знаёмы, які жыве ў Арабскіх эміратах, і многа ездзіць па свету, часта заязджае ў Беларусь і кажа што яму нідзе не бывае так добра, як тут. Ён так мне і гаворыць: "Павер мне. Вы жывяце ў раі." Я таксама так лічу.**

той краіны, дзе жывеш. Хтосьці скажа, што добра ў тых краінах, дзе заробкі па 5–7 тысяч долараў, але якія там кошты? У Сірыі заробкі могуць быць наогул па 16–17 долараў у месяц, а за 300 там наогул можна выдатна жыць... Я бачу, на якіх машынах ездзіць у Беларусі моладзь, у якіх добрых дамах яна жыве. Паглядзіце, як развіваюцца ІТ-тэхналогіі, хто стварыў Вайбер? Дзе вучыліся гэтыя людзі, дзе пачыналі працаваць? Для мяне Беларусь – гэта краіна магчымасцяў.

**– Ці ёсць у Сірыі стэрэатыпы пра Беларусь, якія узнікаюць з-за таго, што народы мала ведаюць адзін аднаго?**

– Сапраўды, ведаў пэўны час не хапала. У нас казалі, што Расія і Беларусь – гэта адно і тое ж. А гэта асобныя дзяржавы. Але за апошнія дзесяцігоддзі ў Сірыі сталі больш ведаць пра Беларусь. Наогул, лепш адчулі, хто сябр, хто гатовы дапамагаць сірыйскаму народу. Беларусь аказвала Сірыі гуманітарную дапамогу. Наладжваюцца стасункі паміж краінамі на высокім узроўні. У Сірыі з’явіліся беларускія аўтобусы. Сірыйцы, якія сюды прыязджаюць, заўсёды уражваюцца, як тут прыгожа. На жаль, інфармацыйныя патокі, якія ідуць з Захаду і сёння працуюць на стварэнне стэрэатыпаў, насаджваюцца інфармацыя, што тут няма свабоды, што знаходзіцца ў краіне небяспечна. Але мае знаёмыя, якія жывуць ў

Еўропе, калі прыязджаюць сюды, прызнаюцца, што ім тут вельмі падабаецца і калі б была магчымасць, яны б хацелі тут застацца. Іх уражвае чысціня, клімат, тое, што многа зеляніны. Адзін мой знаёмы, які жыве ў Арабскіх эміратах, і многа ездзіць па свету, часта заязджае ў Беларусь і кажа, што яму нідзе не бывае так добра, як тут. Ён так мне і гаворыць: “Павер мне. Вы жывяце ў раі.” Я таксама так лічу. Тут асобныя людзі. Неяк як турыст я ездзіў у Германію, там адразу адчуў, што таксісты, калі бачаць, што вязуць не мясцовага, імкнучца яго нейкім чынам падмануць. А тут таксісты бяруць па лічыльніку, і калі ў іх у машыне ці на лаўцы выпадкова забудзеш свой кашалёк, яго заўсёды паспрабуюць табе вярнуць. У Беларусі я ніколі не чуў негатыўнага стаўлення да ўраджэнцаў іншых земляў. Не сутыкаўся, каб прыезжых не бралі на працу. Мяне лечаць, як беларуса.

– **Можна сказаць, што сёння ў вас ужо дзве радзімы?**

– Сёння лічу, што гэта мая краіна. З атрымання грамадзянства я маю перад ёй адказнасць. Мне 39 гадоў, 21 з іх я правёў у Беларусі. Нават неяк ездзіў да родных у Сірыю, і там злавіў сябе на думцы “Трэба вяртацца на радзіму, у Беларусь”. Так, там мае карані, але тут ужо мае сэрца. Студэнцкія гады былі самымі шчаслівымі ў маім жыцці. Столькі мясцін, якія для мяне нешта значаць. У Мінску ёсць вуліцы, на якія, калі трапляю, слёзы наварочваюцца, бо з імі звязаны цёплыя ўспаміны з гадоў маёй вучобы. Я больш нідзе не хачу жыць. Гэта мае месца

– **Як лічыце, што магло б стаць брэндам Беларусі?**

– Лён, калій, зефір, смачныя натуральныя беларускія цукеркі, малочка. Я выбіраю толькі беларускія ёгурты. Я не аматар мяса, але калі пакаштаваў гавядзіну, яна мне вельмі спадабалася. Для мяне паход на Камароўскі рынак па прадукты – заўсёды як свята. Наогул у Беларусі ўсё робіцца якасна. Краіна змагла захаваць свае заводы, развівае прамысловасць.

