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# BELARUS

白罗斯



**THE MOST POPULAR,  
THE MOST SINCERE  
SUMMER HOLIDAY**



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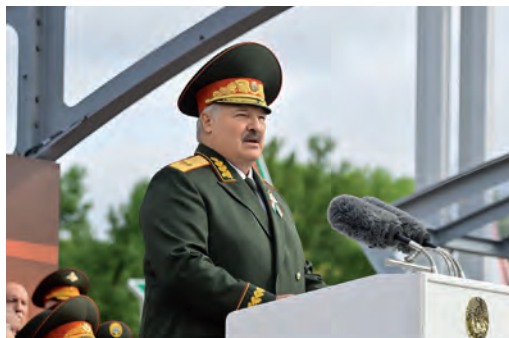
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# IN THE ISSUE

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## 04 A HOLIDAY FOR ALL TIMES

## 08 SYMBOLS THAT CANNOT BE DEVALUED



## 12 BELARUSIAN PRIORITIES IN THE SCO

Belarus has officially become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The relevant documents were signed by all SCO member states at the July summit in Astana.

## BRIGHT COLOURS AND EMOTIONS OF THE FESTIVAL

ACCORDING TO TRADITION, THE FESTIVAL ALEXANDRIA GATHERS FRIENDS WAS HELD IN JULY. ON THE BANKS OF THE DNIEPER RIVER THERE WAS EVERYTHING TO GET AN EMOTIONAL CHARGE: MUSIC, SONGS, DANCES, A SPECTACULAR AIR SHOW, SPORTS COMPETITIONS, MASTER CLASSES FROM CRAFTSMEN, GASTRONOMIC DELIGHTS. THE GUESTS AND NOT ONLY FROM BELARUS WERE WELCOMED HERE WITH ALL THE BREADTH OF THE BELARUSIAN SOUL.

# 26

# IN THE ISSUE

## 32 It's time for big plans and new opportunities

It is well known that Belarus relies on the active development of cooperation with the African continent. The President personally discusses specific agreements and projects with the top officials of African states. And not only. Recently, for example, at the Palace of Independence, Alexander Lukashenko met with the first Ladies of Zimbabwe, Oxilia Mnangagwa and Nigeria, Oluremi Tinubu. During the meeting, diverse issues of interstate cooperation were discussed. The subject matter of their discussion was also dictated by the fact that both Oxilia Mnangagwa and Oluremi Tinubu oversee important government areas in their countries.



## 36 REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY: MINSK REGION BEREZINO DISTRICT

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# IN THE ISSUE

## 50 Size doesn't matter

Does the size and shape of the skull affect our mental abilities? What does intelligence depend on and which hemisphere is more important here? How did incorrect conclusions on this basis become the foundation for racist theories and what tragedies in history did this lead to? Lays one people or three different nations?

## 54 Evil corporations

Illustrator of Pushkin and Grechanikov

## 58 Belarusian literature in the world

Chronicles of literary life. 1966 — 1985



## 96 MEMORY SHOULD NOT BE DULLED





# A HOLIDAY FOR ALL TIME

**80 years separate Belarusians from the day when Soviet troops liberated Minsk from the German occupiers during Operation Bagration. In honor of this historic event and its anniversary, as well as to commemorate the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus, a parade of troops was held in the capital.**





Belarusians must do everything to carry the historical memory of the Great Patriotic War through the centuries. During the parade, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus, President Alexander Lukashenko, emphasized this, specifying that on the same day the country solemnly celebrates its main state holiday - Independence Day. Exactly 80 years ago, on July 3, 1944, the last battles for the capital of Belarus died down, Alexander Lukashenko reminded and made the following message: "We know that we must do everything to carry this memory

through the centuries. There is a lot of pain and suffering, patience and courage, exploits and the triumph of justice. It contains hundreds of thousands of names of heroes and the strength of the nation of the heirs of the winners." The Head of State noted that the future of many peoples was being decided on the Belarusian land. The President of Belarus expressed confidence that it was a battle for freedom and the future of our people, for freedom and the future of the peoples of the entire continent. That was a sure step towards a Great Victory.







What else did President Alexander Lukashenko say in his speech at the military parade dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from Nazi invaders?

By celebrating Independence Day on July 3, we pay tribute to the memory of the Soviet soldiers who stood to death in the Brest fortress, near Minsk and Mogilev, Polotsk and Gomel, Orsha and Bykhov. On countless other large and small frontiers. We admire the willpower of Soviet women, the elderly and children who fought alongside men and worked in the rear, providing the front. We bow our heads before the bright memory of the peaceful victims and fallen heroes. These are millions of people. The terrible price of our freedom and independence, Alexander Lukashenko stressed.

Today, descendants admire the great generals Zhukov, Vasilevsky, Rokossovsky, as well as our countryman, Army General Antonov, the main developer of the plan for the strategic offensive operation Bagration. Its entire course — from the conception and preparation in unprecedented secrecy to the active phase — is an example of high military art and one of the most heroic pages of the Great Patriotic War, the Head of State did not fail to notice. And these words: "In every Belarusian city and every village lives the memory of our heroes. It is passed down from generation to generation, from heart to heart, connecting all of us with a living thread of love and loyalty to the Fatherland. This parade is a parade in their honor."

The President also said that in the name of peace, the country strengthens and develops the Armed Forces, improving the entire military organization of the state. The people, Alexander Lukashenko is sure, should know and see: everything is being done and even more so that the army, as well as the territorial defense forces and the people's militia, are ready to defend the country. So, near the stele "Minsk – hero city", 36 calculations consisting of more than five thousand military personnel passed in a walking column. The march was opened by drummers of the Minsk Suvorov School, representatives of the Lyceum of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and cadet schools of Belarus. Representatives of the Kemerovo Cadet School closed the line. They took part in the parade in Minsk for the first time.

In the historical part of the parade, some calculations were in the form of soldiers of the Great Patriotic War, partisans and in the clothes of policemen of that time. Parade crews from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan also marched along Masharov Avenue. Behind them is the deployed formation of the Military Academy and all major formations of the Armed Forces of Belarus. The audience also saw the parade calculations of other law enforcement agencies, the territorial troops of Minsk, the Air Force and Air Defense Forces, as well as the women's system.

The mechanized column of more than three hundred pieces of equipment was led by the parade crew of the





legendary T-34 tanks. They were followed by the Iskander, S-400 Triumph, and Polonaise multiple launch rocket systems. Among them were samples that had undergone deep modernization, as well as those that had recently entered the Armed Forces and were put into service. They also showed promising developments of defense industry enterprises that are undergoing state tests. Among them are unmanned aerial vehicles.

47 aircraft also flew in the sky over the capital. This part of the parade was opened by Mi-8 helicopters. The audience also saw the aerobatic groups "Russian Knights" and "Swifts". The planes of the final flight released smoke from the colors of the national flag of Belarus – red and green.

The military unit was completed by the parade ground of the consolidated honor guard company. A theatrical program began immediately after it, and samples of modern Belarusian-made equipment - passenger, municipal, freight, agricultural - drove along Masharov Avenue. Also, the fighters of the student detachments marched in the festive formation. The Moscow metro, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary, did not stand aside either. The train carriage symbolized the very first section of the Moscow subway – from the Institute of Culture station to Moskovskaya. The festive procession was completed by athletes.

Alexander Lukashenko gave a short interview to RT after the military parade. In particular, the correspondent asked why it is very important to convey to the young

the essence of independence, the essence of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders.

— You young people need this to preserve this independence, because without it there can be no state. And if there is no state, then there is no us. We are slaves just without it. Therefore, the most important thing is to keep it. Well, as you can see, we are together with you (with Russia. — Editor's note) we are trying, and something is working out, — Alexander Lukashenko replied.

— Why is it with Russia that such an amazing and independent alliance is being formed? — the journalist asked.

— Because Russia and we are common values, common ideas, common goals. We do not have similar relations with any other state. After all, it's not for nothing that we were so much in one state. Therefore, we have never even had such a question.

When asked which period of independence was the most difficult during the 30 years of his presidency, Alexander Lukashenko replied as follows:

— The most difficult period for a real President is the high trust of the people. Every day — morning, evening, night — you wake up in a cold sweat and think: they trusted you, how not to let you down. This is the hardest thing for a real President.

Vsevolod Evseev  
photo by BELTA and Viktor Ivanchikov



# SYMBOLS THAT CANNOT BE DEVALUED



**There are many good traditions. For example, respect elders, know history, be proud of modernity. The holiday that we celebrate in July embodies, among other things, these values. July 3rd is the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus. And even though this holiday is very young — born only at the turn of the previous and present centuries — it is symbolic and detailed like no other.**







After all, independence and sovereignty are sacred concepts. And we value them and respect them. Yes, we have a rich history — with more than a thousand years of Polotsk, with famous people from these lands, who in the old days became known throughout Europe, and even the world. And we are proud of it. But it is not for nothing that one of the origins, one of the starting points of the current holiday was the liberation of the Belarusian capital from the Nazis in the Great Patriotic War. After all, it was a symbolic, as well as undoubtedly heroic, victory over the brown Nazi plague — with unprecedented sacrifice in the name of freedom. And this is understandable to those who live today in modern Belarus, where almost every family preserves the memory of loved ones who were in that war and, as often happened, did not return from its deadly fields to their home. That is why the living embodiment of this holiday is both the gray-haired veteran, who will always be in the symbolic ranks of the victors of that war, and the young warrior, who today stands guard over the Motherland. That is why in honour of Independence Day there is a military parade and colourful fireworks. It is also a tradition that has its own compelling origins. However, a kind of personification of the holiday is a successful student, a competent specialist at an enterprise, and an authoritative teacher... All of us who care about the Motherland.

And more about symbols of memory. These dates are located very close to each other on the calendar: June 22nd

and July 3rd. The first commemorates the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, when on the morning of 1941 peaceful life in Belarus immediately ended. Hitler's Germany attacked the USSR, and the republic on the western border of the huge country was the first to experience destruction and death. It is known that Belarus, like no other European country, suffered the greatest losses in those years: every third of its residents died. But even now, many years later, researchers claim that not all of the losses were taken into account. It is no coincidence that a painstaking campaign is now underway to clarify the consequences of the genocide of the Belarusian people. You can usually hear that during the Great Patriotic War, the Nazis burned hundreds of Belarusian villages with their inhabitants. Tragic numbers. But it turns out that these are only villages that are immortalised in Khatyn, the world-famous Belarusian memorial complex. Scrupulous clarifications are still being made about exactly how many Belarusian villages and their inhabitants died during the war. In the 1980s, the following tragic statistics were published: 9,200 villages were burned, more than five thousand of them with people. And now it turns out that these figures also require revision. In the book *The Tragedy of Belarusian Villages. 1941-1944*, scientists published many previously unknown materials that change ideas about the scale of genocide in that war. One of the symbols of mournful memories of it is still the expression 'no one is forgotten, nothing is forgotten', which is a moral guideline for the current young generation.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY



Yes, there is another date — July 3rd — when in the new history of Belarus the country celebrates Independence Day. This is also the Day of the Liberation of Minsk in 1944 from the Nazis. Such is the symbol of national revival. It embodies the fact that freedom is the highest value. Through the lens of Independence Day, we look at this concept in its literal sense. Then, in the 1940s, our compatriots died for freedom, at the cost of their own lives they defended the land from the enemy. It is not without reason that already in the first days and even hours of the war, the defenders of the legendary Brest Fortress showed unprecedented heroism and fortitude. The words “I’m dying, but I’m not giving up”, written on one of the walls of the citadel, became a symbol of courage and dedication in confrontation with the

enemy. Of course, the origins of today’s state independence and sovereignty also come from that time.

Life, meanwhile, goes on. It brings new events that reflect the present and even look to the future. Although some of them again have a symbolic connection with the past. For example, two new memorial complexes on the site of villages burned during the war — Borki in the Kirovsk District of the Mogilev Region and Ola in the Svetlogorsk District of the Gomel Region — appeared on the map of the country. The tragedy of the village of Borki and surrounding settlements is called one of the largest in Belarus during the Great Patriotic War. As a result of the punitive operation, more than two thousand civilians were killed. Ola’s story is no less bitter. On the morning of January





14th, 1944, a German punitive detachment surrounded the village, where residents of a dozen nearby settlements had previously moved. People were driven into houses, which were then set on fire. Those who tried to escape were shot and thrown into the fire alive. A total of 1,758 civilians died there, 950 of them children. After the war, the village was never revived.

But the memory of all this, as well as other tragic moments of that war, remains forever.

Indeed, there are events that are not devalued with time. The Second World War rode like a heavy roller across Belarusian soil. About three million people died, more than two hundred cities, towns and regional centres, as well as about ten thousand villages and settlements, were destroyed, almost four hundred thousand Belarusians were driven into slavery in Germany. During the years of occupation, the Nazis created more than two hundred death camps in the territory of Belarus, as well as hundreds of prisons and ghettos, where hundreds of thousands of old people, women and children died. It is impossible to forget this. And it is not surprising that it was on Belarusian soil that an unprecedented resistance movement unfolded. The people's avengers did not give the enemy rest either day or night. More than one and a half million natives of Belarus fought on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War. Belarusians fought to the death near Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad and Kyiv, and participated in the liberation of villages and cities of their homeland, as well as the states of Eastern and Central Europe. About four hundred immigrants from Belarus became generals and admirals and commanded army and navy formations during the war. For their

heroism and valor in defending the Motherland during the war, 448 Belarusians were awarded the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union, four of them twice.

Yes, every third resident of Belarus died during the war. This is the price of freedom. We remember this. But let others know too. By the way, after World War II, Belarus became one of the founders of the United Nations. Not every state receives such a right. This choice was made in favour of Belarus — then one of the republics of the Soviet Union — precisely because of its great contribution to the defeat of fascism. Objectively and with dignity.

In Belarus, the soldier's feat is revered. Actually, how many modern teenagers found the heroes of that war alive? What do they think of it? One could give many examples when very young children selflessly searched for soldiers who died in the war, restored the names of unknown people, and took patronage over veterans. They remember and know about the war. They honour the victors.

Time passes and the world, or its configuration, as politicians say, is changing. But real values are not subject to revision. And it's better to 'fight' in competitions. A worthy way to identify the strong. Just like in sports, where people compete for the right to be first. After all, here the competition — despite all the intense struggle — is still the most peaceful. We need more partnership: between people, between countries. This is the strategic essence of international cooperation: the only true and relevant one. Belarus also focuses on it in its foreign policy: the partnership format is taken as the basis in relations with other states.

Vladimir Mikhailov





# BELARUSIAN PRIORITIES IN THE SCO





## **Belarus has officially become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The relevant documents were signed by all SCO member states at the July summit in Astana.**

### **The new status obliges**

The President of Belarus, in his speeches at the summit in Astana, clearly outlined the areas to which our country will pay close attention in the SCO. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that everything possible will be done to ensure that the organisation's weight and authority in the world grows. He also drew attention to the very significant and symbolic moment that the year in which the country was admitted to the SCO is the year of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders. And this is a wonderful gift to the Belarusian people.

It should be noted that the current summit was held for the first time in the format of a meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO member states and the SCO

Plus meeting. But first things first. Informal communication between the President of Belarus and his colleagues began on the evening of July 3rd upon arrival in the capital of Kazakhstan and actively continued on the sidelines of the summit itself the next day. Since Thursday morning, numerous motorcades have gathered at the Palace of Independence in Astana, where a meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was being held. Among the distinguished guests were the heads of state and government of Belarus, India, Iran, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Azerbaijan, Qatar, UAE, Türkiye and Turkmenistan. In addition to them, at the forum there were the SCO Secretary General, the executive director of the SCO Regional Anti-

Terrorist Structure, as well as the UN Secretary General and the heads of a number of other international organisations.

And now some information about the history of the creation of the SCO. So, in 1996, the Shanghai Five, the predecessor of the SCO, was created, which included Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Then the first agreements in the history of Asia on military confidence-building measures and the reduction of armed forces were signed. In 2001, Uzbekistan joined the five, and on June 15th, 2001, a new alliance began working — the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. One of the first documents adopted by the SCO was the Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism. A committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure





was also created with headquarters in Tashkent, which brought the organisation to a fundamentally new level. In 2017, India and Pakistan became members of the SCO. And in 2023 Iran joined them.

The territory of the SCO is more than 35 million square kilometres, that is, five percent of the territory of Eurasia. The population of the SCO is 3.5 billion people, which is half the world's population. The GDP of the SCO countries is \$23 trillion, which is a quarter of world GDP.

Russia, China, India and Iran are members of the Big Space Club. This is an informal association of states that have the ability to launch their own satellites using their own launch vehicle from their own spaceport. The so-called club of nuclear powers from the SCO member states includes Russia, China, India and Pakistan.

The working languages of the SCO are

Russian and Chinese. According to the International Monetary Fund for 2023, three countries of the bloc are among the top 7 world leaders with shares of GDP in the world economy: these are Russia (2.95 percent), India (7.59 percent) and China (18.73 percent). The combined share of just these three SCO states in the world economy is 29.27 percent.

### **Determination for big things**

The SCO summit in Astana was opened by the President of Kazakhstan, which chairs the organisation, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who stated that for almost a quarter of a century, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has become an important mechanism in the system of international relations and makes a significant contribution to ensuring sustainable growth and overall progress. In his opinion, by fruitfully interacting in the spheres

of politics and security, economics and culture, the SCO member countries set the vector for the development of the entire Eurasian continent. By jointly promoting the Shanghai principles, they turned the organisation into one of the most influential and authoritative international structures.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev warmly welcomed Aleksandr Lukashenko, noting that Belarus had completed all the necessary procedures in a short time on the way to full membership in the SCO, and expressed confidence that the country would make a significant contribution to strengthening security throughout the Eurasian space. After the signing ceremony, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev sincerely congratulated Aleksandr Lukashenko, "I am sure that today will become a bright page in the history of Belarus."



### Specific directions for future work

Aleksandr Lukashenko, in his first speech as the leader of an SCO member state, warmly thanked his Kazakh friends for the excellent organisation of the meeting and the warm welcome in hospitable Astana. The President of Belarus also cordially thanked all his colleagues, heads of state members of the organisation, for their unanimous support of this decision. The Head of the Belarusian State outlined specific areas to which Belarus, as a full member of the SCO, plans to pay increased attention.

First of all, in the 21st century it is necessary to build genuine and indivisible global security, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised. In this case, the SCO member states should take the initiative, since, as the President of Belarus put it, the narcissistic, selfish West was not capable of this. Today, in his opinion, there are no leaders there who are capable of making responsible decisions on their own. For its part, Belarus will try to adapt its initiatives in this most relevant area for everyone.

As for the economy itself, there are already mutually beneficial projects in energy, transport and logistics, finance and industrial cooperation.

One of the important modern issues on a global scale is food security. The challenge in this area is posed not only by traditional factors such as climate change and natural disasters, but also by artificial barriers, including illegal sanctions on fertilizers, equipment, plant protection products, and supply routes. As a result, people in developing countries, including the poorest countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, are forced to go hungry. We have the power to destroy the walls of a unipolar world, feed people, eliminating many contradictions and conflicts due to social inequality, shortages of food and resources, the Head of the Belarusian State emphasised.

Minsk will try to make every effort to ensure that the authority of the SCO

grows and the circle of its allies and supporters expands. Many Belarusian ideas expressed earlier have already received international support. This applies to technology transfer, information security, transport and logistics, industry, trade and investment. Addressing the summit participants, the Head of State noted that Belarus is starting to work in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation with the understanding that the SCO is not only about security, economics and trade. This also includes the mutual enrichment of cultures, which will inevitably lead to the rapprochement of peoples.

### Results-oriented dialogues

Strengthening multilateral dialogue as a desire for sustainable peace and development was the main topic at the meeting in the SCO Plus format, which was held for the first time on the sidelines of the summit in Astana. At the opening of the meeting, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev once again congratulated Aleksandr Lukashenko on the official entry of Belarus into the organisation and expressed confidence that our country will make a worthy contribution to strengthening cooperation and

increasing security in the SCO space. The President of Kazakhstan emphasised that dialogue in the SCO Plus format is an opportunity to determine the vector for further development of a profitable partnership and compare notes on current issues of the regional and global agenda. Today, the world faces serious challenges caused by unprecedented geopolitical contradictions and growing conflict potentials. The global security architecture is under threat, which could lead to dire consequences for all of humanity. During this fateful period, the SCO countries are entrusted with a huge responsibility for strengthening peace, stability, and security through collective efforts at the regional and global level. In essence, the SCO, taking into account its authority, is capable of developing effective solutions to achieve the goal of sustainable development and overcome challenges.

The leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation countries at a meeting in the capital of Kazakhstan adopted the Astana Declaration and two dozen more decisions that relate to interaction in various fields. The Astana





Declaration is aimed at increasing the role of the SCO in creating conditions for strengthening global peace, security and stability, building a new democratic, fair political and economic international order, as well as improving the SCO mechanisms for countering challenges and threats to security, combating terrorism, separatism and extremism, drug trafficking, arms smuggling and other types of transnational organised crime. The leaders of the SCO countries also approved the initiative 'On World Unity for a Just Peace, Harmony and Development', decided to finalise and agree on the draft SCO development strategy until 2035, and considered issues of improving the organisation's activities.

A programme of cooperation between the SCO states in countering terrorism, separatism and extremism for 2025 — 2027, an anti-drug strategy for 2024 — 2029 and an action programme for its implementation, a strategy for the development of energy cooperation until 2030, an action plan for the implementation of the SCO economic development strategy for the same period were approved.

In addition, a decision was made on the SCO Investors Association. This is a multilateral consulting and expert platform created to promote the development of investment cooperation, establishing interaction between business circles, ministries and government departments in the field of investment activities. A decision was also signed on mechanisms for financial support of SCO project activities.

A programme has been approved to develop cooperation in the field of protected areas and eco-tourism. The Chinese city of Qingdao has been declared the tourist and cultural capital of the SCO in 2024—2025. A roadmap has been approved to strengthen interaction between the SCO member states and the SCO dialogue partners.

A decision was made to sign a memorandum of understanding between the SCO Secretariat and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors.

A decision was signed on a plan for interaction between SCO states on issues of ensuring international information security. The validity period of the corresponding previous plan has been extended to 2024—2025.

Representative of Kazakhstan Nurlan Ermekbayev, who currently holds the post of Deputy Secretary General of the SCO, was appointed Secretary General of the SCO for the period from January 1st, 2025 to December 31st, 2027.

The Council of Heads of State of the SCO member states also adopted statements 'On the Principles of Good Neighbourliness, Trust and Partnership', 'On Ensuring the Safety of Drinking Water and Sanitation', 'On Effective Waste Management'. In addition, on the sidelines of the summit, an intergovernmental agreement was signed between SCO members on cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

### **The basis is a mutually beneficial partnership**

On the sidelines of the SCO summit in Astana, Aleksandr Lukashenko had intense bilateral meetings and negotiations. Summing up the results of the SCO summit, Foreign Minister Maksim Ryzhenkov later told journalists many details, but the important thing that is worth paying attention to is that a number of meetings and events of the Head of State were not public and not on camera. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko began a series of informal negotiations literally immediately upon arrival. But on the sidelines of the summit, media representatives were even able to attend some of the President's meetings in person.

One of such meetings of the Head of State was with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif. By the way, the Head of State has met with the prime ministers of this country five times over the past five years on the sidelines of multilateral summits. Well, as Aleksandr Lukashenko himself noted, he managed to communicate with Shehbaz Sharif within the framework of this event three times. And this is a sure sign that the parties have something substantive to talk about.





The President of Belarus warmly thanked Pakistan for its assistance in our country's accession to the SCO, congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on his recent election as Prime Minister, and also outlined plans for the further development of bilateral cooperation. Among the interesting plans voiced by the President, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he would definitely try to visit Pakistan by the end of the year. The President of Belarus is convinced that the period when the parties looked closely, studied each other, tried to consider the areas in which they could cooperate, is over, "It's time for us to move on to specific measures to establish the closest ties between our countries."

By the way, a few numbers: in 2023, trade turnover between the countries amounted to 48.1 million dollars, exports — 31.9 million. The growth of Belarusian exports to Pakistan in the last two years is associated with the restoration of supplies of our tractors and fertilizers. Work is underway with the Pakistani side to agree on a draft road map to increase trade turnover between the Republic of Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 2024 — 2026.

**Belarus — UN.** Aleksandr Lukashenko also met with United Nations Secretary General António Guterres. Cooperation with the UN is the most important vector of our state's foreign policy. Belarus became one of the founding countries of the organisation and from the first days of its membership took an active position in it. During the period of independence, we introduced a number of important initiatives

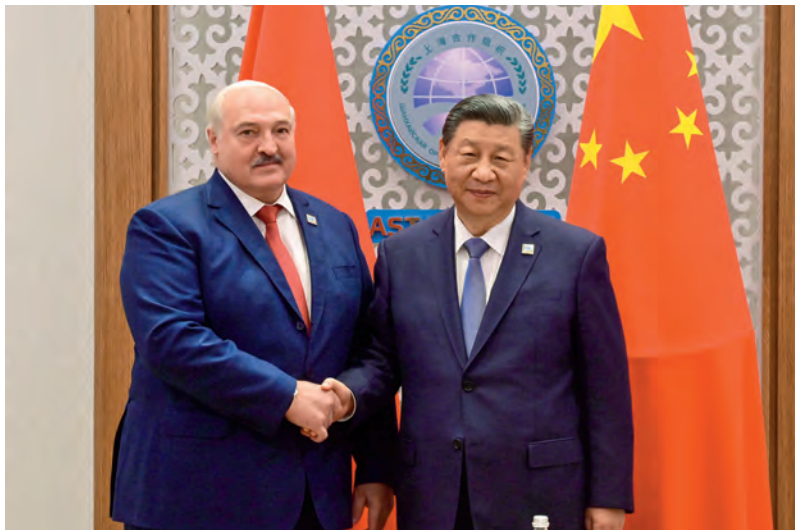
to the UN that strengthened the positive image of the country in the international arena. The initiative to form a partnership to combat human trafficking, which was presented by the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the 2005 summit, became widely known. Another initiative of the President at that summit, which was reflected in many documents of the UN General Assembly and the Non-Aligned Movement, recognition of the diversity of paths for progressive development, remains relevant in the current geopolitical conditions.

Since 2006, Belarus has been promoting the UN General Assembly resolution on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons. In addition, the country is actively promoting the initiative of the Head of State on the need to begin a broad international dialogue to restore trust and strengthen security in the spirit of San Francisco, which he addressed to the heads of state and government in May 2022.

**Belarus — Türkiye.** Another meeting of the President of Belarus, one might say, behind closed doors, with the President of the Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Let us remind







you that Türkiye ranks sixth in terms of mutual trade turnover and eighth in exports of Belarusian goods among Belarus' trading partners. In 2019, the presidents agreed to gradually increase the volume of bilateral trade turnover to \$1.5 billion. In 2023, trade turnover exceeded the billion mark for the third year in a row and amounted to almost \$1.26 billion.

**Belarus — China.** The journalist pool of the Belarusian President on the sidelines of the Palace of Independence in Astana met the leaders of Belarus and China several times. And each time the heads of state communicated enthusiastically. The office meeting, however, also took place without the media. But the nuances became clear. Xi Jinping first of all congratulated Aleksandr Lukashenko on Belarus receiving a new status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

"Yesterday (July 3rd) Independence Day was celebrated in your country, and today your country has become a full member of the SCO. I warmly congratulate you."

The President of the People's Republic of China recalled that last year the Belarusian President visited China twice. During the negotiations, the parties outlined plans to develop an all-weather and strategic partnership,

while close contacts are maintained at all levels, "I am deeply convinced that we will contribute to the further stable development of our relations by leaps and bounds."

Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that he was glad for this meeting and thanked the President of the People's Republic of China and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China for the tremendous support of Belarus on the path to membership in the SCO. He also said, "I am very glad that you are becoming chairman (in 2025 China will chair the SCO), this means that I will have an extra opportunity to visit the People's Republic of China next year. I wrote down your initiatives that you are promoting in the SCO (global security, global development, global civilization, global management of artificial intelligence — you have already noticed both positive and negative in artificial intelligence), and we strongly support all your initiatives."

Especially, the Head of State emphasised, the main initiative is to resolve the Ukrainian crisis, which is consonant with the initiative of Brazil.

Having held the main bilateral meeting with the participation of delegations, the leaders of Belarus

and China returned to the summit in the SCO Plus format, and then resumed negotiations, but this time one-on-one. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping talked for a long time, if necessary, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the conversation. Among the negotiations of the President of Belarus were the negotiations with the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh. They also discussed the results of the recent parliamentary elections, on which Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated.

There was a lot of discussion about negotiations with Vladimir Putin. All speculation was dispelled by the President's Pool telegram channel, "The presidents of Belarus and Russia talked in detail yesterday (July 3rd), and continued today (July 4th). The busy Astana agenda did not interfere — the leaders had already spoken five times during the day. We advise you not to worry — Lukashenko and Putin are in constant contact."

Aleksandr Lukashenko answered several questions from correspondents of the Kazinform news agency and the Jibek Joly TV channel. Answering the question about how the Head of State was received in Astana, he did not hide the fact that he was at home, "Astana, as always, is a beautiful, developing city, which is already approaching the hero city Minsk in terms of population."

### Agreements as a promising basis

Foreign Minister Maksim Ryzhenkov told reporters about some of the results of the working visit of the President of Belarus to Kazakhstan and the details of bilateral meetings. According to him, the President had a very busy agenda. Those negotiations that have already been reported in the media are just the tip of the iceberg of contacts that the Head of State has had over these days. There were a lot of unofficial events. Meetings were held with the leaders of almost all



delegations. We met with Vladimir Putin even three times, if not more. Of course, this made it possible to discuss the development of bilateral relations at the highest level with the leaders of other states, find solutions and discuss plans for cooperation. For example, at a meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif, an action plan was outlined for the next five months, which should end with a serious summit meeting with the signing of a roadmap for our cooperation.

The same, says Maksim Ryzhenkov, can be said about Türkiye. The leaders agreed on a number of contacts at the level of the ministries of foreign affairs and finance on the implementation of some projects that should bring our trade turnover to a higher level. By the way, according to our data, it is more than a billion dollars. According to the Turkish side — about two billion. Speaking about Aleksandr Lukashenko's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Maksim

Ryzhenkov emphasised that this was the pinnacle of foreign policy meetings. In August, the Prime Minister of the State Council of the People's Republic of China comes to Minsk. The President said: all instructions have been given, the Chinese leadership supports us in everything, sectoral ministers are working as they should. Well, the rough edges that exist in the implementation of some projects will be discussed during the upcoming visit.

According to Maksim Ryzhenkov, a wide range of issues were discussed during the meeting of the Belarusian President with UN Secretary General António Guterres. He noted that almost the entire meeting was devoted to the activities of the UN in Belarus and the beginning of a new cycle of interaction. Guterres dwelt in detail on the fact that Belarus is a very reliable partner in the implementation of all the goals and objectives that the UN sets for itself. They talked a lot

about the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Secretary General said several times that he likes how the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented in our country in all areas, "We were told that there are no complaints against us and we are going the right way."

Summarising what was said, the head of the Foreign Ministry emphasised that participation in this kind of summits, where such a powerful pool of states is represented, is very important for Belarus. This is a good opportunity to discuss and resolve issues with the leaders of many countries in one place and leave with specific action plans. In addition, everything in the SCO is based on the principles of equality, trust, respect for the diversity of cultural development, civilizational choice, resolving issues through consultations and joint movement forward towards common development.

Vladimir Velikhov  
photo by BELTA



# REGIONS SET THE TONE

**The 11th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia has traditionally become the platform where current issues of Belarusian-Russian interaction were discussed, new approaches were developed for their effective solution, and further strengthening of partnerships**



## **Among the successful projects**

It should immediately be noted that the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and the President of Russia Vladimir Putin made video messages to the participants of the 11th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia. Aleksandr Lukashenko, in his video message, drew attention to the fact that the forum was held in the year of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders, which has a special symbolism. These days we remember those who gave their lives for freedom and independence. Unlimited gratitude to the Soviet soldiers for the Victory, the opportunity to develop and make plans for the future. According to the President of Belarus, one of the main lessons of that terrible war is that fraternal peoples must always be together, shoulder to shoulder to overcome emerging challenges, defend statehood, their traditions and values. Only together can we ensure the safety and well-being of people. Aleksandr Lukashenko is confident that the Forum of Regions is one of the most successful and productive projects of

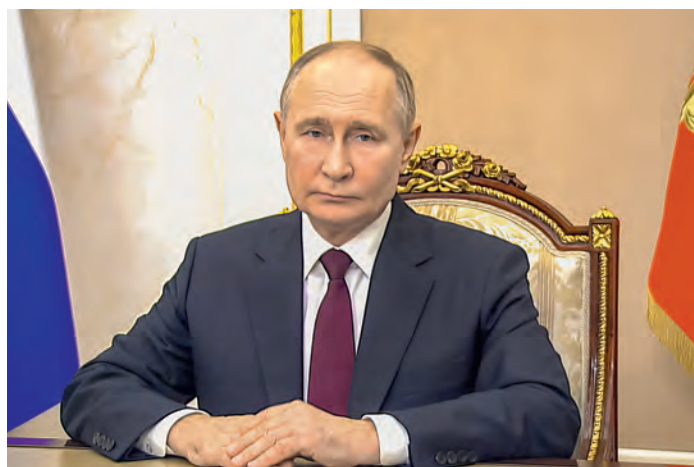
the Union State, because it has acquired its own special, unique style and continues to grow with bold, ambitious initiatives. By the way, at different times, at the forum's venues, serious successes were achieved in bringing macroeconomic, industrial, agricultural, scientific, technical and educational policies closer together. Now the agenda of the forum naturally includes the issues of building an innovative economy of the Union State.

