

IN THE ISSUE



04 STRENGTH AND STRENGTH ARE IN UNITY

07 DETAILS OF THE SOCHI TALKS

Belarus and Russia, as strategic partners and closest allies, will continue the course of deepening integration in all directions...



10 TO AFRICA AS FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko held talks with President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo at the Palace of Independence

COLLABORATION HAS REAL POTENTIAL 20

THE VISIT OF A REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION FROM UZBEKISTAN TO MINSK WAS ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE. THE EVENT WAS GIVEN SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN TERMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF PRACTICAL INTERACTION...

IN THE ISSUE

22 New impetus for the development of relations

The conversation about vectors of business contacts, regional cooperation and points of contact between Belarus and Uzbekistan on international platforms, which began at the Palace of Independence, continued in the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly, where a meeting was held between the Chairperson of the Upper House of the Belarusian Parliament Natalya Kochanova and the Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbayeva. The same meeting took place with the Chairperson of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, Vladimir Andreichenko.

25 Forum with a woman's face

More than a thousand participants of the First Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forum discussed cooperation in various fields in six breakout sessions. The focus is on industry, agriculture, healthcare, science and tourism.



30 On the path of mutual respect

Belarus and Türkiye have decades of fruitful cooperation. The Republic of Türkiye became the first foreign state to recognise the independence of our country. This fact predetermined the active development of political dialogue between Minsk and Ankara.

Беларусь. Belarus

Social and political magazine

No. 9 (1080), 2023

Published since 1930

Founders:
Zviazda Publishing House editorial-and-publishing establishment

Editor-in-Chief:
Viktor Kharkov

Executive Secretary:
Valentina Zhdanovich

Design and Layout by
Boris Gerchikov,
Alina Fasevich

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

www.zviazda.by
E-mail: belarus.mag@mail.ru

Subscription index — 220034

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

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

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

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

Signed for printing on 23.09.2023
Offset printing. Coated paper.
Format 60x84 1/8.
Conventional printed sheets 13,02
Accounting published sheets
Circulation — 464

Order

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

Cover designer —

© Zviazda Publishing House
editorial-and-publishing
establishment, 2023

IN THE ISSUE

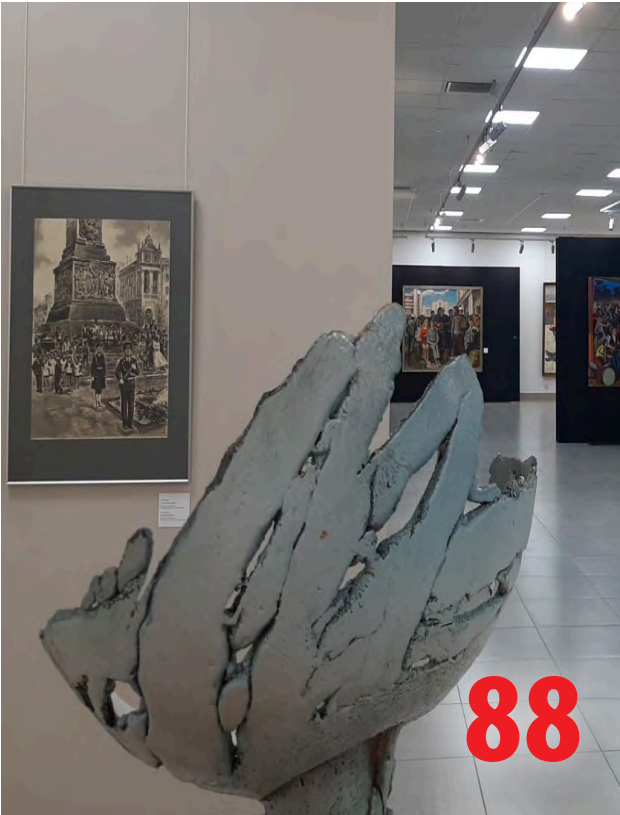
32 About a bright path for everyone

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Belarus Xie Xiaoyong spoke about the successes...

36 Alexander Lukashenko, "For Belarus, talented people, the intelligence of the nation are the greatest wealth"

43 The universe hears everything

Not only theory and formulas, but also spectacular experiments and impressive results — the bright, fascinating side of science was demonstrated in early September in Minsk at a festival that took place in the Central Botanical Garden of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus...



THE CITY IS ANCIENT AND YOUNG AT THE SAME TIME

STRENGTH AND STRENGTH ARE IN UNITY



O

On September 17, Belarus celebrated for the third time, perhaps, the youngest state holiday National Unity Day. They celebrated with patriotic actions, dialogue platforms, sports and cultural events. The culmination of the holiday was the patriotic forum "We are Belarusians!", which gathered representatives of the public from all regions of the country at the Minsk Arena with thousands of people. Alexander Lukashenko spoke at the forum. These are the accents that the President of Belarus placed in his speech.

In particular, it was noted that the more we see how modern states are collapsing, how peoples are losing their homeland, home, traditions, the more closely we look into the history of our native land. The land that thousands of years ago met our ancient ancestors with a harsh climate, taught them to stick together in order to survive and become a master in their home. And we understand, the President stressed, that in fact there are no new challenges. There are no unexpected twists in history. There are forgotten old lessons and threats. And there is protection — a centuries-old experience that has taught us to be together in both happy and difficult times.

It was emphasized that for many centuries Belarusians were one:

- **when they accepted Christianity;**
- **when they held the blow of the German Teutonic Order;**
- **when they fought with Napoleon's French army;**
- **when they defended their faith, language and culture;**
- **when, in a single impulse with the fraternal Soviet peoples, they created the basis of their national statehood, stood up to fight fascist aggression and revived the Soviet country from the ashes of the Great Patriotic War.**

And when sovereign Belarus began to be built on the wreckage of the Soviet Union.

The President drew attention to us Belarusians, we do not need to be told how important it is to live in peace and harmony, to be a united nation. Life has taught us. And our fellow countrymen, born under the Polish occupation, can tell us a lot. Those who know about the danger of losing their homeland and breaking away from their family. They know what it means to live in their native land, but to be an outcast in the eyes of privileged fellow citizens for many decades. They understand why on September 17 the republic celebrated the Day of Liberation of the workers of Western Belarus from the Polish lords, from occupation, from oppression. No matter how the name changed, it objectively reflected the essence of this holiday.

Until recently, it was recalled in the speech, we almost did not remember about that dramatic time — the period of the dismemberment of our Belarus in half! Everything has gone into the shadow of the global tragedy of the Great Patriotic War, the Second World War. This terrible human slaughter has blocked everything.

It was not customary to remember this time in the name of Soviet-Polish friendship, which, as it was then thought, would be eternal. The President notes that we, Belarusians, did not throw accusations at our neighbors, but always remembered:

how schools, our faith, land, and natural resources were taken away from Belarusians;
how our ancestors died without medical help;
how they humiliated and destroyed morally and physically all those who were devoted to their native culture, faith, language and traditions.

Is it possible to forget, rather rhetorically, the President asks, how guns were fired at Belarusian villages, how Belarusian children were beaten with rods in foreign schools, how Belarusians, Russians, Ukrainians were cunningly mocked in the Polish concentration camp in Bereza-Kartuzskaya? These are all facts. But for the sake of friendship with the Polish people, we stepped over this pain. Over the Bug, it was taken for weakness, but the lesson has been learned, the Head of State states. And he concludes that the neighbors did not appreciate the noble aspiration of Belarusians to live in peace. The President draws attention to the fact that he is not talking about the Polish people, he is talking about the elite — politicians who have been thirsting for revenge all these years. Then there was such a message: "Taking this opportunity, I want to say just a few words to my neighbors, or rather to the peoples of neighboring countries: Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians. Know! We don't draw plans to interfere in your life. We wish you only good, happiness and peace!" But this world is so fragile today that any careless movement can lead to grave and irreparable consequences, Alexander Lukashenko is sure. And his warning follows that we would very much not want our lands to once again

become a theater of military operations and millions of our citizens would be destroyed again, as it has always been in history.

Another important point, or rather the message that the President makes: "Belarusians do not need someone else. At the same time, remember (I am addressing the peoples of neighboring states): in case of aggression against Belarus, we will not draw any red, yellow, black or blue lines for spite! It is there, this line is the state border! And you know that we have something to answer. Therefore, let's live amicably, in a neighborly way, as it was in the best times of our history."

And here again is an uncompromising reminder: "But today vultures are circling over us, just like on the eve of the Great Patriotic War. They circle around the Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian lands. We are ready to make an alliance with the devil, if only to take up more space on the political map of the world... "Hell is possible, yes it is possible." And we would like to permanently erase from world history the facts of the political disgrace and moral

Alexander Lukashenko:

"I am addressing Belarusians today. How President and Commander-in-Chief, I want to assure you: we do not want to fight and will not fight. There will be no war in modern conditions on the territory of Belarus, because it is impossible! And if God forbid something happens, we will all become a Brest fortress. We will defend our land, which belongs to our children, to the last soldier and Belarusian man! We will do this, as I said, in the name of peace in our native land, in the name of Belarus, which we are building on the foundation of victories, achievements, experience and memory of our heroic ancestors."

downfall of their predecessors. We ourselves would like to forget how our official neighbor, Poland, was one of the first to recognize the Nazi Reich (this is a fact), signed a non—aggression treaty with it and a secret agreement on the partition of Czechoslovakia, how, having received part of someone else's territory, she herself was crushed over a short time by her former ally. This page in history should never be forgotten by our neighbors."

Reflections of the Head of State in continuation of the topic. Would our neighbor have remained on the world map in principle, if not for the Soviet soldiers? And if so, within what limits? The authorities of our neighbors do not ask such a question today. And they continue to destroy traces of the memory of their liberators. But why? They are gone, they are dead. Well, even if you don't appreciate them for the liberation of their lands. But why stir up the old? Let it remain as it is. No! It is necessary



to dig up everything with a sword and a bucket, blow up and destroy, erase from memory the best that was in the history of neighboring states.

Then – the justification of the significance of the event. Therefore, today, on September 17, the day of the beginning of the fateful liberation campaign of the Red Army, we celebrate one of the most important state holidays — National Unity Day. Unity, hardened in the selfless struggle for its national dignity. We are proud of the indomitable will of those who did not submit to the anti-human regime. Those who went underground, waged a liberation guerrilla war, resisted the policy of forced assimilation.

The conclusion suggests itself. There would have been no such large—scale nationwide resistance - there would have been no reunification of the Belarusian people in 1939 in a single state. And there would not be a modern sovereign Belarus if it were not for the conditions created for the development of our nation in the family of Soviet peoples. We know that. We remember that. Both then and today, unity for us... Unity for us is the main condition for the preservation and life of our state. So, it is a question of our survival as a nation. The day of September 17 is one of three historical dates, along with May 9 (Victory Day) and July 3 (Independence Day), which give us the opportunity to look back to the past in order to firmly hold our present in our hands and protect the future.

The President is confident that these dates unite modern Belarusians in an effort to protect their historical memory in the name of peace in their native land: "I emphasize once again: we are not aggressors. Our people, in fact, cannot be an aggressor. We do not threaten anyone and

we will never threaten anyone. This is not our policy. And objectively, we can't threaten anyone. But we are obliged to protect ourselves (whether we are strong or weak). This is our historical role, our generations living in Belarus

The concept of the festive concert covered all spheres of life in modern Belarus: agriculture, industrial production, pedagogy, medicine, service in the Armed Forces were symbolically reflected in the scenario... A red thread through the dramatic canvas of the musical action was the memory of the struggle of the Belarusian people — something that everyone should remember and understand.

today. Therefore, no matter what internal political events our neighbors may have, the peoples (I repeat again: Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, Ukrainians) must understand: we are the most peaceful nation on earth. Neither with atomic weapons, nor with any units, Wagner and so on, we are not waving and we are not threatening anyone." And again a reminder, a kind of excursion into history. The Head of State is confident: we didn't threaten anyone even then. But we were virtually wiped off the face of the earth. In the last war we lost every third. And then carelessness and complacency played an important role in the fact that we almost lost Belarus. That's why we remember it. We have been learning and are learning history. And we will always be ready to defend our Fatherland and our land!

Vladimir Mikhailov

DETAILS OF THE SOCHI TALKS



Belarus and Russia, as strategic partners and closest allies, will continue the course of deepening integration in all directions. This was confirmed by the next meeting of Presidents Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin.

The need for reconciliation of hours

In Sochi, the heads of state discussed joint tasks in the economy, common work in the field of import substitution, the international agenda and regional issues. It should be noted that this is the sixth meeting of the leaders of the two countries since the beginning of the year. However, there was nothing extraordinary or urgent about the working visit of the President of Belarus to Russia. The heads of state had planned these talks earlier in accordance with the schedule of their meetings, and preparations for the visit were also carried out systematically at different levels. During the open part of the talks, the leaders of the two countries will repeatedly note the relevance of the current meeting and the need to check the hours on a number of issues on the agenda.

Alexander Lukashenko first of all congratulated his Russian counterpart on the successful holding of an important event for the domestic political life of Russia on September 10 — a single voting day for the elections of heads of subjects, deputies of legislative and local representative bodies of state power: — The results are clear, I don't even want to analyze them. Probably, there have never been such results at all. All your candidates for the post of governors were supported by the people. This is a great success.

Economic forecasts for next year

As for integration cooperation, Alexander Lukashenko noted the good work of officials of both countries in fulfilling the instructions of the heads of state:

— More than 80 percent of the tasks that we have set for the governments have been completed. There are three more months (to work on the Main areas of implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on the Creation of the Union State for 2021-2023 and 28 union programs. — Editor's note). I think that we will put the squeeze on these questions. With this in mind, the President of Belarus predicts next year to reach the pre-sanctions level of the economy:
— We solve all these issues. Both small and large. You're right. They tried to tilt us hard — nothing happened. On the contrary, somehow we mobilized even unexpectedly. I know for you, too, and I didn't expect that we could stand it. Yes, we live a little poorer, a little bit at all. I think that next year will be a good year for us and we will enter the pre-sanctions period of our economy. In small things, all the issues, starting



from the military—industrial complex and so on, related to the Ukrainian conflict - all these issues have been practically resolved. If there is something left, then we know in which direction we should move. Alexander Lukashenko also spoke about the actions to stabilize the situation in the fuel market at the request of the Russian side:
— I want to inform you (there were some difficulties in the fuel market) — we stabilized the situation, delivered as much as the Russian Federation needed. How much the Government asked. In my opinion, 60 thousand of diesel fuel and gasoline. We will stabilize the situation in our common markets. If it is necessary to further reduce supplies to foreign markets and increase for domestic consumption, this is not a problem.