– **Кажуць, вам спадабалася грэчка...**

– Яна спецыфічная. Нават пах мае асаблівы. Спачатку я яе не прымаў. А сёння для мяне грэчка і вінігрэт – любімыя стравы. А яшчэ цікавы смак ў грэчышнага мёду. Прыкольны бярозавы сок. Мяне здзівілі кампоты. Закаткі, леча з баклажанамі зімой з бульбай – дужа смачна. Мы на ўсходзе супы не ядзім, хіба што, калі чалавек хварэе, ці яны даюцца маленькім дзецям. А тут без супоў ніяк. Некалькі дзён паходзіш – і супчыка хочацца. Я паспрабаваў боршч, шчы, расольнік з салёнымі агуркамі. Халаднік летам – гэта рэч. Грыбны суп – фантастыка. Сёння сам гатую супы і разумею, што можна дадаць. Вельмі люблю зеляніну, натуральныя беларускія яблыкі. Адзінае, заўважыў, беларусы ежу ўспрымаюць хутчэй як “паліва”, заправіўся і пабег далей. Як выглядае страва для іх не істотна. Можна таму тут прыжыліся бутэрброды, а на ўсходзе іх не ядуць. Там наогул важна падача ежы. Таму я нават, калі гатую

звычайную аўсянку стараюся ў яе нешта дадаць. Жонка часта жартуе, што я гадзінамі важуся на кухні, і дзівіцца як можна ўсё рабіць такім смачным.

– **А што яшчэ беларусы не ведаюць пра сірыйскі народ і чаму б маглі навучыцца?**

– Сёй-той думае, што там у чалавека можа быць, напрыклад, 4 жонкі, што ў жанчыны няма правоў, што яна павінна сядзець дома, абслугоўваць мужа і дзяцей. Але Усход розны. Так у Сірыі, Турцыі, Ліване жывуць розныя народы. Мая маці ўсё жыццё працавала. Бацька заўсёды ёй дапамагаў па дому. Я бачыў, як ён паважае і кахае сваю жонку. У Сірыі сям’я – гэта адзінае цэлае. Вопыт, які я пераняў у бацькоў, мне спатрэбіўся ў маёй беларускай сям’і. І я, і мая жонка працуем, мы ўсё робім разам, ходзім у краму, гатуюем. У нас усё агульнае, у тым ліку грошы. Лічу, што я – глава сям’і, таму ўсё што зарабляю, выдаткоўваю на блізкіх. Як капітан кіруе караблём, так, я, павінен, клапаціцца пра сям’ю.



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– **Што б вы паралілі замежным студэнтам, якія прыязджаюць ў Беларусь?**

– Я заўсёды кажу студэнтам: “Калі ты прыехаў сюды, радзіму пакінь там, не трэба імкнучца яе пабудаваць тут”. На жаль, многія замежныя студэнты сустракаюцца толькі са сваімі, не наладжваюць стасункі з беларусамі, нават стравы мясцовыя не каштуюць. Гэта вялікая памылка. Каб зразумець краіну, яе менталітэт, трэба растварыцца ў грамадстве. Тады ты разумееш краіну знутры. У Сірыі, напрыклад, няма такога свята як 8 сакавіка, але гэта не адзначае, што я не павінен да яго далучыцца. На рабоце разам з калегамі мы віншуем выкладчыц і студэнтак. Калі не паспрабаваць жыць, як беларусы, сапраўды замежніку тут будзе цяжка. Без гэтага нават складана пераадолець моўны бар’ер. Мала проста пайсці на падрыхтоўчыя курсы, каб вывучыць мову, патрэбна практыка. Я стараюся пабываць ў розных гарадах і вёсках Беларусі. Гэта вельмі цікава. Я навучыўся гатаваць беларускія стравы. Мае беларускія сябры, з якімі я вучыўся так і казалі: “Ты наш сірыйскі беларус”.