Indeed, in the modern world, ensuring technological sovereignty and national security is unthinkable without the development and implementation of innovative solutions. Belarus and Russia have all the necessary conditions for this, Aleksandr Lukashenko believes. The best scientific schools have been preserved in the Union countries and a strong material base has been ensured. A unified industrial policy is being implemented and a unified scientific and technological space is being formed. But the most important thing is the possession of powerful human potential. In recent years alone, a number of research and production projects have

been implemented. Unmanned mining dump trucks have been created, and unique technologies have been developed for personalised medicine and personal identification. A nuclear power plant was built in Belarus and the production of multifunctional unmanned aerial systems was launched. We have developed a system for remote sensing of the Earth to prevent emergency situations, design and build roads, and protect nature. Together, Russians and Belarusians are exploring space and planning to produce the most modern aircraft. Of course, a lot has been done. But Aleksandr Lukashenko is sure that we cannot stop there. We must strive to ensure that innovation becomes the main driving force of the economies of Belarus and Russia.

### Counter movement of partners

In fact, in the video message of Russian President Vladimir Putin, the importance of the fact that the current forum is dedicated to the role of interregional cooperation in building the innovative economy of the Union State was emphasised. The topic, in the opinion of the Russian president, is one of the most relevant, since both Russia and Belarus are now actively working on solving the problem of introducing new technologies into all spheres of economic life, developing knowledge-intensive industries and agriculture. This, as was emphasised, is necessary to strengthen the sovereignty of the two states, increase competitiveness and ensure sustainable economic growth in the long term and, naturally, requires the energetic,



Initiative, creativity, and unconventional thinking should set trends in the economic development of the two countries. Undoubtedly, solving these problems requires the training of highly qualified specialists. That is why priority attention will henceforth be given to preserving and strengthening potential in the field of science and education.

Practice has shown that the development of an innovative economy is impossible without the active position of the regions. The creation of high-tech enterprises at the local level can become the most promising and sustainable points of economic growth. Such projects will help in solving social problems — creating new jobs, maintaining local human resources, and attracting young people to production. Aleksandr Lukashenko has no doubt that the ideas of the past Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia will definitely find their implementation. This means that both countries will reach a new level of union integration, development of advanced technologies and innovations, and implementation of strategic priorities.

creative participation of not only the federal and central authorities, but also the regions.

As you know, this time the forum, on the initiative of the Belarusian side, was held for the first time in three cities at once: Vitebsk, Polotsk and Novopolotsk. This approach to organising meetings of regional representatives deserves attention, Vladimir Putin did not fail to note. As was also emphasised by the fact that Belarus is one of Russia's key economic partners. In turn, more than half of Belarusian foreign trade transactions occur in Russia. Last year, for example, trade turnover increased by more than five percent, rising to a record \$46.5 billion. And the 'engine' of countertrade is precisely the regions: enterprises, wholesale suppliers, logistics centres located in various parts of both countries. Meanwhile, in terms of accumulated investments in the Belarusian economy, Russia firmly holds first place — over \$5 billion. Again, more than two thousand companies with Russian capital operate successfully throughout Belarus. Great practical benefits for deepening Russian-Belarusian interregional cooperation are brought





by integration processes developing both within the Union State and through the Eurasian Economic Union.

It is worth recalling that in January of this year a new strategy for the scientific and technological development of the Union State was approved in St. Petersburg. The document establishes that in the period until 2035, Russia and Belarus will implement a number of joint high-tech projects for import substitution, launching new advanced production facilities and introducing competitive products with high added value to the market. Much is already being done in this direction by the Russian and Belarusian regions. For example, the Ural Civil Aviation Plant and the aircraft repair plant in the Belarusian Baranovichi are working together to create a light multi-purpose aircraft. Enterprises in Moscow and St. Petersburg, the Moscow and Leningrad regions, as well as Minsk and the Minsk Region have established cooperation in the production of optical devices and photonics devices for communication systems, data transmission and computer science. Regional research centres and design bureaus in Russia and Belarus are working together to design the orbital and ground components of Earth observation and navigation satellite constellations.

And of course, Vladimir Putin could not help but talk about the largest, strategic innovative Russian-Belarusian project — the construction of a nuclear power plant in the Grodno Region. Contractors from many Russian and Belarusian regions were involved in its construction. To date, the Belarusian NPP has already generated more than 30 billion kilowatt-hours of inexpensive and clean electricity for the needs of the Belarusian economy. The President of Russia



also noted that regional scientific centres and universities are actively involved in cooperation, which is implemented through the academies of sciences of the two countries, as well as in educational exchanges. In particular, about 12 thousand citizens of Belarus are currently studying in Russian educational institutions, and in the next academic year about another one and a half thousand Belarusian students will be able to enrol in Russian universities on a budgetary basis.

### Taking on new heights

The historical mission of the current generations is to ensure the inevitability of the innovative development of the Union State. These words, spoken by the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus Natalya Kochanova at the plenary session of the 11th Forum of Regions, essentially became the main theme of the grand union event held in three cities of the Vitebsk Region at once. A qualitative expansion of areas of joint work is not just recognition of the success and high efficiency of cooperation, but evidence of a steady increase in its role in the institutional system of the Union State and the deepening of Belarusian-Russian integration construction, emphasised Natalya Kochanova. She noted that Belarus and Russia continue to develop successfully, defending and developing union integration taking into account national interests, adapting flexibly to the conditions of geopolitical reality and demonstrating good growth rates. Largely thanks to the Forum of Regions, which stimulates the consistent joint work of the regions of the Republic of Belarus and the constituent entities of



the Russian Federation in the trade, economic, investment, and humanitarian spheres. It is not for nothing that over the past ten years, about six hundred agreements of various levels have been signed and commercial contracts have been concluded for a total amount of more than twenty billion Belarusian roubles. In terms of the amount of contracts concluded this year, the forum surpassed all previous records: partners approached the mark of more than 1 billion 100 million Belarusian roubles, or 30 billion Russian roubles. More than 250 documents were signed on the sidelines of the forum.

The 11th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia reached new heights in terms of the results achieved, as confirmed by the Chairwoman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia Valentina Matvienko. In her opinion, this indicates the demand for this format. Valentina Matvienko believes that interregional cooperation is the framework of the Union State. And the more successfully such direct contacts and connections between regions and between people develop, the stronger the union will be. This is a mutually beneficial, mutually respectful format, taking into account national interests and national characteristics. There is no older and younger brother here. And each of the parties, both Russia and Belarus, becomes twice as strong from this very effective, beneficial cooperation.

### Governments confirm

All programmes of the Union State are aimed at creating new centres of competence and high-tech production, Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Anatoly Sivak confirmed at the forum. According to him, cooperation



between Belarus and Russia in the scientific, technical and innovation sphere for many years has made a significant contribution to the positive dynamics of the development of social and economic ties and the increase in trade turnover between the countries. In the context of global instability and sanctions restrictions, ensuring technological sovereignty, effective import substitution, and modernisation of production has become a vital necessity. The Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of the Union State for the period until 2035, approved in January 2024, contains specific measures to strengthen overall technological sovereignty, including the organisation of joint programmes and projects to create competitive products with high added value. Virtually all programmes of the Union State are aimed at creating new



centres of competence and high-tech production. And here direct ties between Belarus and the regions of the Russian Federation play an extremely important role.

The current Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia will undoubtedly give impetus to interregional cooperation and joint development of science and technology, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Chernyshenko is also convinced. In his opinion, this was an excellent platform for strengthening contacts. And today the partners hope to receive much greater profits from cooperation in the scientific field, implementing the innovation economy. It is not for nothing that almost all the speaking heads of regions and regions mentioned this at the forum. Of course, it is necessary to make maximum use of all scientific and technological potential. And for this it is extremely important to develop the intellectual property market. By the way, representatives of 56 regions of Russia, including 14 governors, as well as 27 chairmen of legislative bodies of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, took an active part in the work of the 11th Forum of Regions.

economy of the Union State — was emphasised more than once at this meeting. Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova particularly focused on this, noting that this is a key condition for ensuring the technological sovereignty and national security of the two countries. After all, the era of breakthrough scientific solutions, innovations and high-tech achievements dictates its own strict rules of competition and struggle for leading positions in the system of international coordinates. And only those who keep up with the times, anticipate progress and are not afraid to lead the integral and inevitable processes of our time will succeed.

### Common goals and priorities

So, thousands of guests and participants — representatives of 64 regions of the Russian Federation — came to the forum dedicated to interregional cooperation in building the innovative economy of the Union State. The business programme was large-scale and multifaceted, covering almost



■ Valentina Matvienko



■ Natalya Kochanova

### Relevance of the stated topic

The plenary session of the forum was preceded by a meeting of the chairpersons of the upper houses of the Belarusian and Russian parliaments, Natalya Kochanova and Valentina Matvienko, with the heads of government bodies of the regions of the Republic of Belarus and constituent entities of the Russian Federation. It was attended by representatives of the Belarusian Embassy in Russia and the Russian Embassy in Belarus, heads of regional and Minsk city executive committees, regional and Minsk city councils of deputies. As well as representatives of the Standing Committee of the Union State, federal executive authorities, senior officials of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and heads of legislative (representative) bodies of its constituent entities. The relevance of the stated topic of the forum — the role of interregional cooperation in building the innovative

all spheres of the national economy of the two countries — from industry to medicine, pharmaceuticals and cooperation in education. Yes, this time the Forum of Regions is taking place simultaneously in Vitebsk, Novopolotsk and Polotsk. The three cities adequately prepared for such an important event and hospitably received their neighbours from Russia. And the programme was very intensive. For example, in Vitebsk, in addition to various exhibitions and fairs, a joint meeting of the Youth Parliament at the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and the Chamber of Young Legislators at the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation was held. Here, at a session of control departments, specialists from Belarus and Russia discussed the topic of innovation as the most important factor in the economic security of the Union State, as well as the general goals and priorities of state financial control.

The chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries worked together to develop a common plan of action. Professionals from the two countries discussed issues of innovative medicine and pharmacy of the Union State at VSMU. Cooperation in the field of light industry — at Vitebsk Carpets JSC. Sectional sessions on the development of interregional cooperation and effective implementation of legislation were held in Polotsk. And in Novopolotsk a dialogue took place on innovations in the field of education and ensuring technological independence. In total, on the first day of the forum alone, nine sections worked on various topics of interstate cooperation.

### New cooperation routes

It must be said that Belarus and Russia have made enormous preliminary preparations for the 11th Forum of Regions. The results are obvious. About 50 enterprises of the Vitebsk Region signed about four hundred commercial contracts for the sale of Belarusian products to the Russian Federation. The amount of such a transaction is over 59 billion Russian roubles. This is despite the fact that since the beginning of the year, exports to Russia in monetary terms have reached \$650 million. Eight commercial contracts totalling 175 million Russian roubles and 29 million dollars were signed during the forum.

New routes for mutually beneficial cooperation were determined during the presentation of the regions, as well as during a large-scale exhibition of achievements of the national economy of Belarus and Russia, which took place in Vitebsk at the site of the cultural and sports complex of the Summer Amphitheatre. About 30 Russian and more than 90 Belarusian enterprises and organizations take part in it. By the way, since the beginning of this year, residents of the Vitebsk FEZ alone have concluded more than 450 contracts with enterprises and organisations of the Russian Federation for a total amount of 50 billion Russian roubles.

### Space for innovation

Of course, among the most important topics discussed by the participants of the 11th Forum of Regions were the prospects for cooperation between Belarus and Russia in the innovation sphere in the international context. In his speech at the relevant section, the Director of the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Studies, Oleg Makarov, noted that achieving technological sovereignty is impossible without creating an innovative business model that combines the traditional features of national economies and the development of new mechanisms for gaining competitive advantages. Moreover, the latter should include systematic improvement of the intellectual component. In other words, the success story of the Union State will largely depend on deepening cooperation and highlighting country specialisation, which will help create new competencies and ensure a smooth transition to new formats of economic




development. By the way, on the eve of the opening of the forum, Belarusian Institute of Strategic Studies held a round table, where experts from various fields analysed the potential and reserves of Belarusian-Russian interaction at the regional level. In particular, issues of the development of small towns, the future of the countryside, business prospects and opportunities for youth were raised.

Aleksey Fedosov  
photo by BELTA and Viktor Ivanchikov



A woman with red hair and bangs, wearing a white lace blouse and a red beaded necklace, holds a large bouquet of pink and yellow flowers. She is looking down at the flowers with a gentle smile. The background is a clear blue sky.

# THE MOST POPULAR, MOST SOULFUL SUMMER HOLIDAY



**According to tradition, the Alexandria Gathers Friends festival was held in July. On the banks of the Dnieper there was everything to get an emotional charge: music, songs, dances, a spectacular air show, sports competitions, master classes from folk craftsmen, gastronomic delights. Guests — and not only from Belarus were greeted here with all the breadth of the Belarusian soul.**

This festival takes place in the agricultural town of Alexandria, Shklov District, Mogilev Region. Thousands of people from different countries come here to enjoy the vibrant action on the picturesque banks of the Dnieper. And every year there are more and more of them. The festival *Alexandria Gathers Friends* has acquired a wide creative scope over the course of a decade and a half and has become a real cultural brand of Belarus.

#### **The festival's rich pedigree**

Since ancient times, the Dnieper united the East Slavic peoples and was the artery of the route 'from the Varangians to the Greeks'. Today, the bridge, next to which the festival takes place, connects two districts and two regions — Shklov District in the Mogilev Region and Orsha District in the Vitebsk Region. It connects the village of Kopys and Alexandria, the small homeland of the President.

For the first time, the *Alexandria Gathers Friends* festival was held in 2010, the idea was supported by the Head of State and taken under patronage. Aleksandr Lukashenko attended the celebration and, after getting acquainted with the farmsteads, noted that he was pleasantly surprised by the attention to the festival from numerous guests. At that time, residents of surrounding villages, representatives of Orsha, Shklov, Mogilev and Minsk came to the agricultural town. In total, more than three thousand people took part in the first summer festival. A rich programme has been prepared for participants and guests. There was everything there — from the 'city of craftsmen' and shopping arcades, where you could try traditional Belarusian dishes and drinks, to performances by folk groups, a concert with the participation of Belarusian pop artists.

The second festival received greater scope. It was dedicated to one of the full-fledged heroes of Kupala Night — the Dnieper. Fire rafts then floated along the deep river, and the fire on the shore rose 10 meters high. There were also round dances, traditional for Kupala Night, and the launching of wreaths and candles. In addition, you could ride horses and see demonstration jumps of





parachutists. In the open spaces of the festival, there was a field cinema; in terms of gastronomy, the outdoor trade was pleasing. The programme ended with fireworks and a laser show.

Next time, about 50 thousand people from all regions of Belarus became guests and participants of the festival. And a year later, 62 thousand guests visited Alexandria! Festivals of flax, kvass, and beer were held there, a master class was held for participants in the international plein air ceramics show *Art Zhyzhal*, and performances by amateur art groups were widely presented.

For the fifth time, hospitable Alexandria surprised with a unique art event — Vyaliki Alexandriyski Kirmash (Big Alexandria Fair), which was held here with three separate large-scale fairs: Nizhny Novgorod — from Russia, Sorochinsk — from Ukraine and the domestic one — Alexandria.

The next year in Belarus was declared the Year of Youth, which also affected the cultural programme of the festival. There was a festive programme *Youth. Traditions. Future*, exhibition *Our Ideas to You, Belarus!*, Kupala mix show *Cornflower Summer*, theatrical production *Paparats Kvetka* (Fern Flower).

And then the scale became even greater. The following festival surprised us with the abundance of folk crafts. More than 600 craftsmen from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania presented their products. At the festival, for

the first time, an excursion *Alexandria Trip* was organised, where Belarusian culture was presented in its various manifestations, including national cuisine, literature and folklore.

A year later, the festival in Alexandria had already acquired international status, presenting to the audience the variety circus production *Kupala Night Dream* with the participation of groups from Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland. Guests were invited to participate in the educational quest game *In Search of a Fern Flower* with visits to thematic areas.

In 2018, visitors were impressed by the musical *Small Homeland* on the main stage. The second part of the festival was dedicated to the Days of Ukrainian Culture in Belarus. Bright lines of the festival biography

Love for the small homeland became the main theme of the tenth festival in 2019. Participants from seven countries — Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland — performed on stage and demonstrated folk crafts at the exhibition fair.

In 2020, the culmination of the large-scale celebration was the gala concert *Made in Belarus* with the participation of pop stars. This year the republican festival was held under the patronage of UNESCO for the first time.

The next festival was no less surprising. In Alexandria, the exhibition fair *Rushnyk of National Unity* was held, and a circus festival was held with the participation of famous



artists. A republican powerlifting competition and a display of linen clothing collections from manufacturers were held there.

About 70 thousand people visited the festival in 2022. Masters of decorative and applied arts from 13 regions of Russia presented their creativity at the festive fair, and over 80 craftsmen from Tajikistan came. Guests were treated to a fashion show and air show.

The Year of Peace and Creation, announced in our country in 2023, was the theme of the last festival. Then 75 thousand people came to Alexandria. According to tradition, domestic brands were presented to the guests of the festival. For example, the #President'sMerch and Back Home pavilions operated here with the sale of products from Bellegprom concern enterprises. Adults and children took part in weaving wreaths, making jugs, enjoyed folk music, and danced in a round dance.

The main directions of the current festival were the theme of the Year of Quality, as well as the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders. And the symbol of the festival was the Kupala wreath.

Origins of spirit and strength

So, the festival *Alexandria Gathers Friends* is 15 years old, and during this time it has become another national brand of Belarus, turning from a small cosy holiday into an event of international scale. The President certainly spends these July days with his fellow countrymen. He came to the Kupala Night festival this time too. Addressing the participants and guests of the festival, he spoke a lot about the connection between times and generations, about the importance of preserving traditions and true values. And it's good, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, that our generation has revived this wonderful tradition: gathering on the



banks of the ancient Dnieper on these Kupala days to feel for a moment the connection of times.

Nevertheless, the President noted, the festival in Alexandria has not lost its comfort and special aura. The festival has become a place of attraction for creative people and true fans of the original Slavic culture from all over Belarus and from other countries. According to the Head of State, this is a call from the soul. This is the desire for true values, where guests are sincerely welcome, where the pulse of living, creative power beats. But the main thing we did was revive the traditions of our ancestors. We are developing the original national culture. Let's agree: it is not enough to know and remember these traditions; they should become part of modern history.

Folk music is the song of the Slavic soul. Alexandria has truly become the centre of the revival of ancient ritual and craft traditions. This is the only way to preserve your identity — continuing the thousand-year history of the East Slavic peoples. Knowledge of this history, understanding of the philosophy of our native culture is our national treasure. And we must preserve it if we want to be a people, if we want to be a nation, "This is the basis of the foundations of Belarusian statehood. Each of us has our own place of power, where we come or return to take a deep breath and spread our wings for a new flight."





Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that the world is changing at breakneck speed. It seems to us that we have learned everything and conquered everything. We create an alternative reality in the social media, sometimes we live on this Internet, we are cut off from real life, “But, thank God, there are people like you — with pure thoughts and a kind heart. People who believe in miracles come to Alexandria year after year to celebrate the night of Ivan Kupala. A holiday covered in ancient legends and myths. And God grant that everything you think about and wish for comes true. For you, on this fertile land there is a spring of clean water and Trofim’s Spring. We Alexandrians believe in its miraculous power.”

The President said that during the Great Patriotic War, mothers and wives sprinkled water from this source on men going to the front, “There is no better protection than love for the native land and faith in its strength. We pass this tradition on to our children and generously share it with friends. We have found what our ancestors have been searching for a thousand years. We learned the true meaning of life. Our love of peace, desire for friendship, respect for the traditions of different cultures is that same fern flower with the secret of the world encoded in it. Peace in all its senses. And there will be enough power of the hospitable Alexandria land and water from Trofim’s Spring for everyone.”



The atmosphere at the festival was truly homely, warm and cosy. This is probably why Aleksandr Lukashenko, being in his native land, of course, could not help but share his personal things. Thirty years ago, people elected the then very young deputy of the Supreme Council as the first President of sovereign Belarus. Speaking in Alexandria, he mentioned that it was in his small homeland that he drew strength to serve the Motherland and the people. He also admitted that what he could never learn during the years of his presidency was complacency and indifference.

Belarus has become a quiet, calm, cosy corner for Russians and Ukrainians. The Head of State spoke about one of his meetings with Muscovites in a Belarusian village, “They were not poor people. I asked them why they came here with their families every year. Why did they need this? The answer was that they came for the calm atmosphere and that they felt at ease here. We and our children need this. Especially if there is Trofim’s Spring nearby...”

Aleksandr Lukashenko recommended that everyone find time and plunge into this natural source of health, as many of our guests from Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia have already done and are doing.



### Art without borders

In the agricultural town on the banks of the Dnieper, guests from different parts of the country and neighbouring countries celebrated the Kupala festival. The anniversary *Alexandria* turned out to be large-scale, bringing together in one place the residents of Mogilev and Minsk, Orsha and Borisov, Moscow and St. Petersburg — in total more than 96 thousand guests! They were surprised by national cuisine, unusual competitions, exhibitions, film screenings, performances by pop stars, aviation shows, unique photo zones, from where pictures instantly flew out to social media. A kaleidoscope of impressions!

Every year, for the Kupala holiday, Alexandria blossoms before our eyes. A festival town grows here, attracting numerous artisans and artists. Folk rituals and folklore are an indisputable component of the cultural code of a nation, and the celebration is dedicated to them. The concept of this year's holiday is based on the idea of a Kupala wreath. Therefore, it is not at all surprising that people come to the expanses of the agricultural town to see with their own eyes a truly unusual and colourful event. This time, representatives of more than ten countries, residents of more than three dozen regions of Russia visited here, which indicates the growing popularity of the festival.

Creative competitions were very popular at the festival. In Alexandria, the results of the Kupala wreath competition were summed up, which included Mogilev and Bobruisk, as well as 21 districts of the Mogilev Region. And in general, the theme of the Kupala wreath was reflected in many locations — in the centre of the festival town, for example, craftswomen made headdresses for guests from fresh flowers.



The special pride of the festival is its unusual exhibitions. They presented different things — from advanced tractor models to unique souvenirs and delicious confectionery products.

The National Historical Museum amazed with its exhibition dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the presidency in Belarus: the exhibition attracted both adults and children, who kept their eyes on the colourful exhibits, through which they could learn about the achievements of our country throughout its history.

Many also hurried to the Belarusfilm pavilion, where themed photo zones were prepared for guests. There was even a field cinema showing the best films from different years.

The busy day ended with a concert of superstars. Belarusian and Russian artists lit up the big stage. Time will tell what surprises the next Alexandria will bring. In the meantime, the collection of impressions includes the bright events of the festival that has already taken place. The Republican holiday is only gaining momentum and will certainly bring many more surprises.

Vsevolod Yevseyev



# TIME FOR BIG PLANS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

**It is well known that Belarus is banking on the active development of cooperation with the African continent. The President personally discusses specific agreements and projects with top officials of African states. And not only this. Recently, for example, at the Palace of Independence, Aleksandr Lukashenko met with the first ladies of Zimbabwe Auxillia Mnangagwa and Nigeria Oluremi Tinubu. During the meeting, various issues of interstate cooperation were touched upon. The subject matter of their discussion was also dictated by the fact that both Auxillia Mnangagwa and Oluremi Tinubu oversee important government sectors in their countries.**

## **Reasonable appeal**

Today Africa is one of the most promising regions of the planet. The continent's GDP is estimated at \$3 trillion. More than 1 billion people live here, and a third of the world's mineral reserves are concentrated. It is predicted that in 10 to 15 years the continent will lead the world in population growth. This means that the demand for food, technology, qualified personnel, affordable and high-quality healthcare will increase significantly.

And on each of these points, Belarus is ready to help its African friends. Let us recall that in January 2019, the first official visit of Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa to our country took place. And the three-day state visit of Aleksandr Lukashenko to Zimbabwe, which took place from January 30th to February 1st, 2023, marked the beginning of a new stage of cooperation between our country not only with Zimbabwe, but also with other states of the African continent. Let us remind you that following the results of the state visit, the Government of Belarus approved a road map for the implementation of the agreements. The document includes 65 events in various fields: political-diplomatic, trade-economic, agricultural, military-technical, healthcare and medical science, investment, energy, supply and maintenance of equipment. By the way, last year as a whole became very significant in the development of bilateral relations between Belarus and

African countries. In December 2023, negotiations between Aleksandr Lukashenko and the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo took place in Malabo. All areas and specific projects for cooperation with Equatorial Guinea are also recorded in the road map, designed until 2026. Thus, cooperation is based on a solid legal foundation.

In 2024, Belarusian producers plan to increase exports to African countries by at least 2.5 times. The reference points have already been identified: Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Equatorial Guinea. It is planned to increase the supply of food products, machinery, equipment, and chemical products.

## **Mission is possible**

It must be said that Zimbabwe is one of those countries on the African continent with which Belarus has already developed fairly advanced relations. As noted above, the leaders of the two states exchanged visits at one time, a number of joint projects are being implemented, and cooperation in the agro-industrial direction is developing especially effectively. This is not the first time in Minsk for Auxillia Mnangagwa. At home, she is involved in specific projects in healthcare, personnel training, and provision of baby food.

This time, the first lady of Zimbabwe did not come alone, but accompanied by her comrades in the women's public



organisation. They are also the heads of large companies representing the mining, agricultural, banking, information and tourism sectors. Welcoming the guests, the Head of State noted that the Zimbabwean delegation arrived in Belarus during the 33rd International Arts Festival *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk*, the largest forum of Slavic culture, and brought with them a piece of Zimbabwean culture.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Belarus is awaiting the visit of Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa and will provide him with all possible assistance in the implementation of this mission, as well as in the implementation of those plans that have been defined for the future. The Head of State drew attention to the fact that the guest is well acquainted with Belarus and is accompanied by authoritative representatives of Zimbabwe's business circles. The President asked to convey to his Zimbabwean counterpart Emmerson Mnangagwa his best wishes and assurances of determination to implement all bilateral agreements. Aleksandr Lukashenko clarified that the new Minister of Foreign Affairs will be directly responsible for the countries of the African continent. He has all required information.

The Head of State noted that Auxillia Mnangagwa has taken on a very important task for Zimbabwe — she oversees health care and child nutrition issues. The

President assured, “Be sure that in this regard we will always be by your side and will do everything necessary to improve the situation in Zimbabwe with medical care for the population and nutrition for children.”

### **Zimbabwe appreciates the support of Belarus**

In turn, Auxillia Mnangagwa warmly thanked the Head of State for the invitation to visit Belarus again and for the opportunity to come here with a representative delegation. The First Lady of Zimbabwe already met with the Belarusian President in Minsk in April last year. Then the parties also discussed specific areas of bilateral cooperation. Today, constructive dialogue continues.

Special words of gratitude to Aleksandr Lukashenko for his hospitality on Belarusian soil. By the way, the delegation's plans included meetings with representatives of the Belarusian Women's Union. In a conversation with the President, Auxillia Mnangagwa also said that the Zimbabwean delegation will not only get acquainted with the Belarusian cultural potential, but will also present “a small piece of culture” of their country here.

The First Lady addressed words of gratitude personally to Aleksandr Lukashenko for the support that Belarus provides to the government of Zimbabwe and the leader of this country, Emmerson Mnangagwa. “Our country is also under sanctions, which is why we especially appreciate the



## THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

support you provide us.” One example of such support was the transfer to the Zimbabwean side of a mobile medical complex with an X-ray machine. “We received a ‘mobile clinic’, and this is of great importance for us,” said Auxillia Mhangagwa. According to her, the use of this mobile clinic has already had a positive impact on improving the health of the population, especially women, and therefore the Zimbabwean people are immensely grateful to the Belarusian side for the assistance provided.

### Cooperation seems mutually beneficial

With Nigeria, we can say that we are still looking for points of convergence of interests. And they will undoubtedly be found. The main thing is that there is a mutual desire and political will for this. Moreover, in the case of Zimbabwe, Minsk has already shown an



example of the ability to build a solid partnership in Africa based on mutual respect. During his meeting with Oluremi Tinubu, the President expressed confidence that countries can provide significant assistance to each other in development. Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed hope that after this visit there will be a visit to Belarus by both the President of Nigeria and the ministers so that we can begin to cooperate more closely, “We are very interested in your country, and I think that we will be useful to you... We know your needs very well, we know your capabilities very well. I emphasise once again that this is very important for us, and we can significantly help you, just as you will provide us with significant assistance in development.”

The Head of State asked to convey to the President of Nigeria Bola Tinubu the best wishes and an invitation to visit Belarus at any convenient time.

Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined a number of promising areas of cooperation. Belarus is ready to provide assistance and support both in the development of industry and in the development of agriculture and the processing industry. Especially in food production. The

country is also ready to create joint ventures in Nigeria to produce various types of equipment.

Belarus is also ready to join in training specialists in various fields for Nigeria and deeper cooperation in the field of education. The Head of State asked to convey his request to his Nigerian counterpart to organise a visit of Belarusian Foreign Minister Maksim Ryzhenkov to Nigeria in order to develop a plan for bilateral cooperation. Aleksandr Lukashenko clarified, “There you will be able, in your capital, in your homeland, to decide on further contacts between our specialists, our members of the Government with your specialists and members of the Government. In general, the plan that will be developed in your homeland by our minister and your specialists will be strictly observed, including by me.”

The importance of the sphere of humanitarian cooperation was also noted.

### “I promise I’ll be back...”

For Oluremi Tinubu, this was her first visit to Belarus. But, as she promised a little later, not the last. The First Lady of Nigeria very warmly thanked Aleksandr Lukashenko for the opportunity to meet and conveyed the best wishes to the Belarusian President from the President of Nigeria, “This is my first visit to Belarus, and I want to thank you for the special hospitality that was shown to us... I promise that I will return. From the very first day of my visit, I had several meetings; I was most impressed by the Belarusian Women’s Union. We had a meeting with the Minister of Education, we discussed several ideas about cooperation with which we can move forward,” said the foreign guest. Oluremi Tinubu also met with the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, Natalya Kochanova, an event that the First Lady of Nigeria called very fruitful.

### Understanding the importance of friendships

In a conversation with journalists, Oluremi Tinubu also shared her personal opinion from her meeting with Aleksandr Lukashenko, who impressed her as a man with a big heart, ready to help the country and friends, which is very important in these times. The first lady noted both the busy work schedule and the business-like spirit of the Belarusian side, “Belarusians are very serious people. They are immediately ready to work. Working meetings began immediately from the plane. This serious approach of the Belarusians is very important for us. We are trying to build a new country, so this attitude is very important.”

Oluremi Tinubu said that the President of Nigeria understands the importance of friendly relations and he wanted to get information first-hand, “We don’t know much about Belarus, so it’s important to find out everything on the spot. We learned a lot. This is a reliable partner for us both in the field of education and in the field of agriculture, which are especially important to us. When I get home, I can tell him this.”

## THE INTEREST WAS MUTUAL

**The First Lady of Zimbabwe and representatives of the business community of this country spoke about substantive bilateral projects that they discussed with the President**

*The meeting of Aleksandr Lukashenko with the Zimbabwean delegation lasted behind closed doors in the Slutsk Hall of the Palace of Independence for quite a long time. They spoke very substantively and in detail on all areas of development of bilateral cooperation. And this is not surprising. After all, for us Zimbabwe is a gateway to entering the markets of a number of other countries on the African continent. Auxillia Mnangagwa also drew attention to this in a conversation with journalists, summing up the results of negotiations with the President of Belarus.*

### Projects for growth

First of all, the first lady noted that the discussion turned out to be thorough and open. “We have many options for cooperation, and not only between Belarus and Zimbabwe. These are also projects that can be implemented in Africa as a whole.” According to the guest, thanks to its favourable geographical location, business projects starting from Zimbabwe can spread to other states of the African continent, for example Mozambique, “And this will happen quite quickly. This scale of cooperation is very important for us. Starting with Zimbabwe and Mozambique, it will spread further.”

### The general aspiration is obvious

One of the areas of mutual interest for the development of cooperation is the extraction of minerals, of which Zimbabwe has large reserves. As Eric Mapuranga, owner of a mining company, noted, both parties are already successfully implementing previously reached agreements. In particular, special Belarusian-made equipment is purchased and used for the Zimbabwe mining industry. Now there is interest on the Zimbabwean side in new projects with Belarus. However, Eric Mapuranga has not yet begun to disclose details, noting only the general desire to develop interaction.

### Made in Belarus means high quality

Cooperation between both countries in the field of agriculture was also discussed during the delegation's visit. Although it would seem that contacts here are already developing very intensively, Zimbabwe is ready to go even further based on the specifics of the national economy and the huge needs for agricultural machinery and technology. According to farmer from Zimbabwe Defin Mbanje, in her country they are happy to use Belarusian agricultural machinery, which performs well in the work. She noted, “We see the level of technical equipment that exists in Belarus, and we see that we can develop partnerships in this area and expand the use of Belarusian agricultural machinery.”



### Given the global interest

They also discussed possible strengthening of cooperation in the banking and financial sectors. The General Director of the Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank, Mandas Marikanda, presented her proposals in this direction to the Belarusian side. Considering the global interest of Belarus in exporting its goods and services through Zimbabwe to other countries of the African continent, it proposed making wider use of the capabilities of the banking system.

### Very high standards

The general director of one of the Zimbabwean hotel chains, Chipo Majindu, speaking about the potential for cooperation in the field of tourism and hospitality, drew attention to the high level of service development in Belarusian hotels. According to her, immediately upon arrival in the country, guests feel Belarusian hospitality, and the hotels provide very high standards of service. The specialist considers it useful and promising to establish mutual contacts and possible internships, training representatives of the tourism business in both countries.