Sanctions lead to... a win

Vladimir Putin also stressed the stable and reliable development of relations between Belarus and Russia:
— We are continuing contacts and consultations with you

about our relations and about cooperation, primarily in the economic sphere. Everything is stable and reliably developing here, thank God. The President of the Russian Federation also announced that the budget process is being completed in Russia:
— Everything is stable and reliable, which is good news. Why am I talking about this? Because (you and I know very well) the state of the Russian economy, of course, affects our interaction within the framework of the Union State. We have mutual issues and obligations in this regard. There is a need, it seems to me, to check the clock on some issues. The Head of the Russian state said that he had recently visited two of the largest construction sites in the field of energy (related to gas and gas chemistry):
— I want to say about the restrictions that are being imposed on us. European companies refused to supply equipment and competencies (apparently, they expected that we did not have enough). We have restored all competencies. Everything is absolutely. Huge, world-scale enterprises will be introduced in the very near future. Vladimir Putin stressed that Russia's former European partners themselves say that they were forced to curtail work, despite losses on a huge scale. Moreover, according to him, some large high-tech companies have to cut staff by 50 or even 70 percent:
-- And we are restoring. We are gaining additional engineering competencies. It is very good. The gain in this sense is obvious. On the prospects of cooperation between Belarus, Russia and the DPRK. Referring to the events on the external circuit, Vladimir Putin mentioned his meeting with the leader of the DPRK, who was in Russia on a visit:
— I wanted to inform you how the discussion on the situation in the region went, which is also important. — I have been closely watching your last hard working days, — Alexander Lukashenko continued the topic. — It was nice to see you and Kim Jong-un at the Vostochny Cosmodrome. Because I was there myself. We have visited this spaceport before. I think we can think about cooperation for about three people. North Korea, Russia... I know that Koreans have a huge interest in you. I think Belarus will find a piece of work there too. Taking into account the problems that exist. The Russian President also announced his intention to talk with his Belarusian counterpart "on the situation in the Ukrainian direction" and around the Ukrainian crisis:
— I am very glad to see you. Thank you for agreeing to come. Alexander Lukashenko also announced his intention to tell his Russian counterpart about cooperation with the countries of the African continent, especially taking into account the recent visit of the President of Equatorial Guinea to Belarus:
— A very famous person. And an advanced person. There is also joint work in the African direction... In short, it seemed that we had already solved all the issues. And they keep

accumulating and accumulating. Therefore, there is a need to consult in time. I am grateful that you took the time to consult and discuss actions for the future.

Advice from Alexander Lukashenko

Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin also talked to journalists together. One of the questions to the RussianThe President was reproached by the West that his recent meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un contributes to tensions in the region. There are also allegations that the Russian side allegedly asked to send Korean volunteers to participate in the SVO. The Russian President denied such statements, calling them complete nonsense. In turn, Alexander Lukashenko stressed that Westerners should first calculate for themselves how many they have already sent their mercenaries to participate in the Ukrainian conflict before trying to reproach Russia with something:
— Maybe they should do it. And secondly, this is a dangerous statement on their part (of the West. — Ed.). Because they sleep and see their regular military units there. In Poland, military units have already been formed at the border, as you also mentioned, ready to enter Ukraine. You need to look into your own eye and look for some kind of log there, and not reproach others.— I absolutely agree, completely, — Vladimir Putin responded. — By the way, we record foreign mercenaries and foreign instructors both on the battlefield and in the units where training is conducted. In my opinion, yesterday or the day before yesterday someone was captured once again. We do not have such a need to invite people from outside for military operations. The President of Russia gave fresh data on how many Russian citizens have signed contracts with the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation:
— This morning we reported that 300 thousand contracts have been signed by people who, I want to emphasize once again, are ready to sacrifice their lives in the interests of their homeland, protecting the interests of Russia. Yes, we pay some money. They are, of course, much higher than the national average. But is it possible to close the threat of human death or serious injury with some kind of money? Of course not. Our men who sign contracts are guided by the highest patriotic considerations. This in itself causes respect. As for the accusations against Russia about "provoking and escalating the situation, creating threats to anyone," Vladimir Putin stressed that the country does not create threats to anyone:
— The biggest threats that are being created in the world today, they are being created by today's ruling elites. And, by the way, they talk about it themselves. A few years ago, the former Secretary of Defense (USA — Ed.) Gates said that the biggest threat to the United States itself comes from the territories where the Capitol and the White House are located. They talk about it themselves. And they are looking for a threat on the side. Therefore, I want to emphasize once again, this is complete nonsense. Korea is our neighbor. We have to build good-neighborly relations with our neighbors one way or another. Yes, there are certain features

associated with the Korean Peninsula. We discuss it, we discuss it openly. And we never violate anything and in this case we are not going to violate anything. But, of course, we will look for opportunities for the development of Russian-North Korean relations.

About problems in international relations

The journalists were also asked to comment on the statement by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken about possible peace talks with Ukraine. According to the American official, Russia and Ukraine will eventually have to "dance the tango." However, Vladimir Putin "threw the ball" to the opponent's half of the field:
— As for the Americans, they themselves do not know how to dance this tango. Of course, this is wonderful, amazing music and beautiful movements, but the United States is trying to solve everything from a position of strength. Or with the help of economic sanctions, or financial restrictions, the threat of the use of military force or its use. They are trying to teach someone, but they do not know how to do it themselves or do not want to. Most likely, they just don't want to. In this regard, the Head of the Russian State stated that cluster munitions supplied by the United States are widely used in the zone of its own:
— Perhaps, in this situation, as in a drop of water, what is happening in the world as a whole is reflected: there is one country that believes that it is exceptional, it is the United States. Even what she considers a crime, she allows herself to do. This is the main problem of today's international relations. Therefore, the vast majority of participants in international communication are fighting together with us for the creation of a multipolar world. Since this situation almost does not suit anyone. I say almost, because even those countries that are, as it were, allies of the United States, I assure you that they also do not like this situation — when they are kept as extras. Speaking about the possibility of peace talks with Ukraine, Vladimir Putin stressed:
— We have never refused to negotiate. So please, if the other side wants to, let them say it directly. Tango is, of course, good, but for Ukraine it is important not to forget hopak. That's what's important. Otherwise, they will dance all the time to someone else's music and to someone else's tune. And everyone will have to dance the "Lady" one way or another. Well, or at best, a "Cossack". Alexander Lukashenko continued:
— It seems like they started dancing. Three rounds of negotiations were held in Belarus, then in Istanbul. And then Blinken and Austin gave Zelensky a command — he forbade negotiations. The facts are on the table. The facts are obvious. So why blame someone here.
— Signed a decree forbidding (to negotiate with Russia. — Ed.), — Vladimir Putin agreed.
— I forbade myself, — Alexander Lukashenko confirmed.

Vasily Kharitonov

TO AFRICA AS FRIENDS AND PARTNERS



President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko held talks with President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo at the Palace of Independence

This is the first official visit at the highest level in the relations between the two countries. And he clearly demonstrated a great interest in each other, openness and willingness to discuss a wide range of issues. Actually, the situation in the world is pushing Minsk and Malabo to more active cooperation. On this occasion, Alexander Lukashenko, at the talks with his African counterpart, stated quite unequivocally:

— It is obvious that Africa is experiencing a kind of renaissance. Before our eyes, it is becoming the key to the sustainable development of the planet in the twenty-first century... Since you are close and not strangers to us, we invite you to Belarus and open our hearts to you. Belarus, unlike Western "democratizers", is ready to help you be masters on your land for the benefit of your own people. Minsk stands for a just, multipolar world, and we are going to Africa as friends.

"You are not strangers to us"

The distinguished guest was greeted, as befits in such cases, solemnly, with the participation of the honor guard company and the performance of national anthems. First, the Presidents talked in a narrow format. Alexander Lukashenko did not hide: Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo was expected in Belarus for a long time.

— When we talk about Africa in the north, it's something romantic, mysterious, - the President of Belarus began negotiations.

— Everyone perceives this continent differently. But everyone is absolutely similar in the opinion that the future of our planet largely belongs to Africa. I also hold this opinion. For me, Africa is no longer a mysterious continent. If I used to visit North Africa more often, in recent years I have managed to visit both the center of Africa and the south of your continent. Therefore, I imagine what Africa is, and I am glad of the processes that are taking place, to which Africa is subject.

First of all, we are talking about the liberation of African States from the colonial legacy. And Equatorial Guinea is no exception. Until 1968, a small country on the west coast of the mainland was a Spanish colony. After gaining independence, the struggle for power continued here for many years. Of course, not without the "kind" help of the West. The development of the economy and the social sphere was pushed into the background. The consequences of colonialism are still making themselves felt. But the President of Belarus makes it clear that friends are always ready to help:

— Africa is developing, the states of the African continent are gaining their independence... You should know that we are fully committed to this process and will support those States that want to gain their independence. We are a technological country. And we are ready to transfer these technologies to your country and the African people. You will see something here, get acquainted with our productions. And if you like something, if we are capable of something, if, from your point of view, we can help your state and Africa as a whole, you tell us - we will definitely do it. You are not strangers to us. For us — Belarusians, Russians. Because we have a history of cooperation that goes back to the depth of the development

and existence of the Soviet Union. Since you are close and not strangers to us, we invite you to Belarus and open our hearts to you.

Africa is experiencing a renaissance

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo thanked the President of Belarus for the warm welcome and hospitality, and also apologized for the fact that the previously planned visit had to be postponed due to changes in the working schedule. At the same time, he stressed:

— My visit to Belarus is evidence of my conviction that Belarus is a fraternal country for us, and Belarusians are a fraternal people. Our bilateral agenda of negotiations should include discussion of international issues that exist today. At the same time, I stress: we do not forget that it was the Soviet Union, the countries of the former USSR that played a major role in the liberation of the African continent from colonial dependence and continue to do so.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo explained that a number of African states are approaching the celebration of the 100th anniversary of independence, but sometimes we are talking about nominal independence.:

— We continue to be victims of neocolonialism and feel the pressure of those countries that are trying to continue this policy. If there is extreme poverty on the African continent to this day, it means that imperial neocolonial forces continue to exploit our countries, take away natural resources and suck the life juices out of us.

However, the situation is gradually beginning to change. As Alexander Lukashenko stressed at the expanded talks, Africa is experiencing a kind of renaissance and is becoming the key to the sustainable development of the planet in the twenty-first century. The joint peacekeeping mission of the leaders of the African Union countries to Ukraine and Russia, the active role of Africa in BRICS and the Non-Aligned Movement clearly testify to this, the President of Belarus said:

— The countries of the continent are determined to get out from under the dictates of Western multinational



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

corporations, which have imposed on them the role of raw materials appendages, pumping out oil, gold, gas, condemning the peoples of Africa to a miserable existence and hunger. Belarus, unlike Western "democratizers", is ready to help you to be masters on your land for the benefit of your own people: to create a national industry, modernize agriculture, develop science and technology.

A strong economy is for the good

The Head of State noted that Belarus, working within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, together with Russia and other republics of the former USSR, offers Equatorial Guinea access to unique technologies, goods and services. Alexander Lukashenko emphasizes the good intentions of his country:

— We have been living under Western pressure for three decades and categorically do not accept any attempts of pressure. At the same time, Belarusians not only do not suffer from colonial habits, but also do not try to impose anything on anyone. Minsk stands for a just, multipolar world, and we are going to Africa as friends.

Belarusian equipment and technologies have been well known on the African continent since the Soviet Union, and many African doctors and engineers studied at our universities, so the two countries should not have any special difficulties in establishing a dialogue. And - The President is convinced that they will not be:

— The independence and sovereignty of the country is primarily a strong economy. We have the experience and achievements to become an active participant in the socio-economic flourishing of Africa and its final liberation from the oppression of former metropolises.

Belarus is ready to help in the industrialization of Equatorial Guinea, the modernization of agriculture and ensuring food security, the supply of a wide range of machinery, other industrial and food products. In addition, our country has good competencies in the construction of modern meat and dairy complexes, exploration and extraction of minerals, and the implementation of joint infrastructure projects.

There are many opportunities for cooperation in the

humanitarian sphere. Alexander Lukashenko, addressing the guest, stressed:

— Belarusian healthcare organizations can provide the highest level of medical care to your citizens. We can also help you with personnel to train your citizens. You are aware of our achievements in the field of healthcare.

A key link in the process of building and forming new sustainable business ties should be the joint work of business circles and national chambers of commerce and industry. And an important step for the development of comprehensive cooperation following the visit is the creation of a joint commission on economic cooperation.

Alexander Lukashenko suggested instructing the foreign ministers, as co-chairs of the joint commission, to hold its first meeting as soon as possible and to identify specific plans and projects, including based on the agreements already reached.

Minsk is ready to lend a shoulder

Commenting on the results of the talks with the President of Equatorial Guinea in a statement to the media, the Belarusian Head of State noted that an open, friendly, constructive conversation showed that our assessments of the situation in the region and the world completely coincide. For both Belarus and Equatorial Guinea, a multipolar, just world, where any issues will be resolved at the negotiating table, in an honest, respectful and equal dialogue, has no alternatives, Alexander Lukashenko stressed:

— Despite the pressure and resistance of a number of major world players, Africa's voice in favor of the inevitability of such a world order is being heard louder and clearer. We see that the States of the African continent are increasingly resolutely pursuing an independent, sovereign and peace-loving policy, without looking back at the countries of the so-called golden billion. Minsk has consistently supported this aspiration in every possible way for many years.

Visits to Zimbabwe, high—level contacts with Egypt, plans to work with Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa and a number of other countries are proof of this.

— We intend to further develop ties with the countries of the African continent. We welcome the peaceful initiatives of the

A KIND OF REFERENCE POINT

Following the talks between the Presidents of Belarus and Equatorial Guinea, Alexander Lukashenko and Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, a number of international documents were signed:

- ♦ Intergovernmental Framework Agreement on Economic, Trade, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.
- ♦ Agreements on cooperation in the field of health and education.
- ♦ Memorandum of Understanding between the relevant departments of the two countries on cooperation in the field of agriculture.
- ♦ Agreement on visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

In addition, the agreement was signed by the Ministry of Culture of Belarus and the Ministry of Culture, Crafts and Tourism of Equatorial Guinea.

Alexander Lukashenko assessed the work carried out as follows:

— Today a good foundation has been made for the future. We agreed on practical steps to implement the agreements reached, agreed on exchanges of visits, outlined the foundations of the legal framework, and created a joint commission on economic cooperation. The President of Belarus appealed to the participants of the ceremony not to delay the implementation of the agreements reached.



heads of African States to resolve the Ukrainian crisis. We are in solidarity with the fact that it is necessary to stop the death and suffering of people as soon as possible," Alexander Lukashenko said.

Cooperation is relevant

As for the bilateral agenda, the negotiations identified promising areas and directions for the development of partnership. These include mechanical engineering, the petrochemical sector, agriculture, education, and healthcare. Alexander Lukashenko is convinced that the time has come to act more decisively and quickly:

— I told my colleague and friend that Equatorial Guinea, a relatively small state, but very rich in resources, no one will leave alone. The President agreed with me. Unfortunately, the modern world is based on strength. And he will remain in this world who has and will have the power to protect himself. In this regard, we will work together to help your state.