Алена **ДЗЯДЗЮЛЯ**

# ВАНДРАВАЦЬ, КАБ ПАЗНАВАЦЬ

**ЛЮБОЕ ПАДАРОЖЖА – ГЭТА МАГЧЫМАСЦЬ АДКРЫЦЬ НОВЫЯ ФАКТЫ ПРА ГІСТАРЫЧНУЮ І КУЛЬТУРНУЮ СПАДЧЫНУ КРАІНЫ, ЯЕ ЎЗАЕМАСУВЯЗІ З ІНШЫМІ НАРОДАМІ, ТРАДЫЦЫІ І ЗАПАВЕТЫ ПРОДКАЎ. НАТУРАЛЬНА, ТАКІЯ АДКРЫЦЦІ, ЗРОБЛЕНЫЯ ПАДЧАС ВАНДРОВАК, МОГУЦЬ ВЫДАТНА ДАПАЎНЯЦЬ ВЕДЫ, ЯКІЯ АТРЫМЛІВАЮЦЬ ШКОЛЬНІКІ І СТУДЭНТЫ, ТАМУ Ў БЕЛАРУСІ АСАБЛІВАЯ ЎВАГА ЎДЗЯЛЯЕЦЦА АДУКАЦЫЙНАМУ ТУРЫЗМУ.**

Толькі за мінулы год у краіне праведзена больш за 30 рэспубліканскіх праектаў, скіраваных на развіццё адукацыйнага турызму, у якіх узялі ўдзел больш за 500 тысяч чалавек. Адно з найбольш значных мерапрыемстваў – штогадовая ўсебеларуская маладзёжная экспедыцыя "Маршрутамі памяці – маршрутамі адзінства". Ва ўсіх рэгіёнах і горадзе Мінску ствараюцца банкі даных з экскурсійнымі маршрутамі. Нацыянальны інстытут развіцця адукацыі стварыў і перыядычна абнаўляе базу, у якой пазначаны экскурсійныя аб'екты і турыстычныя маршруты, рэкамендаваныя для наведвання навуцэнцамі як дапаўненне да школьных урокаў па розных прадметах, да факультатывных заняткаў, выхаваўчых мерапрыемстваў. Створаны інфармацыйныя рэсурсы, якія дапамагаюць падабраць для дзяцей і моладзі кірункі, вандроўкі, экскурсіі. Напрыклад, яны могуць быць прысвечаны праваслаўным святыням Беларусі, тэме захавання памяці аб героях Вялікай Айчыннай вайны ці генацыдзе беларускага народа альбо гэта могуць быць праграмы для студэнтаў і навуцэнцаў сярэдніх спецыяльных устаноў. Дарэчы, экскурсіі на прадпрыемствы таксама падпадаюць пад адукацыйны турызм, калі на іх хлопцы і дзяўчаты могуць больш даведацца пра абраную прафесію.

Сёння ва ўстановах адукацыі адкрыта каля 1,5 тысячы музеяў, 120 з іх прысвоены званні народных. Створана больш трох тысяч музейных экспазіцый,

прысвечаных генацыду беларускага народа ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Міністэрства адукацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь рэкамендуе выкарыстоўваць музеі не толькі для арганізацыі заняткаў і мерапрыемстваў з навуцэнцамі гэтых устаноў, але і прымаць экскурсійныя групы. Сёння распрацоўваецца інтэрактыўная карта, на якой будуць пазначаны школьныя музеі, візіт у якія можна запланаваць пры выбары пэўнага турыстычнага маршруту.

Як заўважыла кансультант аддзела планавання і арганізацыі турыстычнай дзейнасці Дэпартамента па турызме Міністэрства спорту і турызму Рэспублікі Беларусь Марына Масташова, за апошнія гады значна вырасла колькасць юных падарожнікаў.



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З'яўляюцца новыя трансгранічныя маршруты. Адзін з такіх праектаў распрацаваны сумесна з Расійскай Федэрацыяй, пачынаецца каля Оршы і працягваецца ў Смаленскай вобласці. Ён знаёміць са старонкамі ваеннай гісторыі, прысвечаны артылерыйскай устаноўцы "Кацюша". Для турыстаў з Азербайджана была распрацавана экскурсія, прысвечаная ўраджэнцам гэтай зямлі, якія ваявалі на тэрыторыі Беларусі. Напрыклад, у паветраным баі каля вёскі Гаруны Гродзенскай вобласці загінуў першы ваенны лётчык Азербайджана Фарух Гаібаў. На гэтым месцы ўсталяваны помнік, захоўваецца памяць пра подзвіг экіпажа.