### Promising and useful

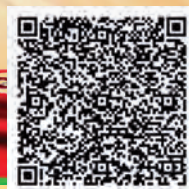
The possibility of expanding contacts with Belarus in the field of mass media was noted by the representative of the Zimbabwe Television and Radio Company Merit Muntsvembiri, “We presented the areas of cooperation in which we are interested. We strive to develop partnerships and contacts with state television and radio broadcasters. They may include programmes for the exchange of specialists so that we can learn from each other, expert exchange of experience and opinions regarding the technical support of television and radio broadcasting processes and equipment.”

Vladimir Velikhov  
photo by BELTA





## *Berezino District* 别列津纳区





## REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY: MINSK REGION



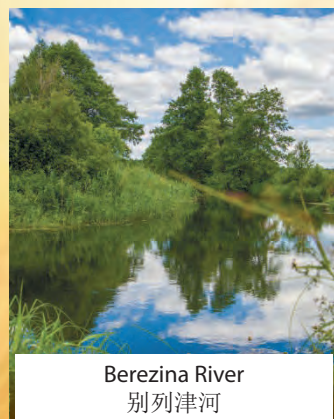
Youth Center 青少年中心



Distillery 酿酒厂



The church in honor of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker  
以神职人员尼古拉·秋多特沃尔茨命名的教堂



Berezina River  
别列津河



Seven Springs Spring  
“七泉”泉水



Wooden Spoon Museum  
木勺博物馆



The Church of the Body of God  
神体教堂

### ***Berezino District***

*Berezino got its name from the river that flows here. The area — the eastern outskirts of the Minsk Region — has its own unique atmosphere, a special flavour, which can only be felt by being here.*

### **别列津纳区**

别列津纳的名字源于这里的河流。该地区位于明斯克州东郊，拥有自己独特的氛围和韵味，只有身临其境才能感受到。







**OUR WEAPON:  
LOVE IS LIKE  
A SWORD**



**AND THE MEMORY  
OF OUR ANCESTORS  
IS LIKE A SHIELD**







**An extended meeting of the Board of the influential public association, Belarusian Fund of Peace, was held at the National Library of Belarus. It discussed and unanimously adopted the Appeal of the Belarusian Fund of Peace on Behalf of Belarusians to the Leaders of European Nations and Heads of International Organisations on the Issue of the Unacceptability of Sanctions Against Belarus. This once again demonstrates the unity of Belarusian civil society and its support for the peaceful policy of Belarus.**

The plenum was attended by heads of major religious denominations, leaders of national associations, representatives of unions of artists and writers, the business community and many other concerned people. Among them were also young peacemakers — representatives of the Schools of Peace. These are young citizens who, already from school, learn through actions to strengthen peace and harmony in society, conduct a constructive dialogue with representatives of different countries and peoples, and feel their personal responsibility for the fate of the world, for the future of their country. By the way, there are already 220 such schools in Belarus, and their number is increasing every year.

With close attention, all participants in the extended meeting listened to a detailed message from the Chairman of the Board of the Belarusian Fund of Peace, Maxim Misko. He spoke about what the Belarusian peacemakers are directing their energy to, about the current affairs of the fund and its projects — those already being implemented and those that, through the common efforts of the association's activists, will soon be brought to life. I believe that for a deeper understanding of who exactly casts a voice in defence of the legal rights of their fellow citizens, the future of their Motherland, it is worth turning to the information presented by Maxim Vladimirovich.

About the good deeds of the Belarusian Fund of Peace  
The activities of the Belarusian Fund of Peace in the first half of 2024 were based on the decisions of the 7th Republican Conference of the Peace Fund, issues of peacemaking, propaganda of peace, friendship and harmony between people, countries and peoples. Numerous events carried out by the association were aimed at security and stability, peace and harmony in Belarus, the development of international relations, support for youth, family and children, promotion of patriotism, hard work and morality among young people. The Peace Fund carried out peacekeeping, educational and charitable activities in close cooperation with executive and legislative authorities, partner organisations, and major religious denominations, which made it possible to



## IN THE NAME OF PEACE

successfully implement the events planned for the first half of 2024, including those dedicated to the Year of Quality.

In 2024, the structure of the organisation included 6 regional and Minsk city branches, which unite 146 district organisations throughout the country.

Over the last six months, the number of members of the organisation has grown to 198 thousand people, and more than one million people participate as volunteers in the implementation of Peace Fund projects, including young peacemakers — participants in the project of the Peace Fund and the Ministry of Education — Network of Peace Schools in the Republic of Belarus.

The Peace Fund carried out its activities exclusively through membership fees, charitable donations and sponsorship. The Fund consistently continues to provide assistance to orphanages and family-type homes, equips wards for war and labour veterans, and provides support to special children. Also opens memory stands 'Always in service, forever in memory!' throughout the country, provides social support to people who survived the burned Belarusian villages in 1941—1944, assistance in the reconstruction and repair of monuments and burial places of victims of fascism.

Under the Public Diplomacy programme, work was carried out to promote the peacekeeping ideas of our country in the international arena.

Work continued on interaction with the UN to assign observer status with the ECOSOC organisation to the Peace Fund.

The Peace Fund actively interacts with peacekeeping organisations in Russia, China, Europe, Central Asian countries, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, the Centre for Public Diplomacy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and others.

Considerable attention is paid to working with children and youth within the framework of the Children's Diplomacy programme, which is implemented on the basis of a long-term

partnership with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus; it is aimed at developing and supporting the creative abilities and patriotic education of children and youth.

As part of this programme, the republican project, Network of Peace Schools in the Republic of Belarus, continues to be implemented. Currently, 220 educational institutions of the Republic of Belarus have received the 'School of Peace' status. In June, the Third Republican Festival of Children's Peacemaking took place in the Vitebsk Region, in which the best institutions with the School of Peace status from all regions of the country and Minsk took part. At the 3rd Children for Peace Festival of Children's Peacemaking, which this year was hosted by the Vitebsk Region, the results of the Best Peacemaking Project of the School of Peace in 2023—2024 contest were summed up. The winning schools, as well as the most active young peacemakers, received diplomas and valuable gifts from the Belarusian Fund of Peace. All the Fund's programmes and events, which require significant financial resources, became possible thanks to the massive support of the Belarusian Fund of Peace by citizens of Belarus — through our common efforts, a variety of areas of peacekeeping and humanitarian activities are being developed.

Also, the board of the Belarusian Fund of Peace expresses special words of gratitude to the Chairman of the Council of Elders, Chairman of the Board of the Gomel Regional Branch of the Belarusian Fund of Peace NGO Timofey Ivanovich Glushakov: for ensuring the continuity of the best traditions of the Peace Fund, allowing the successful implementation of the goals and objectives of the association.

### **In the name of the Motherland, Conscience, Honour and Memory**

In the year of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders and on the eve of the Great Victory, the Belarusian Fund of Peace, together with the Belarusian

## **THE BELARUSIAN FUND OF PEACE IS THE OLDEST PEACEMAKING PUBLIC ORGANISATION IN BELARUS.**

For more than 60 years, the Belarusian Fund of Peace has united in its ranks people of all professions and segments of the population of our country, of different ages and religions. Among them are representatives of 156 nationalities and 25 religious denominations.

About 200 thousand members of the organisation and more than 1 million volunteers currently take part in the activities of the Belarusian Fund of Peace. For the history of the creation of the Peace Fund, see the link (<https://fondmira.by/istoriya/>)

The organisation's leadership includes heads of the main religious denominations and national ethnic associations of Belarus, representatives of the creative intelligentsia, the social sphere, large industrial enterprises, government bodies and public organisations.

Today, 146 organisations of the Belarusian Fund of Peace operate in all regions, districts and major cities of Belarus.

The activities of the Belarusian Fund of Peace are aimed at bringing to life simple and important ideas for every person: peace, friendship, mutual understanding, harmony, mercy, love and unity.

The Belarusian Fund of Peace actively interacts with peacemaking organisations in Russia, China, Europe, Central Asian countries, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, the Centre for Public Diplomacy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and others.





Orthodox Church and the Department of Archives and Records Management of the Ministry of Justice of Belarus, began implementing the significant project *Prisoners. Memory: 1941—1945* under the slogan 'From Victory to Victory'. You can find out more about it here: <https://fondmira.by/uzniki-pamyat-1941-1945/>.

The project is aimed at perpetuating the memory of the heroic and morally unbroken Belarusians who went through German concentration camps, ghettos, stalags, numerous humiliations, and torture. We perpetuate the memory of our compatriots who saw, even outside the battlefield, the full horror of that terrible war. By implementing the project, we also want to reveal to people all over the world little-known facts, the sad and terrible truth about the genocide of our people during the Great Patriotic War. In this way, we also vote for all people of good will to adhere in their lives to the principles of historical justice in relation to the great Soviet people who defeated fascism.

As part of the project, a unified information electronic portal UZNIKI.BY will be created. There will be collected a variety of information about prisoners of fascist concentration camps located both within the territory of Belarus and other countries, about citizens deported for forced labour in the period of from 1941 to 1945, including their personal stories. Information will be provided about fascist concentration camps that were located on the territory of the BSSR and other countries.

We, as Maxim Misko noted, believe that our compatriots who untimely passed into Eternity during the war years look from heaven at us today and approve of our good deeds in the name of the Motherland, Conscience, Honour and Memory! Our nation is ready to make every effort to ensure that the events of the terrible war do not repeat themselves, to exclude any manifestations of fascism and Nazism on the holy Belarusian land.

### **If only there were no war**

An extended meeting of the Board of the Belarusian Fund of Peace Board was held on the eve of the memorable date of June 22nd: the Day of National Remembrance of the Victims

■ Maxim Misko started an extended meeting of the Board of the Belarusian Fund of Peace

of the Great Patriotic War and the Genocide of the Belarusian People. Chairman of the Board Maxim Misko, who at the beginning announced the programme of the meeting, made a proposal to those gathered to honour the memory of the people who gave their lives for our peaceful future with a minute of silence. Everyone stood up. Apparently, in that short time, many managed to think about their relatives and friends, who, one way or another, were caught up in the terrible war. A minute's silence 'sounded' like a kind of tuning fork, which set a high tone for confidential communication. It couldn't be otherwise. After all, about a hundred people gathered in the hall probably came here with the dominant thought in their minds: if only there were no war...

And how could the author of these lines, a native of Ukraine, not remember something personal: his father-musician, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, who, along with hundreds of thousands of other heroes, liberated Belarus, participating in the Bagration offensive operation in 1944. Mikhail Stefanovich Cherkashin went through both the Kursk Bulge and the terrible battles of the Battle of Stalingrad, where he carried more than 460 wounded from the fields of brutal battles. And he himself was seriously wounded near Königsberg, returned home after the hospital with military awards on his tunic a month before the Victory. He saw so many things, personally experienced them, but my father didn't even like to remember them. Perhaps, in the context of idle conversations about how someone is feeling bad somewhere when, let's say, there is not enough money, everyday problems are bothering them, and the like, he might drop a phrase that seems familiar to us today: it's not a problem, if only there is no war... Alas, we, who had not seen the war, could not then realise all the pain and the deep essence of these words... We could not feel the pain of my father, who, before his death, said something in his sleep at night, shouted about the war...

Yes, this is our world: wars have been going on since time immemorial. But someone else's misfortune, as they say, is not really a misfortune. Alas, now this disaster is nearby, brother



is already going against brother... And my native Volchansk, in the Kharkiv Region, where I was born and lived until I was 17, is '90 percent gone', according to the world's leading news agencies. Alas, my town fell into the centre of the terrible events of the Ukrainian-Russian confrontation. The graves of my father and brother, dear to my heart, remain in Volchansk. Will I ever be able to visit there again? As well as the Russian border city of Belgorod, where my other brother and his family, a former navigator pilot, and a childhood and youth friend and her family live in air raid alerts. And yet I hope that the long-awaited peace will be established there too.

Yes! We all need peace! Like water. Like air. Like bread... Maxim Misko, himself a former cadet of a higher military school, spoke about this (read between the lines!).

### **Peace in the country depends on each of us**

Today, against the backdrop of insane geopolitical tragedies and armed conflicts in different parts of the world, the international peacekeeping agenda is becoming one of the main vectors of activity of the Belarusian Fund of Peace. Along with government bodies and the country's leading political institutions, we cannot stand aside. Using such an instrument of struggle for peace as public diplomacy, activists of the Belarusian Fund of Peace decided, on behalf of the association, to initiate the above-mentioned appeal to the leaders of European states and heads of international organisations.

"We believe that the sanctions policy of European states is unacceptable in relation to our multinational and multi-religious country, which has always played a vital role in resolving numerous global problems of a humanitarian, social and environmental nature," said Maxim Misko. "We condemn the injustice of such actions, which cause significant damage to the standard of living not only of ordinary Belarusian citizens, who, as we know, have always been distinguished by tolerance, hard work, compassion and a sincere desire to live in peace, but also of citizens of European countries. Having connections with public organisations in the European Union, we know that these sanctions cause enormous damage to ordinary people in Europe. And most importantly: people want to live in warm, good neighbourly relations with us. However, between us there are Western politicians who, through their actions, are widening the gap between peoples."

Therefore, it was decided on the eve of the Day of National Remembrance of the Victims of the Great Patriotic War and the genocide of the Belarusian people to appeal to the politicians of Western countries and declare that the Belarusian people, like no other victims of that war, are extremely interested in maintaining peace on the continent and the speedy resolution of all military conflicts on the ground.

Maxim Misko expressed confidence that the voice of the Belarusian Fund of Peace on behalf of the general public will be heard.

### **Let's live in peace!**

"Today we all need to join the fight for peace." These words were voiced by Maxim Misko on behalf of the Belarusian Fund

of Peace at the meeting. I am not afraid to say that they were received with enthusiasm by the meeting participants.

"Our goal is to appeal to the leaders of European states, to the heads of international organisations on the issue of the unacceptability of applying sanctions against Belarus and the Belarusian people, who, we know, suffered the most during the Great Patriotic War and know the price of peace better than anyone," said Maxim Misko. "And that's why today, on the eve of the mournful day, June 22nd, we gathered symbolically: to thereby make it clear what happens when someone tries to cause a quarrel between nations. We work and have contacts with public organisations in the European Union and know well how ordinary people react to the sanctions that politicians have imposed against us. They are already many times more tired of them than we are. Moreover: we know very well that ordinary people in Western countries want good neighbourly relations with us. And we understand that Western politicians, by their actions, are widening the gap that is forming between peoples today. And behind this abyss there are already great tragedies, like those that we experienced 80 years ago. Therefore, today, using the most important, I believe, mechanism of the struggle for peace called public diplomacy, we, on behalf of the Belarusian people, are trying to appeal to the people who do all these things — with the hope that they will hear us.

The time has passed, says Maxim Misko, when the Head of State and other state institutions are maximally involved in the processes of maintaining peace, and we, relying on them, simply observe this and seem to live calmly and peacefully. No, we all need to join the fight for peace today. Along with the state authorities of the country, we also cannot stand aside. The time has come for public diplomacy, if politicians cannot come to an agreement.

Many well-known aphorisms and slogans are currently changing. While previously we heard: if you want peace, prepare for war, then today, Maxim Misko believes, it is more important to say: if you want peace, fight for peace! But peacemakers must have a weapon in their hands, which he calls this: love as a sword and memory as a shield. Let's add mercy and compassion here... If we go with such weapons, we will achieve success.

Maxim Misko reminded that this is not the first appeal that the Belarusian Fund of Peace has prepared and submitted for discussion. For several years, the Peace Fund has been consistently appealing to the leaders of European states and the heads of international organisations about the issue of the unacceptability of applying sanctions against our country and our people.

### **From speeches by members of the Board and other participants**

A number of constructive comments and speeches by respected participants of the plenum further indicate that the Peace Fund has all the authority to make such appeals. Let us present some opinions of those present at the forum on the main issue of the plenum — the appeal, as well as regarding the project *Prisoners. Memory: 1941—1945*.



**Igor Moroz, Candidate of Legal Sciences, Director of the “Scientific and Practical Centre for Problems of Strengthening Law and Order of the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Belarus”**

War and fascist genocide were united by one intent: destruction. Our people are left with incurable wounds from the war. This is more than three million population losses and about eight million unborn children... There are still gaping wounds in the population structure: in the generations that belong to the generation of children of war and the generation of those children’s children, their grandchildren. The echo of war is with us to this day. The criminal investigation into the genocide of the population of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period, which was opened by the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Belarus in April 2021, continues. The decision was based on information about the death of millions of Belarusians and other persons as a result of the atrocities of the German occupiers and their accomplices. Of course, there are many problems associated with the fact that legal mechanisms, as they say, are lame and do not work. A number of Western states refused to provide us with legal assistance. International justice mechanisms are also not working. There are issues related to the restoration of justice, compensation for harm... It is gratifying to note the role and activities of the Belarusian Fund of Peace, which provides assistance in solving these problems and even in restoring historical truth. The project *Prisoners. Memory: 1941—1945*, which was announced by the Fund, is a very significant project in terms of restoring justice, restoring historical truth. And we, of course, will join in the work and provide any assistance within the framework of the project. I would also like to note: the Belarusian Fund of Peace today offers an alternative to complex, conflicting legal mechanisms for resolving disputes, including within the framework of the investigation of a criminal case of genocide. This alternative is public diplomacy. And here it is worth noting that there are many nuances, say, in such an area of activity as providing assistance to victims, residents of burned villages. Let’s imagine that the people of Germany, understanding and accepting liability for the atrocities committed by their ancestors, provide direct financial assistance — through the Belarusian Fund of Peace — to the victims of that war. This kind of ‘public diplomacy’ today is one of the most important alternatives to complex conflict mechanisms for resolving disputes.



**Veniamin, Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, member of the Board**

The topics that we are discussing today resonate with each other, complement one another and flow from one another. And the dates that await us encourage me to express my concerns and express my feelings about the current situation in the world. Moreover, we see that it is gradually getting worse, one might even say, every day. We also see how moral principles in people’s lives are also being eroded. It is difficult for a person to navigate today, in the modern world, because sometimes a lot of lofty words are said, calls for justice are heard, but at the same time, essential laws that are defined by the Creator himself are violated. And even the concept of a person’s high purpose, the meaning of his life, is sometimes blurred. Communicating with clergy who serve in Europe, I have repeatedly heard that ordinary people are very calm and friendly towards Belarus and Russia. But at the same time, there is a deliberate campaign to create a different idea about this. On the part of the Belarusian Orthodox Church, I want to say that we are guided by the words of the Gospel: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” It seems that this principle is shared by representatives and heads of all traditional confessions in our country. The appeal document, which was prepared by the Peace Fund, highlights three components. The first is the fight for peace, because wars do not stop. Here is a very recent message: vehicles are being brought to our borders from Zhytomyr... The second component is economic sanctions and other measures that create even greater division and tension between countries and peoples. And the third component is that we show our concern in order to prevent approaching the most extreme line. After all, putting out a fire is much more difficult than preventing it from starting. Of course, our word must be heard, but it is important to do it in such a way that it is heard, taking into account the fact that not everyone will be pleased with it. However, it is our job to speak and bear witness because the foundations of the modern world are shaking. We know and remember how on June 22nd, 1941, on a beautiful summer Sunday, trouble came unexpectedly... And, of course, our word, our appeal must be heard... I urge you to support it, and some adjustments can be made: so as not to give those looking for a reason to attack us to incriminate us with something, and so that good messages are heard.





***Iosif Stanevsky, Metropolitan of the Minsk-Mogilev Archdiocese, member of the Board***

As we know, happiness does not come on its own; you need to go towards it. Likewise, peace that comes with difficulty does not come on its own. Our meeting, our appeal to the world community is the work through which we can both preserve and bring peace closer. Of course, we can say that somewhere, on someone, it all depends, but as the Head of our state, Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko, said, time has chosen us. Therefore, we must do everything possible to ensure peace. Of course, first of all, peace must be in our families, in our hearts. And we can share this peace, show how we can live with it. Therefore, representatives of national and religious associations have gathered here in our hall. That's why we turn to world politicians, people on whom a lot depends. And we can thereby show them that it is possible to live the way we live: in diversity there is strength, in diversity there is unity. This is our Belarus, a country in the centre of Europe.



***Abu-Bekir Yukhyanovich Shabanovich, Mufti of the Muslim Religious Association in the Republic of Belarus, member of the Board***

We represent a million peacemakers of our native Belarus. The war left serious scars in the life of every Belarusian family, so we are all deeply imbued with the desire for peace. Bleeding wounds remained with us through memories, and through monuments, and through calls to prevent these greatest bloodsheds. I can imagine how we are all united by the dome, and there is the Almighty above us, who has been sending calls

for thousands of years: live in peace and harmony. At all times, our citizens have experienced pain and grief from all sorts of raids, devastating campaigns that destroy people's lives. But no one has the right to do this! And it seems to me that under such a dome of the peace, humanity underestimates its divine purpose, it is guided by other motives: all for the sake of wealth, all for the sake of a beautiful worldly life... Do these organisers of terrible human battles think about the fact that they will die, too? on the Day of Judgment they will appear before the Almighty, leaving here everything they have accumulated and plundered... And they will answer for their deeds...

We also accept appeals, letters, declarations that are developed by great minds in the religious world. We join as Muslims and citizens of Belarus to such declarations. And we adopted ours, from the Muslims of Belarus, in condemnation of the extremism of radicals, in condemnation of ISIS, this sectarian parody of Islam. And, of course, there is a result. It's hard to even imagine what would have happened if we hadn't done this. I have one suggestion. The co-chairs of the Public Council on Morals are present here. (The Public Council on Morals in Belarus is a joint body established in July 2009 by the Belarusian Orthodox Church and the Union of Writers of Belarus with the participation of traditional confessions of the republic. It resumed planned work at the beginning of 2024. Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus Veniamin and the Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus public association Aleksandr Karlyukevich were unanimously elected as its co-chairs — both of them participated in the plenum of the Belarusian Fund of Peace). It is gratifying to note that ordinary people in the world trust us, and we will maintain this level of human trust. And I will urge my Jewish colleagues to go with us to the Middle East, where the war is raging, where there is a terrible destruction of people, to express our position and call on both sides for peace and harmony and a peaceful solution to vital issues.

Of course, we fully support the appeal of our Belarusian Fund of Peace — as a node of the minds and souls of our entire population.



***Grigory Abramovich, Chief Rabbi of the Religious Association of Communities of Progressive Judaism in Belarus, member of the Board***

We have gathered here to talk about the most valuable thing we have: peace. Without peace there is nothing. The Almighty, who creates peace in heaven, will create peace here on earth. And for this to happen, the efforts of each of us are needed. The efforts of our hearts, our hands, our letters, appeals, everything that each of us can do. Let me quote one statement of the sage Hillel, which is quoted not only by the Jewish religion, but also in Jewish religious institutions. He said, "If I'm not for you, then who is for me? But if I am only for myself, then what am I?" If not each of us thinks about peace within the framework of the work of the Belarusian Fund of Peace, within the framework of our meeting at the National Library, then who will think about it? But if we act together, and everyone only thinks the issues over in their office, or in church, then who are we if not an example of the centuries-old consolidation of both interethnic and interfaith world. I would like to thank everyone present and ask for the blessings of the Almighty so that our work continues in this way.



**Sergei Balashenko, Doctor of Law, Professor of the Belarusian State University, Member of the Board**

He made specific proposals to clarify the wording of some paragraphs of the appeal.



**Aleksandr Karlyukevich, Director of the Zvyazda Publishing House, Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus, member of the Board**

Today there is a big event that I strongly approve of. And it is our business, our right and our duty to express in a peaceful word the position of all the people of Belarus, all the people who are extremely interested in not just preferences in relation to our country, but great and good deeds in relation to peace throughout the world.



**Aleksandr Shvets, Chairman of the Republican Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Chairman of the Belarusian Scientific and Industrial Association, member of the Board**

I would like to note that the heads of industrial and commercial enterprises are people who are called upon to manage labour collectives, large and medium-sized. And along with caring for economic development, the development of the well-being of our country, caring for members of labour collectives and members of their families is an equally important task. The imposed sanctions against our country and our enterprises, naturally, put the labour collectives of enterprises in a difficult position. Of course, a whole series of anti-crisis measures that the government is taking at its own level, at the level of local authorities and at the level of specific enterprises, is yielding positive results. Of course, no matter how difficult it is, we will solve these problems. But I would like to note this aspect within the framework of our project-appeal. Between us, our country, its citizens and our partners in Europe in recent years there have been a lot of positive, accumulated, and very friendly results. Belarus has always pursued a very friendly partnership policy, especially at the level of citizens, public associations and the entire country. And we must appreciate what has been achieved, what has been peacefully achieved. Therefore, our appeal from business, regardless of the form of ownership, is to indicate: no matter what the rough edges in our relations, peace will come anyway. And the more carefully we take some steps, the easier it will be for us to restore our goodwill, partnership and friendly relations in mutual trade for the benefit of our peoples. That's why business is as peaceful as never before. After all, our task is mutual trade, increasing the well-being of the citizens of our country, so we must pursue a very cautious policy of interaction with our partners in Europe, especially from the point of view of sanctions pressure. We have much more what unites us than what divides us.





***Aleksandr Rumak, Commissioner for Religious Affairs and Nationalities of the Republic of Belarus, member of the Board***

Present in the hall are the leaders of the largest national associations of people living in our country. We have said more than once, as at the recent Festival of National Cultures in Grodno, that our strength is in unity and diversity. I would like this idea to be heard in the appeal.



***Vadim Lakiza, Director of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor***

I would like some points in the appeal to sound more harshly and purposefully, despite our traditional Belarusian tolerance. So that there is no humiliation of our country, which suffered the most during the Great Patriotic War. Why am I saying this? It is enough to pay attention to the numbers that encourage people to speak more harshly. 12,548 settlements suffered during the war, and the list of Khatyn sisters includes 288! They were burned along with the population and were not restored. We can announce such information today; this is our joint work with the General Prosecutor's Office and archivist scientists. Therefore, by right of memory, we can and must talk about what our fathers and grandfathers experienced, what still hurts us — with specific facts in hand, and not general phrases.



**According to good tradition, after consideration of issues brought up at the meeting of the Board of the Belarusian Fund of Peace, awards were given to activists of the association and heads of its divisions from different parts of the country. And this time they received awards from the Belarusian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church in Belarus and the Belarusian Fund of Peace. In particular, a number of well-known people in the country, including us journalists, were awarded the Honoured Peacemaker medal of the Belarusian Fund of Peace for the work they do to strengthen peace, uphold the ideals of friendship, peace and creation.**

**In addition, this time the National Library of Belarus hosted the new Young Peacemaker award for the first time. It was recently approved by the Board of the Belarusian Fund of Peace. The medal will continue to be awarded to those young citizens who actively participate in the Schools of Peace projects — their network is deployed throughout Belarus.**





*P.S. Taking into account the discussion of the document, work on the appeal was recently completed. It was presented to the public, posted on the website of the Belarusian Fund of Peace at <https://fondmira.by/> and sent to the heads of European countries and heads of international organisations in English, German, French. In this case, the maximum number of information channels is involved: from postal and email letters to the capabilities of foreign embassies in Belarus.*

*The text of the appeal is on the following pages*

Valentina Zhdanovich  
Photo by Ivan Zhdanovich



## APPEAL OF THE BELARUSIAN FUND OF PEACE ON BEHALF OF THE BELARUSIANS TO THE LEADERS OF EUROPEAN NATIONS AND HEADS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### REGARDING THE ISSUE OF UNACCEPTABILITY OF SANCTIONS AGAINST BELARUS

Adopted on the board session of Belarusian Fund of Peace NGO on  
June 21st, 2024, in the city of Minsk, the Republic of Belarus



To the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Keir Starmer;



To the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Olaf Scholz;  
To the President of the German Bundestag Berbel Bass;



To the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron;



To the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen;  
To the Secretary General of the OSCE Helga Maria Schmid;  
To the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security  
Policy – Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell.



To the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland Donald Tusk;



To the Prime Minister of the Italian Republic Giorgia Meloni;

To leaders of European states and heads of international organisations

*The Belarusian Fund of Peace addresses you on behalf of the people of Belarus.*

*Our non-governmental organisation is the oldest in Belarus and is advocating for the ideals of peace. We are not a political organisation and are not government-funded.*

*More than 200,000 members of the organisation and more than 1,000,000 volunteers participate in the activities of the Belarusian Fund of Peace.*

*The Board of the Belarusian Fund of Peace consists of leaders of the main religious confessions of Belarus, heads of all national diasporas living in our country, prominent public figures, best representatives of culture, science, health care, education, sports, as well as representatives of all generations.*

*Our activities are aimed at implementation of simple and important ideas for every person: peace, friendship, mutual understanding and harmony between individuals, countries and peoples. Today we transmit beliefs of ordinary Belarusians, whose everyday concerns are far from global and geopolitical tasks.*

*Regrettably, a wide arsenal of economic and political sanctions has been used against Belarus for several years now.*

*The major blow from the sanctions has harmed ordinary people: communication worsened, international humanitarian and social programs are terminated, the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals is threatened, long-term logistic schemes and supply chains of goods established with the European Union are disrupted. The lives and safety of people are jeopardized due to the inability to carry out maintenance of a wide range of equipment and machinery purchased in the European Union. But the most devastating damage, the one that is hardest to repair, is the breakdown of human relations.*

*Working all around Belarus, we often hear the words of bewilderment from people: "Why does formerly friendly European Union, with which we jointly solved many humanitarian, ecological, economic problems, today artificially seeks to worsen lives of Belarusians, to break not only friendly, but also blood and kinship ties between people? Why are artificial barriers between countries and peoples created?"*

*The Belarusians are unanimous in their opinion about the unfairness of imposing sanctions on our country. In our determination, as one of the largest civic organisations of Belarus, we will have to address ordinary people in your country with the question about the reasons why their authorities are trying to quarrel us, to destroy those civil initiatives that have been successfully implemented for years. At the level of people's diplomacy, we will raise questions about the need to consolidate efforts in European countries to form a single block of struggle for peace and to prevent division and confrontation between individuals and peoples, because as a result of it wars arise.*

*We are extremely interested in the speediest possible settlement of the situation in Ukraine, a nation close to us, and we are committed to the task of the speediest reconciliation between the conflicting parties.*

*Despite all the pressure, Belarus remains a peace-loving country that looks at the situation in Ukraine from the point of view of the importance of helping people who have become victims of the conflict. Peaceful citizens of Ukraine who fled from the hostilities into the Republic of Belarus have found shelter and food here. They are provided with everything they need. If they wish, the Ukrainians can stay in our country for permanent residence.*

*On the eve of June 22nd, a date of profound sorrow for all Belarusian people — the anniversary of the Nazi invasion of our land and the subsequent genocide of Belarusian people, a fight that contributed to the liberation of Europe and claimed the lives of one third of our population — we implore the international community to refrain from escalating tensions through the imposition of new sanctions against our country. We also urge the lifting of all previously imposed sanctions.*

*We respectfully ask you, Your Excellency, in the interests of the universal peace and harmony, to take all possible steps to move from unilateral sanctions mechanisms and instead embrace peaceful diplomatic means of conflict resolution. We urge you to actively seek ways to restore good-neighborly relations.*

*For our part, we stand ready to act as a force for peace, engaging in constructive international dialogue and promoting peacekeeping policies, should the opportunity arise.*

**Yours sincerely,  
Chairman of the Board  
of Belarusian Fund of Peace Public Association**

**Maxim Misko**





# SIZE DOESN'T MATTER



Does the size and shape of the skull affect our mental abilities? What does intelligence depend on and which hemisphere is more important here? How did incorrect conclusions on this basis become the foundation for racist theories and what tragedies in history did this lead to? Are the Eastern Slavs one people or three different nations? We talked about this with the neurosurgeon, researcher at the Department of Brain Tumours of the Republican Scientific Practical Centre of Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N. N. Aleksandrov, 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.

**“Dr. Gumen, how does the shape or size of the skull affect our mental abilities?”**

“For a long time, scientists have been studying the importance of the shape of the human skull and whether there is a relationship between it and mental abilities; they have been researching whether there were differences at the stages of evolution. By the way, the science of studying the skull is called craniology. In the process, one of the most famous hoaxes of the 20th century about the ‘Piltdown Man’ even appeared. His skull was presented in a London museum as a missing link in the evolution between man and ape, until 40 years later, in 1953, the fake was exposed and it was established that it was the skull of a modern man, connected to the clipped lower jaw of an orangutan. But no matter how hard anyone tried, it was not possible to prove that brain volume and mental abilities depend on the shape of the skull. The shape of the skull, if it is normally developed and there is no pathology, does not indicate either the character of a person or mental abilities. Just as shape does not depend on skin colour. It has even been established that the people who created great civilizations — the Chinese and Egyptians — had smaller skulls than other nations. And vice versa, people who did not distinguish themselves in anything in history had a large skull. Anthropologists often cite the example of Leo Tolstoy and Émile Zola. Tolstoy had twice the cranial capacity of Zola, but both were great writers.”

**“It turns out that it’s not for nothing that they say that ‘the head may be like a huge box, but the mind inside it may be like a nut.’ What then influences our intelligence?”**

“The way we develop our left hemisphere. It is responsible for logical and critical thinking. You can easily influence the right hemisphere and ‘buy’ it. It is very easy to convince a person whose right hemisphere is more developed. And the left hemisphere is responsible for logic, but it should be developed from childhood.”