I am convinced that in a short time we will conclude new contracts and put millions of dollars into the piggy bank of relations. We hope that through joint efforts we will achieve a steady increase in trade turnover between our countries, the volume of which (we will strive) in 2030 should exceed \$ 100 million.

At the same time, it is impossible to focus only on the supply of equipment and food, Alexander Lukashenko is convinced:

— We need to cooperate, create joint ventures that will produce these goods. We need to go deeper. We are ready for this. We are ready to train your specialists who will work at enterprises with advanced technologies in Equatorial Guinea.

Cooperation will be mutually beneficial

The President of Equatorial Guinea expressed gratitude to the Belarusian side for the friendly approach shown:

— We share the readiness to implement effective joint work, to real cooperation, which will allow us to realize the potential of our countries. It is obvious that this cooperation can become a

kind of platform not only to help Equatorial Guinea, but also other African States that suffer from extreme poverty.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo once again drew attention to the fact that many African states are still under powerful economic pressure from former Western colonialists. At the same time, the countries of the continent intend to achieve true economic independence and impose a new economic order. In this regard, cooperation and cooperation with Belarus are very useful, emphasizes President of Equatorial Guinea:

— We have come here and we want to get support for the work that Equatorial Guinea is already doing on its own to ensure the transformation (on the African continent. — Ed.).

The leader of the African state expressed hope that all the bilateral documents signed in Minsk during the official visit will move from the theoretical to the practical plane. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo assured that Equatorial Guinea is ready to implement everything that was signed within the framework of the Minsk meeting. Moreover, he is convinced that the development of cooperation with Belarus will be mutually beneficial and other countries of the region will benefit from this:

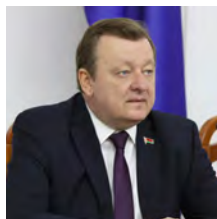
— A free trade agreement has recently been signed in Africa. Those countries that want to use the products of cooperation between Belarus and Equatorial Guinea will be absolutely free to purchase them.

Among the proposals voiced by Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo is also joint participation in trade alliances, communities with the possibility of entering the vast markets of neighboring countries of the African continent.

And to give momentum to bilateral cooperation, Equatorial Guinea promises to accredit a full-fledged ambassador to Minsk, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo said:

— And in the same way, I asked the Belarusian side to have the Ambassador of Belarus accredited in Equatorial Guinea. Thus, the diplomats will give additional momentum to all the agreements that have been reached today.

DIRECT SPEECH



Sergey Aleynik, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus:

— Africa is the continent of the future. We are working together to activate the entire range of bilateral relations with an emphasis primarily on economic cooperation. There is a serious mutual interest. There is a great desire to develop the economy. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the economy of Equatorial Guinea today is one of the leading on the African continent.

At the same time, the state needs the development of industry, processing industry, agriculture. These are the niches that arouse great interest and where our capabilities, competencies and technologies are in great demand.

Today, the African continent as a whole is in great need of grain and food. Africa buys \$180 billion worth of food every year. This is a huge potential, the basis on which we will develop our cooperation. There are many other areas — healthcare, education, technology, science, industrial cooperation, which, I am sure, we will also develop. Now a lot of African countries are showing interest in Belarus. Our contacts on the sidelines of the last BRICS summit confirmed this. We saw great interest in us with an emphasis on industrial cooperation, the processing industry, and cooperation in the agro-industrial complex. Belarus is known in Africa, and I hope that after this visit it will be known even more.



Simeon Oyono Esono Angue, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Equatorial Guinea:

— Visit The visit of the President of our country to Minsk is an unmistakable indicator that our countries are ready to further develop friendly relations in various sectors of the economy, such as industry, medicine, culture, and services. Belarus is a friendly, fraternal country, and we appreciate Belarus' desire to resolve all conflicts peacefully. We are pleased with the results of the negotiations and will work together to further develop bilateral relations and improve economic cooperation between our countries.



Sergey Bartosh, Minister of Agriculture and Food of Belarus:

— This region is very interesting for us. Equatorial Guinea has a great need for dairy and meat products, which we produce in sufficient quantities. Therefore, I would like to study this area of cooperation in detail. Our educational institutions can help with the education of young people, because it is very important for them to get an education in the field of agriculture. The President of (Equatorial Guinea. — Editor's note) is interested in this direction. We are ready to offer advisory services in the field of agriculture and food, climate research and much more.



Dmitry Pinevich, Minister of Health of Belarus:

— Our colleagues have a great need to train future specialists, starting from the student bench, as well as already established specialists at the postgraduate level. It is very important to use the joint potential in the supply of medicines, possibly their production and localization. Similarly, for medical products and medical equipment. It's all interesting for them. We offered them to work on mobile medicine, which will help everyone, including in remote areas. Despite the fact that the country is much smaller, this problem, I think, is no less significant for our colleagues. Therefore, we will also show our samples of mobile medicine.

Alexey Fedosov

VISIBILITY OF LARGE RESOURCES



After the meeting with the President of Belarus, the delegation of Equatorial Guinea got acquainted with the possibilities of the Belarusian industry



The guests visited a joint exhibition of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry, which was organized at the Minsk Tractor Plant, and saw the products of MTZ, MAZ, Gomselmash, Lidselmash, MMZ, Amkodor, BelAZ, as well as other Belarusian brands.

The guests visited a joint exhibition of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry, which was organized at the Minsk Tractor Plant, and saw the products of MTZ, MAZ, Gomselmash, Lidselmash, MMZ, Amkodor, BelAZ, as well as other Belarusian brands.

— We pay special attention to the development of supplies to African countries, — said Industry Minister Alexander Rogozhnik. — Currently, the main export of our products is carried out to Russia. The issue of supply diversification is very important, so our attention is also drawn to the countries of Asia, Africa, and America. We can offer the entire range of machinery of the machine—building complex - tractors, combines, trucks. As well as household appliances — televisions manufactured by the Horizon Holding, refrigerators. That is, absolutely all products that are produced at the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry.

Alexander Rogozhnik expressed confidence that Equatorial Guinea will become a kind of hub for the supply of Belarusian products to the countries of the African continent.

What I saw is eloquent

Vitaly Vovk, General Director of the Minsk Tractor Plant, noted that Africa is of great interest to the company today: — After this visit, we expect further promotion of our products in this market, taking into account the fact that the country has access to the ocean. It is an outpost for advancing to the African continent. Our products are needed in Africa.



The price and quality are optimal today. We are ready to provide not only sales, but also service and training. Vitaly Vovk stressed that the demand for Belarusian products in African countries varies: — Agriculture is only developing somewhere, in others it is already widely developed. Therefore, all types of our products are needed on the continent: from a tillerblock to the most powerful tractor with 350 horsepower. The General Director of MTZ emphasized that Belarus goes to the African market not only with products: — We are going with the technology of cultivating the soil and harvesting. We are ready to provide a full range of services for industry.

Simeon Oyono Esono Angue, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Equatorial Guinea, speaking with journalists on the sidelines of the exhibition, noted that he was impressed by the range of products presented. According to him, specialists will arrive in Belarus very soon within the framework of the joint commission on trade and economic cooperation, who will study in detail the possibilities of the Belarusian industry:

— This will contribute to the diversification of our economy, including in the agricultural sector.

The market is of interest

The delegation of Equatorial Guinea also visited the Dzerzhinsky agricultural plant and got acquainted with the products of such enterprises as Minsk Dairy Plant No.



1, Grodno Meat Processing Plant, Babushkina Krinka, Borisovkhlebprom, Brestmyasomolprom and others. Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Zayats, speaking with journalists, noted:

— The President of Equatorial Guinea is interested in close cooperation with our country. He is interested in advanced technologies in agriculture, industry, medicine and education. He wants to have everything that is in Belarus in his country.

Leonid Zayats stressed that Belarusian enterprises are interested in the African market:

— This is a new continent for our country. We are taking the first timid steps, developing cooperation in various areas. The road will be mastered by the person walking: it is necessary to go and go, even towards difficulties, overcoming them, in order to find a place with their products on the African continent.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister, the guests from Equatorial Guinea especially liked dairy products.

Very impressed

The guests also studied Belarusian technologies in the field of healthcare and pharmaceutical industry, including in the field of drug production and medicine in general. Minister of Health of Equatorial Guinea Mitohe Ondo Aekaba noted that he was most impressed by the scale in which Belarus produces medicines:

— Your medical strategy is very correct, we would like to adopt this experience. We also looked at the achievements in the field of reducing maternal and child mortality, transplantology. You have very good indicators, we are impressed. We are interested in purchasing your medicines, as well as various medical equipment.

Alexander Pimenov

PLANS ARE OUTLINED UNTIL 2030

Afterword to the results of the visit of the President of Equatorial Guinea to Belarus



At the end of the visit of the President of Equatorial Guinea to Belarus, Head of State Alexander Lukashenko personally saw off Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo at the National Airport. The leaders of the two countries warmly said goodbye. In general, the fact of this visit and the negotiations that took place not only showed the great interest of our countries in each other. Belarus not only sincerely supports African friends in their quest for independence, but also offers mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas. It is not for nothing that Alexander Lukashenko emphasized this point at the talks with Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo:

— The future of our planet largely belongs to Africa. Africa is developing, the States of the African continent are gaining their independence. You should know that we are fully committed to this process and will support those States that want to gain their independence. If you like something, if we are capable of something, if, from your point of view, we can help your state and Africa as a whole, you tell us — we will definitely do it.

Do not delay with specific actions

The President of Belarus has repeatedly said that we should go with our products to where they are waiting for us, where they want to be friends and cooperate with us. The strategy of building relations with the states of the far arc is based on this. Equatorial Guinea is one of these countries. Quite small in size, but the richest in natural resources. The lion's share of the

state budget (over 90 percent) is generated by revenues from the oil and gas sector. But there is a caveat: the key player in the energy market is not the state, but four American, French and Spanish companies. Yes, large oil fields and foreign investments have helped make Equatorial Guinea one of the richest and most stable States in Africa. However, although the country ranks first on the continent in terms of GDP per capita, people there are far from posh. For example, the share of agriculture in the structure of the economy is only 3 percent. Today Equatorial Guinea is in dire need of machinery, food, medicines, building materials. Belarus has all this in abundance. And as Alexander Lukashenko stressed, we are ready not only to offer our products, but also to create joint ventures with advanced technologies and train specialists. Following the talks at the Palace of Independence, the parties signed a number of agreements that will give impetus to the development of cooperation in agriculture, education, healthcare and other areas. Minsk and Malabo expect to surpass the \$100 million mark in mutual trade by 2030. The main thing now is not to delay with concrete actions.

Helping each other

Belarus is going to the African continent with peace and technology. This is strikingly different from the policy of Western multinational corporations, which are aimed exclusively at pumping out oil, gas, and gold, condemning the peoples of Africa to poverty and hunger.

■ Alexander Lukashenko personally saw off Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo at the National Airport



— The African continent is rich in resources, so it has been robbed, robbed and is not going to stop robbing. In order to survive in the world of neocolonial claims, it is necessary to find true friends," notes national security expert Alexander Tishchenko.

— The West keeps Africa half-starved and at the same time drains all the juices out of it. Food is the arcane on which the metropolises keep their former colonies. And Belarus can help to cut it. If Africa can overcome this dependence, then the unipolar world order will definitely and irrevocably come to an end. And this is our main interest, because the unipolar world is our main enemy. He poses the most terrible threat to us. By helping each other, Africa and I will be richer and stronger. Everything is very simple. Don't have a hundred rubles, but have a hundred friends. And friendship, which is built on trust, equal and equivalent platforms, is worth a lot. The dean of the Faculty of Journalism of the Belarusian State University, political scientist Alexey Belyaev, on the air of the talk show "Weekdays" on Alfa Radio, speaking about the interaction of Belarus with the African continent, first of all notes the foresight of Alexander Lukashenko:

— After all, he announced the issues of interaction with Africa quite a long time ago. The general vector of switching our foreign policy to the conditional East actually includes a turn to the South. Now in political

science, there is even such a thing as the "Global South". It includes states that used to be contemptuously called the "third world". Now they are still called the "Global South" as opposed to the Global North — the rich countries of old Europe...

Belarus is going to Africa as an equal partner with offers that are beneficial to Africans.

On the principles of justice

According to Felix Yashkov, a member of the Permanent Commission of the Council of the Republic, the rapprochement of Belarus with African countries close in philosophy in the Year of Peace and Creation is symbolic:

— It is not just the creation of friendly and partnership relations, it is a single conceptual response to the aggressive foreign policy of the neocolonialists. In the modern world, the relationship of subordination between states is unacceptable. Belarus inherited the Soviet experience of sincere and trusting friendship with the African region, in which equality was the main emphasis. And she rushed on, resolutely assuming the role of not only a peacemaker in international processes, but an ambassador of absolute independence in determining the state course.

According to Professor, Doctor of Economics Valery Baynev, Belarus continues to build cooperation with

those states that are ready to meet us halfway, to establish relations based on mutual respect and principles of justice:

— In this regard, the countries of the African continent, like no other, know the price of economic independence. Western countries came to Africa with weapons, taking the position of "I am the master, and you are the slave." We're not trying to crush anyone. But it is much more important than economic cooperation to create a family of like-minded people as an opposition to the Western system, which only wants power and expansion of its influence.

The people of Equatorial Guinea have a real example of the Belarusian people and the Belarusian leader before their eyes, Deputy of the House of Representatives Vitaly Utkin notes: — Being in the center of Europe, surrounded by the hyenas of the West, we were able to defend our independence not only politically, but also economically. Unlike Western countries and European politicians, who today speak the language of war and weapons, we are talking about goals that are understandable to the common man. The friendship that is being forged today at the level of the Presidents and peoples of the two countries is based on a peaceful position and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Vladimir Khromov
Photo by BelTA



COLLABORATION HAS REAL POTENTIAL

The visit of a representative delegation from Uzbekistan to Minsk was announced in advance. The event was given special significance in terms of the development of bilateral relations across a wide range of practical interaction. By the way, this was emphasised during the meeting of the President of Belarus with the head of the upper house of the parliament of Uzbekistan.

Develop connections between regions and interact on international platforms, share technologies. This is the scheme of cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan for the coming years. Its visible embodiment was the contracts and agreements signed following the results of the first Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forum held in Minsk in September. A representative delegation from a Central Asian country arrived in our country to participate in it. It is symbolic that the visit took place in the year of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states. President Aleksandr Lukashenko at a meeting with the Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbayeva drew attention to this point and emphasised, "A lot has been done, but there is room for improvement in these difficult times, when we are at a turning point in international relations... We will always support you, because your course towards peace, toward friendly relations with neighbours and other countries is our course too." Подпись к фото: Aleksandr Lukashenko and Tanzila Narbayeva.