Ствараюцца маршруты і для замежных студэнтаў, якія атрымліваюць адукацыю ў Беларусі. Маладыя людзі могуць не толькі пазнаёміцца з прыгожымі мясцінамі, гісторыяй і культурай Беларусі, але і атрымаць дадатковую інфармацыю па дысцыплінах, якія вывучаюць.



■ Экскурсія па экасцежы на балоце Ельня

Магістрант Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта фізічнай культуры Хоу Шыхао, які ўжо больш за год знаходзіцца ў Беларусі, падзяліўся сваімі ўражаннямі аб вандрौках па сінявокай краіне: "Я ехаў сюды з уяўленнямі, што гэта краіна, дзе знаходзіцца 10 тысяч азёр, людзі любяць бульбу, хлеб і цукеркі, што ўлетку яна квітнее, а ўзімку ўсе катаюцца на лыжах і каньках. Канешне, я даведаўся пра краіну значна больш. За час вучобы і пражывання ў Беларусі я пабываў у розных прыгожых мясцінах, з'ездзіў ва ўсе абласныя цэнтры, акрамя Гомеля, наведванне якога пазначана ў маіх планах". Госцю з усходу спадабалася архітэктура і пейзажы Гродна, шакаладныя цукеркі і мёд. Адным з яго самых ярскравых адкрыццяў стала вандрौка з сябрамі на Мінскае мора, дзе выпадкова ён пазнаёміўся з рыбаком, які вучыў гасця зімовай рыбалцы.

Гэты расповед Хоу Шыхао, сведчыць, што падарожнікам з Кітая можа быць цікавым не толькі так званы "Чырвоны турызм", аб'екты, звязаныя з савецкай і ваеннай гісторыяй, як, напрыклад, Дзяржаўны музей гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, Дом-музей першага з'езда РСДРП, гісторыка-культурны комплекс "Лінія Сталіна" і мемарыял у Брэсцкай крэпасці. У моладзі з Паднябеснай запатрабаваныя гарналыжныя курорты. Студэнты, якія едуць сюды атрымліваць адукацыю (менавіта Кітай сёння з'яўляецца асноўным экспартёрам адукацыйных паслуг), плануюць яшчэ і навучыцца катацца на лыжах і снаўбордзе. Як заўважыў дырэктар Нацыянальнага агенцтва па турызме Дзмітрый Марозаў, пры распрацоўцы маршрутаў для кітайскіх турыстаў сёння важна, у іх уключаць прыгожыя мясціны, пункты агляду, з якіх можна зрабіць цудоўныя фатаграфіі. Кітайскую моладзь таксама цікавяць фестывалі і святы, якія праходзяць у Беларусі, розніца ў культурах, прырода.

Алена Дзязюля

Як паведаміў дырэктар Гуманітарна-адукацыйнага рэспубліканскага ўнітарнага прадпрыемства "Цэнтр міжнародных сувязяў" Аляксандр Самуйліч, сёння ў Беларусі навучаецца каля 30 тысяч замежных грамадзян з больш чым 100 краін свету. Адукацыйны турызм спрыяе таму, што колькасць іншаземных студэнтаў павялічваецца. Цэнтрам міжнародных сувязяў распрацаваны ўнікальны праект – "Адукацыйная карта Беларусі". У рамках яго праводзяцца азнаямленчыя туры для патэнцыйных абітурыентаў і іх бацькоў, замежнай моладзі, прадстаўнікоў турфірм. Падчас такіх

візітаў госці могуць пазнаёміцца з культурнай і гістарычнай спадчынай, а таксама наведаць навучальныя ўстановы, даведацца пра якасць адукацыі, якую ў іх можна атрымаць, умовы пражывання. Такія туры карыстаюцца папулярнасцю, асабліва ў кітайскіх грамадзян. Многа прыязджае абітурыентаў з усходу, з постсавецкіх краін.

Супрацоўнікі цэнтра шмат робяць для прасоўвання праектаў, звязаных з адукацыйным турызмам і рэкламай навучальных устаноў нашай краіны. Напрыклад, за мінулы год яны ўзялі ўдзел у міжнародных адукацыйных выстаўках у Маскве, Кітаі, Узбекістане, Туркменістане, Індыі. Дні беларускай адукацыі прайшлі ў В'етнаме і Казахстане.

Таццяна Бузіноўская