**“At the same time, various racist theories widespread in Europe of the 19th century played their sinister role...”**

“Yes, attempts to distinguish people by the shape of the skull at one time played a role in the colonization of the African continent by Europeans. This is one of the elements of the so-called artificial racism — an anti-scientific theory that justifies the superiority of one nation over another. The basic framework of artificial racism rested on three pillars: racial differences, religious differences and national boundaries. It was on the principle of ‘divide and conquer’ that artificial racism worked.



■ Gumen Gushang

An example is the path to genocide in Rwanda. Two tribes lived in this country for thousands of years: the Tutsi and the Hutu, with the latter being the majority. But they lived together and there were no conflicts between them. People spoke the same language, had common traditions and culture, and married each other. After colonization by the Germans in 1895, in order to make it easier to govern, the Tutsis were given a higher status, they were equated with white people, and the Hutus were attributed with congenital inferiority. After the Germans, Rwanda was under Belgian rule since 1922. They continued the same policy and even surpassed it. In particular, they legitimised the split by distributing passports that indicated which nationality the person belonged to. The architects of this policy knew perfectly well what they were doing and how it would end. Belgium finally recognised Rwanda’s independence in 1962, but at the same time planted another time bomb. Despite the higher status of the Tutsis, the Hutus gained power. And it was part of a big plan. A significant number of Tutsis fled the country and migrated to neighbouring states because they feared for their safety.

All this time the situation was escalating, and in 1980 the second part of the plan was implemented. The Hutu began to take over the Tutsi lands. Since 1990, an internal war for territory began. In 1993, another part of the plan was activated — religion. 90% of Rwandans were Christians. The Hutu accused the Tutsis of being wicked and declared war against the non-believers. The situation was so tense that there was very little left before the big explosion.



And it happened on April 6th, 1994, when a passenger plane carrying Rwandan President Habyarimana and part of the Rwandan government was shot down on the approach to Kigali airport. They all died. The authorities blamed the Tutsis for this. It was clear that shooting down a plane was the job of professionals, not African Tutsis. But within a few hours, massacres of Tutsis began. The authorities sent their people all over Rwanda, Hutus killed Tutsis indiscriminately. At that time, people had a large number of bladed weapons, machetes, and knives. Within a hundred days, according to various estimates, from 500 thousand to two million people were killed.

The propaganda of the Free Radio and Television of a Thousand Hills, which openly called for the killing of Tutsis, also did its dirty work. It was announced that after the death of a Tutsi, his land and property automatically transferred to his killer. After that, people began to kill even their neighbours.

It should be noted that the Germans also pursued such a policy when they captured Hungary during World War II. For the extradition of a Jewish family, their property went to the one who did it. Mr. Soros's father, Georgy Schwartz, who later changed his last name to Soros, passed off Jewish families and thus earned capital. When Hungary was liberated, the family left for the UK. People were welcomed there for whom the most important thing was the goal, and everything else was tools.

It must be said that during the hundred days of the genocide in Rwanda, the UN peacekeeping forces did not take any action. The commander of the UN peacekeeping forces in Rwanda in 1993-1994, General Roméo Dallaire, said in an interview in 2014 that the UN, unfortunately, could not do anything. Tutsi detachments, united in the Rwandan partisan front, managed to defeat the Rwandan army and come to power in mid-July. They still rule the country, although 84% of the population is Hutu. Rwanda is now developing, but it is a completely traumatized nation where almost everyone, including children, has seen bloodshed first-hand.

These are the consequences of artificial racism, and we must realise: once it is sown, it is almost impossible to stop the spread."

### **"But there was the court in The Hague..."**

"...that did not arrest the real instigators and architects of that genocide. Probably because there was no order. Religion also played a role. I respect any religion, but during colonization, Europeans introduced ultra-religiosity. The tendency to believe is a property of our brain. Even if we look at the tribes on the islands where no priest set foot, we will see that people made idols, worshiped them and made sacrifices.

At the same time, religious propaganda works in three directions. The first is an increase in the limit of tolerance. If something bad happens to us, there is no need to resist, because God will punish the offenders. This increases people's tolerance threshold.

The second direction is that different religions or their different movements were introduced in different areas of colonization. If a neural connection has been created since childhood, it is very difficult to change it; the right hemisphere is responsible for this. Convincing a person to convert to another religion is very difficult. This also created conflicts between different ethnic groups.

And thirdly, in any religion there are boundaries beyond which you should under no circumstances go beyond or even discuss them. But science and development have no boundaries. This was the problem of medieval scientists, and they surpassed them, for which they burned at the stake. Frames slow down a person's thinking. And it creates a special psychology: just believe that it is so. And this element is used as part of artificial racism."

### **"You said that state borders are also the support of racist theories. What do you mean by this?"**

"After the First World War, the Russian, German, Ottoman, and Austro-Hungarian empires collapsed.





The winners drew the borders of all of Asia and part of Europe anew. Nowhere was this done in such a way as to avoid interethnic conflicts. The territories from the Mediterranean to India were completely under the influence of the Anglo-Saxons. As a result, Pakistan in the south has a problem with India, since the border was not fully established and part of Kashmir remained undivided at all. Thus, a hot spot appeared, and they are still fighting over it. In the north, where Pakistan borders Afghanistan, one ethnic group living in the south of Afghanistan and the north of Pakistan is divided into two parts by the border. These people don't recognise it at all. After the border between South and North Korea, it is considered the most dangerous in the world.

If we look at Iraq, which has a 58 km border with the open sea, Kuwait was added here to give land to the sheikh. In the end, it all ended in the Iraq-Kuwait war. There are many such examples and, therefore, the causes of the conflict lay long ago.

If you move from the Middle East to Europe, Yugoslavia does not exist now. Here we must pay tribute to General Josip Broz Tito. During his reign, everyone worked and lived together, no one fought. But people succumbed to the propaganda that the Anglo-Saxons waged in

the region after his death. Now these are many small countries, and before the division there were many senseless conflicts.

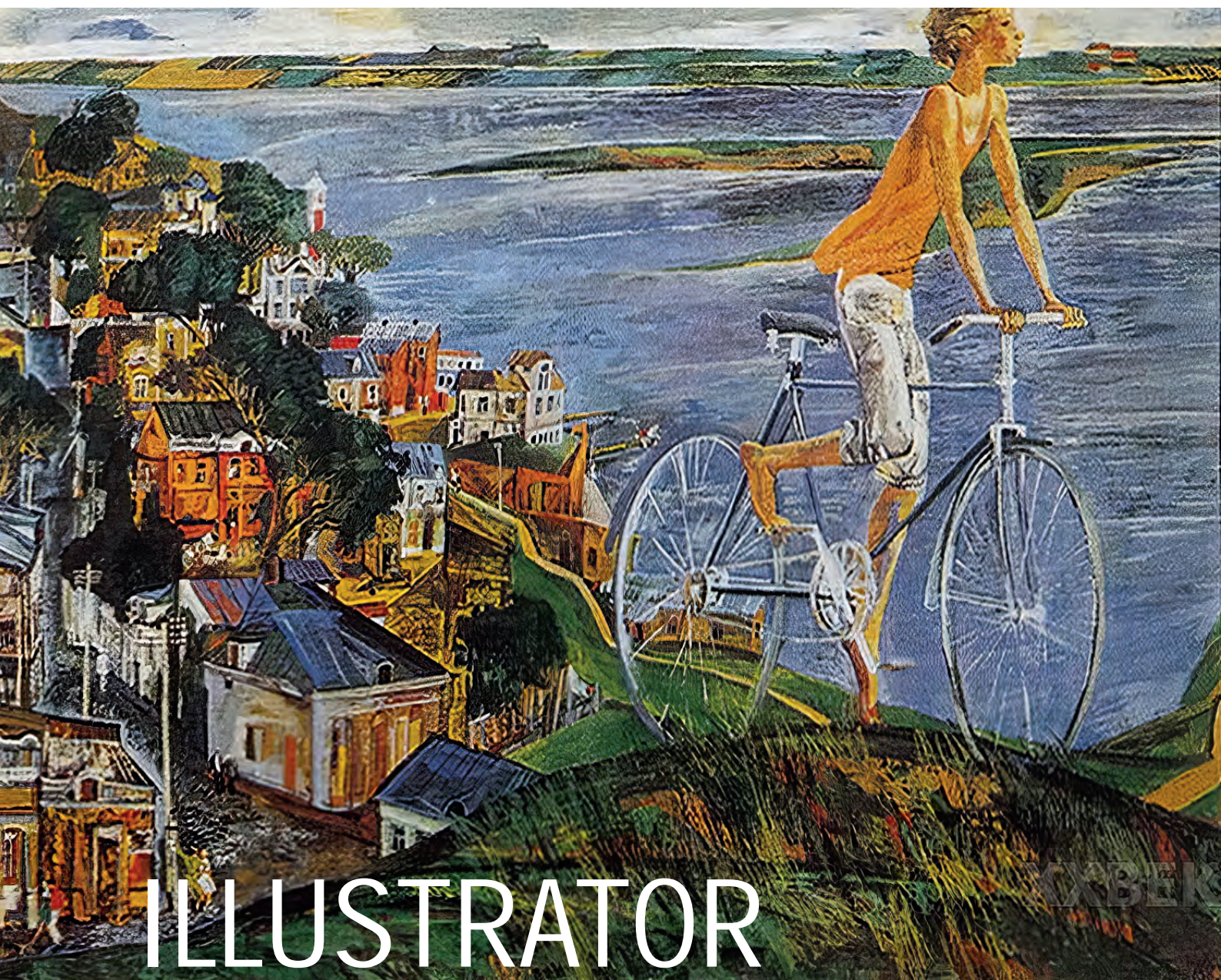
With this type of mental war, you should react in time and suppress them. When they flare up, the next generations will fight each other and be considered enemies, although the enmity was artificially created."

#### **"Does this also apply to the Eastern Slavs?"**

"We have one mother and one father, and a generation later, two grandmothers and two grandfathers. After ten generations there are 1,024 relatives, and after 20 there are 40 million of them. From the point of view of science and genetics, each of the Eastern Slavs has parts of a Belarusian, a Ukrainian, a Russian. We can say that we have pieces of Yanka Kupala, Yakub Kolas, Leo Tolstoy, Taras Shevchenko, Aleksandr Pushkin. In fact, the Eastern Slavs are one nation and one people; they are not genetically different in any way. But people who do not know history repeat it in the worst form. Globalization processes are underway now, and knowing how nations tend to be divided, we must always remember this so as not to repeat the mistake."

Yelena Kravets





# ILLUSTRATOR OF PUSHKIN AND GRECHANIKOV



**The names of bright creative personalities do not always remain in the memory of descendants. True, if one or another creator has done quite a lot, done with talent, the attention of researchers will still be focused on his achievements for some time.**

It is they, art historians, diligent collectors of monuments of Belarusian culture, who do not forget about what was created in national culture by the artist, set designer, and animator Vyacheslav Tarasov (1938—1997). Experienced film critic Antonina Karpilova wrote about him as a talented personality who brought a lot of new things to Belarusian animation on the pages of *Litaratura i Mastatstva*, “In the early period, one of the painful problems of animation was the lack of contacts with graphic artists: it is known that among the primary sources of animation, books graphics occupies one of the main places. Vyacheslav Tarasov’s entry into animation and fruitful work contributed to the establishment of such connections. Tarasov added to Belarusian animation a high culture of book graphics, lyricism and gentle humour. The artist’s style is characterised by the search for the typical and individual in the visual form of characters and environments, the precise selection of plasticity and characteristic facial expressions of the character. He

worked with different directors: Lev Shukalyukov, Vladimir Puzanov, Yuri Butyrin, Igor Volchek, Yelena Turova, but most often with Belousov, who shot almost all of his films with the artist.”

Information about Vyacheslav Alekseyevich in the monograph by Mikhail Borozny *Belarusian Book Graphics of the 1960-1990s*, “New plastic features were introduced into the Belarusian book graphics of the 1980s — the first half of the 1990s by graduates of the Artistic and Industrial Faculty of Belarusian State Theatre Institute in Minsk (now Faculty of Design and Decorative and Applied Arts of Belarusian State Academy of Arts). Here you can mention such names as M. Bayrachny, S. Voichenko, E. Zhakevich, A. Kitaeva, V. Lukashik, S. Pchelintsev, M. Senkin, A. Shalyuta, V. Tsesler, V. Terentyev, Yu. Toreyev etc. To the group of these artists who did not study at easel departments, we can add book artists who received artistic and industrial degrees outside the republic (V. Tarasov).” The Biographical Dictionary of Mikhail



■ Vyacheslav Tarasov

Grigorievich’s monograph also contains three lines of the biography of Vyacheslav Alekseyevich Tarasov...

The artist was born in Russia, in the city of Rostov, Yaroslavl Region. A small city with a population of about 30 thousand people. 186 kilometres from Moscow, 47 southwest of Yaroslavl. Mentions in chronicles — from 862. For the first time — in *The Tale of Bygone Years*. The Rostov Kremlin still adorns this Russian regional centre. There is even a theatre in the city (founded in 1920). The museum of enamel is famous. By the way, Rostov, which is often called Rostov the Great, is the place of birth of the People’s Artist of the Russian Federation Aleksandr Alekseyev, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Arts, book graphic artist Gennady Yepifanov, academician of the Russian Academy of Arts, impressionist Andrei Zakharov, art critic Irina Lebedeva, who in 2009—2015 held



the high position of director of the State Tretyakov Gallery, Russian painter, graphic artist Nikolai Lomtev... The names of other figures of fine art are also associated with the city. A stellar concentration of bright personalities in such a small Rostov space!.. And it is clear that, having a curiosity for creativity, the young man could not help but choose the path to art...

Vyacheslav graduated from the Faculty of Applied Arts of the Moscow Textile Institute in 1962. With the degree in artistic design of fabrics and products. In subsequent years, fate connected Vyacheslav with the Republican House of Models in Minsk, where he worked until 1970. But the desire to speak out was broader than solving those problems at the main place of work. And in 1971, Tarasov



became a production designer at the Belarusian Theatre for Young Spectators. Among the first works at the new location were the design of the plays *Pippi Longstocking* and *The New Adventures of Carlson* by Astrid Lindgren, *The Green Bird* by Carlo Gozzi. He also designed *Flight* by Vladimir Mekhov, *Open Up, Little Goats!* by Piatrus Makal, *Girl and April* by T. Yan and other productions. In 1973, Vyacheslav Tarasov was accepted into the Union of Artists of the BSSR.

Since 1976, the talented creator has been a production designer at the animation film studio of the Belarusfilm film studio. One of Vyacheslav Tarasov's striking works in animation is *Song of the Bison*. The cartoon was made by production director Oleg Belousov. He also wrote the script. Director of photography — Mikhail Komov. Composer: Leonid Zakhlevny. The animated film adaptation, made for the anniversary of the writing of the famous poem (1522; first publication — 1523), was noticed. This vibrant film, lasting 17 minutes 51 seconds, is not the only collaboration between Vyacheslav

Tarasov and Oleg Belousov. There were also *The Tale of the Cheerful Clown*, *The Boat of Despair* (based on the story by Uladzimir Karatkevich), *The Cube* (dedicated to the memory of the artist Yunis Sandgazin; the work is based on his pencil drawings), *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* (based on story by Gabriel García Márquez)... About collaboration on the film *A Very Old Man...*, remembering Vyacheslav Tarasov, Oleg Belousov wrote this, "Slava felt every frame of the film with some absolutely fantastic instinct. We made the film *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* based on an early story by Gabriel García Márquez. I came up with the idea that the character of the story, an old, tattered Angel created by Márquez, ends up in a Colombian village, lands on a Belarusian farmstead, where I had a dacha, near Molodechno, in Temnitsa... During the course of the film, it was raining, it was damp, foggy... In animation, this 'damp' and 'foggy' thing you need to draw, make backgrounds... You had to see how Slava made them... With huge painting brush on a two-

meter roll of paper — smear once, smear twice — it's done... If I didn't trust his taste and skill, I would howl and quarrel, this is how this background looked... However, we did it... It turned out that it couldn't be better... When we showed this film to our colleagues in Bratislava, they came up, clicked their tongues, and admired how accurately, how flawlessly, with what taste, the fine drizzle was conveyed, what a feeling of humidity, dampness."

And behind all these searches, finds, discoveries of the talented theatre and animation artist was his constant passion for book graphics. Vyacheslav Tarasov designed dozens of books by various authors. This is also Vasil Bykau's stories *The Crane Cry*, *Third Rocket*, *Alpine Ballad* (published by Masttskaya Litaratura in 1972), and books by L. N. Tolstoy, A. Tolstoy, N. V. Gogol, F. M. Dostoevsky, Uladzimir Karatkevich, Leonid Daineko, Eduard Skobelev... Vyacheslav Alekseyevich collaborated a lot with the Yunost publishing house, which was founded in Minsk in 1981. It was for Yunost that Tarasov designed books by Lev Kassil, Chingiz Aitmatov, Vladimir Mashkov, and other writers of different generations. Aleksandr Sergeyevich Pushkin's poem *Ruslan and Lyudmila* also saw the light of day in Yunost, designed by Vyacheslav Tarasov...

I am leafing through the pages of the book *Star Flight* by the laureate of the State Prize of the BSSR and the Lenin Komsomol Prize of Belarus, Anatoly Semenovich Grechanikov, which was published



in Yunost in 1988. The poems are collected together in the *Star Flight* section and the *Poems. Fairy Tales and Legends* section is separate. The circulation for the book, which was published at a high printing level, is 40,000 copies. The collection of works is addressed to children of preschool and primary school age. A voluminous edition was printed at the Minsk Colour Printing Factory. And the transparencies of the text were prepared at the Minsk Printing Plant named after Yakub Kolas. Now they have merged into one enterprise. And then, in the 1980s, they were two different printing giants of the Belarusian capital. One might say, the basis of the Belarusian book industry... Vyacheslav Tarasov created about 40 illustrations for the book, rich in literary images, dynamic plots. In harmony with the poetic word of Anatoly Grechanikov, who should be called a master of creating plots in Belarusian children's literature, the artist organised the theatrical character of the book. The work of the graphic artist complemented the writer's imagination — and sometimes one gets the impression

that many works (especially fairy tales and legends) simply must become cartoons or plays. The plastic language of the Creator is so attractive that sometimes when reading you are forced to stop and peer into the images of the characters of Anatoly Grechanikov — the six-year-old girl Alesya, who is looking for a source of healing water (*Living Water*), the blacksmith Miron and the beautiful Yanina (*Black Castle*), Potter Ivan (*The Tale of Ivan the Potter and the Monster Tsar*)...

V. Tarasov also worked in easel painting. Since 1966 he has participated in art exhibitions. The works of Vyacheslav Alekseyevich are in the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus and the funds of the Belarusian Union of Artists. It would be nice to celebrate the artist's anniversary in 2028, his 90th birthday, with an exhibition. Why not, for example, in the State Museum of the History of Belarusian Literature or in another literary museum in the country? And thereby remind you of what the Creator accomplished for the Belarusian book...

Roman Servach





# BELARUSIAN LITERATURE IN THE WORLD

## CHRONICLES OF LITERARY LIFE. 1966 — 1985

From *Chronicles...* for 1974. January. UNESCO published a catalogue of the best works of art from various literatures of the world. The publication included more than 70 works of Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian literature...

On January 22nd, the club of the Writers' Union hosted an evening concert *The Heart of Granada* dedicated to the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca. Poems by classics of world poetry were translated into Russian and Belarusian by I. Tynyanova, N. Kislik, N. Gilevich, R. Baradulin. Federico García Lorca (1898 – 1936) is known to the Belarusian reader from later translations. His poems, in addition to the authors mentioned, were translated into Belarusian by Max Shchur, Galina Dubenetskaya, Carlos Sherman. Individual Belarusian books by the Spanish poet were published in Minsk in 1975 and 2017.

On January 28th—29th, the All-Union Meeting of Critics took place in Moscow, at which the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee 'On Literary and Artistic Criticism' was discussed. Genadz Buraukin spoke at the meeting from Belarus. The end of the first quarter of the 21st century indicates the absence of full-fledged literary and artistic criticism. And national literature, if it expects recognition

and attention from a wide readership, at least in neighbouring countries, also requires literary-critical, comparative presentations in publications outside of Belarus. The international image of our poetry and prose in 1974 was supported by literally dozens of publications of reviews and articles in all-Union literary, artistic and socio-political periodicals, as well as in various collections and collective monographs. The fifth volume of *The History of Soviet Multinational Literature* contains an article by Viktor Kovalenko *Belarusian Literature*. Belarusian literary critic Yulia Kane appeared in the magazines *Zviazda* and *Friendship of Peoples*. Publications about the works of Uladzimir Karatkevich, Anatol Kudravets, Ivan Shamyakin and other Belarusian writers appeared on the pages of such publications as *In the World of Books*, *Literary Review*, *Friendship of Peoples* and others.

In March, a round table between the BSSR Writers' Union and *Literaturnaya Gazeta* on the topic of reflecting labour themes in fiction was held in Minsk. Speakers included A. Khakimov, T. Zolotukhina, A. Bocharov, R. Mustafin and others.

From March 20th to 29th, the Days of Culture of Soviet Lithuania were held in the BSSR. The national poet of Belarus Piatus Brouka spoke at the opening

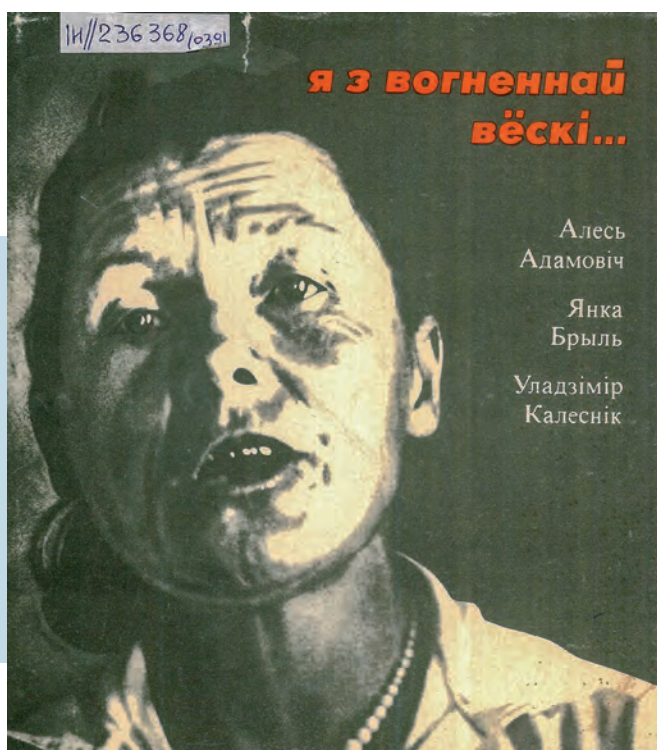


ceremony of the Days. An evening of Lithuanian literature was held at the Palace of Trade Union Culture. The evening was opened by the people's poet of Belarus Maxim Tank. M. Luzhanin, V. Palčinskaitė, M. Kalachinsky, A. Maldonis, A. Grechanikov, A. Baltakis, J. Marcinkevičius and others read their poems and translations. Such meetings and personal relationships between creators contribute to literary brotherhood and expand public diplomacy through the means of fiction. For example, Alfonsas Maldonis (1929 — 2007) over the years of his activity translated the poetic works of Nikolai Avramchik, Anatoly Grechanikov, Vasil Zuyonak, Piatrus Makal into Lithuanian. In turn, the works of the Lithuanian poet were translated into Belarusian by Ryhor Baradulin, Nikolai Bazarevich, Genadz Buraukin, Artur Volsky, Vera Verba, Anatoly Grechanikov, Khvedar Zhichka, Vasil Zuyonak, Mikhas Kalachinsky, Uladzimir Karatkevich, Yevdokia Los, Piatrus Makal, Ryhor Nekhay, Sergey Poniznik, Vladimir Pavlov, Ales Rozanov and others. An impressive example of attention to the work of one poet in another national literature! A separate book of poems by Alfonsas Maldonis in the Belarusian language *Watermarks* was published in the magazine *Mastatskaya Litaratura* from the series *Poetry of the Peoples of the USSR*.

On April 23rd—27th, the All-Union Meeting of Writers and Critics took place in Tbilisi. Belarus was represented by Ivan Chigrinov, Anatoly Grechanikov, Vladimir Gnilomedov and others. In June in Chisinau, at the All-Union Conference on Artistic Searches for Contemporary Multinational Literature, Pavel Dyubailo made a report on the ways of development of the Belarusian novel.

*In July, a delegation of writers from Germany W. Fährmann, G. Platte and L. Rovner visited Minsk. I wonder if this trip left any mark on their work? M. Tank, A. Kulakovsky, Ya. Bryl, A. Vertinsky, Kh. Zhichka, B. Sachenko, Ya. Semezhon, A. Rybak, A. Gorditsky, V. Daylida took part in the meeting with the Germans. All of them saw the Great Patriotic War with their own eyes, participated in various dramatic events, and some of these Belarusian writers were in fascist captivity...*

The secretary of the Union of Writers of Mongolia, the editor-in-chief of the magazine *Tsog* (the name translates as 'Flame!') and the poet Dalantin Tarva came to Minsk. A distant Asian country is not so far from the point of view of the relationship between our literatures. Over the years, translations of poetry and prose by Mongolian authors were published in Belarus. And in the 21st century, certain contacts with Belarusian literature are maintained by the Mongolian writer, screenwriter, journalist Badam-Ochirin Galaarid, who, among other things, translated Francis Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, as well as the stories of Jack London and Herodotus's *History* into Mongolian. And also *Sonnets* by Yanka Kupala. They were published in Ulaanbaatar as a separate book — in Mongolian, Belarusian and Russian. In 2019, Badam-Ochirin Galaarid visited the Yanka Kupala State Literary Museum and donated the Mongolian edition of *Sonnets* to the museum's funds. On October 10th — 15th, the Days of Music and Literature of the Chuvash Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic were held in Belarus. A group of Chuvash writers was accepted into the Writers' Union of the BSSR. Many years would pass — and the people's poet of Chuvashia Yuri Semender would mention these Days in an interview in the appendix to the parliamentary and government Belarusian newspaper



■ Edition 1975



## 90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRITERS' UNION

*Zviazda*, *Union Eurasia*, as follows, "...Among the delegation of our writers were the Chairman of the Board of the Union of Writers of Chuvashia, a literary critic Nikolai Dedushkin, national poet Stikhvan Shavly, playwright Nikolai Terentyev, poets Aleksandr Kalgan, Vladimir Kharitonov and me, Yuri Semender. And how could we all not fall in love with Belarus, where we could still feel the spirit of the people's feat in the Great Patriotic War, where stories about the difficult years of military adversity awaited us at every step. The opening and closing of the large friendship festival took place grandly, at the highest level, and between them joint groups of literary and cultural figures made trips to the regions. I personally ended up in the Brest direction group. Of the Belarusian writers, Vasil Zuyonak, Gennady Klevko and Ales

In 1974, Vasil Bykau was awarded the USSR State Prize for the stories *To Live Until Dawn* and *Obelisk*. Ales Adamovich received the Literary Prize from the USSR Ministry of Defence for *The Khatyn Tale*.

As for the publication of books by Belarusian authors in Moscow, 1974 was marked by the appearance in Moscow of Uladzimir Karatkevich's novel *Ears of Rye under Thy Sickle* translated by Valentina Shchedrina. Three years later, in 1977, this translation was published as a separate book in Minsk. Later, more than once, books by Uladzimir Karatkevich will be published in Russian — both in Moscow and Minsk — precisely in translations by Valentina Shchedrina (1927 — 2008), born in Belarus, in the Gomel Region. **1975...** In January, the Days of Belarusian Literature are held in Poland. The Belarusian delegation included



■ Janka Bryl in India

Rybak were with us. In two days, we, one might say, became friends, became brothers. Performing together in cities and villages, in army units, we completely got used to the Belarusian friendly and hospitable people's environment..." Many years will pass — and the *Zvyazda* publishing house will release a separate collection of poems by Yuri Semender in the series *Syabrina: Poetry of the Peoples of Russia* translated by the laureate of the State Prize of the Republic of Belarus Nikolai Metlitsky. By the way, it is for this series that Nikolai Mikhailovich translated a book of poems by Chuvash authors Misha Sespel and Valery Turgai, and the people's poet of Chuvashia Yuri Semender translated the works of many Belarusian poets into his native language.

Maxim Tank, Genadz Buraukin, Ales Adamovich and others.

In February, the All-Union Meeting of Writers and Critics *The Immortal Feat of the People in the Great Patriotic War and Soviet Literature* was held at the Opera and Ballet Theatre in Minsk. This meeting became an event that remained in the memory of many Belarusian and Russian writers. Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and at that time an employee of the CPSU Central Committee, Vladimir Vasilyevich Gnilomedov, noted this event in his diary, "...Many guests from Moscow (I met K. Simonov at the station, he arrived with his wife under the surname Zhadova), from other republics. We placed them in the Yubileiny



and Minsk hotels. It is planned to visit Khatyn and the Mound of Glory. In addition to the writers, there are party and Soviet workers, representatives of the political administration of the Red Banner Belarusian Military District, the Komsomol, and the Republican Council of War Veterans.

And what I am very pleased about is the entire Institute of Literature. A review report on the topic was prepared by Lev Yakimenko. Then we listened to Pyotr Mironovich Masherov. He talked for something like an hour. He read his speech with obvious pleasure, raising and lowering his intonation, emphasising individual words and expressions. He made a very good impression on the writers, they spoke very highly of him. They don't say that about Brezhnev.

"However, he knows agriculture well!" said L. M. Novichenko, who, as a critic, knows how to 'poke'.

After Pyotr Mironovich, the following speakers took turns: Sergei Baruzdin, Major General of Aviation Kletskin, Yuri Zbanatsky, Laziz Kayumov, Nikolai Gribachev, Mumin Kanoat and others.

28th of February. V. Bykau spoke. I remember his words, "The skyscraper of the modern world was built on the foundation of our Victory."

The scale of such events cannot be overestimated. And the relations growing out of this kind of conferences and scientific symposia, as a rule, contributed to the development and strengthening of the international authority of Belarusian literature itself."

In 1975, the famous documentary book *I Am from The Fiery Village* by Ales Adamovich, Yanka Bryl, and Vladimir Kolesnik was published as a separate book edition in Minsk. And in the 1977–1980s and subsequent years, it was published in Russian, Polish and English translations (by the way, this English edition was published in Moscow, with the obvious expectation that through the International Book the volume of painful memories of the Great Patriotic War would reach those countries where, due to the Cold War, the scale of the tragedy caused by German fascism was quickly forgotten), Hungarian and other languages.

*On April 11th, 1975, the newspaper Litaratura i Mastatstva reported that an issue of the Unison magazine dedicated to Soviet literature was published in Havana. Belarusian beautiful writing was represented in this edition by Maxim Tank and Vasil Bykau. It*



■ Andrey Voznesensky and Vladimir Byadulya, 1975.  
Photo by Yuri Ivanov.

*should be noted that in the 1970s and 1980s, literary ties between Belarus and Cuba developed quite rapidly. Belarusian writers Ryhor Baradulin, Ales Zhuk, Carlos Sherman and others visited Freedom Island. The Minsk publishing houses Mastatskaya Litaratura and Yunost have published a number of books by Cuban writers translated into Belarusian. Carlos Sherman and Ryhor Baradulin translated the poems of Nicolás Guillén into Belarusian. The popular Belarusian writer Alena Bravo, who lived in Cuba for some time, 'brought' from Freedom Island a rather interesting story, Curfew for Swallows. Maybe over time, given the good external relations between the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Belarus, Belarusian-Cuban literary ties will gain a 'second wind'?*

Based on the report of *Litaratura i Mastatstva*, published on May 9th, 1975, an evening of Belarusian literature was held in Paris at the House of Soviet Science and Culture.

The Moscow magazine *Literature Issues* published the writers' response to the questionnaire *The Glory of Those Days Won't Be Forgotten*, dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Great Victory. Belarus was represented by Ales Adamovich, Ivan Melezh, Ivan Naumenko, Ivan Chigrinov, Ivan Shamyakin.



## 90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRITERS' UNION

In July, a festival of Soviet drama took place in Czechoslovakia. Each theatre presented two productions. Andrei Makayonak's play *Downtrodden Apostle* was staged at the Večerne Brno Theatre, and *Tribunal* was staged at the South Bohemian Theatre in České Budějovice.

*On August 1st, the BSSR Writers' Union had a conversation with a writer from Luxembourg, Rosemary Kiefer.*

On September 4th, the BSSR hosted a literary evening dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Belarusian writers spoke. Yazez Semezhon read his translations of Vietnamese poetry. There was also a guest from Vietnam — Nguyen Van Tien, who spoke about the popularity of works by Belarusian authors translated into Vietnamese. By the way, back in 1968, Yazez Semezhon published a collection of classical and modern Vietnamese poetry, *The Burnt Lotus*, in his translations. Over the years, books by Uladzimir Karatkevich, Vasil Bykau, Ivan Shamyakin and other Belarusian writers were published in Vietnam.