Willingness to support partners

Belarus and Uzbekistan have had relations since Soviet times. However, at that time this Central Asian republic served largely as a source of raw materials, primarily cotton and non-ferrous metals, for a huge single country. And today it needs modern

technologies to develop the real sector of the economy. Belarus is ready to share everything necessary with its partners. Moreover, we have excellent relations at the highest political level, and Aleksandr Lukashenko did not hide this, "I am very grateful to the leadership of your country and Shavkat Mirmonovich (Sh. M. Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan) for their careful, non-public, calm support. He always fulfilled any request I made to him. Tell him that we are very obliged and grateful for this, but Belarusians are the kind of people who never remain in debt. Therefore, we will do everything we need to help Uzbekistan." Both countries cooperate closely in international organisations, especially regional ones. The Head of State, in particular, expressed gratitude to Uzbekistan for its support in the issue of accelerated acquisition of membership in the SCO by Belarus, "Thank you for the SCO. You have always supported us and continue to support us. We will always support you, because your course towards peace, towards friendly relations with neighbours and other countries is also our course."

Advice from friends will be helpful

The visit of the parliamentary delegation of Uzbekistan took place after important internal political events that took place this year. In April, the country adopted a new version of the Constitution in a popular referendum. And in July, early presidential elections

took place, following which Shavkat Mirziyoyev was re-elected to the highest government post. Aleksandr Lukashenko said about this, "Well done! Carefully. There were some problems the day before, you reacted on time and beautifully (I told Shavkat Mirziyoyev about this). People are not mad at you. Our observers were there and saw that everything was dignified. You feel that the Western world was not particularly objecting. It is their right to recognise or not recognise (elections), to indicate or not to indicate. They are always original in this regard. But you are great in this regard. This is important for us, because we also improved our Basic Law, election legislation."

The President explained that Belarus will also have to conduct an election campaign in the near future. There will be a single voting day next year in February, "We elect Parliament. Moreover, we are electing the Belarusian People's Congress. You also have a similar collective body — you rely on the advice of elders. For us, your advice on what to pay attention to in the current situation is very important."

There is something to build on

The first Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forum was also supposed to play a role in the development of bilateral relations. In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko proposed, based on the experience of cooperation between Belarus and Russia and in relations with Uzbekistan, to move to regional cooperation, the basis of which is the economy. This is important for both partners. For Uzbekistan, according to the President of Belarus, it is even more important in terms of technology. Starting not with simple trade, but with the cooperation of enterprises, the transfer of Belarusian technologies to Uzbekistan — this would be very interesting, "We are ready to work absolutely openly in this direction. We have certain experience, we have technologies, we are ready to exchange these technologies. I would really like to cooperate more closely with Uzbekistan, because you have many products that interest us and that are useful to us."

By the way, a good foundation has been laid for the further development of trade and economic cooperation. After the visit of Aleksandr Lukashenko to Uzbekistan in September 2018 and the return visit to Minsk of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, mutual trade turnover is confidently going uphill and in five years has increased from 157 million dollars to 505 million. And in the first half of 2023 they added another 45 percent. So there is something to build on.

"Felt like home"

Tanzila Narbayeva thanked the Belarusian side for the invitation to visit the country, for the hospitality, a warm welcome at home, and conveyed greetings and good wishes from the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Aleksandr Lukashenko. Addressing the Belarusian leader, the guest noted, "As soon as we set foot on Belarusian soil, we felt at home. We admired the cleanliness, neatness of both the roads and the city, and the friendliness of the people. You correctly said that our peoples are brought together by hard work, hospitality, and openness. We visited several sites on

the very first day, felt openness and interest in the guests of the Belarusian people and are very happy about it."

Uzbeks are similar to Belarusians

Aleksandr Lukashenko has a special relationship with Uzbekistan. Very warm. The President of Belarus told Tanzila Narbayeva that he has been closely monitoring the development of the country for a long time. He calls the Uzbeks themselves hardworking people who have had to overcome many trials in their history. And in this they are absolutely similar to the Belarusians. Separately, Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about his colleague Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasising that the Uzbek people were lucky with their leader, "You have a very good President. I tell him to his face: you must not let down the people who trust and believe in you so much. He passionately wants to make life better for Uzbekistan and the Uzbeks. Uzbekistan has a great future. And my advice to you: try to save your President for as long as possible. He needs time to turn things around. Don't forget to give my friend (we are very frank with him) my warmest, best wishes."



Aleksandr Lukashenko visited Uzbekistan several times. Together with Shavkat Mirziyoyev, he also visited the south of the country, where there are stunningly beautiful places. The President of Uzbekistan again invited the President of Belarus to his country, but Aleksandr Lukashenko admits that he would like to visit those parts in winter, "Despite the fact that I carefully studied Uzbekistan, I did not think that you have such mountains. Real winter! Such a beauty! The mountains are very beautiful. Shavkat once showed it to me; we flew in a helicopter. I'll try to get out soon." The invitation from Shavkat Mirziyoyev has already been sent. The President of Belarus is expected in Uzbekistan at the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

Vladimir Velikhov

NEW IMPETUS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS



The conversation about vectors of business contacts, regional cooperation and points of contact between Belarus and Uzbekistan on international platforms, which began at the Palace of Independence, continued in the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly, where a meeting was held between the Chairperson of the Upper House of the Belarusian Parliament Natalya Kochanova and the Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbayeva. The same meeting took place with the Chairperson of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, Vladimir Andreichenko. Substantive negotiations also took place in the Government of Belarus.

PARTNERSHIP



For the benefit of countries and peoples

According to Natalya Kochanova, relations between Belarus and Uzbekistan today are developing in absolutely all directions. She thanked her Uzbek colleagues for supporting the accelerated entry of our country into the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and added that the voice of parliamentarians can and should also be heard loudly, "We must support the policy pursued by the heads of our states. This policy is aimed primarily at individuals with their needs and concerns. And this unites us."

Tanzila Narbayeva agreed that interaction should be intensified, and to do this, she took the opportunity to invite her Belarusian colleagues to Uzbekistan, "We must learn from each other, adopt good practices. I would like our experience of cooperation to become an example for many countries."

The national strategy of Belarus to achieve sustainable development is already producing positive results today. There are many areas in which the state is boldly moving forward and setting an example at the global level in improving the quality of life. Without a doubt, all planned events within the framework of the official visit of the parliamentary delegation of Uzbekistan and the Women's Business Forum will give new impetus to the development of relations between the two countries. Natalya Kochanova promised that the implementation of all agreements that will be reached during the forum will be strictly monitored in Belarus, "We are true friends, and everything we do goes for the benefit of our countries and peoples."

The chairperson of the upper house of the Belarusian Parliament expressed confidence that cooperation through

international, youth and women's organisations will continue in the future. According to Natalya Kochanova, this is great power, something that can and will unite both countries in the future.

On the same day, the parliamentary delegation of Uzbekistan got acquainted with the work of Mother and Child Republican Scientific and Practical Centre. And it ended for the Uzbek guests at the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre.

New page opened

Ways to intensify inter-parliamentary relations, restart economic projects, develop and deepen Belarusian-Uzbek cooperation became the main topics at the meeting of the Chairperson of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus Vladimir Andreichenko and the Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbayeva.

Welcoming the parliamentary delegation, Chairperson of the House of Representatives Vladimir Andreichenko noted that Uzbekistan is a key partner for Belarus in Central Asia, and our country is interested in developing relations in all areas, "Over the 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, they have always developed progressively. True, there were periods of both rise and fall. But the most important thing is that today we have no unresolved issues. Of course, all this was done thanks to the presidents of our countries. It is important to support the positive dynamics that we have today and to use the potential of integration entities such as the SCO, CIS, and EAEU."



The speaker emphasised that Belarus and Uzbekistan are demonstrating good growth in trade turnover. Indeed, recently Belarusian-Uzbek trade and economic cooperation has shown serious positive dynamics. Last year, for example, trade turnover reached more than half a billion dollars and increased by almost 67 percent compared to 2021. During the first half of this year, it also tends to almost double. Vladimir Andreichenko noted that the parties are ready to search for new areas of cooperation, including the implementation of joint projects both in Uzbekistan and Belarus. There is potential in increasing supplies of raw materials from Uzbekistan for Belarusian industry; there is a need to organise supplies of Uzbek fresh fruits and vegetables, nuts and dried fruits to Belarus, and create infrastructure for their storage, processing and sale. In turn, our country is ready to provide stable supplies of products in demand on the Uzbek market, including meat, dairy and other food products, wood processing and pharmaceutical products. We are ready for sustainable and mutually beneficial cooperation with mining companies of Uzbekistan in the supply of BELAZ equipment, including large-unit assembly of mining dump trucks.

Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbayeva, for her part, thanked for the meeting and emphasised the fact that Belarus is the most reliable and faithful partner of Uzbekistan on all issues, “The policy of our states, as the Belarusian leader said, is human well-being. That’s all a person needs. To work so that every person is satisfied — this is our policy.”

The speaker added that relations have intensified in recent years. A special road map for the development of relations between states has been adopted, which is being actively implemented today. Trade turnover has tripled recently. But there is potential to increase it significantly. There are areas that need to be worked on.

The right decisions are important

The visit of the Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan to Belarus was indeed preceded by a long preparation. Which indicates: great importance was attached to it. Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko drew attention to this during a meeting with Tanzila Narbayeva. The Head of Government, in particular, noted that for Belarus, Uzbekistan is a key partner in Central Asia, “We are glad that very warm and partnership relations have been established at all levels — at the level of heads of state, at the level of governments and at the inter-parliamentary level. This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, and now is a good time to look at the past and outline plans for the future. I will not be mistaken if I say that our bilateral relations are experiencing a period of unique prosperity.”

Evidence of this, Roman Golovchenko noted, is a very fruitful political dialogue and mutual support, which is very important in conditions when all states are forced to defend their independence, including in the international



arena, and consolidate with their friends and partners. The prime minister emphasised that the countries have increased trade turnover almost threefold over five years. This is a very serious indicator. This year is no exception — almost 50 percent increase compared to last year.

The Prime Minister noted that Belarus managed to fully compensate for the losses that the country suffered from sanctions by increasing cooperation with good friends. And Uzbekistan occupies a worthy place in this series. He thanked Tanzila Narbayeva and the leadership of Uzbekistan for their balanced and constructive partnership approach.

The Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, in turn, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and noted how important it is at the present time to make the right decisions, because the future of the countries depends on them. Uzbekistan and Belarus have recently been increasing their relations. Presidents set the tone for this. Agreements reached at the highest level must be provided with a legal basis — synchronise, harmonise legislation, and ensure parliamentary control over implementation.

“During the negotiations, we also paid attention to regional cooperation. The vision of our heads of state on this issue coincides: the main thing is the well-being of the people,” said Tanzila Narbayeva. According to her, Uzbekistan has defined a development strategy until 2030. Priority areas are based primarily on economic development.

Trade turnover between Belarus and Uzbekistan last year exceeded \$500 million, but there is potential to increase it to a billion.

Aleksey Fedosov

FORUM WITH A WOMAN'S FACE



More than a thousand participants of the First Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forum discussed cooperation in various fields in six breakout sessions. The focus is on industry, agriculture, healthcare, science and tourism.

Budget and Finance, expressed a wish for the need to expand the range of goods and services that Belarus can offer to Uzbekistan, “We expect that we will sell more tractors and other agricultural equipment, because Uzbekistan is an agricultural country. We also heard that we have a lot of prospects for cooperation in the field of electric transport, as Uzbekistan is modernising its public transport. We hope that our electric buses, trolleybuses, and trams will appear there in the near future.”

Umida Rakhmanova, a participant from Uzbekistan, General Director of Miss Lighting LLC, sees a certain pattern in the fact that the forum has a women's face, “All over the world, much attention is paid to women's entrepreneurship. In Uzbekistan it is now growing at a serious pace. Our countries have great prospects for further cooperation. In particular, my organisation, which produces lighting fixtures, is interested in purchasing metalworking equipment. We are already negotiating. We are also interested in personnel issues, namely training to operate this equipment.”

Reputation is confirmed by statistics

A section meeting on the topic of expanding cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan in the field of industry was held at the premises of BELAZ OJSC in Zhodino. Issues of further cooperation between the two countries in the field of mechanical engineering and industrial cooperation were discussed in detail. Promising innovations in urban passenger transport are also considered. Specialists from Belarusian enterprises shared information about their existing and new products with their Uzbek colleagues. As Minister of Industry Aleksandr Rogozhnik noted, Belarusian products have long enjoyed well-deserved prestige among Uzbek consumers. According to him, Uzbek importers annually expand the range of Belarusian goods on the market and strengthen ties with Belarusian manufacturers, who have proven themselves to be reliable, efficient and stable partners. This is confirmed by statistics. Thus, export supplies of enterprises of the Ministry of Industry to Uzbekistan for the first seven months of this year compared to the same period in 2022 increased in monetary terms by more than \$20 million. An example of such interaction was the agreement signed during the forum for the supply of automotive products between the Minsk Automobile Plant and a counterparty from Tashkent.

In turn, Yelena Zyblikova, a member of the Standing Commission of the Council of the Republic on Economics,



PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to joint efforts

A section dedicated to the prospects for cooperation in light industry was held at the Minsk City Palace of Culture. In Uzbekistan, this industry forms about 20 percent of GDP. The forum had a specific task — getting to know the production potential and business opportunities of the two countries and further strengthening business ties between business entities. Belarus and Uzbekistan have friendly relations and mutual cooperation in many areas. We have something to say to each other, says Tatyana Runets, Chairperson of the Standing Commission of the Council of the Republic on Economics, Budget and Finance. Indeed, thanks to joint efforts in recent years, bilateral cooperation between the countries has reached a new level. Over the six months of 2023, trade turnover increased 1.4 times. According to the senator, it is necessary to develop not only trade relations, but also to implement joint projects, create common enterprises, and establish cooperative ties. Today, there are about 100 enterprises with Uzbek capital operating in Belarus. The same number of companies are working in Uzbekistan with Belarusian investments. And the potential for cooperation is enormous.

As Tatyana Lugina, Chairperson of the Bellegprom concern, said, the countries intend to develop production cooperation in the light-industry sector. Today the main emphasis is on production cooperation.

“While previously we mainly purchased raw materials and semi-finished products in the form of cotton fibre and yarn, knitted fabrics, fabrics, now we consider the potential of this country as a production site, where there are all the necessary modern facilities and labour resources. And we plan to develop further in production cooperation chains.”

There are already some developments in this matter. In particular, Svitanak in Zhodino will soon ship the first machine of knitted fabric, which is produced in Belarus, and it will be cut and sewn according to Belarusian patterns and designs at Uzbek knitting factories under the Belarusian brand. Belarus has something to offer the Uzbek light industry. These are the goods that are not produced on the market of Uzbekistan. In particular, Belarusian cotton-polyester fabrics, which have special protective properties, are very popular. In addition, work on wool and linen fabrics is being developed. Also, polyester threads from Belneftekhim are quite in demand in the light industry of Uzbekistan.

As part of the sectional programme, an introductory tour of the production workshops of Kamvol OJSC was held. Representatives of Uzbek business became interested in the company's products.

“We concluded a number of memorandums on the spot,” said Kamola Gulyamova, Adviser on Gender Equality and Design Development of Uztekstilprom Association. “The first memorandum concerns the purchase of fabrics for school uniforms. And the second one was concluded by the design centers of Kamvol and Uztekstilprom. We look forward to broad prospects.”