In October 1975, foreign participants in the International Symposium on Historical Experience of the Second World War and the Writer's Responsibility for the Fate of His People and Humanity in the Conditions of De-Escalation of International Tension arrived in Minsk. The experience of holding international meetings, which was especially evident in Belarusian literary and social life in the 1970s, obviously needs to be revived. The practice of holding the Writer and Time International Literary Symposium, which began in 2015, confirms the merits



■ Edition translated by V. Syomukha, 1976

of artistic and literary dialogue between poets, prose writers, publicists, and literary scholars from different countries. Undoubtedly, everyone strives to talk about their national literature, their attitude towards the reader, their influence on the consciousness of society. And yet, in such conversations and discussions, common approaches to building a humanistic society throughout the world are being developed. On the eve of the Day of Belarusian Literature, a round table of Belarusian and foreign writers *Fiction as a Path to Each Other* has been held in Minsk and other cities of the country since 2007. In recent years, the issues raised at symposia and round tables have acquired a more journalistic and sociological character. In March 2024, the traditional symposium bore the following title: *The Writer and Time. Partnership for the Future*. Iranian scientist, diplomat, and publicist Sanai Mehdi took part in the discussions and presented *Conversations About a Future That Does Not Yet Exist in Minsk. Russia and the World in the 21st Century*. Also speaking from the Minsk rostrum were the Egyptian writer and publicist Doha Mustafa Assy, the rector of the St. Petersburg Humanitarian University of Trade Unions Aleksandr Zapesotsky, the head of the Valdai Russian political science club, publicist Andrei Bystritsky, and Doctor of Historical Sciences from China Tsang Ying. In November 1974, the Moscow Academic Theatre named after V. Mayakovsky staged a play based on the story *The Third Rocket* by Vasil Bykau. Director: Ye. Lazarev. By the way, some time later Yevgeny Lazarev (1937 — 2016) staged a play based on Bykau's story in the GDR. Theatre director and actor, People's Artist of the RSFSR Ye. Lazarev is our compatriot, a native of Minsk.



■ Nikolai Metlitsky



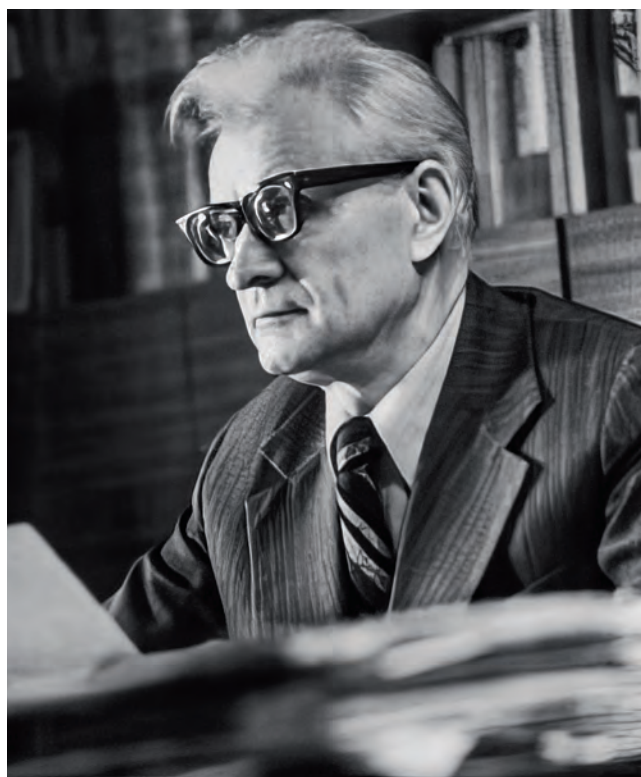
1976...

At the beginning of the year, a meeting of writers from the Bryansk, Chernigov and Gomel regions took place in Gomel. Speeches by writers on the topic *The Writer and the Modern Hero* were organised on television. Traditions of such meetings have been preserved. In Gomel, colossal work is now being carried out to develop and strengthen contacts with regional literary organisations of the Russian Federation, thanks to the efforts of the Gomel regional branch of the Writers' Union of Belarus, personally its chairman, deputy of the House of Representatives of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Belarus Vladimir Gavrilovich. Gomel writers themselves travel to the regions of Russia, invite their colleagues from different regions to the city on the Sozh River, hold translation competitions, and attract creative youth to public work, which is especially important. In February, the Union of Writers of the USSR held a meeting of the Council on Belarusian Literature in Moscow. Yu. Averchenko, A. Ovcharenko, I. Chigrinov, D. Kovalev, V. Kovalenko, N. Pashkevich, V. Askotsky, A. Adamovich and others.

On March 5th, the people's writer of Belarus, famous playwright and writer Kandrak Krapiva turned 80 years old. Publications dedicated to this date appeared in the Kazakh newspaper *Kazakh Adebieti* (March 12th, 1976), in the newspaper *Yugyd Tui* (Syktyvkar, Komi ASSR; March 4th), the Turkmen weekly *Edebiyat ve Sungat*, the newspaper *Soviet Lithuania*, *Literaturnaya Gazeta*... The anniversary of which of today's famous writers has Belarus so widely glorified in the media space of post-Soviet countries?! Agree, the question is rhetorical.

*In Luxembourg, the House of Culture named after A.S. Pushkin hosted an evening of Belarusian literature. Excerpts from the works of Yevdokia Los and Vasil Bykau were read by Luxembourgers R. Kiefer (possibly a writer who came to Belarus) and T. Deitch.*

In May 1975, the literary evening *Friendship of Peoples — Friendship of Literatures* was held at the Minsk State Pedagogical Institute named after M. Gorky. The evening was attended by writers from the republics of the USSR who participated in the 7th Congress of the BSSR Writers' Union. A reminder of this event emphasises the exceptional role in the development of international literary relations at the present stage. Young people are actively learning different languages. A huge number of foreign students study at universities



■ Chairman of the Council of Belarusian Literature of the USSR Writers' Union Alexander Ovcharenko

in Belarus. Working with creative youth and teachers at universities in the humanities could significantly influence the development of international literary relations. For example, on December 9th, 2010, the Centre for Azerbaijani Language and Culture was opened at the Belarusian State Pedagogical University named after M. Tank (formerly the Pedagogical Institute named after M. Gorky). By the way, it was he who initiated the evening dedicated to the classic of Azerbaijani literature M. Mushvig, who at one time, in 1936, visited Minsk and, together with G. Javid, participated in an evening of Azerbaijani poetry in the Belarusian capital. Confucius Institutes of Chinese Studies operate very fruitfully in various universities across the country. They could become an excellent platform for the development of Belarusian-Chinese relations. By the way, thanks to the support of the Republican Institute of Chinese Studies named after Confucius of BSU, in 2012, a project was implemented to publish an anthology of translations into the Belarusian language *Under the Wings of the Dragon: One Hundred Poets of China*, and 'Chinese' editions of the magazines *Neman* and *Maladost* were also published.

Kastus Leshnitsa

(to be continued)



# ПРАПУСКАЮЧЫ ЖЫЦЦЁ ПРАЗ ЛІТАРАТУРУ

У Кітаі пабачыў свет збор твораў Алесь Бадака

## 用文学传递生命

阿列斯·巴达克作品选在中国出版

У выдавецтве “Турызм і адукацыя” (Пекін) на кітайскай мове выйшла кніга “Выбраныя творы” Алесь Бадака ў перакладзе Хань Сяе. Сярод перакладаў ёсць і паэтычныя, і пражыццёвыя творы аўтара: “Дождж ліў як з вядра”, “Баптыстка”, “Сабака, які забыў сваё імя”, “Душа твая светлая”, “Адзінокі васьмікласнік хоча пазнаёміцца”, “Нелюдзімы”, “У цёмным лесе за сіняй рэчкай”, “Трава”, “\*\*\* Што яшчэ будзе? Што там далей?..”, “\*\*\* Пакуль няма цябе са мной...”, “Чорт”, “Цішыня”, “\*\*\*Мы ніколі не станем радней...” і інш.

Алесь Бадак (Алесь Мікалаевіч Бадак) — беларускі паэт, пражыццёвы публіцыст, літаратурны крытык, аўтар твораў дзіцячай літаратуры і тэкстаў песень. За сваю плённую працу і ўнёсак у развіццё беларускай літаратуры ўганараваны медалём Францыска Скарыны, ордэнам Францыска Скарыны. Лаўрэат Нацыянальнай літаратурнай прэміі Рэспублікі Беларусь, прэміі СНД “Зоркі садружнасці”, літаратурнай прэміі “Залаты Купідон” і прэміі Васіля Віткі.

Ён пачаў пісаць вельмі рана — у 1979 годзе. Калі Алесю Мікалаевічу было толькі 13 гадоў, у газеце “Піянер Беларусі” з’явілася яго першая сур’ёзная публікацыя — пяць вершаў на конкурс “Арляняты”.



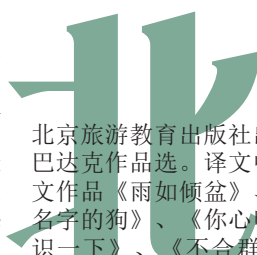
■ Алесь Бадак 阿列斯·巴达克

Першы вершаваны зборнік Бадака “Будзень” пабачыў свет у 1989 годзе, у наступныя гады аўтар выдаў зборнікі паэзіі і прозы “За ценом самотнага сонца: Вершы і песні” (1995), “Маланкавы посах: Кніга лірыкі” (2004) “Адзінокі васьмікласнік хоча

пазнаёміцца” (2014), “Развітанне з вечнасцю” (2019), “Ідэальны чытач” (2021), “Уладар ветру” (2022) і інш. Алесь Бадак — прафесійны літаратар ва ўсёй шырыні гэтага тэрміну. Ён з ранняга ўзросту цікавіўся, пагружаўся ў літаратуру. Нават кнігай, па якой будучы пісьменнік вучыўся чытаць, быў не звыклы буквар, а раман Івана Навуменкі “Вецер у соснах”. У школе любімымі прадметамі Алесь Бадака былі таксама мова і літаратура, і таму нядзіўна, што для вышэйшай адукацыі Алесь Мікалаевіч абраў філалагічны факультэт Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта, дзе яго настаўнікамі былі Алег Лойка, Дзмітрый Бугаёў, Вячаслаў Рагойша, Адам Супрун, Леанід Бурак і іншыя вядомыя беларускія навукоўцы ў галіне літаратуры і мовазнаўства. Пасля заканчэння ўніверсітэта ён працаваў у літаратурных часопісах “Бярозка”, “Полымя”, “Маладосць”, “Нёман”, а зараз узначальвае выдавецтва “Мастацкая літаратура”. Алесь Бадак шмат гадоў прафесійна чытае і рэдагуе творы іншых аўтараў, дзякуючы яго намаганням на старонках літаратурных часопісаў і асобнымі кнігамі друкуюцца выбітныя пісьменнікі і таленавітыя творы знаходзяць свой шлях да чытачоў. У інтэрв’ю для “Настаўніцкай газеты” Алесь Мікалаевіч аднойчы сказаў: “Для мяне літаратурныя часопісы і літаратура — гэта тое, у чым, нягледзячы на доўгае прафесійнае жыццё ў літаратурных выданнях, увесь час можна знаходзіць нешта новае. Час мяняецца, мяняюцца аўтары, мяняюцца літаратурныя пакаленні, і з кожнай новай літаратурнай эпохай адчуваеш абнаўленне ў сабе. Для пісьменніка важна быць у кантакце не толькі са сваімі калегамі, а менавіта з літаратурнымі выданнямі. Мне цікава чытаць маладых — творы новых напрамкаў, новага стылю, які нясе ў літаратуру моладзь. І, безумоўна, гэта адбіваецца на тым, што я пішу сам.”

Унёсак Алесь Бадака ў развіццё беларускай літаратуры ацэньваюць высока і чытачы, і яго калегі па літаратурнай працы. Яго паплечнік, старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Алесь Карлюкевіч працягвае думку Алесь Мікалаевіча: “Творчасць Алесь Бадака займае адну з цэнтральных пазіцый у сучаснай беларускай літаратуры. Месца пісьменніка вызначае чытацкую ўвагу да яго творчасці. Гэта датычыцца ўсіх напрамкаў, у якіх працуе паэт і прэзаік Алесь Бадак. Як тонкі, пранізлівы лірык у сваёй творчасці ён шчыра выказваецца пра чалавека, яго перажыванні адносна выбару жыццёвых дарог. У вершах Алесь Бадака шмат смутку і трывог. Але хіба сёння можна пісаць інакш?! Як прэзаік, аўтар апавяданняў і апавесцей, пісьменнік шукае патаемныя душэўныя струны ў думках, свядомасці чалавека, у яго сардэчных памкненнях.”

Бадак неаднаразова падкрэсліваў, што літаратура для яго — гэта духоўны скарб. І ён шчаслівы чалавек, бо менавіта праз літаратуру змог знайсці свой голас:



北京旅游教育出版社出版了韩小也老师翻译的阿列斯·巴达克作品选。译文中既有巴达克的诗歌作品，也有散文作品《雨如倾盆》、《浸礼宗教教徒》、《忘了自己名字的狗》、《你心明朗》、《孤独的八年级学生想认识一下》、《不合群的人》、《蓝河那边阴暗的森林里》《女妖之国非凡之旅》、《草》、《什么还会发生？什么还能期待？》、《当你不在我身边》、《魔鬼》、《静默》和《我们永远不会成为亲戚》等。

阿列斯·巴达克（亚历山大·尼古拉耶维奇·巴达克），白罗斯诗人、小说家、时评家、文学评论家、儿童文学和歌词作家，对白罗斯文学发展做出了杰出的贡献。曾被授予弗朗齐斯卡·斯卡里纳奖章及弗朗齐斯卡·斯卡里纳勋章，是白罗斯共和国国家文学奖、独联体国家“联邦星星”

奖、“金丘比特”文学奖和瓦西里·维特卡奖获得者。

他很早就开始从事文学创作。1979年，阿列斯·巴达克仅13岁时，他的第一部正式作品就已出现在《白罗斯少先队员》报上——为《小鹰》比赛写了五首诗。巴达克的第一部诗集《日常》于1989年出版，随后几年作者出版了诗集和散文集《忧



郁太阳的阴影背后：诗歌与歌曲》（1995年）、《闪电中的权杖：抒情诗》（2004年）、《孤独的八年级学生想认识一下》（2014年）、《永别了，永恒》（2019年）、《理想的读者》（2021年）、《风之王》（2022年）等。

阿列斯·巴达克是一个十分符合专业作家的名字。他从小就对文学感兴趣，并专心致志于文学。就连这位未来作家学习阅读的书也不是通常的识字课本，而是白罗斯作家伊万·纳穆门卡的小说《松林风》。在学校，阿列斯·巴达克最喜欢的课程也是语言和文学，因此，阿列斯·巴达克选择白罗斯国立大学语言系读书也就不足为奇了，他的老师是奥列格·洛伊卡、德米特里·布加耶夫、维亚切斯拉夫·罗戈伊沙、亚当·苏普伦、列昂尼德·布里亚克等白罗斯文学和语言学领域著名学者。大学毕业后，曾在文学杂志《白桦树》《火焰》《青年》《涅曼》工作，现任文艺出版社社长。阿列斯·巴达克多年来一直专业阅读和编辑其他作家的作品，在他的努力下，优秀作家才华横溢的作品在文学杂志上或以书籍发表，并找到其读者。阿列斯·巴达克在接受《教





Вераніка **Карлюкевіч**

近年来，白俄罗斯在华影响显著增长。随着白俄罗斯与中国关系的进一步深化，中白作家、文学评论家和翻译家之间建立积极直接关系的时机已经到来。如今，联合项目的倡议既来自高层，也来自其直接执行者——翻译者和出版商。令人欣慰的是，中国和白俄罗斯的高等教育机构正在成为连接痴迷于文学和跨文化交际的才华横溢的研究人员和翻译家的桥梁。在中国有十四个白俄罗斯研究中心，白俄罗斯语在北京第二外国语学院、天津外国语学院、西安外国语学院、北京外国语学院教授。在中国开始举行白俄罗斯研究科学会议。例如，自2016年起，每年在北京第二外国语学院举办中白关系及白俄罗斯局势国际会议，中国研究人员研究白俄罗斯政治、经济、文化等领域。至于中国的白俄罗斯文学研究，也正成为中国年轻研究者关注的焦点之一。他们不仅熟知雅库布·柯拉斯、扬卡·库帕拉、马克西姆·唐克、伊万·沙米亚金、瓦西里·贝科夫等20世纪下半叶被译成中文的白俄罗斯作家的作品，而且还积极熟悉白俄罗斯当代文学状况。现在白俄罗斯文学已经被视为一种独立的文学，而不是苏联俄语文学的一部分。白俄罗斯当代一流作家阿列斯·巴达克等人的作品集的出版，是白俄罗斯文学在中国普及的重要一步，从而加深了中白两国人民之间的了解。

维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇（韦兰妮）





# BRIGHT COLOURS AND EMOTIONS OF THE FESTIVAL



**The fanfares and fireworks  
died down, the songs ended...  
Vitebsk said goodbye to the  
33rd International Arts Festival  
Slavianski Bazaar, which left  
an indelible impression**







### Talents and fans

For many years now, *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* has remained the main cultural decoration of July. Old-timers of the festival today admit: more than a quarter of a century ago, none of them could have imagined that the quiet joys of the festival would eventually turn into a large musical and theatrical platform for art of the highest standard. During this time, *Slavianski Bazaar* did not just pass in a flash in the festival night of the post-Soviet space, but significantly expanded its borders. Artists from almost a hundred countries have already visited the hospitable land of Vitebsk, and this, as they say in the organising committee of the festival, is far from the limit.



Yes, *Slavianski Bazaar* is a unique project in every sense. This is both one of the major attractions of the country and a meeting place for friends and acquaintances from different countries of the world. And of course, it's gratifying when this particular festival becomes a springboard to recognition and creative growth for young performers. Like a magnet, Vitebsk attracts talents and fans from different parts of the planet. Such interest in the festival is, of course, impressive.

### Openness to the world

For the 33rd time, the call signs of *Slavianski Bazaar* were heard from the stage of the Summer Amphitheatre in Vitebsk. Its motto 'Through art to peace and understanding' not only does not lose its relevance, but is also filled with new meaning. This festival has brought together like-





minded people from four dozen countries. It is watched and listened to on all continents. According to tradition, the President of Belarus also came to the grand opening of *Slavianski Bazaar*. Addressing residents and guests of Vitebsk, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that today this festival unites people of different generations, religions and cultures — true connoisseurs of art with a variety of preferences — from avant-garde to classics. But most importantly, it has become a family holiday, a holiday of traditional values, “Here the residents and our guests really rest their souls. And no matter how anyone tries to muffle and downplay the significance of our festival, nothing works. It thunders throughout the entire planet!”

And in his speech, the President emphasised that the Slavic soul is limitless in its openness to the world. Therefore, the festival has long gone beyond the geographical boundaries of the Slavic brotherhood, “The current forum has brought together like-minded people from more than 40 countries:

from Russia to India, from China to Colombia. Today, for the first time, we welcome ministers of culture and creative groups from the countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation — now our organisation.”

### Big festival family

At the opening of the 33rd International Arts Festival *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* Aleksandr Lukashenko presented People’s Artist of Russia Grigory Leps with the main prize of the forum — a special award of the President of Belarus ‘Through art to peace and understanding’. The award is given to cultural and artistic figures who have made a significant contribution to strengthening international cultural cooperation and promoting humanistic ideals and values. The symbol of the award is a figurine of a girl holding a wreath.

“Many thanks to Aleksandr Grigorievich and the entire Belarusian people for such a high award. Thank you for appreciating my musical work. Happiness, health, all the best to your brotherly people,” the artist expressed his gratitude.

The President also presented the Union State Prizes in the field of literature and art for 2023—2024. The prize winners were the Chief Architect of the Belgosproekt Institute, Viktor Skrobot, the muralist, member of the Belarusian Union of Artists Andrei Petkevich, and the Director of the National Historical Museum of Belarus, Aleksandr Khramov, for the creation of a museum in the Khatyn State Memorial Complex. Another laureate was the historian and writer Vladimir Likhodedov — for the creation and implementation of the historical and educational project *Batskaushchyna* and the publication of author’s book-albums. The prize was also awarded to the General Director of Kuban Cossack Choir Scientific and Creative Cultural Institution of the Krasnodar Territory, Viktor Zakharchenko, for creating the cycle of songs *Belarus, Rus, Across the River*.





The Grand Prix of the International Children's Music Competition *Vitebsk* was awarded to the representative of Uzbekistan Yasmina Khusniddinova, the participant scored 139 points out of a possible 140. This year's competition brought together participants from 14 countries. The performances were evaluated by an international jury, headed by Eteri Beriashvili, a singer, composer, and vocal teacher from Georgia. Representative of Belarus Zlata Yaroshevich scored 136 points based on the results of two competition days. The performance of the song in her native language *The Sun of Belarus* based on the verses of Anna Seluk was highly appreciated by experts; the girl amazed the judges with her deep vocals, charisma and a beautiful number.

### All flags are welcome

*Slavianski Bazaar* is breaking records: this year 42 participating countries were represented at the cornflower forum, 6 thousand people were involved in festival events, and 500 journalists from different countries were accredited at the International Press Centre. At the festival, as always, there were many stars — Belarusian and foreign. Guest from Denmark Tomas N'evergreen, BACCARA band, Grigory Leps, Dima Bilan, Mikhail Shufutinsky, Ani Lorak, Taisiya Povaliy, Ruslan Alekhno, Aleksandr Solodukha, Natalya Podolskaya, Viktoria Aleshko, Alena Lanskaya, Pesnyary, Syabry, Song and Dance Ensemble of the Russian Army named after A.V. Aleksandrov, Kuban Cossack Choir — everyone could find a song to their taste.

Oleg Gazmanov, who considered the cornflower rally an ideal platform to celebrate the 55th anniversary of his creative activity, admitted, "The platform itself captivates me, it is ideal for spectators. The artists are clearly visible — respect to all the soldiers of the invisible front behind the scenes who set up the equipment and take care of it. And it's also nice for the artists, because in the amphitheatre you



can see the back rows, in the open air. I really like this site. That's why this is my favourite festival."

Chairman of the Commission on Culture, Science and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly of Belarus and Russia, famous actor Nikolai Burlyayev, outlined the role of the *Slavianski Bazaar* as one of the main cultural events of the year, "I congratulate everyone on the large-scale holiday that the guests have been waiting for all year. Now





## TERRITORY OF ART

people come here from different parts of the country and beyond. People want to see the development of the festival, its spiritual enrichment. After all, we are Slavs. When *Slavianski Bazaar* first appeared, saying “we are Slavs” was a responsible step. But we said it. 33 is a symbolic number. *Slavianski Bazaar* has every chance to make a new round of its development for the joy of the world. Culture, science, education are the three pillars of national security, so it is extremely important how we develop our beloved *Slavianski Bazaar* so that year after year it becomes enlightened, directing the human soul upward.”

### Serving noble causes

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin addressed a welcoming telegram to the participants and

cultures of the fraternal Slavic peoples, and will contribute to the development of multilateral humanitarian cooperation.

### Based on the principles of humanism

It must be said that greeting messages came to the 33rd International Festival of Arts *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* from different countries of the world. Kind words and parting words to the participants and guests of the festival came from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Serbia, and Uzbekistan.

“This is a unique event that unites hearts, creating an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. Without a doubt, this year the festival will again become a bright event, giving inspiration and delighting us with amazing performances and impressions,” said the greeting sent by the Minister of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic Altynbek Maksutov. “I hope that the spiritual message that the cultural festival carries will cross the borders of even more countries every day and next year the 34th International Arts Festival *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* will be held at a time when the shadow of war disappears from this region and peace and friendship will be re-established between neighbouring peoples, especially the Slavic brothers,” the Minister of Culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili, addressed the Belarusians. “For 33 years now, hospitable Belarus has been holding a wonderful festival for everyone who wants to immerse themselves in the rich culture and art of not only Slavic, but all peoples. Your festival has already become a good tradition, uniting rich national cultures, further strengthening friendship and mutual understanding between our peoples. Today it is the largest socio-cultural forum, which is based on the principles of humanism, the establishment of peace and harmony between our fraternal states, connected by



guests of the 33rd International Arts Festival *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk*. The text of the message at the opening ceremony of the festival was read by Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Aleksey Overchuk. The message emphasised that over the past years the Vitebsk festival, held under the motto “Through art to peace and understanding”, has gained well-deserved international authority. For composers, singers, poets, artists and performers of various genres, it provides a good opportunity to demonstrate talent and skill, communicate with colleagues and friends, and share experiences and creative plans.

The message also noted that this time a special place in the busy programme of the forum is occupied by events dedicated to two significant anniversaries — the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on the Creation of the Union State. The President of Russia thanked everyone who contributed to the organisation of the festival and expressed confidence that the *Slavianski Bazaar* will serve the noble goals of spiritual unity and mutual enrichment of the





a centuries-old history,” notes the Minister of Culture of Uzbekistan Ozodbek Nazarbekov in his message.

### Foundation of international friendship

If the word ‘Vitebsk’ is heard somewhere outside the country, a roar of voices is immediately heard: oh, Chagall, oh, *Slavianski Bazaar*! Many stars lit up on its stage. But it is not only music that unites all those who come to the festival: it also serves as a solid foundation for international friendship and cooperation. This year, an important new feature has appeared on the schedule — the Day of National Cultures of the countries participating in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The event is truly significant and special — recently, let us remind you, Belarus became the tenth full member of the ‘SCO family’.

Members of the official delegations of the SCO member countries who came to Vitebsk these days did not hide the fact that much here is new to them. From the very beginning of the SCO, the emphasis was on cooperation in the field of security, countering terrorism, separatism, and extremism — these areas remain a priority for the organisation today. However, in Vitebsk they talked about other priorities — primarily cultural, humanitarian and scientific. After all, *Slavianski Bazaar* is also the largest discussion platform where representatives of different national cultures traditionally meet. It was not for nothing that one of the festival days was opened by a meeting of the ministers of culture of the SCO member countries.

### Event on the cultural calendar

For the Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Zhang Ming, this was his first acquaintance



with the city on the Dvina. At a round table dedicated to the topic of dialogue of cultures, he thanked Belarus for the warm welcome, noting that this is the first event to be held in the country after its official entry into the ‘SCO family’. And Belarus is already fully demonstrating the importance it attaches to this cooperation, “We are convinced that regular

interaction between the Belarusian side and members of the ‘SCO family’ will play an important role in strengthening our cooperation and will lay the foundation for further development of interaction.”

People have heard about the *Slavianski Bazaar* far beyond the Slavic world. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to Belarus Alok Ranjan Jha believes that over the past three decades the festival has established itself as a grand event in the cultural calendar of the region. Well, this year is especially important, since Belarus has just joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation as a full member. As for India’s relations with members of the ‘SCO family’, they go back centuries, and in some cases, millennia, the ambassador noted. These connections stem from common history and heritage, common traditions and cultures, and common ideas and interests. These contacts allow SCO members to share and benefit from their cultural achievements.

After participating in the round table, the guests went to Zdravnevo. The estate of Ilya Repin is an iconic place not only for the artistic history of Belarus. For many years, during the International Festival of Arts *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk*, Belarusian-Russian plein airs of young artists have been held here. Moreover, all these years the master’s estate museum has been under the patronage of the Union State. Largely thanks to this support, the museum is annually replenished with new exhibits, the collection of paintings by the owner of the estate, Ilya Repin, as well as other Peredvizhniki, is growing.

### According to a beautiful custom

The official ceremony of the Day of National Cultures of the SCO member countries was opened by Deputy





Prime Minister of Belarus Igor Petrishenko. He recalled that during the work of *Slavianski Bazaar*, the festival was visited by representatives of more than 85 countries. Throughout its existence, the festival follows the once chosen motto 'Through art to peace and understanding'. However, this year the festival is truly unique. Belarus is very proud to have become a full member of the SCO. As President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, we will try to make every effort to ensure that the authority of the organization grows and the circle of its allies and supporters expands. Thanks to the synergy achieved by the participating countries with regard to Belarus's accession to the SCO, it was possible to fill the work of the organisation with another truly significant event in the calendar of world cultural events already at the initial stage.

In Vitebsk, participants in the Day of National Cultures of the SCO member countries were invited to join the beautiful Belarusian custom of tying a ribbon with the ornament of their country on the symbolic tree of friendship. And also make a wish that must come true.

### See you again, festival!

So, another bright chapter in the long history of the legendary creative forum has ended. Throughout the

festival week, thousands of people visited its venues. Here, on the hospitable land of Vitebsk, history was made: the Day of National Cultures of the SCO countries was held for the first time, and the Days of the Union State were celebrated on a large scale. Until the last minute, the audience watched the International Pop Song Performers Competition *Vitebsk*. Belarusian and Russian pop stars performed at the closing concert, presenting their best and favourite hits. And this is only part of the events of a large festival planet called *Slavianski Bazaar*.

### Grand Prix and other awards

The cornflower forum will be remembered for its incredible musical solutions. The closing concert of the festival was replete with well-known hits for all times, and only recently released musical novelties. On the stage that evening appeared the queen of Russian chanson Lyubov Uspenskaya, owner of the unique vocal range of Ani Lorak, and the favourites of the Belarusian public — the Turetsky Choir. The summer amphitheatre exploded with applause every now and then. Among those competing for victory in the International Contest of Pop Song Performers *Vitebsk* were not only representatives of countries geographically close to Belarus. Some literally came from the other side of the planet. Thus,



Yetsi from Venezuela and Thami Mbatha from South Africa also competed in the vocal competition.

This year Belarus chose a participant with a strong voice and obvious artistry. On the first day of the competition, Valery Chuchman started with the composition *Kupala — the Star of Belarus*. In the finale, he captivated with the amazing melody of his performance, betting on the world-famous hit *In Memory of Caruso*.

The Grand Prix went to the representative of Moldova, Caroline Balan. The first prize was taken by Ernazar Zhuban from Kazakhstan. The second step of the podium was shared equally by Russian Yekaterina Kuzina and Italian Maryam Tancredi. The third prize was also shared in half by Nevena Peikova from Bulgaria and Belarusian Valery Chuchman.

The series of awards continued with the presentation of the Slavic Hope special prize. Its owner, Kaleria from Latvia, could barely hold back her tears. Thami Mbatha from South Africa was awarded the Vladimir Mulyavin Award for Excellence in Performance: on the first day of the competition, he delicately performed *I'll Go Out into the Field with a Horse at Night*.

### Records and good tradition

The thirty-third festival will rightfully enter the historical chronicle of the *Slavianski Bazaar* with its records, director of the International Arts Festival Gleb Lapitsky cited impressive figures. So, this year more than 7 thousand participants were accredited for the festival —

this is a record for all 33 years of the *Slavianski Bazaar*. 42 countries took part in it, more than 11 million views were received on online broadcast resources. There is very great interest, namely a quarter of a million views of the festival website — these are 120 countries of the world, whose representatives visited the *Slavianski Bazaar* website. You can also name unofficial statistics. For example, 100 transport units serving the festival travelled more than 120 thousand kilometres during this time. That is, we, together with the *Slavianski Bazaar*, walked around the Earth three times, Gleb Lapitsky figuratively noted.

Meanwhile, the Day of National Cultures of the SCO member countries can become a tradition. The event initiated directly by the President of Belarus, by the way the first for our country as a member of the 'SCO family', was a success. Gleb Lapitsky shared, "We are very pleased that even in such a global organisation, the first initiative from our country is aimed at culture. And it is especially gratifying that it was at *Slavianski Bazaar*. Our only regret is that the event was only for one day. Because those exhibition and concert programmes prepared by our colleagues who came to the Day of National Cultures were truly amazing. The festival directorate has already made a proposal that the Day of National Cultures of the SCO member countries at the *Slavianski Bazaar* become a good tradition.

Vsevolod Yevseyev



# DINAMO IS MORE THAN A STADIUM

**The country's main sports arena has remained a centre of attraction not only for fans for 90 years**



stadium-dinamo.by



The heart of Belarusian sports beat and continues to beat at the Dinamo stadium. No pathos, just facts. In 1923, the Dinamo physical culture and sports society was created, in 1925, Dinamo Belarusian Proletarian Sports Society was organised with branches in all district cities of Belarus. The sports society needed a centre of attraction, an arena for competitions, and even a symbol. It was decided to build a large stadium in Minsk. This year the legendary arena turns 90 years old. And this is an excellent reason to remember its interesting history, which will explain why today the Dinamo National Olympic Stadium is a unique place.

### Symbol of new life

The site for the construction of the stadium was chosen in the very center of Minsk. Dinamo was built by everyone in the Dinamo organisation, as each member of the physical culture and sports society had to work 100 hours at the construction site, ordinary Minsk residents also helped, as they loved sports very much, and probably wanted to watch the competitions in a comfortable stadium. On June 12th, 1934, their wish came true when the stadium officially opened and welcomed the first fans into its stands. The stands were designed for 10 thousand seats, but at particularly interesting matches they accommodated one and a half times as many people. It became clear: modernisation was needed. In 1939, the stadium could already accommodate 22 thousand people (by the way, the same number as now). But the reconstructed stadium did not work for long...

After the Great Patriotic War, the stadium lay in ruins. Therefore, in 1946, when Minsk was being revived after military upheavals, the restoration of Dinamo began. After the war, the project was changed: there was no longer an artificial lake of sculptures and fountains, the stadium was moved to the Svisloch lowland, the main stand for 13 thousand seats was located on a natural slope, and a small stand for 3 thousand people was installed opposite.

stadium-dinamo.by



■ Dinamo Stadium in 1950

Considering the post-war shortage of money and human resources, the builders actually accomplished a feat — on June 12th, 1948, a football match was held at Dinamo.

### History of events at Dinamo

In 1951, the main stadium of the republic was preparing to host the strongest athletes from all over the vast country. The USSR Athletics Championships became an exam for everyone. In the post-war years, major sports competitions were rare for Minsk residents. That's why there was a full house at Dinamo. By the way, home walls also helped Belarusians. At a distance of 400 meters, third place was taken by Anatoly Yulin, who a year later competed at the first Olympic Games for Soviet athletes in Helsinki.

■ On June 23rd, a memorial sign in honour of the Dinamo team, which won the USSR championship title in 1982, was unveiled at the Dinamo National Olympic Stadium, next to the historical arch on Komsomolskaya Street. On the picture: General Director of the Dinamo football club Andrei Tolmach, head coach of the 1982 USSR champions Dinamo Minsk, Honoured Coach of the Belarusian SSR, Honoured Coach of the USSR Eduard Malofeev, General Director of Dynamo Aleksandr But-Gusaim.





## SYMBOLS OF THE COUNTRY



drive2.ru



And Timofey Lunev, the star of Belarusian sports of the first post-war years, won the 200-meter race.

The stadium acquired its modern appearance in 1954 after another reconstruction. Dinamo Stadium was able to serve athletes and spectators much better that year. The grounds and sports sectors of the stadium were rented out for training to all physical education groups. 22 entrances

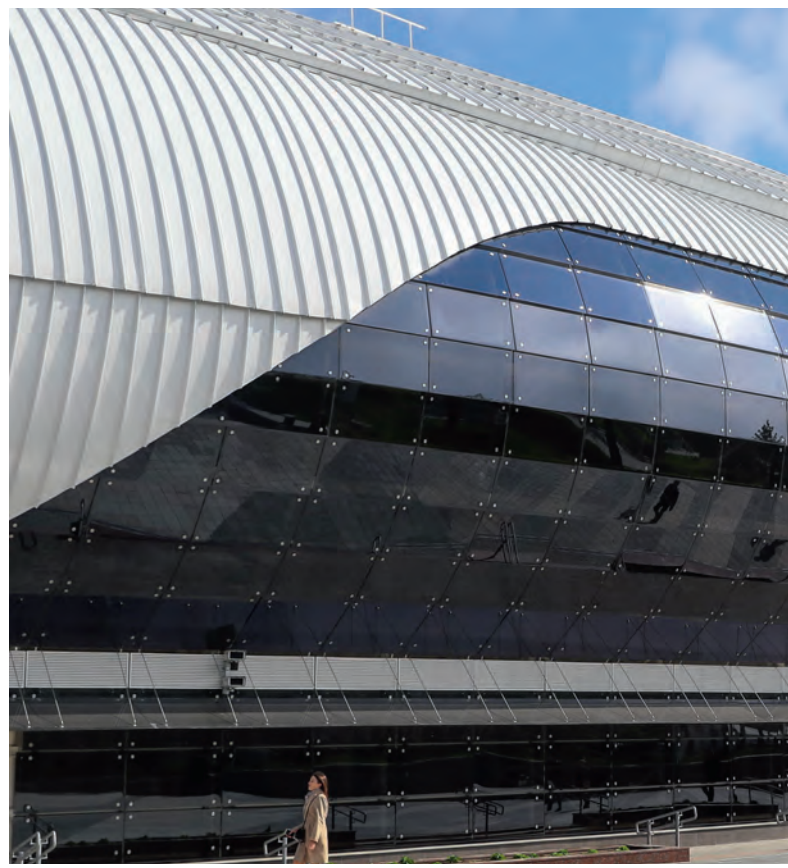
to the stands allowed people to quickly enter and exit the stadium. At the same time, Dinamo became the first multifunctional venue in Belarus: the stadium included four tennis courts, grounds for basketball, volleyball, skittles, rooms for gymnastics, wrestling, boxing, weightlifting, fencing, massage rooms, first aid stations, showers, a 50-meter shooting gallery. In winter, the footpaths near the stadium were filled with water, turning them into a skating rink.

A new page began with football. In 1954, Spartak Minsk made it to the strongest division (Class A) of the USSR Championship. At the home arena, the Minsk Spartak team beat their teammates from Moscow and Zenit. And for the match with Moscow CDSA, tickets were sold out literally in a day. Spartak, by the way, won then. All the stars of Soviet football played at least once on the field of the Minsk Dinamo stadium.

This stadium has seen athletics stars, if not all, then from many times and peoples. In 1973, Dinamo hosted the

USSR-USA track and field match. The event was huge. The crowd was so large that the athletes walked ten meters from the bus to the stadium through a corridor of fans. By the way, the winners of that match were Soviet athletes. History repeated itself in 2019, when Dinamo hosted the first and so far only Europe-USA track and field match in modern history.

Today Dinamo is the national Olympic stadium. It was Olympic in 1980 as well. Several football matches took place on the Minsk field as part of the 22nd Summer





Olympic Games in Moscow. This was preceded by another reconstruction — the capacity of the stands was increased to 50 thousand seats, the stands finally surrounded the arena, and a second floor was installed. The stadium also acquired another feature of its own — the monumental composition *Running* by the famous sculpture Valentin Zankovich. At the same time, a torch bowl for the Olympic flame appeared above the arena, which was lit by Aleksandr Medved on July 20th, 1980.

### Not closed to people

From 2012 to 2018, the stadium underwent the largest reconstruction in its history. The main task was to make the arena modern and at the same time preserve its historical appearance. The architects completed the task. The most recognizable historical part of the stadium has been preserved from the Ulyanovskaya street side. And on the side of Kirova Street, the facade of a modern stadium was created. The stands can accommodate 22 thousand people. Thanks to two large screens and modern sound systems, you can enjoy what is happening in the stadium from any seat.

“After a large-scale reconstruction, Dinamo has turned into a beautiful ultra-modern arena with its own unique image, personifying the rich sports traditions of Belarus. This legendary cultural and sports complex remembers many outstanding performances, victories and great names. The largest international sporting events took place here — from heated football battles of the 1980 Olympics to the unforgettable European Games and the Games of the CIS countries,” noted President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko in his congratulations on its 90th anniversary. Today, Dinamo Stadium is not a closed sports facility,

which opens only for events. It is always open to everyone, because Dinamo is more than a stadium, it is a centre of attraction. It is with this motto that the stadium team works, notes General Director Aleksandr But-Gusaim, “Dinamo Stadium is the point of attraction for the entire country, not only as a sports centre, but also as a cultural centre.”

In 2021, the whole of Minsk watched broadcasts of the European Football Championship right on the Dinamo football field.



■ Aleksandr But-Gusaim

By the way, Euro matches were also shown here in 2024. But a year earlier, film picnics with watching films were held right in the stadium bowl. They also launched hot air balloon flights. Dinamo operates the only underwater filming studio in Belarus and the highest climbing wall in the country. The stadium area is never empty — mothers with strollers,

couples in love, groups of students, tourists. “In many countries, stadiums are closed on days when there are no competitions. But this is absolutely not our approach. I would like to break the stereotypes that the stadium was built only for sports. The state spent money to enable people to come to the site every day. And we want to show that everyone can have a good and interesting time here,” notes Aleksandr But-Gusaim.

Moreover, the stadium team does not see any obstacles for new, even the most daring stadiums. It would seem impossible to let several thousand people onto the football pitch during the next festival. It turns out that it is possible if you approach its maintenance competently. At the beginning of its history, a skating rink was built in the winter on the territory near the stadium. 90 years later, everything is much simpler — the skating rink at Dinamo is available all year round, and synthetic ice can withstand different temperatures.

The Dinamo stadium, like many attractions, has its own unique atmosphere. “Many people have warm memories associated with Dinamo. The stadium is always associated with something good. The historical appearance of the arena with an arch and sculpture of runners probably evokes nostalgia among older people. Modern architectural design attracts young people. Guests of the capital are generally interested in seeing this object,” notes Aleksandr But-Gusaim. “I’m lucky to work in this place. At the age of 18, I dreamed of being a volunteer at athletics competitions; in 2019, I was the coordinator of the Europe-USA match, and later became the director of the stadium. How can you not believe that dreams come true? And they come true at Dinamo.”

Valeria Stetsko

Photo by Viktor Ivanchikov and BelTA





# IN MINSK THEY ALSO JOKE IN ENGLISH



The Belarusian public liked how the actors at the Youth Theatre tried on characters from Oscar Wilde's play *The Importance of Being Earnest*, staged by the famous young director Tatiana Aksenkina. They also get great pleasure from the way English humour makes Belarusians and guests of the capital laugh. Moreover, in such persistent summer heat, which is not typical for our latitudes. However, we, journalists, having attended the next showing of the play, this frivolous comedy for serious people, also could not help but laugh.



Principles, attitudes, stereotypes, masks... Expressed verbally and manifested in our behaviour during communication... How often in life, when encountering a similar phenomenon, I want to tell a person: relax, friend. Or even shake yourself by the scruff of the neck, remind yourself how you need to reduce the degree of feigned importance, remember your nature, and also remember how pleasant it was in childhood — to be, and not to seem. When you are not guided by ridiculous ideas about how you should look in a given situation. Yes, playing in the sandbox was easier... Is a modern person, accustomed to the masks of mockery and buffoonery, irony and sarcasm, ready to abandon them and show



■ The audience is waiting for the performance to begin in the cosy hall of the Youth Theatre

benevolent and sincere seriousness in communicating with each other? Especially in love, in which there is no place for antics, lies, or frivolous jokes.

The performance of the Belarusian State Youth Theatre *The Importance of Being Earnest* reminded us of this. And even if someone didn't think about it, but just had fun, that's good: there's more joy in the world. Perhaps, even during the intermission one could see smiles on the faces of the audience who

touched good literature, packaged in the professional direction of Tatiana Aksenkina, where everything was in place. The meanings, the guidelines the director gave to the actors, the relevance of the sound of the play, the scenery and wonderful costumes of the production designer Olga Gritsaeva, as well as the lighting design of Sergei Ozeran. And, of course, this Wildean literature was no less worthily voiced, or more precisely, lived by theatre actors. Everyone, without exception, played





■ Lackey Lane (Yuri Shelankov) started the stage act. As a loyal servant who has served in the house for many years, he allows himself grumbling remarks to his master.

■ A true English aristocrat Lady Bracknell (Yelena Khristich), satisfied with herself and her position in society, comes to tea with her nephew Algernon Moncrieff (Anatoly Lagutenkov) to discuss important 'musical' issues for her

■ Jack Worthing (Kirill Akulenets) and Algernon are two brilliant British gentlemen, close friends, opponents and rivals in all endeavours.

their roles with inspiration, with that kind attitude towards their characters, which speaks of the director's task they were aware of.

The play has two casts. I will name the names of the actors I saw: Jack Worthing — Kirill Akulenets, Algernon Moncrieff — Anatoly Lagutenkov, Rev. Canon Chasuble — Sergei Sharangovich, Lane, Merriman — Yuri Shelankov, Lady Bracknell — Yelena Khristich, Gwendolen Fairfax — Olga Lifputz-Smoglei, Cecily Cardew — Yelizaveta Ilyevskaya, Miss Prism — Lyubov Pukita. Having mastered the paradoxical English humour, understanding its



nature as much as possible, the actors created a light, playful atmosphere in the performance.

The play by Oscar Wilde, one of the most ironic British writers, who mercilessly ridiculed the traditions of Good Old England, is one of the witty and sophisticated plays of the

world repertoire, which has not left the stage of many theatres around the world for more than a hundred years. It was first performed on Valentine's Day, February 14th, 1895, at St. James's Theatre in London. The title of the play is a play on words — the English 'earnest' translates



one of them is actually named Ernest. The story is characterised by wit and graceful humour. The play is full of passionate courtships and complicated situations.

Will English dandies learn to be serious (read natural!) at least in love affairs? We will find the answer to this question by watching the comedy. And moreover, if we are attentive,



■ Jack Worthing, the owner of a large country estate at the time of his meeting with Lady Bracknell, is quite tactful

■ Lady Bracknell's daughter Gwendolen Fairfax (Olga Lifputz-Smoglei) is as obedient as she is sharp-tongued: she always finds something to say in any dispute

■ Jack Worthing is in love with Lady Bracknell's daughter, the charming Gwendolen Fairfax

■ Next to Lady Bracknell there is Cecily Cardew (Yelizaveta Ilyevskaya), a dreamy and romantic person, a pupil of Jack Worthing

as 'serious' and at the same time is consonant with the name Ernest. For the first production, as history shows, it was largely adapted; music, comic numbers, and dances were introduced into the stage outline. The play was a huge success and turned out to be the last one written by Oscar Wilde.

The action takes place in fashionable London society. Two carefree

gentlemen, pursuing young girls, pretend to be a fictional character named Ernest. The girls got it into their heads that their grooms could not be called anything other than Ernest, that is, translated from English — 'serious man'. The plot is filled with farcical and melodramatic elements — both men are eventually exposed. In the finale, it turns out that Jack and Algernon are siblings, moreover,

penetrating into the meanings, into the psychology of images, we will understand how we ourselves sometimes drive ourselves into the Procrustean bed of stereotypes, when even the humour does not save us.

In this regard, the clearest example in the play is Lady Bracknell performed





by Yelena Khristich. Her character is an aristocrat, an older lady. She is even despotic — all about decency and reasoning — about marriage and a husband suitable for her daughter's status, about education, family, politics and morality... And Lady Bracknell talks pompously, like a student in class. But as soon as she encounters the truth of life, all the principles according to which true aristocrats should live collapse, and before us appears a confused and touching creature who has learned that Jack Worthing is her own nephew, and not a rootless foundling.



■ Scenes from the play

■ Miss Prism (Lyubov Pukita), Cecily's governess, who connects all the dots





face make me happy. They appeared somehow unexpectedly, suddenly. At first it was a shock. I seemed young all the time, the best in this sense among the peers. And then there it was! But I don't yearn for young skin, I don't do lifting and other anti-aging tricks for the face. When I look in the mirror, I tell myself: your time has come, this is a fact of life, aging is a natural process. And I smile.

I understand that it is important for an actress at any age to look good. The means for this are known: good sleep, healthy eating, fresh air and a joyful



- The performance *The Importance of Being Earnest* ended on a cheerful major note. The final bow, during which the thunderous applause did not stop for a long time.
- Yelena Khristich after the performance



I was incredibly happy for Yelena Khristich, who is in excellent acting shape. After all, I've known her for a very long time, both as an actress and as a friend. Half of her creative life has passed in the Youth Theatre, where she has been working for 35 years. She is the leading stage master of the Youth Theatre, laureate of the Francysk Skaryna medal. Yelena Nikolaevna was awarded it for great achievements in her professional activities, significant contribution to the development and enhancement of the spiritual potential and cultural heritage of the Belarusian people. We waited for Yelena after the performance to express our gratitude for the invitation to the performance and at the same time asked her a couple of questions.

After all, I'm doing what I love. This keeps me in good shape. But I wouldn't be sincere if I said that wrinkles on my

mood. What I try to practice daily. If I wake up, I think: thank God, I'm alive! In a certain sense, every new day is a debut for me. The debut of life, as I perceive it. This is my daily premiere. And my love and passion for theatre is unconditional. I haven't played a single role that I didn't like. Each one is a life. Independent, interesting, although virtual. As is my Lady Bracknell. You immerse yourself in the roles, think about them, fill them with your own searches and meaning. When I come home in the evening in a good mood, even if a little tired, I am glad that I performed the play successfully, that my fellow actors and wonderful partners were nearby. And I am filled with gratitude to them. The applause of the audience sounds inside, I remember their smiles and am doubly happy: the performance went well! So today I am happy. You saw for yourself how the audience received us. And this is such a great happiness!"

Valentina Zhdanovich  
Photo by Ivan Zhdanovich



# MEMORY SHOULD NOT BE DULLED



The theme of the liberation of Belarus from the German-fascist invaders has always found an indifferent embodiment in fine art. And, of course, the 80th anniversary of this historical moment was reflected in the artistic space of bright public expositions across the country on a scale like never before.







■ The painting by Valentin Volkov "Minsk. July 3, 1944"

### From the generation that knew the war

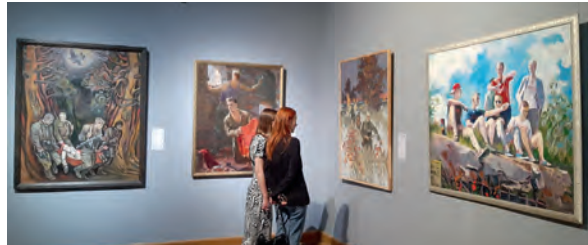
There is no doubt that the theme of the Great Patriotic War, the victory in it, the liberation of the native land from the fascist invasion has always occupied a significant place in the works of Belarusian artists. Although its interpretation was completely different — from the drama of Mikhail Savitsky's paintings to the life-affirming still lifes and landscapes of Leonid Shchemelev. By the way, the breadth of view of the creative overarching task has always been present in Belarusian art, as evidenced by exhibitions with a military theme. Although, to a greater extent, their expositions were essentially traditional, the artists strove, as a rule, to show the strength of the human spirit, the heroism of the soldier in this righteous liberating mission.

And in the permanent exhibition of the National Art Museum, a lot of space is devoted to works that reflect the theme of the fight with the enemy. Most of the works, with all the power of the author's emotionality, reveal the essence of those incredible trials that befell the people of wartime. Of course, there are also paintings by those authors who went through the war themselves. This is fully related to people's artists of Belarus Mikhail Savitsky, Leonid Shchemelev and Viktor Gromyko. They themselves knew the war and had enough life experience to reveal its terrible essence.

They usually say about such people: they survived! We are talking about a generation that suffered the most severe test. Viktor Gromyko, for example, not only felt all the hardships of that harsh time, but was also a warrior who liberated his native land from fascist invaders. Already in 1941, he became a member of an underground organisation in the city of Orsha. And then he was a scout, a machine gunner and even a commissar of a detachment







in a special purpose regiment. He edited the newspaper *Narodnye Mstiteli*. Behind these dry facts of the military biography — great effort, courage and human dignity. The war exposed Viktor Gromyko's inexhaustible love of life, which he revealed in his rich creative diversity. Yes, the work of Viktor Gromyko invariably corresponds to high ideas about the meaning of life, about spiritual ideals and beliefs, about the responsibility of the artist. He himself entered Belarusian art as a master of historical-heroic paintings, large-scale epic landscapes and psychological portraits.

Or take the famous militant artist Fyodor Baranovsky, one of the first graduates of the Minsk Art Institute. He is a painter of Soviet realism, whose works are considered the basis of Belarusian fine art. Fyodor Baranovsky painted soldiers, their characters. The pictures show human emotions, willpower, conviction. In a word, his heroes are courageous people who had a difficult fate and who passed through life with honour.

Yes, Belarus was liberated from fascist invaders 80 years ago. The war has long since become history. But it still remains a part of the fate of almost every Belarusian family. It cannot be otherwise in a country that lost a third of its inhabitants in that war. By the way, Fyodor Baranovsky was born on July 3rd. It just so happened that on the day of the liberation of the capital of Belarus in 1944, the future artist celebrated his 20th anniversary. Later, he will paint the picture *Our Minsk*, which captures the joy of meeting with the liberating soldiers. But one of the most famous works of Fyodor Baranovsky is *Banya*, in which a protest against the war, which destroyed young life, can be read behind the external domestic plot. The painting is perceived as special and significant not only due to the artist's professionalism and unexpected approach to the topic, but also due to the paradoxical combination of external love of life and hidden tragedy. Undoubtedly, Fyodor Baranovsky is a bright phenomenon in Belarusian visual arts. As a





matter of fact, the same high evaluations can be made in relation to Nikolai Zalozny, Anatoly Shibnev, Ivan Dmukhailo and Iosif Belanovich, whose works have also been exhibited more than once at exhibitions devoted to military themes.

Ivan Dmukhailo is one of those rare artists who, after the Great Patriotic War, was unable to paint it on canvas. In his work, he followed a path that helped him reflect the richness of life, the beauty of its moments. Ivan Dmukhailo is an outstanding landscape painter. It was in this genre that he realised his talent and abilities. At the same time, Iosif Belanovich, a former participant in the Great Patriotic War, has a military theme in full in his works. *Brest Fortress*, *Heroes of Immortality*, *Memory*, *Soldiers* are the names of only some of his paintings, which can be used to judge their subject matter. Iosif Belanovich managed to reflect the humanity of the liberating soldier. The artist worked on this theme until the last days of his life, managing to create canvases dedicated to the heroic defence of the Brest Fortress, the courage of the blockaders of Leningrad, the battles in Berlin, and the liberation of his native Minsk.

In general, the works of many Belarusian artists about the war are characterised by tragedy, they are dominated by the themes of heroic resistance and national heroism. This fully applies to the work of the People's Artist of Belarus Georgy Poplavsky. According to the master's firm conviction, which he expressed more than once, Belarusian artists wrote a bright, eloquent line in the depiction of the Great Patriotic War with their paintings. "This is our obligation, because the sacrifices that Belarus suffered during the war years are unforgettable," believed Georgy Poplavsky.

### They managed to perpetuate the past

Yes, the fate of Belarusian fine art in the forties of the last century was closely connected with the course of military events. Some of the artists ended up at the front, some were evacuated or had to stay in the occupied territory, some joined the partisan movement. Despite the difficult conditions, many Belarusian artists did not stop working during the war. They found for themselves the most acceptable forms of reflection of reality: small sketches, posters and caricatures, portraits. After the liberation of the republic from the enemy, artists often made creative trips to the places of military events, created images of heroes of the very recent past.

The heyday of the military theme in Belarusian art occurred at the end of the 1940s and up to the 1970s. The funds of the National Art Museum contain many works of painting, graphics, and sculpture dedicated to the defence of the Brest Fortress, the liberation of Minsk, the images of partisans, and the perpetuation of the memory of the Heroes of the Soviet Union who died during the war. Father Minai (Minai Shmyrev), Nikolai Gastello, Lev Dovator, Aleksey Danukalov, Konstantin Zaslونov, Petr Kalinin, Petr Kupriyanov, Yelena Mazanik, Mikhail Silnitsky and Old Man Talash (Vasil Talash) are heroes whose exploits inspired not only artists, but and writers, composers, film and theatre directors.

In the permanent exposition of the National Art Museum, you can see the works of most of the most famous artists and sculptors: Zair Azgur, Anatoly Anikeychik, Ivan Akhremchik, Andrei Bembel, Gavriil Vashchenko, Valentin Volkov, Aleksey Glebov, Viktor Gromyko, Aleksandr Grube, Lev Gumilevsky, Mai Dantsig, Yevgeny Zaitsev, Arlen Kashkurevich, Raisa Kudrevich,





Pavlo Maslenikov, Georgy Poplavsky, Mikhail Savitsky, Sergey Selikhanov, Vladimir Stelmashonok, Vitaly Tsvirko, Vasiliy Sharangovich, Leonid Shchemelev.

A typical representative of the 'strict style' is the People's Artist of Belarus Mai Dantsig, who recently passed away. No large-scale exhibition is complete without his works. Mai Dantsig is one of those creators who tried to speak directly and loudly in his original manner, always remaining true to himself, his convictions and ideals. The artist's paintings are characterised by the scale of the search, clarity of the plot and semantic significance. This is especially vividly embodied in paintings on the theme of war. These are such paintings as *I Remember the Saved World...*, *Belarus is the Mother of the Partisans*, *Guarding the Piece*, which were included in the golden fund of national fine art. Mai Dantsig spoke in his own way about the war, about the world, about his beloved city-hero Minsk, about the people he knew, and, most importantly, about the time in which he lived.

### The museum has something to show

In general, during the decades, artists emotionally and dramatically conveyed the tragic, tense atmosphere of the war days. These are, for example, such works as *Unconquered* by Vitaly Tsvirko, *Standing to Death* by Yevgeny Zaitsev, *We Will Return* by Algerd Malyshevsky,

*Remembrance of Fellow Soldiers* by Natan Voronov, *Poppies* by Nikolai Zalizny, *Memories* by Izrael Basov, *Vitebsk Gate* and *Partisan Madonna* by Mikhail Savitsky, 1941. *Above Pripyat* by Viktor Gromyko, *My Birth* by Leonid Shchemelev, *Breakthrough* by Gavriil Vashchenko, *Thank You, Mom!* by Ivan Ray, *Song About Partisans* by Vasily Sumarev.

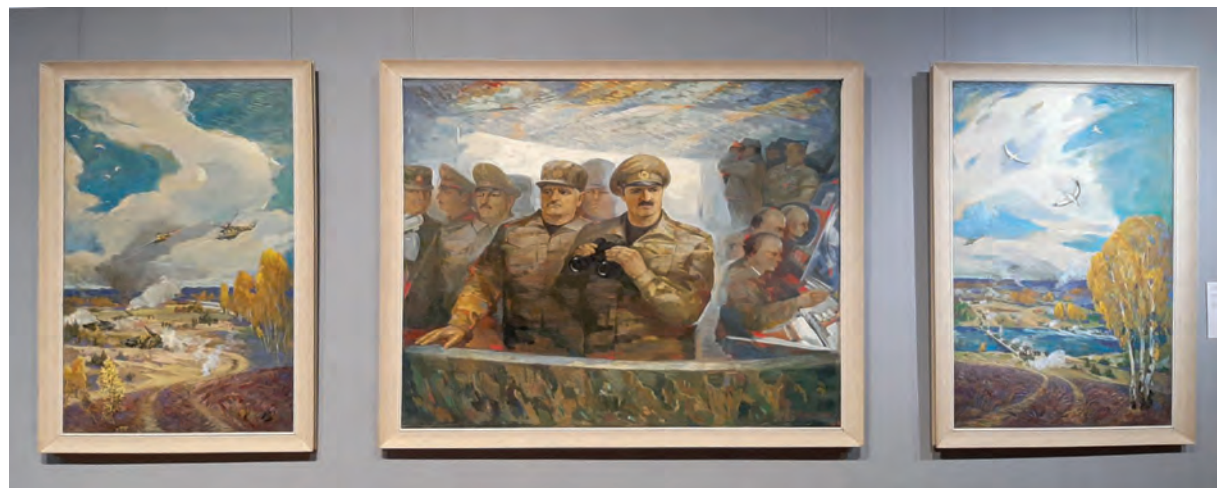
Yes, the war and the victory in it were acutely, passionately and sensitively reflected in the works of Belarusian artists. There are many worthy works on this topic. The best of them are in the funds of the country's main museum. And the museum, undoubtedly, has something to show. It is not for nothing that they decided not to limit themselves to one exposition, even if it is impressive in scale. And now in one of the museum halls the exhibition of the works of the participants of the Studio of Military Artists at the Central House of Officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus *Serving the Motherland* opened. About 50 paintings and sculptures are presented at the exhibition.

The head of the studio is an honoured artist, laureate of the Spiritual Revival award of the President of Belarus,

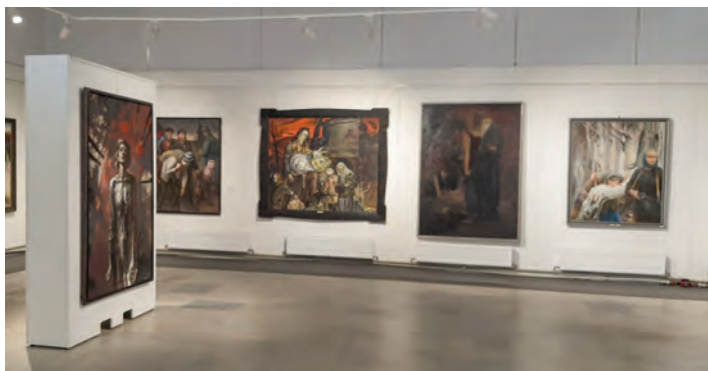


honorary academician of the Russian Academy of Arts Nikolai Opiok. The main tasks of the studio are the development of the military-historical theme in fine art, the creation of works of a patriotic orientation, contributing to the spiritual and moral education of the viewer. The themes of the works presented in the current exposition are diverse: the theme of the Great Patriotic War is adjacent to the display of the modern everyday life of the Belarusian army, the theme of the conquest of space and the development of the Arctic — to everyday sketches and philosophical and symbolic compositions.

It is safe to say that even in the 21st century, the military-patriotic genre received further development. But the whole difference is that while earlier they talked about the war 'from the first person', the authors were especially oriented on their own memories, today artists 'read' the topic associatively, translating it into historical issues, into the courage of people in the fight against the enemy, into reflection joy for the victory. The head of the Studio of Military Artists, created under the Ministry of Defence, Nikolai Opiok believes,







“Our task is not to lose the best that was achieved by our predecessors. We have almost no taboo topics. Everything depends on the abilities and courage of the artist, his or her civic position. If someone seeks to delve into history, let them not look for themselves only its most spectacular moments. It is important to show not only victories, but also defeats, joy and pain, our strength, and courage. It is necessary to be honest to history and modernity.” Today, studio artists strive to study the conditions of modern army service. After trips to specific military facilities, numerous sketches form the basis of military-themed paintings. I will mention only some of them: *Graduates of the Minsk Suvorov Military School* by Nikolai Opiok, *Buynichy Field* by Vladimir Urodnich, *Ballad About the Pilot Vladimir Korvat* by Vladimir Gordeyenko. And the focus on the achievements of Soviet battle painting helps students to feel confident at the height of creative continuity.

### Colours of the Great Victory

In the Palace of Arts Republican Art Gallery on Kozlova Street in Minsk, traditionally, in May-July, they arrange an exposition of the works of veterans of the Great Patriotic War. The organisers did not change this tradition this year, presenting the *Colours of the Great Victory* exhibition. However, in the halls within the space of two floors and even the vestibule, this time there were displayed both the works of masters who themselves went through the harsh paths of that war, knew about it, as they say, not by hearsay, and the works by authors of later generations, who were also concerned and are still concerned about the topic heroic past of the homeland. The canvases of all these artists, as well as other forms of creativity presented in these halls, reveal the perception of the events of the war and the fate of its ordinary participants in the context of the concept of memory as







the most important moral category. At the exhibition, it was possible to get acquainted both with textbook, well-known works, and with works known only to specialists. The paintings and other exhibits from the collection of the Belarusian Union of Artists, presented in one exhibition space, were united by the sincere emotions they evoked in the audience. “In these works, the personal perception of the war is convincing. Despite the canons and conditions that were established for art at that time, the living voice of the real painting sounds in the works of our predecessors,” says the Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Artists, Gleb Otchik. “Even those artists who came to creative work in the post-war period, grew up under the influence of parental stories, perceived the war as a part of their own life.”

The exhibition project *Colours of the Great Victory*, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the German-fascist invaders, does not evaluate the events of the wartime. It gives an opportunity to continue the understanding of the war on the example of the works of modern authors, shows the current evolution of the attitude to both heroic and tragic pages of the country’s history. The participants of the exhibition include representatives of different generations, already mature and still very young authors. Still, special attention is paid to the works of Belarusian folk artists.

### Living response in the heart

War is not only pain and death, blood, shell explosions, victorious fireworks. War is also true friendship, loyalty, a keen sense of the beauty of the land that needs to be saved from enemies. These are memories and reasoning. The concepts of the presented works are quite extensive.

Artists experience the theme of war and victory, past and present in different ways. This art exhibition allows each creator to speak silently, thoughtfully, and at the same time in a deeply emotional way. It also allows anyone, even the most demanding viewer, to see in the exhibition something consonant with their inner feelings, and to feel a living response in their hearts.

Indeed, the theme of the Great Patriotic War is special. And for young artists as well. For the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the winners, this is the theme of human suffering and the dignity of human life, preserving the memory of the feat, revealing the fragility







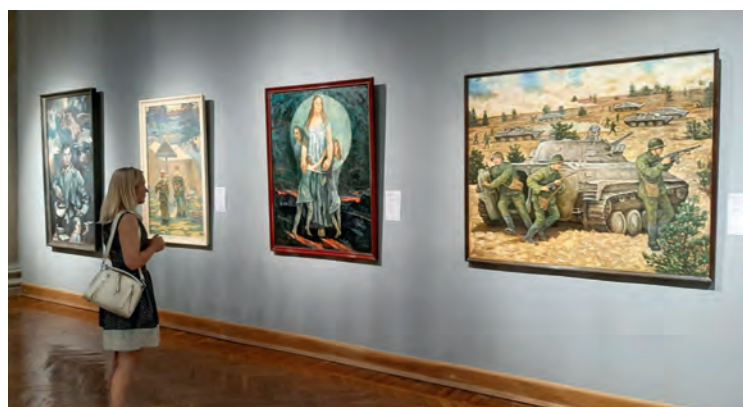
which is essentially the starting point in the development of the military theme, is to some extent reproached for a kind of varnishing of those events, their excessive stagedness. However, when considering those works, we should not forget that this, to some people's current view, 'varnishing' conveyed sincere feelings. Being at the same time a document of the era, and the personal experience of the artist, and part of a general spiritual upsurge, they can only be understood in such a single context. And the artistic method of the 'great style' itself, which required numerous preparatory studies and sketches, and the inherent focus on the accurate rendering of nature, led to a kind of pictorial literature and staging of military events. The art of that time was a direct response to the still very recent, so to speak, still-unexpected events of the war. Hence the sharpness and excitement of creative expression. Leading artists of the first post-war generation always found convincing visual solutions for their paintings, which determined their

creative longevity. Large-scale multi-figure compositions by Yevgeny Zaitsev, Sergei Romanov, Ivan Akhremchik, Valentin Volkov, sculptural portraits of Zair Azgur and Andrei Bembel have become classics.

An important role in the formation of the patriotic theme of fine art was played by front-line drawings and sketches, in which the authors recorded everyday moments of the war. Already in those years, plots and motifs were developed that later became typical: the tragedy of the death of a hero, confrontation, the bitterness of losses, dramatic collisions of battle... The leading place among them was taken by the partisan epic, which revealed many different aspects of the war, largely determining the evolution of Belarusian fine art.