As a result of the work of the section, a number of commercial contracts were signed, as well as a memorandum of intent to



create a joint venture for the production of sheepskin and fur, astrakhan fur, and fur raw materials.

Obvious agricultural prospects

A section dedicated to strengthening the partnership between the agro-industrial complexes of Belarus and Uzbekistan worked at the Ozeritsky-Agro OJSC in the Smolevichi District. The participants got acquainted with the organisation of the work of a dairy farm, a vegetable and potato storage facility, and visited an exhibition of products of Ozeritsky-Agro OJSC. The agenda of the meeting includes current issues of cooperation in the agricultural sector of Belarus and Uzbekistan, the role of women's labour in the development of agriculture and rural areas. Chairperson of the Standing Commission of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus on Regional Policy and Local Self-Government Mikhail Rusy noted the importance of such meetings. During a visit to Ozeritsky-Agro OJSC, colleagues from Uzbekistan had already identified their future partners.

The growth rate of mutual trade is increasing. The goal has been set to reach a billion-dollar trade turnover. Director of the Uzbek enterprise ZAMIN FRUTIS TRADE Momlakat Sodikova assured that close business relations have been established with Belarus and outlined promising directions, “We will continue to interact because there are prospects. The issue of joint cultivation of garden blueberries is currently being explored. The idea is to plant a garden in our country with plants of Belarusian selection.”

As a result of the work of the section, a memorandum of understanding was signed in the field of development of bilateral relations between the Club of Women Entrepreneurs under the Commission on Increasing the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and Family under the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the wing of women entrepreneurs of Belarusian Women's Union Public Association.



Exemplary healthcare sector

A sectional meeting dedicated to promising areas for the development of cooperation between Belarus and Uzbekistan in the field of medicine and pharmaceuticals was held at the City Centre for Transfusiology. Experts from both countries discussed points of convergence. The Chief Medical Officer of the Republican Clinical Medical Centre of the Presidential Administration, Irina Abelskaya, spoke about the educational platform of the medical centre and invited colleagues from Uzbekistan to cooperate, “Interaction between Uzbekistan and Belarus in terms of humanitarian cooperation closely affects health issues. We see good relationships between medical universities, pharmaceutical companies, and also the beginning of interaction between specific medical centres.”

Irina Abelskaya focused on the educational platform, saying that the simulation clinical centre in a medical institution was originally intended to hone the skills of specialists. However, obtaining a license for educational activities made it possible to launch 38 educational programmes for third-party specialists. Today the geography of training covers 14 states.

Numbers speak better than any words about the availability of medical care in the country: today Belarusian pharmaceutical enterprises produce over 1,800 types of medicines. Over the past five years, the volume of wholesale sales of medicines in our country has grown by almost 25 percent and at the end of last year exceeded a billion dollars. In total, in 2022, pharmaceutical products from more than 700 manufacturers were sold on the Belarusian market. Among them, domestic enterprises, which have a stable tendency to increase sales volumes, have been confidently holding the top 5 in terms of sales volume over the past years. Until 2030, 23 investment projects are planned to be implemented, which are aimed at modernising existing and creating new modern production facilities for import-substituting medicines with a total investment of about 900 million roubles. Such high performance is no reason to rest on our laurels. To expand the range of drugs in demand by the healthcare system, the issue of technology transfer and production with global pharmaceutical manufacturers is being explored.

Exchange of experience in the field of healthcare organisation and exploration of opportunities for providing mutual assistance in

the development of the pharmaceutical industry — these are the two key tasks of the forum highlighted by Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Republic Valery Belsky. According to him, work is already underway regarding the exchange of experience. Regular seminars on transplantology are held at the Minsk Scientific and Practical Centre for Surgery, Transplantology and Haematology. Over the past few years, 77 citizens of Uzbekistan have received medical care at this centre.

The potential for interaction is huge

A section dedicated to the implementation of partnerships in the field of science and education was held at the National Children's Technology Park. The Uzbek delegation got acquainted with the activities of the institution and the scientific projects of students, visited a thematic exhibition and educational laboratories. First Deputy Minister of Education Aleksandr Bakhnovich noted that this is a talent discovery factory.

After the excursion, the Uzbek delegation had only the most positive emotions, shared Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Professor, Academic Director of the Tashkent Branch of Moscow State Institute of International Relations Matekub Bakoyev, “I am impressed by the students' projects, and when I saw the laboratories on electronics and communications, aerospace technologies, I was amazed at what the state is doing within the walls of the National Children's Technopark for schoolchildren from all regions of Belarus. Such a technology park is very relevant today in awakening interest in engineering sciences. Today I immediately wrote down in my notes cooperation with the National Children's Technopark as a methodology. We will definitely establish contact.”

As a result of the work of the section, a number of agreements on cooperation in the field of science and education were signed. The potential for interaction between countries in culture and tourism was discussed at a thematic section at the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre. Speeches were held on the implementation of joint cultural projects, the development of tourism between Belarus and Uzbekistan, prospects for the development of cooperation in the field of museum activities, and the export of educational services.

Aleksey Pimenov

PREREQUISITES FOR BECOMING TRADITIONAL

A clear embodiment of the cooperation between the two countries were contracts and agreements signed following the results of the First Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forum

Under parliamentary supervision

Chairperson of the Council of the Republic Natalya Kochanova noted with confidence that all agreements, agreements and contracts concluded during the forum are just a start, and the results obtained will multiply. In other words, there is an opportunity for mutually beneficial cooperation, allowing for annual growth in trade turnover, development of industrial cooperation and an increase in the share of innovation.

Belarus is ready to consistently supply products in demand on the Uzbek market, including meat and dairy, woodworking and pharmaceutical industries, as well as offer a wide range of fabrics. There are obvious prospects in cooperation with Uzbek mining companies in the supply of equipment produced in Belarus. It is necessary to develop banking, construction, transport services, geological exploration, and the IT sector. Belarus is interested in interaction with Uzbekistan in the field of culture and tourism.

Natalya Kochanova also proposed to work on the issue of preparing an educational program on the topic of women's entrepreneurship, creating a unified information platform, organising events for mutual consultation and providing methodological assistance. And also to bring under parliamentary supervision businesses born on the sidelines of the forum.

Representatives of the parties expressed confidence that, in the context of the tasks set by the heads of state, this forum will become a traditional event under the auspices of the upper houses of parliament and will be recognised as an integral element of the strategic Belarusian-Uzbek partnership. This means that, in general, the agenda of bilateral women's cooperation cannot be confined to purely entrepreneurial topics. There are many pressing global problems that need to be addressed, summed up by the participants of the meeting in Minsk.

Time to deepen connections

Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis Tanzila Narbayeva named several areas in which Uzbekistan is interested in intensifying cooperation with Belarus.

RESULTS

As a result of the forum, 14 memorandums and cooperation agreements were signed, including an agreement on the creation of a joint leather and footwear production, and 15 commercial contracts worth 93.5 million Belarusian roubles, or 350 billion Uzbek sums, were concluded.



WATCH AND TRY

During the forum, a street exhibition of Belarusian technology was set up in front of the National Library building. Amkodor OJSC, BELGEE, Minsk Tractor Works, Minsk Automobile Plant, Belkommunmash, Belshina and many others presented their products here. At the exhibition site one could try chocolate and candies from Kommunar, marshmallows and marmalade from Krasny Pishchevik, and various types of cookies from Slodych. Kamvol, Elema, Belwest presented their products. In total, 72 enterprises and organisations from Belarus, as well as 26 enterprises from Uzbekistan, took part in the exhibition-presentation.

♦ *This is the expansion of partnerships in the field of light industry, the exchange of advanced technologies in the textile, clothing and knitting industries, the development of cooperation between manufacturers of fabrics, clothing, footwear, fur and leather products.*

♦ *Development of connections in the IT field, joint development of digital products for entrepreneurship, especially women's.*

♦ *Strengthening cooperation in the field of medicine and education. Priority areas of interaction could be industrial production of medicines, transplantology, the creation of medical clusters of institutions and branches of leading universities, including medical ones.*

♦ *Introduction of new mechanisms of interaction for the development of agriculture, the food industry, advanced training of specialists in the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan at Belarusian enterprises and in higher educational institutions.*

It's time to expand the range

Among the partner countries of Belarus, Uzbekistan is confidently among the top ten in terms of trade turnover. Last year it amounted to more than \$500 million. Of course, this is not the limit. Minister of Economy of Belarus Aleksandr Chervyakov said that the basis of Belarusian exports to Uzbekistan are meat and dairy products, wood products, pharmaceutical products, tractors, truck tractors, and so

on. At the same time, imports of goods from Uzbekistan are represented by light industry products, as well as vegetables, fruits, copper wire, pipes, and so on.

In Belarus today there are 84 organisations with Uzbek capital in the production of special vehicles, tractors, and shoes. And in Uzbekistan, more than a hundred enterprises are registered, the founders of which are residents of the Republic of Belarus.

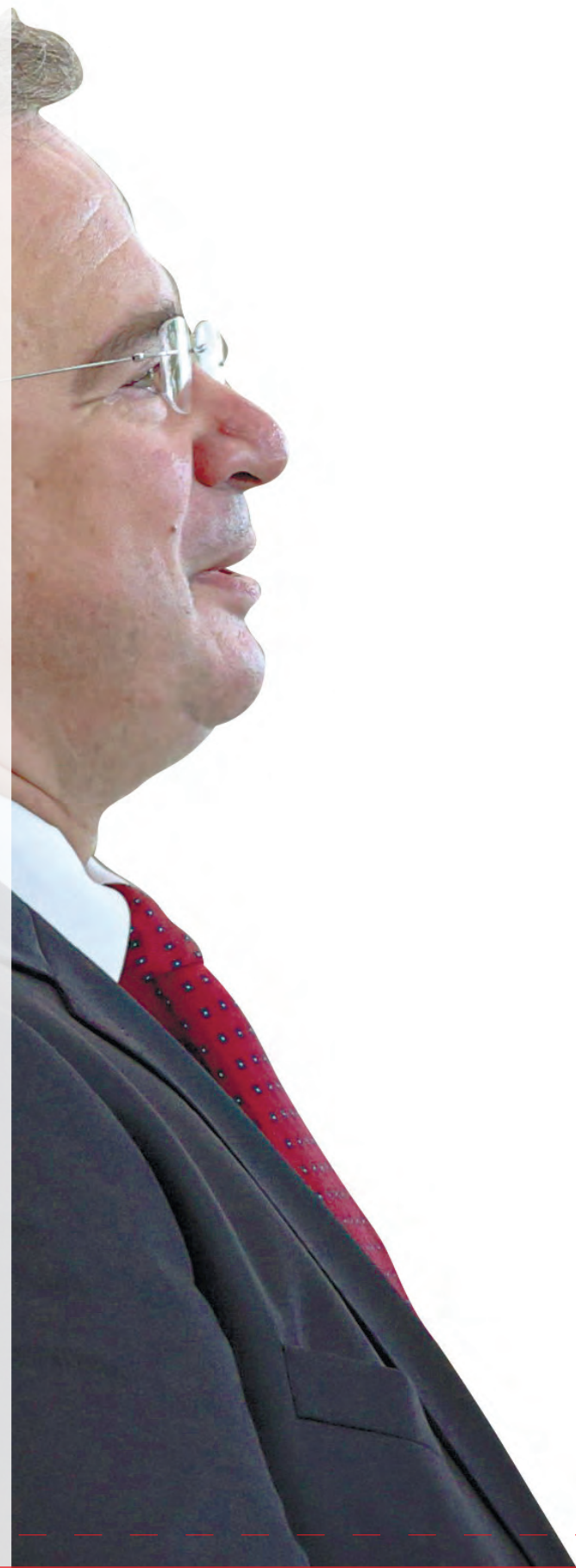
There will be a road map

Chairperson of the Committee on Family and Women's Affairs under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of Uzbekistan Ozoda Parpibayeva emphasised that the business forum held in Minsk is a unique platform for exchanging experiences between women entrepreneurs of Belarus and Uzbekistan, ensuring gender equality, identifying shortcomings and taking measures to eliminate them.

Supporting the family, ensuring the legal rights and interests of women, increasing their economic, social and political activity are identified as one of the important vectors of the development strategy of the new Uzbekistan. And participation in the sectional platforms of the Belarusian-Uzbek forum gives good results in these areas. It is not for nothing that a memorandum was signed with the Belarusian Women's Union, thanks to which the drawing up of a joint road map has already begun.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

ON THE PATH OF MUTUAL RESPECT



Belarus and Türkiye have decades of fruitful cooperation. The Republic of Türkiye became the first foreign state to recognise the independence of our country. This fact predetermined the active development of political dialogue between Minsk and Ankara.

This dialogue is based on the traditions of mutual respect and friendship. This means there is no doubt about its successful continuation. President Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed confidence in this when receiving the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Türkiye to Belarus Mustafa Özcan, “Recently, we have managed to do a lot in terms of deepening relations between Belarus and the Republic of Türkiye. There remain a number of unresolved issues in connection with our agreement with Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (President of Türkiye), but I think these issues can be resolved.”

The similarity of the positions of Minsk and Ankara

The legal framework for bilateral relations between Belarus and Türkiye includes almost four dozen documents. Minsk and Ankara interact constructively in international organisations, including on the issue of mutual support for candidates to the UN elected bodies. In May 2021, Türkiye (a NATO member, by the way) used its veto power to block the inclusion of calls for practical action against Minsk in the statement of the alliance countries on the incident with the Ryanair plane. Contacts are also actively developing at the highest level. The President of Belarus visited Türkiye four times. In 2016, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan also paid his first official visit to Minsk. The leaders of the two countries regularly communicate by phone and meet at various summits. In a conversation with Mustafa Özcan, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised the similarity of the positions of Minsk and Ankara on many problems of international relations, “Including the crisis situation in Ukraine. We have talked about this more than once.” Both Türkiye and Belarus advocate a diplomatic resolution to this conflict.

Ready to work together

Regarding bilateral trade and economic relations, the President of Belarus recalled that several years ago the parties agreed to gradually increase mutual trade turnover to one and a half billion dollars, “In my opinion, we have had a trade turnover of more than a billion for the second year now. We need to reach this level. Moreover, such opportunities exist.”

The statistics are encouraging. If last year mutual trade in goods reached \$1.04 billion, then in January—July 2023 we have almost \$675 million (an increase of about 30 percent compared to the same period last year). But this figure would be significantly higher if not for certain obstacles. Mustafa Özcan has no doubt that it will be possible to reach the one and a half billion mark. “We must understand that there are external factors that, unfortunately, do not help us work in this direction quickly enough. But we are ready to work together to find mutually acceptable solutions,” the diplomat told reporters. Mustafa Özcan also noted that Türkiye is very closely connected with the Western world and Western institutions, and this must be taken into account when developing relations with other countries.