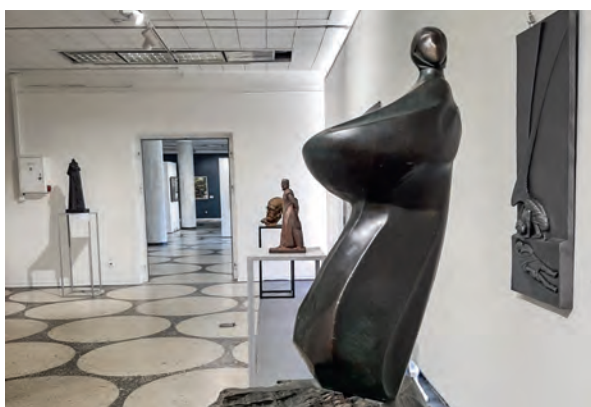
### **The canvases are not just a dramatic story**

Over time, attitudes towards the military topic began to change. Other themes and major points appear; the main thing becomes not documentary reliability, but the disclosure of the deep philosophical meaning of events, connections between times, generalisation and journalism. Not everything here is equally valuable, but there is no doubt that this direction has enriched and expanded the horizons of fine art. And military-patriotic themes in general may have played a major role here. It,





as we have already noted, was successfully developed by the same Leonid Shchemelev, Georgy Poplavsky, Viktor Gromyko, Nikolai Nazarenko, Boris Arakcheyev. Moral themes, which were almost never found in their works before, become leading ones. On the canvases there is a drama of human destinies. Innovative in solving the theme were *Partisan Wedding* by Mai Dantsig, *My Birth* by Leonid Shchemelev, and the works of Mikhail Savitsky, in which the associative genre basis was of great importance. And with the help of metaphors and symbols, seemingly everyday events come into force. But soon interest in the essence of documentary details awakened again. The works of some artists already in the 1970s were filled with the desire to return to the past, to feel it in all its truthfulness, which is obvious from the multi-figure compositions of Ivan Tikhonov and Anatoly Shibnev. At that time, Mikhail Savitsky created a one-of-a-kind series, *Numbers on the Heart*, based on autobiographical material. The paintings in the series are not just a dramatic story about the trials of war. This



is essentially a tense monologue of a participant and witnesses to those terrible events. It is not without reason that Mikhail Savitsky's interpretation of the military theme stands out for its special emotionality.

As a matter of fact, for many artists, including those who participated in military operations, over time, the main thing in the embodiment of war is precisely the various human emotions associated with it, which are outside the ideological framework. And these emotions lose their former sharpness, as if covered with the patina of time, determined by restrained melancholy or an elegiac mood.

### Features of the modern interpretation

In general, since the 1970s, symbolic compositions have increasingly appeared in which the theme of the heroic past is presented indirectly — through people, nature, architecture, objects. A similar approach has become widespread in the work of the last two decades. As a continuation of this line, Vladimir Kozhukh's





painting *The Old General and the Boy*, executed in a sharply minimalist manner, built on the principle of a fragmentary film frame, and religious and symbolic subjects of the works by Grigory Nesterov and Nadezhda Liventseva are perceived.

One of the features of the modern interpretation of the theme of war, which is clearly evident in the current exhibition at the Palace of Arts gallery, is that almost all of its figurative and artistic solutions had already been found and used. After all, artists have repeatedly turned to identifying evil, courage and heroism, conveying all this using familiar, textbook means. Many painters continued to use the legacy of the Soviet battle genre in reflecting military episodes — both historical and modern material.

The traditional portrait of a veteran is still preserved in painting and sculpture as a plastic embodiment of the theme. And yet, it is noteworthy that the current exhibition featured lyrical landscapes and still lifes by veteran artists. Although the theme of war is still present in these works. It is really felt, either through the choice of a landscape motif, or in the form of a figurative memory of the distant past.

Yes, at this exhibition one could also see works by young artists of the post-Soviet era. To be frank, not all of them dare to address the topic of the so-called 'civic voice', which implies great responsibility for the author. And the point here is not in the material itself, the potential of which is far from being exhausted, but in a certain resistance of this material. The theme of war, as a kind of not only social, but also cultural phenomenon, does not require obligatory pathos. It has always been and remains close to the eternal problems of good and evil, happiness and suffering, life and death, loyalty and betrayal — in a word, everything that is a solid basis for creativity in any style, direction and material. An innovative interpretation of the topic, like what happened in Belarusian fine art, can only appear as a result of new searches, a free creative rethinking of events. This result will henceforth largely depend on the requirements of time, professional skill and experience of the new generation of artists.

Undoubtedly, for the older generation of artists, the war was part of their biography. Many of their works became simply epic stories, often based on the specifics of real stories. But the further the time of those military events moves away from us, the more often artists turn to it with the help of a figurative interpretation: psychological, romantic or lyrical. The war began to take on a 'human' face. New authors not only reflect certain real circumstances and actions of the heroes of their paintings, they look for associations and convey emotions. For artists, the opportunity to convey their sincere thoughts and feelings somehow naturally opened up.

*Colours of the Great Victory* is, without exaggeration, a grandiose exhibition project. And the point, perhaps, is not even in its scale, although even old-timers will not remember: when this entire space of the Minsk Palace of Arts was given over to one exhibition. But the exhibition, rich in artistic diversity of high merit, demanded it. And the decision of the organisers was absolutely justified.

In fact, all the mentioned exhibitions — in the National Art Museum, in the Palace of Arts gallery of the Belarusian Union of Artists — are dedicated to life and its boundless value. But the memory should not become dull. It is not for nothing that the halls display the works of young authors who showed a personal, emotional view of the events of that war, of the high cost of victory in it, thanks to which they were able to live and work under a peaceful sky. And it costs a lot.

Veniamin Mikheyev





# НЕЗАБЫЎНАЯ ПАМЯЦЬ

У апараце Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў прайшло пасяджэнне Кансультатыўнага міжэтнічнага савета. Яго ўдзельнікі абмеркавалі вынікі XIV Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур і пытанні, што датычыліся работы, якую нацыянальна-культурныя аб'яднанні праводзяць для захавання памяці, іх удзелу ў мерапрыемствах, звязаных з 80-годдзем вызвалення Беларусі.

— Кажуць: “Хто не ведае мінулага, той не мае будучыні”. А яшчэ можна дадаць, што для таго, каб помніць, трэба ведаць, ні забываць ні на секунду, перадаваць дзецям, унукам, — звярнуўся да членаў савета намеснік Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Сяргей Герасіменя. Ён агучыў новыя лічбы, якія сталі вядомымі ў выніку расследавання Крымінальнай справы

аб генацыдзе насельніцтва Беларусі ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Так, па інфармацыі Генеральнай пракуратуры Рэспублікі Беларусь пацверджана, што маштаб трагедыі, якая адбывалася на тэрыторыі БССР у гады нямецка-фашысцкай акупацыі, шырэйшы, чым меркавалася раней.

“Генеральная пракуратура вынесла на грамадскае абмеркаванне лічбы, якія





шакіруюць. Раней мы ведалі, што лёс Хатыні падзялілі 186 вёсак, якія былі спалены разам з жыхарамі. Цяпер гэты спіс папоўніўся яшчэ на 102 населеных пункты», — заўважыў Сяргей Герасіменя. І дадаў, што ў рэестры населеных пунктаў, знішчаных часткова, у тым ліку з жыхарамі, ужо 12 348 гарадоў і вёсак. Гэта на 3148 больш, чым было вядома па архіўных дакументах да пачатку крымінальнай справы.

Да адкрыцця мемарыяльнага комплексу ў Трасцянеццы, на якое прыязджалі прэзідэнты Германіі і Аўстрыі,



■ Кнігі, прысвечаны падзвігам прадстаўнікоў армянскага і азербайджанскага народаў



■ Уручэнне граматы за актыўны творчы ўдзел у мерапрыемствах XIV Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур і ўнёсак у захаванне міжнацыянальнай згоды ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь грамадскаму аб'яднанню грэкаў "Пелапанэс"

максімальная лічба, якая агучвалася адносна колькасці ахвяр лагера смерці, які тут размяшчаўся была ў 250 тысяч. Не хапала даследаванняў. Калі ў пасляваенны час Надзвычайная камісія па расследаванні злачынстваў магла вымераць толькі таўшчыню пласта попелу ад спаленых цел, дык сучасныя тэхналогіі дазваляюць усталяваць колькасць ахвяр. Сёння вядома, што на тэрыторыі побач з былой вёскай Малы Трасцянец загінулі 546 тысяч чалавек, сярод іх — і яўрэі з Заходняй Еўропы, якіх сюды прывозілі эшалонамі. Гэта была найбуйнейшая "фабрыка смерці" на тэрыторыі СССР і адна з самых вялікіх у Еўропе.

Наогул на тэрыторыі БССР функцыянавала 560 лагераў смерці (480 да пачатку расследавання), праведзена звыш 180 (140 на момант пачатку крымінальнай справы) буйных карных аперацый. Паводле атрыманых падчас расследавання даных, колькасць ахвяр генацыду — больш за 3 мільёны чалавек (на час узбуджэння крымінальнай справы 2,2 мільёна).

"Усе гэтыя лічбы зводзяцца да яшчэ адной. Сёння мы можам гаварыць, што ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны загінула не чвэрць, а трэць насельніцтва Беларусі. Просьба раскажаць пра гэта ў сваіх аб'яднаннях, даносіць да моладзі. Так мы зможам не дапусціць паўтарэння чагосьці падобнага ў будучым", — звярнуўся да членаў савета Сяргей Герасіменя.

Прадстаўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аб'яднанняў штогод не толькі прымаюць удзел у сумесных мерапрыемствах па захаванні памяці аб Вялікай Айчыннай вайне, такіх як наведванне Хатыні, ускладанне кветак да помнікаў на 9 мая і Дзень Незалежнасці, круглыя сталы. Праходзяць патрыятычныя акцыі з моладдзю, вядзецца даследчыцкая работа.

Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак, заўважыў, што тэма памяці стала адной з ключавых падчас XIV Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур, які прайшоў у Гродне. У рамках фестывалю за круглым сталом кіраўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аб'яднанняў расказалі пра тое, які ўнёсак у Вялікую Перамогу зрабілі прадстаўнікі розных народаў. Дарэчы, на беларускай зямлі змагаліся воіны 70 нацыянальнасцяў. Так, 15 армян атрымалі званне Героя Савецкага Саюза за вызваленне Беларусі. Наогул жа ў Вялікую Айчынную вайну на фронт пайшлі каля 600 тысяч армян, дзвесце тысяч з іх загінулі. У выніку сумеснага праекта фонда армяназнаўчых даследаванняў "Анів" і Інстытута гісторыі НАН Беларусі пабачыла свет кніга "Воіны-армяне ў баях за Беларусь (1941–1944)". Даследаванні вяліся ў архівах Расіі, Беларусі, Украіны, Арменіі. Была сабрана інфармацыя пра некалькі тысяч

армян — вайскоўцаў, партызан, падпольшчыкаў, якія змагаліся з нямецка-фашысцкімі захопнікамі ў Беларусі. Пазней выйшла кніга, якая расказвае пра ўнёсак азербайджанскага народа ў вызваленне Беларусі. У ёй сабраны матэрыялы пра прыклады гераізму, а таксама прадстаўлены спіс, у якім больш за 1700 імёнаў азербайджанскіх воінаў, якія загінулі на беларускай зямлі. У абароне Брэсцкай крэпасці былі задзейнічаны 44 азербайджанцы. Падчас XIV Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур таксама працавала мабільная перасоўная экспазіцыя Беларускага дзяржаўнага музея гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны (на здымку), дзе былі прадстаўлены дакументы і фатаграфіі, звязаныя з пачаткам вайны, партызанскім рухам, антыфашысцкай падпольнай барацьбой, а таксама савецкая і трафейная зброя, прадметы, знойдзеныя, на тэрыторыі канцлагера Трасцянец. Тут таксама можна было даведацца пра подзвігі, якія здзяйснялі прадстаўнікі розных народаў на беларускай зямлі. Напрыклад, казах Касан Мамутаў, Герой Савецкага Саюза, кулямётчык 336-га стралковага палка 120 гвардзейскай стралковай дывізіі, 21 лютага 1944 года першым у палку фарсіраваў Днепр. Яшчэ адзін ураджэнец Казахскай ССР, Герой Савецкага Саюза Сёйткасім Ашыраў, камандзір аддзялення разведкі 331 палка 96-й стралковай дывізіі здзейсніў подзвіг у ліпені 1944 у Баранавіцкім раёне. Група разведчыкаў пад яго кіраўніцтвам выйшла ў тыл ворага і нанесла яму вялікія страты.

Праекты, звязаныя з захаваннем памяці былі прадстаўлены на фестывалі ў Гродне на нацыянальных падворках. Так выстаўка пра генацыд ромаў — на падворку цыган, пра Халакост — на падворку яўрэяў, фота матэрыялы “На ратны подзвіг разам ішлі” — украінцаў. Намеснік старшыні Саюза беларускіх яўрэйскіх грамадскіх аб’яднанняў Алена Кулевіч пад час пасяджэння Кансультатыўнага міжэтнічнага савета расказала, што экспазіцыя, звязаная з Халакостам яўрэяў, якая працуе ў Музеі гісторыі і культуры яўрэяў Беларусі, сёння вельмі запатрабаваная, сюды часта прыходзяць студэнты. Нядаўна была ўстаноўлена памятная дошка на месцы ўвахода ў Мінскае гета, у ліпені прайшло ўрачыстае адкрыццё мемарыяльнага знака, прысвечанага знішчаным у гады вайны яўрэям Жыткавіцкага раёна. Старшыня Міжнароднага грамадскага аб’яднання “Горо”, пісьменнік, скульптар Хізры Асадулаеў, які прадстаўляе Дагестан, расказаў, што часта яго



запрашаюць на сустрэчы ў навучальныя ўстановы, дзе ён расказвае пра патрыятызм і чытае вершы, у якіх гаворыцца пра памяць і любоў да сваёй зямлі. У яго шмат работ, звязаных з Вялікай Айчыннай вайной. Сярод іх — памяtnыя дошкі маршалу Сямёну Цімашэнку, Герою Савецкага Саюза — азербайджанцу Наджафгулу Рафіеву, помнік сыну малдаўскай зямлі — Іону Солтысу.

Таксама падчас пасяджэння савета Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў уручыў граматы за актыўны творчы ўдзел у мерапрыемствах XIV Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур і ўнёсак у захаванне міжнацыянальнай згоды ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь прадстаўнікам міжнароднага грамадскага аб’яднання “Палесцінская абшчына”, грамадскаму аб’яднанню грэкаў “Пелапанэс” і грамадскаму аб’яднанню “Ромская дыяспара”.

Алена **Дзядзюля**  
Фота аўтара



# У МІЖКАНФЕСІЙНАЙ ЗГОДЗЕ

**Іўе называюць маленькім Іерусалімам, сталіцай беларускіх татар, месцам, дзе перасякаюцца культуры Усхода і Захада, дзе ў міры жывуць прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў, якія выбіраюць рэлігіі: хрэсціянства, іўдаізм, іслам. Тут працуе адзіны ў краіне музей нацыянальных культур, устаноўлены памяtnы знак, які сімвалізуе сяброўства і згоду канфесій Іўеўшчыны. Таму менавіта Іўеўскі раён быў абраны для правядзення выязднага пасяджэння калегіі Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў, на якім разглядалася пытанне аб рабоце мясцовых выканаўчых органаў улады Гродзенскай вобласці па забеспячэнні выканання рэлігійнымі арганізацыямі Закона Рэспублікі Беларусь “Аб свабодзе сумлення і рэлігійных арганізацыях”.**

**У** пасяджэнні ўзялі ўдзел намеснікі старшынь і кіраўнікі аддзелаў ідэалагічнай работы і па справах моладзі гар- і райвыканкамаў Гродзенскай вобласці, кіраўнікі ўпраўленняў ідэалагічнай работы і па справах моладзі аблвыканкамаў і мінскага гарвыканкама, члены рабочай групы па развіцці рэлігійнага турызму Міжведамаснага экспертна-каардынацыйнага савета па турызме пры Савеце Міністраў Рэспублікі Беларусь.

Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак расказаў, што кожны год праводзяцца выезды ў рэгіёны, каб на месцах убачыць, як праводзіцца работа па выкананні Закона “Аб свабодзе сумлення і рэлігійных арганізацыях” мясцовымі выканаўчымі і распарадчымі органамі. Гэта дапамагае лепш разабрацца з тым, якія пытанні і праблемы неабходна вырашаць. У гэтым годзе такая работа надзвычай актуальная: прадстаіць работа па перарэгістрацыі рэлігійных арганізацый. Аляксандр Румак упэўнены, што забеспячэнне згоды паміж прадстаўнікамі розных канфесій — адна з важнейшых задач улады. Пры гэтым апарат Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў улічвае асаблівасці кожнага рэгіёна. “Спецыфіка нашай краіны ў разнастайнасці, што

дазваляе нам захоўваць адзінства”, — заўважыў Упаўнаважаны.

Пра работу мясцовых выканаўчых органаў Гродзенскай вобласці па забеспячэнні рэлігійнымі арганізацыямі заканадаўства расказаў кіраўнік галоўнага ўпраўлення ідэалагічнай работы і па справах моладзі Гродзенскага аблвыканкама Ігар Булаўка. Ён звярнуў увагу на такую асаблівасць рэгіёна, як шматнацыянальнасць і шматканфесійнасць: “У вобласці здзяйсняюць дзейнасць 498 рэлігійных арганізацый. Палітыка, якая рэалізуецца ў дзяржаве, і меры, што прымаюцца на ўзроўні Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў і мясцовых органаў улады, дазваляюць захоўваць этнаканфесійную сітуацыю ў вобласці стабільнай і прагназуемай. Пра гэта сведчаць даныя маніторынгу. 91 працэнт рэспандэнтаў Гродзенскай вобласці ацэньваюць рэлігійную сітуацыю ў вобласці як спакойную і паспяховую”.

Без увагі органаў улады не застаецца работа святароў з дзецьмі. У 2023 – 2024 годзе ў Гродзенскай вобласці дзейнічала 391 нядзельная школа розных канфесій, дзе навучаліся больш 12 тысяч дзяцей. Адзначаецца павелічэнне нядзельных школ у параўнанні з папярэднім годам. Святары бяруць удзел у патрыятычнай і

асветніцкай рабоце, наведваюць мерапрыемствы, прысвечаныя дзяржаўным святам, памятным акцыі, мітынгі. За 1,5 апошнія гады пры падтрымцы і ўзгадненні з органамі ўлады рэлігійных арганізацый вобласці правялі больш за 30 масавых мерапрыемстваў і хросных хадоў.

У мэтах падтрымкі канфесійнай стабільнасці і міжканфесійнай згоды гарвыканкамы, прадпрыемствы і ўстановы вобласці аказваюць дапамогу рэлігійным арганізацыям у правядзенні мерапрыемстваў, а таксама прадастаўляюць фінансавыя сродкі, тэхніку, будматэрыялы, выконваюць будаўнічыя работы. Толькі за 2023 год было аказана дапамогі на суму больш 600 тысяч рублёў. У адпаведнасці з Указам Прэзідэнта Беларусі “Аб зацвярджэнні дзяржаўнай інвестыцыйнай праграмы на 24 год” у аграградку Жыровічы Слонімскага раёна здзяйс-



■ Ускладанне кветак да помніка землякам, якія загінулі ў Іўі



■ У касцёле святых апосталаў Пятра і Паўла

няецца рэканструкцыя і рэстаўрацыя аб'ектаў Жыровіцкага манастыра. Падрыхтаваны дакументы для будаўніцтва культавых будынкаў у Гродне, Астраўцы і аграградку Жыровічы. У стадыі будаўніцтва знаходзіцца 31 храм.

У вобласці працягваецца рэалізацыя пагаднення аб супрацоўніцтве з Беларускай Праваслаўнай царквой і абласная праграма мер, накіраваных на захаванне і развіццё традыцыйных духоўна-маральных каштоўнасцяў. Мерапрыемствы, якія праводзяцца ў яе рамках, закранаюць розныя сферы:

культуры, адукацыі, аховы здароўя, творчай дзейнасці ды іншых.

Вялікая работа ў вобласці вядзецца па папулярызацыі аб'ектаў рэлігійнага турызму. На сайтах абл- і гарвыканкамаў размешчана інфармацыя аб 240 аб'ектах. Распрацавана больш 140 культурна-пазнавальных маршрутаў, у якія ўключаны 123 культавыя аб'екты. У турыстычны маршрут па тэрыторыі Слоніма, напрыклад, уключаны Успенскі Жыровіцкі манастыр. Вялікай папулярнасцю сярод турыстаў і паломнікаў карыстаюцца царква Архангела Міхаіла



■ Пасяджэнне калегіі Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў у Іўі





■ Касцёл святых апосталаў Пятра і Паўла і мячэць ў Іўі

ў вёсцы Сынковічы Зэльвенскага раёна, касцёл Прысвятой Троіцы ў Гервятах Астравецкага раёна. Дзякуючы ўзаемадзеянню з праваслаўнай і каталіцкай царквамі ўдаецца зрабіць больш разнастайныя турыстычныя маршруты, папоўніць іх новымі аб'ектамі, наладзіць экскурсійнае абслугоўванне і зрабіць рэлігійныя аб'екты адкрытымі для кожнага.

Важным кірункам узаемадзеяння дзяржорганаў з рэлігійнымі арганізацыямі з'яўляецца сацыяльная сфера. Асаблівае месца ў гэтай рабоце належыць дабрачыннаму каталіцкаму таварыству “Карытас” Гродзенскай Рымска-Каталіцкай епархіі. Сацыяльныя праекты “Карытас” ахопліваюць розныя групы насельніцтва. Напрыклад, праект “Мабільная дапамога” — шматдзетныя і няпоўныя сем'і, інвалідаў, адзінокіх пенсіянераў. Праект “Сталовая” разлічаны на бяздомных, а таксама людзей, якія выйшлі з месцаў пазбаўлення волі і аказаліся ў складанай жыццёвай сітуацыі. Праект “Сацыяльны пункт “Карытас” накіраваны на аказанне гуманітарнай дабрачыннай дапамогі ўсім катэгорыям, якія маюць патрэбу ў падтрымцы.

У Навагрудку ажыццяўляе дзейнасць цэнтр “Міласэрнасць” Навагрудскай епархіі Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы ў імя свяшчэннамучаніка Мітрафана Краснапольскага. Дзейнасць цэнтра накіравана на духоўную і матэрыяльную апеку дзяцей, якія маюць патрэбу ў лячэнні, сірот і малых са шматдзетных і праблемных сем'яў.

## ПАМЯЦЬ

“Ні адзін раён нашай краіны не можа пахваліцца, што на працягу 625 гадоў у ім у міры і згодзе пражываюць мусульмане, каталікі, праваслаўныя,

іўдзеі”, — заўважыў старшыня Іўеўскага райвыканкама Ігар Генец. Так, Іўеўшчына — адно з першых пасяленняў татар на Беларусі. Сёння па колькасці пражывання татар Іўеўшчына саступае толькі Мінску. Мясцовая мячэць працуе з 1882 года. Сродкі на яе будаўніцтва былі выдзелены па загадзе княгіні Эльвіры Замойскай, тагачаснай уладальніцы Іўя, дарэчы, каталічкі па веравызнанню. Мячэць ніколі не спыняла сваёй дзейнасці (ні пры савецкай уладзе, ні ў гады вайны). Сёння сюды ходзіць 470 мусульман. Відаць, менавіта ад татар, у жыхароў Іўя такая любоў да работы на зямлі, праўда, сёння гэта ўжо не тыя татарскія агароды, як раней, а вялізныя цяпліцы, дзе растуць агуркі, зеляніна, таматы. Не дзіва, што Іўе празвалі “таматнай сталіцай” і ў жніўні тут праходзіць памідорны фестываль.

Да Вялікай Айчыннай вайны 70 працэнтаў насельніцтва раёна складалі яўрэі. Іўдзейская дыяспара нямецка-фашысцкімі захопнікамі была практычна знішчана. Так, 12 мая 1942 года на тэрыторыі Іўя адбылося адно з самых масавых забойстваў — ліквідацыя гета. Загінулі больш дзвюх з паловай тысяч яўрэяў. Ва ўрочышчы Станевічы, у памяць аб трагедыі ўстаноўлены мемарыял, у 2021 годзе ён быў абноўлены, вядзецца работа па вяртанні імён ахвяр. У 2022 годзе быў устаноўлены факт знішчэння яўрэяў у Бакштанскім лесе, Ліпічанскай пушчы. Сёння гэта месца ўшаноўваецца. Сёлета плануецца правядзенне раскопак у раёне 52-м спецыяльным пошукавым батальёнам. Маюцца звесткі пра тое, што тут быў знішчаны цэлы цыганскі табар. Прыкладнае месца трагедыі ўжо паказалі нашчадкі відавочцаў.

Наогул тэма памяці ў раёне ўдзяляецца вялікай ўвага. Пра яе сведчаць 65 абеліскаў і мемарыялаў, якія

размешчаны на тэрыторыі раёна. Удзельнікі калегіі ўсклалі кветкі да памятнага знака ў гонар землякоў, які загінулі ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны ў Іўі.

Таксама ўдзельнікі пасяджэння наведалі памятны знак “У гонар сяброўства і згоды канфесій Іўеўшчыны”, Іўеўскі музей нацыянальных культур і рэлігійных абшчыны — пабывалі ў мячэці, прыходзе Касцёла святых апосталаў Пятра і Паўла Гродзенскай Епархіі Рымска-каталіцкай Царквы ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь і ў Прыходзе храма святога мучаніка младзенца Гаўрыіла Беластоцкага, Слуцкага Лідскай епархіі Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквы.

Пра патрыятычныя, культурныя, духоўныя, асветніцкія, турыстычныя праекты раёна ўдзельнікі калегіі змаглі даведацца падчас тэматычных выставак у Іўеўскім цэнтры культуры і вольнага часу. Адно з экспазіцый падрыхтавала Іўеўская раённая бібліятэка. Як расказала дырэктар установы Святлана Мірончык, супрацоўнікі бібліятэкі пастараліся прадставіць кнігі пра раён і вядомых землякоў. Тут падтрымліваюцца вельмі шчыльныя сувязі з суайчыннікамі. Ураджэнцы Іўеўшчыны, куды б іх не закінуў лёс, імкнуцца рабіць штосьці для сваёй зямлі. Яны часта прыязджаюць на радзіму, сустракаюцца, наведваюць бібліятэку, вязуць падарункі, сярод якіх шмат цікавай літаратуры. Так, намеснік галоўнага рэдактара “Расійскай газеты” Ядвіга Юферава перадала скарочанае выданне для навучэнцаў “Аляксандр Салжэніцын” з аўтографам удавы знакамітага пісьменніка. Жанчына ўзначальвае конкурс “Кніга года” ў Маскве і выданні, якія на ім перамагаюць, з аўтографамі аўтараў імкнецца перадаць для Іўя. Палкоўнік касмічных войск Расійскай Федэрацыі Віктар Шутаў перадае ў іўеўскую бібліятэку літаратуру, звязаную з вывучэннем космасу.

На выставе былі прадстаўлены і конкурсныя работы бібліятэкі. Так яна была адзначана ў конкурсах, якія праводзіць апарат Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў, за работы аб супрацоўніцтве з землякамі. Прымалі тут і ўзнагароду з рук мітрапаліта Веніяміна. Шмат разоў супрацоўнікі былі адзначаны ў рэспубліканскім конкурсе “Бібліятэка — асяродак культуры”, які праводзіць Нацыянальная бібліятэка. Усе гэтыя перамогі і ўзнагароды сведчаць пра высокі ўзровень краязнаўчай работы, якая наладжана ў раёне. Так, сумесна з мясцовым ліцэем бібліятэка правяла вялікую работу па вывучэнні гісторыі цэркваў раёна, сабраных матэрыялаў магло б хапіць на асобнае выданне.

## ВЕРА

Па словах старшыні райвыканкама, сёння ў раёне дзейнічаюць тры канфесіі: праваслаўныя, мусульмане і каталікі. Апошнія ў раёне — самая шматлікая. Дарэчы, касцёл бернардынцаў на гэтых землях быў

заснаваны ў XV стагоддзі. Больш даведацца пра гісторыю каталіцкай канфесіі можна ў Касцёле святых апосталаў Пятра і Паўла, дзе дзейнічае прыхадскі музей. Побач з ім знаходзіцца адна з мясцовых знакамітасцяў — статуя Хрыста — копія выявы з партугальскага горада Алмада, вельмі падобная на статую Хрыста-збавіцеля з Рыа-дэ-Жанейра.

Самая ж маладая культавая ўстанова ў Іўе — праваслаўная царква. Яна была адчынена ў 1994 годзе. Гэта першы ў Беларусі храм у імя святога мучаніка младзенца Гаўрыіла Беластоцкага. Людзі вераць, што гэтыя святы з’яўляецца заступнікам дзяцей і маці, тут ужо адбылося некалькі цудоўных выпадкаў, калі жанчыны, якія доўгі час не маглі зацяжарыць, пасля таго як наведалі царкву, змаглі здзейсніць свае мары. Як паведаміла намеснік старшыні Іўеўскага райвыкан-



■ Удзельнікі пасяджэння наведалі Музей нацыянальных культур

кама Анжаліка Цэсар, на тэрыторыі раёна дзейнічае 19 рэлігійных абшчын, працуюць камісіі садзейнічання кантролю за выкананнем Закона “Аб свабодзе сумлення і рэлігійных арганізацыях”, якія створаны пры Іўеўскім райвыканкаме і сельскіх выканаўчых камітэтах. У склад камісій уваходзяць людзі, якія прадстаўляюць розныя сферы: гэта работнікі ўстаноў адукацыі, культуры, аховы здароўя, сельскагаспадарчых арганізацый, прадстаўнікі раённага аддзела ўнутраных спраў.

## ТУРЫСТЫЧНЫ ПАТЭНЦЫЯЛ

Унікальнасць раёна, дзе на працягу гісторыі складваліся мясцовыя культурныя традыцыі, рэлігійная свядомасць і гісторыка-культурная спадчына, робяць яго вельмі цікавым для турыстаў. Адным з кірункаў, які актыўна развіваецца, стаў рэлігійны турызм. У раёне знаходзіцца 25 культавых аб’ектаў, з іх 12 знаходзяцца



ў дзяржаўным спісе гісторыка-культурных каштоўнасцяў Беларусі.

Адметнасць раёна прадстаўлена ў Музеі нацыянальных культур, які паказвае адначасова і разнастайнасць, і цэласнасць этнасаў і канфесій. Экспазіцыя “Пад адзіным небам праз стагоддзі” знаёміць з гісторыяй, культурай і рэлігіяй народаў, якія жывуць на іўеўскай зямлі. Зала “Гісторыі карэннага насельніцтва Іўеўшчыны” змяшчае артэфакты з розных эпох, калі гэта зямля належала прадстаўнікам розных вядомых радоў. Тут можна пабачыць не толькі прадметы, звязаныя з веравызнаннем мясцовых жыхароў, але і іх заняткамі.



■ Падчас экскурсіі

Гасцям прапануюць паглядзець батлеечнае прадстаўленне — тут знаходзіцца копія вертэпа XVI стагоддзя. Непаўторныя залы дазваляюць убачыць горад з розных бакоў — напрыклад, пазнаёміцца з гісторыяй і побытам татараў, паглядзець на архіўныя здымкі і пакаштаваць мясцовую страву. Пасля можна патрапіць у яўрэйскае мястэчка, даведацца, як раней выглядалі і называліся вуліцы, якое жыццё на іх кіпела, якія святы адзначалі яўрэі, больш даведацца пра рэчы іўдзеяў, якія маюць сімвалічнае значэнне, такія як мінора, тора, мезуза. Па здымках пачатку XX стагоддзя ўстаноўлены інтэр’ер іўеўскай сінагогі. У музеі праводзяцца інтэрактыўныя экскурсіі, майстар-класы, часовыя выстаўкі. У гэты час тут працуе экспазіцыя, прысвечаная ваенным падзеям. На ёй паказаны архіўныя дакументы першых дзён акупацыі. Устаноўлена, што ў Іўі было не толькі гета, але і канцлагер для ваеннапалонных. У 1969 годзе, калі складаліся спісы спаленых вёсак, ад Іўеўскага раёна ў іх было толькі 4. У 2002 годзе,

калі друкавалася кніга “Памяць”, у ёй змясцілі звесткі пра 6 вёсак. Сёння дзякуючы працы музейных работнікаў, краязнаўцаў ёсць даныя пра 53 спаленыя вёскі, дзве з іх не адрадзіліся. Пра Халакост расказвае фотапраект музея, калі па старых даваенных здымках можна прасачыць, якімі вялікімі былі яўрэйскія сем’і, як мала засталася жывых з тых, хто на іх паказаны. Так, на адной з фатаграфій, дзе патрапілі ў кадр 14 чалавек, выжылі з іх толькі пяць. А некаторыя сем’і наогул захопнікамі былі знішчаны цалкам. У горадзе да вайны жыло тры з паловай тысячы яўрэяў. У пасляваенны час сюды вярнулася 120 чалавек. Ёсць тут і куток, якія расказвае пра супраціўленне і партызанскі рух. У экспазіцыі размешчаны і ўзнагароды самага апошняга вэтэрана, які пражываў у раёне.

На базе гэтай экспазіцыі плануецца зрабіць новую выставачную залу музея “У гады выпрабаванняў”. У раёне знаходзіцца 25 культавых аб’ектаў, з іх 12 знаходзяцца ў дзяржаўным спісе гісторыка-культурных каштоўнасцяў Беларусі. Як паведаміла Анжаліка Цэсар, распрацавана 9 турыстычных маршрутаў, у тым ліку накіраваных на развіццё рэлігійнага турызму. Адзін з іх — “Залатое кола Іўеўшчыны” — расказвае пра багатую шматвекавую гісторыю, знаёміць з архітэктурнай спадчынай. Маршрут уключае наведванне вялікай колькасці турыстычных аб’ектаў, у тым ліку мячэці, касцёлаў, праваслаўнай царквы, будынка былой сінагогі.

Турыстычны маршрут “Іўе шматканфесійнае” расказвае пра горад, яго гісторыю, культуру, знаёміць з экспазіцыяй пад адкрытым небам “Кола гісторыі”, уключае наведванне памятнага знака ў гонар сяброўства і згоды канфесій, паказвае комплекс рэлігійных аб’ектаў.

Цікавыя экскурсіі распрацаваныя супрацоўнікамі музея па населеных пунктах Геранёны і Ліпнішкі, турысты наведваюць архітэктурныя аб’екты і чуюць гісторыю “кахання стагоддзя”, як назвалі любоў польскага караля Сігізмунда II і прыгажуні літвінкі Барбары Радзівіл. Дзякуючы перапляценню рэлігій і архітэктурных стыляў Іўеўшчына прадстае як самабытны рэгіён, тут маюцца ўнікальныя культавыя збудаванні: драўляны касцёл Божай Маці ў вёсцы Дуды, Царква Святых апосталаў Пятра і Паўла ў Трабах. Пра іх можна даведацца у туры па маршруце “Хрысціянская спадчына”.

Групаў навучэнцаў і выкладчыкаў Іўеўскага дзяржаўнага каледжа вядзецца работа над праектам “Іўеўшчына праваслаўная”, у рамках якога ствараецца экскурсійны маршрут па ўсім дзеючым храмам раёна. Вядзецца работа над інтэрактыўнай картай.

Алена **Дзязюля**  
Фота аўтара

# БЕЛАРУСКАЯ КНІГА НА ФОРУМЕ

На XI Форуме рэгіёнаў Беларусі і Расіі, які праходзіў у Віцебску, Полацку і Наваполацку, Віцебская абласная бібліятэка імя У. І. Леніна разгарнула выстаўку кніг беларускіх і расійскіх выдавецтваў, якія тэматычна звязаны з гуманітарнай, культурнай і літаратурнай інтэграцыяй нашых краін.

Высокія дзяржаўныя асобы, кіраўнікі абласцей Беларусі, рэгіёнаў Расійскай Федэрацыі мелі магчымасць пазнаёміцца з серыяй выданняў лаўрэата Прэміі Прэзідэнта Рэспублікі Беларусь “За духоўнае адраджэнне”, філакартыста, члена Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Уладзіміра Ліхадзедава “Бацькаўшчына. У пошуках страчанага”. Сабраўшы велізарную калекцыю старых паштовак, дасведчаны беларускі краязнаўца, публіцыст ажыццявіў многа праектаў супольна з расійскімі калекцыянерамі і публіцыстамі. Як вынік – альбомы “Блакада”, “Палігон. Гісторыя Скобелеўскага ваеннага лагера”, альбомы, прысвечаныя Першай Сусветнай вайне, праваслаўным храмам Аляксандра Неўскага ў Беларусі, Расіі, а таксама ў іншых краінах свету. Прэзідэнтам Рэспублікі Беларусь Уладзімір Ліхадзедаў узнагароджаны медалём Францыска Скарыны. Прэзідэнт Расійскай Федэрацыі адзначыў Уладзіміра Аляксеевіча ордэнам Дружбы. А нядамна было прынята рашэнне Вышэйшага дзяржаўнага савета Саюзнай дзяржавы аб узнагароджванні беларускага калекцыянера і пісьменніка Прэміяй Саюзнай дзяржавы Беларусі і Расіі.

На выстаўцы, прысвечанай дружбе народаў Беларусі і Расіі, віцебскія бібліятэкары прадставілі шэраг сумесных кніг Уладзіміра Ліхадзедава і Алеся Карлюкевіча (у тым ліку і расповяд пра лёсы расійскіх пісьменнікаў-франтавікоў на беларускіх прасторах у Вялікую Айчынную вайну – “Крыніцы памяці”), а таксама зборнік нарысаў, гутарак, эсэ А. Карлюкевіча “Адрасы рускай літаратуры ў Беларусі. Адрасы беларускай літаратуры ў Расіі”, па старонках якога можна было ажыццявіць віртуальнае падарожжа і ў Башкартастан, і Татарстан, Кабардзіна-Балкарыю, Калмыкію, Удмурцію, Чачэнскую Рэспубліку, пазнаёміцца з многімі адрасамі літаратурнай памяці, адкрыць шырокую палітру сучасных беларуска-расійскіх літаратурных стасункаў.

Сяргей Шычко

## СУСТРЭЧА З ПІСЬМЕННІЦАЙ- КРАЯЗНАЎЦАМ

Святлану Кошур, апантаную збіральніцу памятак пра Карэліцкі край, Наваградчыну, добра ведаюць на Гродзеншчыне. Яна доўгі час працавала ў Карэліцкім краязнаўчым музеі, напісала цэлы шэраг кніг, прысвечаных гісторыі роднай старонкі. Зусім нядаўна чытачы сустрэліся з пісьменніцай-зямлячкай у Карэліцкай раённай бібліятэцы.



Размова, зразумела, ішла пра адкрыцці і знаходкі, а таксама пра няздзейсненыя планы, якіх у аўтарытэтнага даследчыка, члена Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Святланы Кошур даволі шмат. Амаль дзве гадзіны доўжыўся дыялог літаратара з зацікаўленымі чытачамі.

Мэтанакіраванае служэнне такіх літаратараў, як Святлана Кошур, справе вывучэння рэгіянальнай гісторыі ўраджае, з'яўляецца напамінам пра тое, што сабраныя і ёй, і яе паплечнікамі звесткі павінны і проста абавязаны быць выкарыстанымі ў гісторыка-асветніцкім, патрыятычным выхаванні грамадства. Найперш — у выхаванні моладзі і школьнікаў. Сёлета спаўняецца 35 гадоў, як у карэліцкай раённай газеце “Полымя” быў надрукаваны першы краязнаўчы нарыс Святланы Андрэеўны.

Нагадаем, што летась у Выдавецкім доме “Звязда” выйшла кніга краязнаўчых нарысаў двойчы лаўрэата прэміі імя А. І. Дубко “За дасягненні ў галіне культуры і мастацтва” Святланы Кошур “Праз паціну часу: сцежкамі сямейна-зямляцкай гісторыі”. Зборнік можна набыць у кнігарнях ААТ “Белкніга” і ў Мінску ў кнігарні “Акадэмікніга” па адрасе: праспект Незалежнасці, 72.

Прыемных сустрэч з творчасцю Святланы Андрэеўны Кошур! Новых чытацкіх і радзімазнаўчых адкрыццяў!

Раман Сэрвач



# ГАЛАСЫ ФЕСТИВАЛЮ

Паводле перапісу насельніцтва, ў Беларусі пражываюць прадстаўнікі 156 нацыянальнасцяў. У нашай краіне створаны ўмовы для таго, каб яны маглі захоўваць сваю культуру і традыцыі, а таксама займацца творчасцю, дзяліцца народнымі здабыткамі, абменьвацца ідэямі. Паглыбіцца ў ярскavy свет, у якім пераплятаюцца культуры, ствараецца атмасфера сяброўства, умацоўваецца міжнацыянальная і міжканфесійная згода, можна было падчас Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур у Гродне. Прадстаўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аб'яднанняў — члены Кансультатывага міжэтнічнага савета пры Упаўнаважаным па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў абмеркавалі вынікі Чатырнаццатага фестывалю, а таксама расказалі пра работу, якую праводзяць у галіне захавання культуры, гісторыі і традыцый свайго народу падчас прэс-канферэнцыі “Шматалічная Беларусь. Міжкультурны дыялог — аснова міру і згоды”. Дарэчы, гэта ўжо чацвёртая сустрэча ў рамках праекта “Шматалічная Беларусь”.



### “МЫ ЁСЦЕ СТАЛІ СЯБРАМІ”

“Я адчуваю членам вялікай сям’і. Побач са мной людзі розных нацыянальнасцяў і прафесій, якія прыехалі ў нашу краіну з усіх куткоў былога Савецкага Саюза і іншых краін, як напрыклад, паважаны Мохд Саід, які прадстаўляе Міжнародную дабрачынную арганізацыю афганскіх бежанцаў “Афганская абшчына”. Мы ёсцце сталі сябрамі. Гэта самая лепшая характарыстыка таго, што ўяўляе з сябе шматалічная Беларусь, — падзяліўся Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак. — У нас агульныя інтарэсы. Кожны думае пра тое, чым жыве краіна, што чакае нас у бліжэйшай будучыні і далёкай перспектыве. Усе разумеюць, наколькі важны іх удзел у захаванні міру і згоды, якія ёсць зараз у нашай краіне. Таму наша краіна робіць шмат, каб кожны чалавек адчуваў сябе часткай грамадства, незалежна ад таго, дзе ён нарадзіўся, адкуль прыехаў. Гэта датычыцца ў тым ліку заканадаўства, якое рэгулюе пытанні міжрэлігійных, міжэтнічных адносін. Калі прымаюцца заканадаўчыя акты па рэгуляванні правоў чалавека, ніколі не робіцца акцэнт на нацыянальнасць ці веравызнанне.

Аляксандр Румак звярнуў увагу на тое, што ў Беларусі прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў захоўваюць сваю культуру, не толькі дзеля таго, каб перадаць гэтыя веды ўласным дзецям і ўнукам. Сёння яны могуць прадэманстраваць яе для тых, з кім яны жывуць побач. Таму яны частыя ўдзельнікі розных мерапрыемстваў, якія праходзяць у краіне. Прадстаўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аб’яднанняў займаюцца дабрачыннымі праектамі, выступаюць з канцэртамі ў сацыяльных установах, Рэспубліканскім рэабілітацыйным цэнтры для дзяцей з інваліднасцю. “Спагада, падтрымка — сведчанне таго, што ў Беларусі захаваліся традыцыі, якія былі раней, калі розныя народы жылі ў адзінай вялікай краіне. Гэта паказвае, што людзі хочуць жыць у міры і згодзе, і захаваль іх для наступных пакаленняў”, — падкрэсліў Упаўнаважаны.

### “З МАЛЫХ ГАДОЎ ЗАКЛАДВАЕЦЦА ЛЮБОУ ДА КРАІНЫ”

“Ад фестывалю да фестывалю мы становімся больш сплочанымі, — падзялілася дырэктар Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур Вольга Якабсон. З кожным годам прафесіяналізм творчых калектываў і сольных выканаўцаў нацыянальна-культурных творчых калектываў расце.



■ Закрыццё Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур

Радзе, што і пасольствы, і міністэрствы культуры краін, які прадстаўляюць розныя нацыянальнасці, дапамагаюць нашым нацыянальна-культурным грамадскім аб’яднанням. Так, на мінулы фестываль прыеджала міністэрства культуры Башкартастана і падарыла татар-башкірскай дыяспары юрту і традыцыйныя строі. Міністэрства культуры Татарстана таксама не засталася ўбаку і пры дзяржаўным візіце прадстаўнікі дэлегацыі падарылі дыяспары строі і баян. Як у нашай краіне аказваецца дапамога беларусам замежжа (прадстаўнікам дыяспары ў розных краінах у рамках дзяржаўнай праграмы перадаюцца нацыянальныя строі, музычныя інструменты, прадметы дэкаратыўна-прыкладной творчасці), так і ўрады іншых краін дапамагаюць дыяспарам, якія пражываюць у Беларусі. Калектыў “Арыранг”, які вывучае карэйскія танцы і музыку, прымаў удзел анлайн у танцавальным конкурсе. І сярод вялікай колькасці калектываў, якія паказваюць традыцыйную карэйскую культуру, наш стаў пераможцам, узяў гран-пры і пасля быў запрошаны ў Паўднёвую Карэю, даваў гала-канцэрт, каб паказаць, як у Беларусі захоўваюць і развіваюць традыцыйныя карэйскія танцы. Урад Паўднёвай Карэі таксама аказвае дапамогу — дорыць дыяспары традыцыйныя карэйскія строі, барабаны і нават стойкі для карэйскіх барабанаў, якія самі па сабе з’яўляюцца творамі мастацтва.

Старшыня грамадскага аб’яднання “Культурна-асветніцкае карэйскае таварыства “Арыранг” Кімі Ры прыгадала, як прадстаўнікі дыяспары рыхтаваліся да першага фестывалю: “Мы





■ Кіраўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аб'яднанняў з галоўным прызам фестывалю — кветкай са шкла і крышталю



■ Алег Бадалаў і Аляксандр Румак

рэпэціравалі ў Доме ветэранаў. Наш першы танец развучвалі з самаробнымі веерамі і строямі. Мы не прафесіяналы, а Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў дапамагае з пашывам строяў, нам выдзелена памяшканне для рэпетыцый. Створаны ўсе ўмовы. Ну як не ўдзельнічаць у Рэспубліканскім фестывалі нацыянальных культур! У нас на падворку было больш 30 нумароў. Выступленне за выступленнем, плюс каліграфія, фотасесія, госці хацелі апрануць нацыянальныя строі”.

Вольга Якабсон адзначыла, што на фестываль сёлета прыехала шмат дзяцей. Напрыклад, юныя артысты прадстаўлялі афганскую дыяспору: “Гэта паказвае, што з малых гадоў закладаецца любоў да краіны, дзе яны жывуць, пачуццё, што ўсе аб’яднаны ў адзіную шматнацыянальную сям’ю”. У фестывалі актыўна ўдзельнічае моладзь. У гэтым годзе у Гродне хацелі прадстаўляць сваю культуру 36 нацыянальнасцяў, але тры з іх (камерунцы, нігерыйцы і манголы) па аб’ектыўнай прычыне зняліся літаральна ў апошнія дні. У маладых людзей, якія іх прадстаўлялі, у гэты час ішлі дзяржаўныя іспыты ў навучальных установах.

### **“СВЯТА ВУЧЫЦЬ ПАВАЖАЦЬ АДЗІН АДНАГО, КУЛЬТУРУ І ТРАДЫЦЫІ СВАІХ СУСЕДЗЯЎ”**

Старшыня Мінскага гарадскога армянскага культурна-асветніцкага таварыства “Айастан”, старшыня Кансультатыўнага міжэтнічнага савета пры Упаўнаважаным па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Георгій Егіазаран расказаў пра тое, як з гадамі мяняецца маштаб і фармат фестывалю. Так у 1996 годзе, калі ён праходзіў першы раз, у ім бралі ўдзел прадстаўнікі адзіннаццаці нацыянальнасцяў.

Папярэдняга адбору на фестываль не праводзілася, цяжка было знайсці выканаўцаў і спланаваць праграму, якая павінна ісці на працягу пяці гадзін на падворках. “На той час не ва ўсіх былі нацыянальныя строі. Мы стараліся нешта сшыць, змайстраваць, прыдумаць нацыянальны вобраз, рэпэціравалі свае нумары хто дзе мог, — узгадаў Георгій Егіазаран. — Дзякуючы пастаяннай падтрымцы Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў у нас усіх з’явіліся цудоўныя строі. Дзякуючы Рэспубліканскаму цэнтру нацыянальных культур мы маем мачымасць рэпэціраваць і праводзіць канцэрты, мерапрыемствы ў цудоўнай зале. Калі сталі праводзіцца адборачныя туры, у нас з’явіліся зорчкі ў розных абласцях. У 1998 годзе Рузана Аванесян стварыла ансамбль “Эрэбуні”. Так было і ў іншых нацыянальна-культурных аб’яднанняў. Прыклад стаў заразлівы і ўсё больш калектываў і прадстаўнікоў нацыянальнасцяў сталі далучацца да гэтага руху. Калі чалавек хоць бы раз пабываў на фестывалі, убачыў усю прыгажосць, аказаўся ўнутры цудоўнага свята, ён улюбляецца ў фестываль, хоча яшчэ пабываць на ім. Асаблівае месца ў фестывалі займае шэсце па цэнтру горада. Калі ідзе яскравая неверагодна прыгожая танцуючая рознакаляровая стужка, а па абодва бакі гродзенцы і госці фестывалю радасна вітаюць удзельнікаў, гэта нешта, што немагчыма апісаць”. Прайшло 28 гадоў са дня першага фестывалю. За гэты час змянілася некалькі пакаленняў, якія бачылі паважлівае стаўленне прадстаўнікоў розных нацыянальнасцяў адзін да аднаго, да культуры і звычайў другіх народаў. “Фестываль нацыянальных культур — яскравае свята, якое вучыць паважаць адзін аднаго, культуру і традыцыі

сваіх суседзяў, — заўважыў Георгій Егіазаран. — Сёння выходзяць на сцэну дзеці тых, хто браў удзел у першых фестывалях нацыянальных культур. Так, у нас сёлета выступала новая зорачка, а ў 2000 і 2022 брала ўдзел яе маці”.

### “МЫ ЎСЕ ІДЗЁМ ПА АДНОЙ ДАРОЗЕ”

Рыхтуючыся да сустрэчы ў Доме прэсы, старшыня грамадскага аб’яднання “Малдаўская дыяспара “Дойна” Антаніна Валько перагледзела архіўныя дакументы і фатаграфіі з першага фестывалю: “Ён прайшоў даволі сціпла. Тады ішоў дождж, жанчыны схаваліся за парасонамі, нас моцна падтрымалі мужчыны. На жаль, зараз мужчын стала менш, у гэтым годзе мы прывезлі траіх: 6-гадовага, 30-гадовага і крыху старэйшага. Ад фестывалю да фестывалю мы развіваліся. Знайшлі спевакоў, аргані-

што мы ўсе ідзем па адной дарозе і няма паміж намі варожасці, нянавісці. Мы адзіныя, і няхай увесць свет крочыць у бок міру і паразумення”. Антаніна Валько выказала падзяку кіраўніцтву краіны за дапамогу і чуткія адносіны да ўсіх пытанняў: “Асаблівае “дзякуй” Аляксандру Рыгоравічу, які заўсёды кажа: “Гэта мае малдаване”. Такую падтрымку маюць і іншыя нацыянальнасці, я бачыла, як па тэлевізары ён такія словы гаварыў армянам”.

### “ТАК ТАНЦАВАЛІ, ШТО ГАРЭЛІ ПЯТКІ...”

У 1989 годзе студэнтамі Мінска была зарэгістравана адна з першых арганізацый Кангрэса азербайджанскіх абшчын. “Нам сёлета 35 гадоў. Мы ўдзячны, што нас заўважылі і на фестывалі ўзнагародзілі ганаровай граматай, — падзяліўся намеснік старшыні



■ Прадстаўнікі малдаўскай дыяспары

завалі ансамблі. У 1998 годзе створана група “Плай”. На чатырнаццаты фестываль прыехала каля 50 удзельнікаў. У нас ёсць спевакі ва ўсіх абласцях. Знайшлося шмат таленавітых людзей, сярод іх шматдзетная сям’я Людмілы і Пятра Чабатар, гаспадароў аграсядзібы ў Магілёўскай вобласці. Хачу адзначыць, шт кожная маладая сям’я малдаван у Беларусі мае 3–4 дзяцей. Жанчыны лічуць, што гэта краіна, дзе створаны ўмовы для развіцця сям’і. Мы гэты раз прадэманстравалі ўсю нашу магутнасць, прыгажосць, багацце самабытнасць малдаўскай культуры. Чатырнаццаты фестываль пакінуў масу ўражанняў, а шматнацыянальнае шэсце прадэманстравала свету,

Міжнароднага грамадскага аб’яднання “Кангрэс азербайджанскіх абшчын” Алег Бадалаў. — Мы радыя, што жывём у міжканфесійнай і шматнацыянальнай краіне, дзе няма ганенняў ні на каго, гэта вельмі важна для нас, мусульман і іншых рэлігій. Мы жывём у краіне, якая дала нам прытулак, і дзе мы сябе адчуваем, як на радзіме.”. Кангрэс азербайджанскіх абшчын мае два калектывы: “Сары Гялін” і “Каўказ”. “На фестывалі мы так танцавалі, што гарэлі пяткі”, — прызнаўся Алег Бадалаў. Прадстаўнікі азербайджанскай абшчыны прыязджаюць у анкалагічныя цэнтры, прывозяць падарункі і праводзяць канцэрты для дзяцей і людзей з інваліднасцю. Наведваюць





■ Яскравыя моманты фестываля

дзіцячыя дамы. У Оршы кангрэс замацаваны за дзіцячым домам, якому аказвае ў тым ліку матэрыяльную дапамогу. “Мы не раздзяляем дзяцей: на беларускіх, азербайджанскіх, армянскіх. Яны ўсе — нашы дзеці, — заўважыў Алес Бадалаў і дадаў, што аб’яднанне фестываль у Гродне чакае больш, чым Алімпійскія гульні: “Для нас фестываль нацыянальных культур — гэта нешта большае. Мы ганарымся, што можам паказаць сваю культуру, нацыянальную кухню, традыцыі. Радзе, што беларусы гэта ўспрымаюць як сваё, з такім задавальненнем бяруць удзел у майстар-класах. Тут думаеш, што ў гэтым свеце можна дзяліцца, калі мы адзіныя, калі разам нам здорава”.

### “ГЭТА ВЫНІК ЗЛАДЖАНАЙ РАБОТЫ”

Прадстаўнікі нацыянальна-культурных аб’яднанняў падзяліліся, што яшчэ доўга будучь узгадваць фестываль, разбіраць гігабайты фота і відэа матэрыялаў, і пры гэтым думаць над ідэямі, якія яны рэалізуюць у наступны раз. “Гэта другі фестываль нацыянальных культур, на які я прыехала, і ўжо бачу рост у параўнанні з папярэднім”, — заўважыла намеснік старшыні Саюза беларускіх яўрэйскіх грамадскіх аб’яднанняў і абшчын Алена Кулеўніч. Гэтым разам яўрэйскі саюз прадстаўляла каля сотні чалавек — гэта члены творчых

калектываў, якія прайшлі адборачныя туры ва ўсіх рэгіёнах. Яшчэ каля 30 чалавек прыехалі з Мінска, каб арганізаваць праграму на падворку. Гэта супрацоўнікі Музея гісторыі і культуры яўрэйскай Беларусі, валанцёры, вядучыя майстар-класаў. Прыехалі на фестываль прадстаўнікі дзевяці гарадоў. Выступалі сольныя выканаўцы, танцавальныя калектывы, былі вершы і тэатральныя пастаноўкі. Паколькі яўрэйскі народ шануе кнігі, гэта было прадстаўлена ў праграме падворка. Прадстаўнікам розных нацыянальнасцяў, хто сюды прыходзіў, было цікава павучыцца чытаць тору, паўдзельнічаць у майстар-класах. Яўрэі прывезлі ўнікальную выстаўку талітаў (традыцыйных накідак, якія

выкарыстоўваюць ад самага нараджэння і да сыходу). А таксама размясцілі на падворку выстаўку аб гісторыі Халакоста. “Для мяне фестываль нацыянальных культур — гэта люстэрка ўзаемаадносін, — заўважыла Алена Кулеўніч. — Уражанні складаюцца і з таго, калі бачыш маштаб свята, і з маленькіх унутраных гісторый. Калі ішло паstraенне перад шэсцем, пайшоў моцны дождж. Яўрэі патрапілі пад адзін дах з чувашамі. Нялоўка, невядома, што рабіць. І тут чувашы пачалі танцаваць, яўрэі падпяваць. Мы ўсе не заўважылі, як чувашы спяваюць і танцуюць “Хава нагілу”. Спецыяльна такога не прыдумаеш, гэта паказвае, што сяброўства і здаровыя чалавечыя адносіны склаліся даўно. Беларусь — унікальная краіна ў плане міжнацыянальных і міжканфесійных адносін. Тут усе



■ Кіраўнікі культурна-грамадскіх аб’яднанняў: карэйскага, украінскага, яўрэйскага

асіміляваны, у адной сям’і могуць быць прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў. У час фестывалю адчуванне, што знаходзішся ў дзірцы ў часе, як быццам вакол нічога не існуе, ёсць ідэальны свет, стан. Лічу, гэта ўнікальная з’ява ва ўсім свеце, бо я ніколі не бачыла, каб прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў шчыра суперажывалі, дапамагалі адзін аднаму, наведвалі падворкі, дзяліліся адзін з адным. Мы сапраўды — сям’я. Мы ўсе розныя, у нас свае звычаі, традыцыі, але мы ўсе жывём у Беларусі. Яна нас аб’ядноўвае. Мы любім сваю краіну. Я ўдзячна, што мы можам паказаць нашу культуру. Так мы можам убраць розныя пытанні і домислы, бо там, дзе ёсць домислы нараджаецца ўзаемаперазуме. Сёння вельмі цяжкая абстаноўка ва ўсім свеце з антысімізмам. Мы ўсе бачым, як вакол ён падымаецца. І яўрэі пра гэта ведаюць, як ніхто іншы. А ў Беларусі ўнікальная абстаноўка, у нас няма выпадкаў антысімізму, і гэта не на пустым месцы. Гэта вынік зладжанай работы і дзяржавы, абшчыны, нашых сяброў. Мы бачым падтрымку і ўзаемадзеянне. Хочацца падзякаваць за падтрымку на розных узроўнях, пачынаючы ад дамоў культуры, мясцовых выканкамаў да кіраўніка дзяржавы. Калі ў нас быў Песах (важнае свята для яўрэяў) аказалася вялікай нечаканасцю атрымаць разгорнутае віншаванне з Песахам ад кіраўніка дзяржавы. Гэта не проста віншаванне, а прызнанне таго, што мы робім у нашых культурных цэнтрах. Мы растыражывалі яго і разаслалі нашым калегам у іншыя краіны. Калі на самым высокім узроўні гаворыцца “мае малдаване”, “мае яўрэі”, адчуваеш цеплыню і хочацца працаваць далей”.

### “ГЭТА ЗАХАПЛЕННЕ, ПАЛЁТ ДУШЫ”

“Я паўтару словы, якія гаварыў на круглым сталё падчас фестывалю у Гродне: беларусаў і ўкраінцаў звязвае шматвекавая гісторыя. Ніякі калючы дрот у нашы сэрцы не пралезе. Мы браты і заўсёды будзем



■ Старшыня Міжнароднага грамадскага аб’яднання «Горо» Хізры Асадулаеў выказвае сваю любоў да беларускай зямлі

разам. І я таксама ўпэўнены, што Прэзідэнт Беларусі з гонарам можа сказаць: “Гэта мае ўкраінцы”. І мы будзем імі заўсёды,” — заўважыў старшыня Беларускага грамадскага аб’яднання ўкраінцаў “Ватра” Уладзіслаў Кадзіра. Аб’яднанне створана ў 1990 годзе, яго прадстаўнікі былі аднымі з першых удзельнікаў Фестывалю нацыянальных культур. Уладзіслаў Кадзіра прыязджае на гэта свята з 2002 года. Ён ўпэўнены, што па маштабе і каларыце, колькасці гасцей фестываль у Гродне ўжо можа сапернічаць са “Славянскім базарам” у Віцебску: “Тут так цёпла, шчыра, душэўна сустракаюць. Гэта захваленне, палёт душы. Ужо чакаем наступнае свята і думаем, як шэсце арганізаваць, якіх фарбаў дадаць, які элемент унесці. У нас на падворку было шмат гасцей. Мы прадстаўлялі ўкраінскую песню, вышыўку, знакіміты шынок, дзе ўсіх частуюць смачным салам, чырвоным баршчом з пампушкамі. Свята не заціхала ні на хвіліну. І я ўпэўнены, калі б нам далі яшчэ адзін дзень, мы б працягнулі пець, танцаваць, знаёміць з традыцыямі”.

### “ВОСЬ ЯНО — УЗАЕМАПРАНІКНЕННЕ КУЛЬТУР”

Старшыня Міжнароднага грамадскага аб’яднання «Горо» Хізры Асадулаеў лічыць, што фестываль нацыянальных культур дазваляе прадэманстраваць любоў да радзімы: “Чым больш паказваеш любоў да свайёй культуры, звычай, тым з большай павагай адносішся да традыцый беларускага народа. На нашым падворку танцавалі лесгінку беларускія хлопцы і дзяўчаты пад назвай “Эдэльвейсы”. Яны ж праводзілі майстар-класы. Наколькі цёпла становіцца на душы, адчуваеш, што так яны праяўляюць любоў да нашай культуры. Вось яно — узаемапранікненне культур. А так перадаецца павага ва ўсіх сферах. Дагестанцы ўдзельнічаюць у фестывалі з 2002 года, як было зарэгістравана наша аб’яднанне. Помню, як падчас шэсця нас віталі людзі, якія сустракалі ўсіх удзельнікаў. Нам крычалі: “Дагестан, вас не мала, мы з вамі, мы вас любім”. Гэта натхняла, надавала бодрасці духу і гонару. Адчуванне, што мы зашлі ў адзіную сям’ю, зліліся. З кіраўнікамі іншых нацыянальна-культурных аб’яднанняў мы сустракаемся не толькі на фестывалях, але і падтрымліваем адзін аднаго па жыцці, сталі добрымі сябрамі”. Хізры Асадулаеў прыехаў у Беларусь, калі яму было 25 гадоў. Лічыць, што менавіта тут ён сфарміраваўся як асоба, як скульптар: “Я працаваў тут, а мае працы адзначылі і ў Беларусі, і на радзіме (я народны мастак і Дагестана, і Чачэнскай рэспублікі). Я — лаўрэат дзяржаўнай прэміі і ў галіне літаратуры. Лічу, што змог шмат чаго дасягнуць менавіта дзякуючы таму, што тут створаны ўсе ўмовы, адносіны з прадстаўнікамі розных нацыянальнасцяў на роўных”.

Ганна Трошына  
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі



# СУСТРЭЧЫ Ў ПЕКІНЕ

У Кітаі пабываў вядомы беларускі літаратар і журналіст Вячаслаў Бандарэнка

Разам з калегамі ён працуе над фільмам, прысвечаным удзелу кітайцаў у Вялікай Айчыннай вайне ў Беларусі. Акрамя гэтага, зусім нядаўна Вячаслаў завяршыў працу над аповесцю пра сяброўства беларускага хлопца і кітайскай дзяўчыны на самым досвітку стварэння Кітайскай Народнай Рэспублікі.

Вячаслаў Бандарэнка сустрэўся з перакладчыкам беларускай літаратуры на кітайскую мову дэканам факультэта рускай мовы Другога Пекінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў Хань Сяое. Перадаў яму, перакладчыку Гу Юю, атаксама галоўнаму рэдактару часопіса “Руская літаратура і мастацтва” доктару філалагічных навук Ся Чжунсянь Граматы Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі. Прывёз для Цэнтра даследаванняў Беларусі, што працуе ва ўніверсітэце, кнігі з творамі беларускіх пісьменнікаў, якія пабачылі свет у выдавецтве “Аверсэв” у серыі “Сучасная беларуская літаратура”, а таксама — асобныя нумары часопіса “Беларусь” з публікацыямі перакладаў вершаў беларускіх паэтаў на кітайскую мову.



Гэтыя пераклады ажыццявіў прафесар Гу Юй.

— Мы вельмі рады сустрэчы з беларускім пісьменнікам і сцэнарыстам Вячаславам Бандарэнкам, — адзначыў Хань Сяое. Я з вялікай цікавасцю пазнаёмлюся з яго аповесцю на кітайскую тэму. І ўпэўнены, што ў бліжэйшы час яе перакладу. Рады мы і папаўненню кніжных фондаў нашага беларускага цэнтра. Спадзяюся, што дзякуючы такім стасункам будзе пашырацца атрад перакладчыкаў беларускай прозы і паэзіі на кітайскую мову, атрад даследчыкаў беларускай літаратуры ў Кітаі.

Нагадаем, што ў розны час у апошнія дзесяць-пятнаццаць гадоў у Кітаі пабывалі беларускія пісьменнікі і публіцысты Аляксей Чарота, Навум Гальпяровіч, Алесь Карлюкевіч, Мікола Літвінаў, Аліна Грышкевіч... Дзякуючы намаганням Хань Сяое ў Пекіне выйшла некалькі кніг сучасных беларускіх літаратараў у перакладзе на кітайскую мову.

Раман **Сэрвач**

## ЗНАЁМСТВА З БЕЛАРУСКИМ МАСТАЦКИМ СЛОВАМ

У пятым, майскім, нумары башкірскага літаратурна-мастацкага і публіцыстычнага часопіса «Агізел» надрукавана гутарка паэтэсы і перакладчыцы Зульфій Хананавай з старшынёю Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, дырэктарам — галоўным рэдактарам Выдавецкага дома «Звязда» Алесем Карлюкевічам.

Дыялог беларускага пісьменніка і башкірскай паэтэсы, якую па многіх публікацыях у перакладзе на беларускую мову добра ведаюць і чытачы «Літаратуры і мастацтва», быў прысвечаны стасункам паміж нацыянальнымі літаратурамі, гістарычным абсягам беларуска-башкірскіх літаратурных сувязяў.

Алесь Карлюкевіч звярнуў асаблівую ўвагу на леташнія, 2023 года, Дні башкірскай літаратуры ў Беларусі, на тое, што кантакты паміж культурамі і літаратурамі — гэта сяброўства асоб, стасункі асобных паэтаў, празаікаў, перакладчыкаў.

Ужо двойчы ў Мінску гасцяваў старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Рэспублікі Башкартастан Айгіз Баймухаметаў. Старонкі розных перыядычных выданняў у Беларусі за апошнія гады не аднойчы былі прысвечаны башкірскай літаратуры, як і старонкі башкірскіх часопісаў і газет — перакладам твораў беларускіх пісьменнікаў. І Айгіз Баймухаметаў, і Зульфія Хананава, і Ларыса



Абдуліна — менавіта руплівая, энергічная рухавікі ў справе знаёмства башкірскіх чытачоў з беларускім мастацкім словам, а значыць з характарам беларусаў, з гісторыяй і сённяшнім днём Рэспублікі Беларусь. І шлях у гэтым кірунку падаецца трывалым і перспектыўным.

Сяргей **Шычко**





July. Heat. And it's comfortable on the water.



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