And yet Ankara has a special attitude towards Minsk. Our rescuers help extinguish forest fires in Turkish provinces every year. They also came to the rescue of a friendly country after

the devastating earthquake in February of this year, when, on instructions from the President, a team of the republican special detachment of the Ministry of Emergency Situations Zubr went to Türkiye, and humanitarian aid was also provided.

Mustafa Özcan conveyed warm greetings to Aleksandr Lukashenko from the President of Türkiye and words of sincere gratitude to the Belarusian side for their help, “We were amazed by the solidarity of the Belarusian people, and we will never forget the help that the Belarusian people gave us.”

Find mutually acceptable solutions

Belarus is watching Türkiye’s development with interest. Aleksandr Lukashenko, in a conversation with a diplomat, noted the merits of his colleague, the President of Türkiye, in building the country’s independent policy, “We have great interest in your sovereign independent policy. You solve issues the way the Turkish people need. In this, of course, your President has surpassed, one might say, all the expectations of the Turkish people. We are ready to do everything to ensure that your country develops. We are not philanthropists. We should also have and have the corresponding result from this. But we need to resolve the unresolved issues that we have. And we really hope that in this difficult situation Türkiye will lend a shoulder to us.”



After the meeting with the President of Belarus, Mustafa Özcan said in an interview with reporters, “Belarus is a very good partner for Türkiye, a friendly country. We are connected by many years of faith in each other and mutual respect. There are no problems between our countries. There are certain issues that we intend to resolve together with our Belarusian partners and colleagues.” As a positive example of the development of relations with Belarus, the diplomat cited the imminent opening in Minsk of a joint Turkish-Belarusian research centre, which will contribute to the development of relations between our countries in the field of culture and science. The ambassador specifically thanked the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for their assistance in this matter.

Vladimir Velikhov



ABOUT A BRIGHT PATH FOR EVERYONE

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Belarus Xie Xiaoyong spoke about the successes, global scale, vitality of the One Belt, One Road, fruitful interaction between Belarus and China within the project in an exclusive interview for Belarus magazine.

“How was the One Belt, One Road initiative launched?”

“The Silk Road is a set of ancient commercial trade routes that began in China and connected the countries of Asia, Africa and Europe, divided into land and sea routes. It was mainly used to export silk, porcelain and other goods made in China, and import jewellery, medicinal herbs, spices and crops from other countries. Later it became the main route of exchange between East and West in economic, political, cultural and other fields. In the fall of 2013, during his visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward important initiatives for the joint construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, aimed at inheriting and transmitting the spirit of the Silk Road, jointly creating an open cooperation platform with all countries to give new impetus to global cooperation and development. This is how the One Belt, One Road initiative came into being.”

“What are its main characteristics?”

“The One Belt, One Road initiative has the following four main features. First, openness. International cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative is based on, but is not limited to, the

route of the ancient Silk Road. The initiative can involve all countries of the world, as well as international and regional organisations, so that the results of joint construction can benefit a larger part of the world.

Second, inclusivity. International cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative advocates harmony and tolerance among civilizations, respects the development paths and models chosen by different countries, aims to promote dialogue among different civilizations, and strives for inclusiveness and peaceful coexistence.

Third, market orientation. International cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative follows the laws of the market and generally accepted international rules, fully reveals the decisive role of the market in resource allocation and the fundamental role of various enterprises, and encourages governments to play their role.

Fourth, mutual benefit. International cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative adheres to the principle of win-win, takes into account the interests and concerns of all parties, strives for the intersection of interests and the greatest common result of cooperation, so as to fully implement the advantages and potential of all parties.”

COOPERATION

“What successes have been achieved during the implementation of the initiative?”

“This year marks the tenth anniversary of the One Belt, One Road initiative. During this time, the initiative has gone from idea to action, from vision to reality, it aims to protect the global system of free trade and an open world economy, to interregional cooperation on a larger scale, at a higher and deeper level, as well as to exchange and mutual learning between civilizations, embodying the common ideals and wonderful aspirations of human society and bringing positive energy to peace and development throughout the world. To date, China has already signed more than 200 cooperation documents on the joint construction of the One Belt, One Road with 151 countries and 32 international organisations around the world. Joint construction has been included in a number of outcome documents of various multilateral mechanisms, such as the UN, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organisation, and has also received wide recognition from the international community.

In the field of interconnection and intercommunication, after many years of development, the basic interconnection and intercommunication structure of ‘six corridors, six means of communication, multiple countries, and multiple ports’ has been formed, a number of landmark projects have been implemented and significant progress has been achieved, and a large number of cooperation projects have been thoroughly promoted. As an effective carrier of mutual communication, mutual benefit and interconnection between China and countries along the Belt and Road, the China-Europe container train has already become an important choice for international logistics land transportation between China and Europe. It is known as the ‘caravan of steel camels’ and has made outstanding contributions to the stabilisation of international industrial supply chains.

In the field of development promotion, the Belt and Road Initiative has closely linked countries and regions along its route and ensured the extensive cooperation in areas such as finance, trade, investment, environmental protection and so on, which has effectively promoted the development of countries along the route. At the same time, the interface of norms and standards between the initiative and various countries and international organisations is continuously strengthening, and the level of liberalisation and simplification of trade and investment procedures is continuously increasing. Over the course of ten years, the Belt and Road Initiative has generated approximately one trillion US dollars in investment, more than 3,000 cooperation projects and 420,000 jobs in countries along the route, lifting some 40 million people out of poverty, and more opportunities for development, and the results of economic development brought even more benefits to the people.

In the field of people-to-people connectivity, the Belt and Road Initiative has actively promoted exchange and mutual learning among civilizations of countries and regions along the route. In ten years, China and countries along the Belt and Road have jointly held many events, such as the Year of Culture and arts festivals, Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classes have been established in 159 countries and regions, and Luban Workshops

have opened in 19 countries. Currently, international unions of theatres, museums, libraries, art galleries of the Silk Road, as well as the International Union of Scientific Organisations of the Belt and Road are successfully functioning. All this has strengthened exchange, understanding and recognition between different cultures. China has also been actively pursuing ‘small but beautiful’ construction projects to improve the people’s living standards, continuously promoting the strengthening of friendly ties between peoples of different countries.”

“Why has the initiative become an important global project of our time?”

“Currently, the multipolarity of the world, economic globalisation and cultural diversity are developing in depth, humanity is full of hope. However, at the same time, as some countries pursue trade protectionism and abuse unilateral sanctions, coupled with the fact that the world has just experienced the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economic recovery has been slow, and the development gap between different countries has become even more pronounced. In this context, the Belt and Road Initiative follows the historical trend of economic globalisation, meets the inherent requirements of global governance system reform, and meets the aspirations of all countries, especially the vast number of developing countries, for peace and development, helping them to make full use of their advantages and resolve development problems. In addition, the Belt and Road Initiative promotes the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and sharing of experiences, adheres to the goal of mutual benefit and common development, follows the principles of joint discussion, joint construction and sharing, adheres to the concept of openness, environmental friendliness and integrity, strives for high standards, sustainability and is based on the interests of the people, using high-quality development as the path, which demonstrates the common values of all humanity, such as peace, development, equality, justice, democracy and freedom. At the same time, it is consistent with the basic



COOPERATION

principles of international relations, such as mutual respect, equal treatment and mutually beneficial cooperation, so as soon as the initiative was launched, all countries in the world actively responded to it and took part in it widely, and now it has become the most popular global collaboration platform.”

“How do you assess Belarus’ participation in the One Belt, One Road, what joint projects have our countries been able to implement?”

“Belarus was one of the first countries to respond and is actively participating in the One Belt, One Road. China and Belarus signed a series of cooperation documents under the initiative, which deepened cooperation between the two countries in areas such as trade, investment, industry, agriculture, customs, transport and inter-regional cooperation, bringing real benefits to both sides. Belarus has an advantageous geographical location and is an important transport hub of the One Belt, One Road. At the same time, as a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, it is also of great importance in promoting connectivity and cooperation between the construction of the Belt and Road and the EAEU.

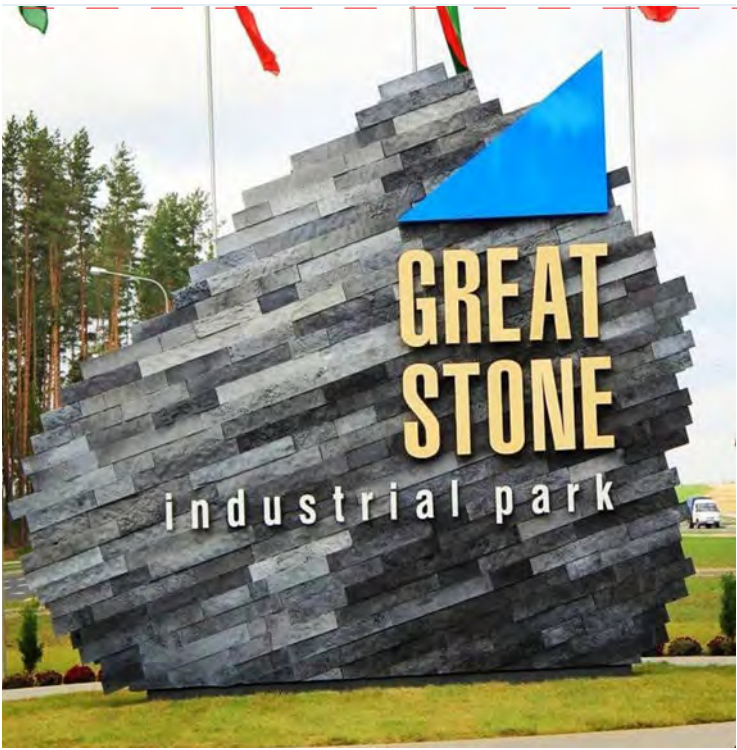
As part of the initiative, China and Belarus have implemented a number of mutually beneficial and fruitful joint projects, the most important of which is the Great Stone China-Belarus Industrial Park. As the crown jewel of One Belt, One Road and a landmark project of China-Belarus practical cooperation, with its own advanced business concept, excellent business environment and mature supporting equipment, it becomes the best choice for enterprises from all over the world to invest and develop business in Belarus. In recent years, thanks to the common care and assistance of the heads of the two states, the industrial park has actively responded to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and complex external factors,

continues to develop steadily and has achieved many outstanding results. Work to attract resident enterprises and investments in the park is proceeding systematically, their number is increasing despite the challenges. Today there are 113 enterprises in the park from 16 countries, and the volume of declared investments is about 1.3 billion US dollars. The enterprises are engaged in industries such as mechanical engineering, biopharmaceuticals, e-commerce, new materials, traditional Chinese medicine, artificial intelligence and the development of 5G networks. In 2022, the total value of industrial production of the park’s resident enterprises reached 456.1 million Belarusian roubles, increasing by 53.3% compared to the previous year, revenue from sales of goods, construction, services, etc. reached 709.3 million Belarusian roubles, an increase of 90.1% compared to the previous year. Product exports reached US\$168.4 million, an increase of more than 30% compared to the previous year. The total net profit of the enterprises amounted to 34.1 million Belarusian roubles, continuing to grow. Tax collections from enterprises reached 80.4 million Belarusian roubles, an increase of 123.6% compared to the previous year. The number of people employed at the Park’s enterprises reached 2,149 people, and their average income exceeded the average wage in Belarus by almost twice.

In addition to the China-Belarus Industrial Park, both countries, within the framework of the One Belt, One Road initiative, have also jointly implemented such joint projects as Belgee CJSC, Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation, Svetlogorsk Pulp and Cardboard Mill, and so on. In particular, Belgee CJSC, as a Belarusian-Chinese joint venture, not only made Belarus’s dream of a domestically produced car come true, but also sells cars to Russia and other CIS countries, becoming a bright landmark of the Belarusian passenger car industry.

The High-Tech Full-Cycle Agro-Industrial Production project, implemented by the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation at the expense of a Chinese preferential loan, the construction of which was carried out by Chinese enterprises, is not only the first enterprise for the production of amino acids, the first export-oriented and import-substituting project in the industry of advanced grain processing in Belarus, but also the first large full-cycle agro-industrial enterprise in the CIS region, combining grain storage, production of various feeds and amino acids, which became another example of practical cooperation between the two parties.

As part of the social housing construction project with the help of the Chinese government, 38 buildings with 3,286 apartments with a total area of almost 200 thousand square meters were built in the regions of Belarus and Minsk, which improved living conditions for more than 10 thousand people from 3,286 families in Belarus. Currently, thanks to free Chinese assistance, the National Football Stadium and International Standard Swimming Pool projects in Belarus are being actively implemented, which are under the personal care and promotion of Chairman Xi Jinping and President Aleksandr Lukashenko. It is expected that their construction will be completed before the end of 2024; they will become the most modern and largest sports facilities in Belarus.



The above-mentioned projects not only created a large number of jobs and brought enormous economic benefits to Belarus, but also filled gaps in relevant industries, and also allowed the Belarusian people themselves to share the results of cooperation in the Chinese-Belarusian joint construction of the One Belt, One Road, which is fully least demonstrated the friendly feelings of mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Belarus. I am confident that through the joint efforts of both sides, Chinese-Belarusian cooperation in the joint construction of the One Belt, One Road will develop even more deeply, achieving increasingly significant results and bringing even more benefits to the peoples of the two countries.”

“How did the initiative become a practical platform for building a Community of Common Destiny for Mankind?”

“In the era of interdependent globalization, all countries have become the Community of Common Destiny, where ‘you have me, and I have you’. No single country can solve global problems such as a weak global economic recovery, global warming and a pandemic unseen in a century. In this context, China has launched the One Belt, One Road initiative, carrying out extensive cooperation in many fields, such as trade and economic cooperation, science and technology, food security and agriculture, education, medicine and health, climate change, disaster risk reduction disasters, water resources, capacity building, humanitarian exchange and so on, adhering to a new development concept based on innovation, coordination, green approaches, openness and sharing, together with countries along the Belt and Road, promoting economic globalization towards more open, inclusive, accessible, balanced and mutually beneficial development, offering the Chinese option for jointly overcoming global challenges by all countries and building a Community with a shared future for humanity.

COOPERATION

It should be particularly noted that the Belt and Road Initiative promotes the concept of global governance of joint discussion, joint construction and sharing, aims to promote a new type of development and cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit, and provide a new path for global development, rather than following the old path of the geopolitical game and not creating blocs that destabilise the world, providing developing countries with new opportunities to participate in global governance and better integrate into global production, supply and value chains. The initiative accelerates the integration and common development of all countries, promotes common prosperity and fully demonstrates the sense of the Community of Common Destiny, including unity in the face of adversity, joint sharing of rights and responsibilities, becoming an important practical platform for promoting the construction of the Community of Common Destiny for Mankind.”

“What is the vitality of the One Belt, One Road initiative, what are its prospects?”

“Currently, humanity is entering a new period of upheaval and change. Changes in the world, era and history are unfolding in unprecedented ways. Economic globalization faces headwinds. The global economic recovery is experiencing difficulties. Multilateralism — multilateral rules and mechanisms — is being challenged and undermined, and the global governance system is in urgent need of reform and improvement. China’s Belt and Road Initiative adheres to the concept of joint discussion, joint construction and sharing, aims to eliminate the ‘zero-sum game’, promote international cooperation and development, and promote the transformation and improvement of the global governance system, having an important strategic importance for addressing the risks and challenges facing the modern world and for strengthening the response capacity of countries along the initiative route. The collaboration is moving forward despite headwinds, demonstrating greater resilience and vitality. The initiative complies with the laws of development of human society and the trends of the era, meets the common interests of all mankind and the aspirations of all countries, and this is its vital force.

As the world’s second largest economy, China is willing to continue to promote high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road with other countries including Belarus, and take on even more responsibilities and commitments within its capabilities to make even greater contributions to peaceful development of humanity. We firmly believe that with the joint efforts of all countries, One Belt, One Road will definitely become a bright path for all countries in the world on which they can share opportunities and strive for common development, a ‘development belt’ that brings benefits to the whole world, and ‘through happiness’, benefiting the people of all countries, and will also propel the world towards continuous progress with more wonderful prospects for shared prosperity and building a Community with a shared destiny for mankind.”

Nikolai Litvinov
Photo by BelTA

ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO,

"FOR BELARUS, TALENTED PEOPLE, THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE NATION ARE THE GREATEST WEALTH"

These words of the President were heard at the National Children's Technopark on September 1st — Knowledge Day. Meetings of Aleksandr Lukashenko with schoolchildren on this holiday are a long-established tradition. This time the choice fell on the most gifted guys. They shared with the President, who called them pioneers and worthy citizens of Belarus, their impressions of their studies, plans for the future, told him what they dreamed of, and demonstrated their achievements and projects. They even scanned the emotions of guests — the Head of State's and officials', thereby demonstrating their own system for recognising and tracking a person's emotional state.

These words of the President were heard at the National Children's Technopark on September 1st — Knowledge Day. Meetings of Aleksandr Lukashenko with schoolchildren on this holiday are a long-established tradition. This time the choice fell on the most gifted guys. They shared with the President, who called them pioneers and worthy citizens of Belarus, their impressions of their studies, plans for the future, told him what they dreamed of, and demonstrated their achievements and projects. They even scanned the emotions of guests — the Head of State's and officials', thereby demonstrating their own system for recognising and tracking a person's emotional state.

Near the technology park, the Head of State was met by students, and the President, before his visit, was able to find out information, as they say, first-hand. The kids talked about the learning process and their impressions. For them, the technology park provides classes on information security and augmented reality. According to them, these are popular and promising areas. They enjoy the learning process itself. In addition to new knowledge, here they also find new friends.

"You are our future, you are great," Aleksandr Lukashenko praised the students. Addressing the kids, he noted that today's meeting on Knowledge Day is symbolic, "All government officials are in schools, colleges, and universities today. And, of course, how can you get around this great temple of the most promising, most intelligent, advanced and literate. You are no children. You are already adults. Your knowledge and even experience — all this together indicates that you are adults. It was the desire for new knowledge that brought you, gifted and talented people, to our National Technopark."

About the idea of creating and expanding a technology park

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that the idea of creating such an institution was born during a visit to the Russian Sirius centre in Sochi, "And this idea fell on the already prepared soil. I have been there several times, studied this centre. I went far and wide. And I had a guide. Then there was the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. He was the initiator of the creation of Sirius in Sochi. And then I told him that it would also be nice to create a similar technology park in Belarus, we

need Sirius to support us. He immediately gave the order. And so we, studying the experience of Russia first of all, and then the entire world experience, began to create this centre here."

The President asked the director of the National Children's Technopark, Sergei Sachko, what problems there are in the functioning of the institution. "What's bad? What's missing?" asked the Head of State.

"There is a small issue regarding equipment, but we will solve it," said the head of the technology park.

"Is there any mistake in the fact that we created such a centre? Isn't it possible that a lot of money and a lot of effort were invested in these kids, but they turn out to be unclaimed?" asked Aleksandr Lukashenko.

"By no means. This is the elite, the future of our country," Sergei Sachko is convinced. In his opinion, it's even time for the technology park to expand and take on even more students for training. During the operation of the National Children's Technopark, 1,930 students in grades 9-11 were trained here, 25 educational shifts lasting 24 days each took place. Competition for training here is on average 3 people per place. In





Alexander Lukashenko,

You are our future, you are great... All government officials today are in schools, colleges, and universities. And, of course, how can you get around this great temple of the most promising, most intelligent, advanced and literate. You are no children. You are already adults. Your knowledge and even experience - all this together indicates that you are adults. It was the desire for new knowledge that brought you, gifted and talented people, to our National Technopark.

the technology park, children receive knowledge in 15 of the most promising areas for the economy, including green chemistry, nanoindustry and nanotechnology, virtual and augmented reality, environmental engineering, and aerospace technologies. Leading scientists and university specialists, promising young scientists are attracted to teach in the technology park.

In the new academic year, the technology park plans to introduce training programmes in the areas of scientific research of the Military Academy of Belarus. The most promising student projects, for example Eco-Packaging, BelBioPak, will be patented. There are also plans to conduct hobby association classes for students in grades 5-8.

"I must tell you that this is just the beginning. I know that there are much more people who want to study here and gain higher, more advanced knowledge. If talented people are left behind (three people per place), then this technology park needs to be expanded to such limits and possibilities so that all the kids who strive to gain modern knowledge at a higher level have this opportunity," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

So that the spark in you doesn't fade...

Aleksandr Lukashenko visited the educational and laboratory building, where he got acquainted with the

activities of the laboratories of aerospace technologies, electronics and communications, robotics, and energy. The President first of all drew the children's attention to practice orientation. "Create. Do it. If it is useful in life, in the country, we will support it," he assured.

In the laboratory of electronics and communications, Aleksandr Lukashenko asked the teacher and his students to test Belarusian communications equipment and identify the bottlenecks.

"We need the most modern types of communications. Can you help us? This is not only in the military sphere. Therefore, you are promising," the President said.

The kids demonstrated to the Head of State their own system for recognising and tracking a person's emotional state. And they not only talked about the project, but also showed it in action. The system tracked the emotions of the kids during Aleksandr Lukashenko's speech. And what did the students' faces show? For example, 63% had happiness, 18% had interest, they also had pride and respect.

To be convincing, the young scientists also scanned the emotions of their guests — the President and officials. On the face of the Head of State, in particular, there was an expression of happiness. There was also an expression of happiness or interest on the faces of others present.

They also presented to the Head of State the development of a system for remote monitoring of agricultural land. Drones

help to see which lands need fertilising.

"We need to 'spin' them in which agricultural enterprise. Let them take their drones, look at the fields. So take your devices, we will provide everything," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Considering the prototypes of robotic technology created in the technology park, the President asked students how the widespread introduction of such devices into production would affect the labour market.

"I'm afraid that you will soon exclude all people from the production process," the Head of State noted jokingly. "What are we going to do with people?"

"A similar situation existed at the dawn of the industrial revolution: people were afraid of machines, that they would take away their jobs. But, as we see, many other professions related to these machines have appeared," the kids noted. And their answer, apparently, satisfied the President. Nuclear energy is also studied at the technology park. Schoolchildren have developed a project to modernise nuclear power plants, which will reduce maintenance costs, increase the efficiency of the nuclear power plant and, accordingly, reduce the payback period of the facility. "It's very interesting if it works out. Hurry up. In science, if you hurry up, you do it faster than others, the effect will be greater," noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. "We really, really need you guys. And the sooner the better. From ordinary



operators to the director, we are ready to accept you at the nuclear plant at any time. We really need you," said the Head of State.

The students, in turn, noted that they had long wanted to visit the nuclear power plant.

"The issue has been resolved. You will go. Let them have a look, this is a unique structure. We will provide permission any day," the President responded to the request.

Other developments demonstrated to the Head of State included smart glasses, a highly efficient carbon sorbent, an analogue of Tetra Pak, a device for protecting speech information, and the use of flax production waste for energy purposes. All these are pilot industrial samples. The Head of State emphasised everywhere: the children with their developments need not just to participate in scientific conferences, but to refine them at enterprises and, if possible, introduce them into production in the future. He instructed the capital authorities and the government to deal with this issue.

"When will we seriously engage in import substitution? All this is good, what you show. But I need movement. If this is import substitution, then we will

look for money for this," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Summing up the results of his visit, the President addressed journalists, "Have you seen real advanced people whose eyes are sparkling? The main thing is that this spark doesn't fade. And in order not to go out, we must say yes or no to their projects. But everything is necessary."

About gratitude to the native land

The President also emphasised the importance of the pupils of the National Children's Technopark subsequently working for their country and remembering it: "So that you live on this land, which raised you. This, of course, worries me," he said.

"Although I understand: you are people of the future, people of science. And science today cannot be confined within the framework of even the largest advanced state. Science is international. It has always been like this. And only then does it have prospects for development if it is international. But wherever you are, you must remember that this is your land. That this land has done everything so that you grow up literate, advanced and can work in any country," called Aleksandr Lukashenko.

About product commercialization

The Head of State noted that the current students of the technology park are a kind of pioneers, because for two years at the institution they 'practised, tested, and saw what was best.' "And this year you are studying here, gaining knowledge and practice like modern people. One might say, standing at the origins," the President said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko paid special attention to another issue — the commercialization of the results of the work of technology park students. "You are no longer little children. You are creating some kind of product. I say 'some' because I don't know how it would take root in the markets, whether you would sell it. But we will do everything and will help you, if you come up with something, invent something useful for production, for our country. Be it industry, agriculture, transport, communications, and so on. We will be happy to purchase this product from you as a matter of priority," the Belarusian leader assured. "That is, today we need to produce and sell, commercialize your knowledge," he emphasised.

About the greatest wealth

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the country has looked beyond the horizon by creating such a technology park. One of the first instructions of the President at one time was the creation of a fund to support gifted and talented youth.

"I have always said and I say today: for Belarus, talented people, the intelligence of the nation, are the greatest wealth. If there are such people, we will cope with any challenges. Maybe we can do without a large amount of oil and natural gas," said the Belarusian leader. "The guarantee of maintaining sovereignty and statehood is also you. You are the future in general. You are the smartest, and you have proven it. At this stage of your life you have proven that you are smart people and want to gain great knowledge. In just a few years you will have to rule this country, to defend this country, to raise your children on this land. And even if someone leaves the country for a while, they will return here with new knowledge." Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that very hardworking, disciplined and purposeful people live in Belarus. In this regard, he cited a number of historical facts, "Think

about it, back in 1944 the war was still raging, a third of the population died, almost all of our cities and villages were destroyed, roads and bridges were destroyed, however, the restoration work was already underway in Minsk. Our fraternal republics, which were then part of the Soviet Union, provided enormous assistance to us. An automobile plant was built, which after about three years, in 1947, produced the first MAZ trucks. And two years later, the first Belarus tractor rolled off the assembly line of the Minsk Tractor Works. Colossal efforts were required for this. It was in Minsk that the first serial Soviet computer was created (this is not the computer that is on the table today — this was a huge building in which powerful machines stood). What for the generation that still remembered the horrors of that war was a real intellectual and labour feat. And we, Belarusians, are proud that we did the impossible back then.”

There is a basis for achievements
Addressing the children, the President noted that they are still taking timid steps into the fascinating world of knowledge and discoveries, but they must remember that modern knowledge did not arise out of the blue and did not come out of nowhere, “You stand on the shoulders of giants, as the classic said. You stand on the shoulders of those who once discovered this knowledge. And we can gladly name people like Zhores Alferov, Pavel Sukhoi, Mikhail Vysotsky and many other of our world-famous compatriots.”
“Let all the examples I have given become a guide in life for you. They did it, and you will definitely be able to become the first, writing your name in the history of science and the history of your Motherland, if you are faithful to your calling and scientific truth,” wished Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Thanks to you and to your peers, who demonstrate extraordinary abilities, a real youth scientific centre has appeared in Belarus. I believe in you and am convinced that today I am communicating with future Belarusian academics, inventors, creators of new products who will find their place in world markets.”
The Head of State called on students to set great goals for themselves and create for



the sake of peace. “You must see the main goal in front of you — peace and a bright sky above your head.”
Aleksandr Lukashenko stated: life is structured in such a way that one generation is replaced by another, and each new generation should strive to create conditions for the life of the next one — its children. “And remember, I repeat once again, your country really needs you! I congratulate you and in your person today all Belarusian schoolchildren, students, cadets on the Knowledge Day,” the President said.
“It will be easier...”
The Head of State recalled that educational institutions are a temple of knowledge. “And order should always reign in this temple. There should be no disgrace there. These are the strictest laws. You came to learn, to gain knowledge. Study and gain knowledge, so that later at 30-40 years old you do not walk the streets and shout: ‘Give me a salary like theirs!’” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. “The issue always arises: let’s see how you studied at school, how you mastered and received new knowledge, how did you live this life in general? And when you look at the person who shouts the most on the street, it turns out that they never went to school. And if I did go, it wasn’t every day. And he

didn’t come there for knowledge, but to have fun, shout, make noise.”
The President emphasised that studying is hard work. “Kids, there will be no more difficult period in your life. After that, everything will be much easier if you make the right decisions in life. You will go to work as if on vacation... Then it will be easier. Now it is very difficult. And it is very important how you lived this a difficult period of life. This largely depends on us — parents, teachers. But most of all it depends on you. Well done, you took a risk. I congratulate you and wish you success on this difficult path,” he said.
The Head of State wished the children good health and encouraged them to lead an active lifestyle and spend more time on sports fields. “In short, get moving! In everything. Both in sports and in life, gaining your knowledge. If you need my support, contact us, we will definitely help you. We will help you because you took a risk. You became the first, and this is worthy of respect,” Aleksandr Lukashenko admonished.
As a gift to the technology park on Knowledge Day, he presented a certificate for a minibus, which will be useful for the children to quickly get to various off-site events as part of the curriculum. He also promised that if the technology park

Alexander Lukashenko,

You are people of the future, people of science. And science today cannot be isolated within the framework of even the largest advanced state. Science is international. She has always been like that. And only then it has a prospect for development if it is international. But wherever you are, you must remember that this is your land.

itself earns at least half for another such bus, then the state will definitely help with the second half.
The President said that when he got acquainted with materials about the technology park, he discovered something surprising and pleasant for himself. It turns out that much fewer Minsk residents study at this institution than children from the regions. “I don’t want to belittle the role of Minsk and Minsk residents. Of course, they live in a completely different city, they have much more opportunities than in regional centres and schools where you study. But what you, regionals, have risen to the level of Minsk and surpassed Minsk, this makes me happy. Defeat the Minsk residents. And let the Minsk residents resist,” said the Belarusian leader.
About the value of independence and sovereignty
Aleksandr Lukashenko, as the first President of independent Belarus, expressed the wish that others would follow the current talented and gifted children, graduates of the technopark, “This is even more important than the fact that you are pioneers today. I want you to grow up as worthy citizens of our Belarus.”
The Head of State noted that history unexpectedly and somewhat accidentally gave Belarus and its people sovereignty, which now needs to be protected. “For the first time, we have become, as

Advertising



WWW.BEA.BY

BELARUS EXPATS’ ASSOCIATION

Assistance to foreigners
Language classes
for children and adults
Translations – Interpreting



Welcome to join our
Saturday’s expats’ meetings



far as possible, an independent state," the President said. Aleksandr Lukashenko explained that independence is a relative concept, because there are no absolutely independent states in the world today. This applies even to the largest, most powerful and advanced countries, which, one way or another, need support and allies. "Therefore, independence is a relative concept. But we have this independence and we have sovereignty. We need to preserve this so that we never again put those generations that come after us, and you, under the whip. If we have more people like you, we will definitely never go under the whip and put on bast shoes," the Belarusian leader is confident.

Afterword
This day of the beginning of autumn was special, warm like summer, in every school in Belarus. September 1st is both a joyful and exciting holiday. And it doesn't matter whether it took place

in a big city, a small town or a village. After all, the state has been doing a lot for a long time to ensure that conditions are the same everywhere — modern and comfortable. The holiday was also held at universities, lyceums, colleges, and cadet schools. The children were congratulated by the Presidential Administration, heads of ministries and departments, public organisations, and famous personalities. Summer holidays are behind us, it's time to sit down at your desk and take up your textbooks. A great gift for children and teachers is the opening

Pupils, students, graduate students, teachers, scientific and pedagogical workers

Dear friends!

Please accept my warmest congratulations on Knowledge Day and the beginning of the new school year.

The first of September is our common holiday: for everyone who starts studying, who teaches, and who keeps the kindest memories of their mentors all their lives. Today, schools, colleges and universities in Belarus have opened their doors to almost one and a half million pupils and students. This is important because in our century the value of knowledge is constantly growing and it is the level of national education that determines the security and well-being of the state. The main thing is that young people are raised as true patriots and defenders of their native land, and that they preserve traditions and historical memory. May every new day be filled with hard creative work and the joy of amazing discoveries. I extend special congratulations to our first-graders and their parents. You, the youngest schoolchildren, are now beginning your journey to the land of knowledge. Believe in yourself and you will succeed. I wish everyone a peaceful sky, health, patience, good luck and only excellent grades.

Alexander Lukashenko

of new educational institutions in different regions of the country. The first bell rang in all schools, the anthem was played and the national flag was raised.

The first lesson on the topic *Belarus and I — Dialogue of Peace and Creation* took place. More than a million students sat down at their desks. A start was also given for mastering professional skills. It was carried out by about 170 thousand students of vocational schools, as well as over 238 thousand university students.

Mikhailina Cherkashina
Photo by BelTA

SCIENCE FESTIVAL



Not only theory and formulas, but also spectacular experiments and impressive results — the bright, fascinating side of science was demonstrated in early September in Minsk at a festival that took place in the Central Botanical Garden of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Medicine, space, ecology, nuclear technology — a wide variety of sites awaited visitors. Meet scientists, writers and astronauts, take part in master classes and quizzes, start a chain reaction and create robots — all this could be done if desired. The guests of the scientific festival had a busy day

Guests speak

Note that the festival is being held for the fifth time and is becoming increasingly popular. Last year it was visited by more than 30 thousand people. This year's figure has significantly exceeded that number. One of the guests of the festival was the head of the Presidential Administration Igor Sergeyenko. He was shown developments in various fields, including agriculture, industry, medicine, ecology, environmental management, and environmental protection. He talked with many young specialists, representatives of academic and university science. "The most important thing that unites all developers is passion. This is the engine of progress. I am sure that these young guys — both those who demonstrate their first steps in science and those who have already achieved something — are the future," he emphasised.

Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences Vladimir Gusakov noted that it is important to introduce young people to the achievements of science, to show what they are capable of, how scientific research occurs, and what results can be obtained. "There are a lot of children at the festival, and we would like to interest them so that they become interested in science from an early age. And in due time they come to universities, and then to science. Our task is not so much to present complex science-intensive technologies, but to show how science is interesting and attractive. It is an endless process of learning, and scientists are people so passionate about their work that they cannot imagine another way of life. This is a special world. Every day scientists research, analyse, carry out experiments, discover new things, develop instruments, machines, mechanisms. The festival is an opportunity to tell everyone about this in a popular form," he emphasised.

Young people are ready to engage in research: about 300 young scientists are admitted to the NAS every

year. And in the 2023/2024 academic year, 150 master's students, including foreign citizens, will study at the University of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

About the space

Belarus is developing space technologies and producing equipment for space. The Belarusian Earth Remote Sensing Spacecraft and the Belintersat-1 communications satellite operate in low-Earth orbit. The second BSU nanosatellite has already been launched into orbit. The upcoming flight of the Belarusian cosmonaut will also write a new line in history. Of course, the festival could not ignore this direction.

A series of lectures about space objects and their research, telescopes and satellites were organized at the Cosmos site. Pilot-cosmonaut, Hero of Russia, member of the cosmonaut corps of the Research Testing Centre for Cosmonaut Training named after Yuri Gagarin Oleg Novitsky and candidates for space flight from Belarus Marina Vasilevskaya and Anastasia Lenkova spoke about preparations for the flight and answered questions from festival guests. The girls shared that they are now undergoing intensive theoretical, practical and physical training and are taking their classes with full responsibility.

What do you need to do to become an astronaut? This question interested many of those present, especially teenagers. Anastasia Lenkova answered with confidence, "You need to study well and firmly believe in your dream. The Universe hears everything and will provide an opportunity. The main thing is not to miss it." And Marina Vasilevskaya focused the audience's attention on knowledge of physics, biology, mathematics and, of course, excellent physical shape. By the way, Anastasia Lenkova is a paediatric surgeon by profession, and Marina Vasilevskaya is a Belavia flight attendant.

THE UNIVERSE HEARS EVERYTHING

About the robots

The best schools and organisations in the field of Steam education and robotics gathered at the Robots site. Everyone was able to design, assemble and program a robot, evaluate the capabilities of artificial intelligence, and also attend a real concert of a robot orchestra. The festival featured competitions in educational robotics: participants created robots that overcome obstacles, fight each other in the ring and play football.

At the University of the Future site, they talked about the achievements of science and current specialties in the country's leading universities. BSU, BSTU, BSUIR, BNTU, Belarusian-Russian University

and others — more than 20 universities took part in the festival and told schoolchildren about their capabilities.

Robotics is developing in Belarusian universities. Thus, at the Faculty of Information Technologies and Robotics of BNTU there is a student laboratory where in your free time you can work on your projects and bring ideas to life. Students participate in robotics competitions, competitions, and conferences. The laboratory has existed for three years, and during this time significant results have been achieved. A number of robots made by students were demonstrated at the festival. In addition, this faculty of BNTU oversees the development of robotics in

the National Children's Technology Park. Innovations from young scientists Belarusian researchers showed themselves at the 100 Innovations of Young Scientists exhibition-competition, which was held for the second time. It involves young scientists with projects at a high stage of implementation in practice both from organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and from leading universities and secondary specialised educational institutions. Based on the results of the exhibition, a competent commission will select 20 best projects. Youth innovations are presented in a variety of areas of science. Our attention was drawn to calcium phosphate ceramic products produced by 3D printing. The use of additive technologies allows us to quickly and accurately produce products of complex shapes custom-made for each patient. "Such products are not produced in the country, but there are many different developments, and we are also working in this direction. These are ceramics for medical purposes, which will be useful for eliminating bone tissue defects," said BSTU graduate student Aleksandra Podsoonnaya.

Foreign guests

The Science Festival also takes place with the participation of foreign partners. "Despite any sanctions, foreign contacts are not decreasing. Although interaction with European countries has decreased, cooperation with China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Vietnam, Cuba, Venezuela and other Latin American countries has greatly developed," noted Vladimir Gusakov. Among the foreign partners of the festival are the Russian University of Chemical Technology named after D.I. Mendeleev and the Russian Academy of Sciences. The All-Russian Science Festival NAUKA 0+ and the Reserve Embassy Scientific and Educational Centre in Moscow's Zaryadye

■ One of the guests of the festival was the head of the Presidential Administration Igor Sergeyenko. On the right is Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences Vladimir Gusakov
■ Pilot-cosmonaut, Hero of Russia, Oleg Novitsky and candidates for space flight from Belarus Marina Vasilevskaya and Anastasia Lenkova



■ At the Atom Team scientific and educational platform, guests of the holiday were able to take part in engineering master classes and popular science lectures, intellectual games and atomic quizzes. Everyone started a chain reaction, built an evaporative cooling tower, accelerated a da Vinci wheel, created their own "parade of planets," assembled a radio that works without batteries, a Tesla coil that lights up light bulbs without wires, and a Wilson chamber in which you can see radiation.
■ This year's science festival turned out to be very bright and lively; whole families came to it. And for everyone there was something to suit their interests - be it conversations about the vastness of space or robotics, the opportunity to try themselves as an engineer or conduct physical experiments.

Park also took part. It was also possible to visit the Atom team site, organised by the Atomic Energy Information Centre of Minsk with the support of the engineering division of the Rosatom corporation.

Nuclear technology

Rosatom supports initiatives similar to the Science Festival. "I would like to thank the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for the partnership. We understand how important it is to involve young people in science, engineering, and immerse them in industrial and scientific culture. Future personnel for the industries are formed from school," emphasised Stanislav Levitsky, Director of the country office of Rosatom.

At the Atom Team scientific and educational platform, guests of the holiday were able to take part in engineering master classes and popular science lectures, intellectual games and atomic quizzes. Everyone started a chain reaction, built an evaporative cooling tower, accelerated a da Vinci wheel, created their own 'parade of planets,' assembled a radio that works without batteries, a Tesla coil that lights up light bulbs without wires, and a Wilson chamber in which you can see radiation. The famous physicist and populariser of science, laureate of the Enlightener. Digital award Dmitry Pobedinsky spoke about the achievements of modern physics, discussed quantum computers, graphene, the Higgs boson and dark matter with the guests of the scientific festival. He shared his opinion about the future of nuclear technology. "Often, nuclear technologies are primarily associated with energy. These are nuclear power plants, maybe, in the distant future, thermonuclear power plants. Of course, this has a great future. But in addition to energy, such technologies

are used in medicine, for example, for the production of radiopharmaceuticals. They are also used in agriculture, pest control, and sterilization of products. One can also note the development of the Arctic, because without nuclear icebreakers this is unlikely to proceed at a rapid pace. So there are a lot of areas for the development of nuclear technologies," he emphasised. Medicine, ecology and science fiction
From headaches to blood diseases, one could learn about various problems of the human body on the Medicine site. Scientists and doctors have lifted the veil of secrecy over the processes that make it possible to obtain modern medicines and the phenomena occurring within ourselves. In addition, at this site, the Quantum Museum of Entertaining Sciences showed its exhibition dedicated to the human body.
At the Ecology site, one could learn more about proper waste sorting, the importance of the ozone layer, the dangers of ultraviolet radiation and bacteria. In addition, the organisers delighted visitors at the Polygon site with exciting experiments, scientific shows and spectacular experiences.

Another location was dedicated to science fiction. In the Sci-fi zone one could see how science influences popular culture and how popular culture offers science ways to develop. All major scientific and practical centres of the National Academy of Sciences related to food participated in the Science Festival. Scientists presented new samples of potatoes, beets, and carrots. The tasting



area, where innovative food products were presented, did not go unnoticed. Here you could try fruits and much more. This year's science festival turned out to be very bright and lively; whole families came to it. And for everyone there was something to suit their interests — be it conversations about the vastness of space or robotics, the opportunity to try themselves as an engineer or conduct physical experiments. In the future, the possibility of expanding the festival to two days is being considered — for the entire weekend, so that even more guests can visit it and learn how exciting science can be.

Mikhailina Cherkashina

THE WORLD IS KNOWN NOT ONLY BY SCIENTIFIC METHODS, BUT ALSO THROUGH *an Artistic Image*

In the age of neural networks and information explosion, it is difficult to predict the fate of the art of the word. It seems that we have just begun to passionately argue whether the electronic book will replace the paper one ... Today, this is not the main problem of literature. There are more and more new aspects of how literature and art change under the influence of time, how they affect society... The attitude towards the personality of the writer and his role in society has also changed. Today we will discuss this with a well-known public figure, scientist and writer Aleksandr Radkov.

■ Vincent van Gogh painting processed with AI

“During the international symposium of writers Writer and Time you drew parallels between the development of society and quantum physics... Meanwhile, in relation to fiction, they talk about a ‘magic crystal’, about something that is not subject to the laws of the material world... What is, in your opinion, the ‘magic of art’, and can everything in a brilliant work, in the process of its occurrence, be explained by science?”

“It always seemed to me that the laws of the world around us are largely the same and they somehow relate to both the living and the inanimate world. And at that time, I tried to convince the writers and journalists present at the symposium to pay more attention to this idea. The writer is a researcher of human society, and the development of society, as in the modern understanding of the arrangement of the microworld, that is, in quantum physics, is based on probabilistic laws. After all, we can really only with a certain degree of probability foresee a great migration of peoples, a social revolution or a quarrel in our family. Similarly, we can only predict the coordinates of the elementary particle, even knowing its speed, mass and direction of the initial movement. I will give one more example to prove such approaches for understanding the reality around us.

As early as the beginning of the 19th century, Scottish scientists drew attention to a strong and surprisingly stable wave that suddenly appears in the canal in front of the bow of the ship and then, breaking away from it, rolls forward at high speed. These waves were then often observed on the seas and oceans and were called solitons. Appearing suddenly, as if from nowhere, they could even lead to a shipwreck. A substantive study of this phenomenon was required, which made it possible to connect the occurrence of solitons with such a concept as instability. It turned out that the emergence of killer waves in the ocean, the emergence of stars in space and... the distribution of money among people are associated with instability!

The ripples of small waves in the

ocean are unstable, with a powerful current it can be focused into one soliton wave, which is capable of breaking a huge tanker or cruise liner.

Gravitational instability leads to the formation of stars — there was a uniform matter, but the uniform distribution is unstable, so the energy is concentrated in separate places. That’s where the stars began to align.

Human society is also unstable, therefore, if you arrange an even distribution of money among everyone, some time will pass and everything will be the other way around: some will have a lot, others will have a little. The same laws of instability work here. And the distribution of money is already deeply social issues. How many brilliant writers have tried to study this problem?!

The world is known not only by scientific methods, but also through an artistic image. Relations between social groups, a person’s definition of his destiny in society, the patterns of manifestation of heroism and inclinations to vices — these and many other social problems are studied by writers. Let them use a ‘magic crystal’ or ‘artistic magic’ in their research arsenal, but, in my opinion, they must be based on an understanding of the general patterns of the surrounding reality and feel their manifestation in those topics, phenomena that they write about. Therefore, I openly said that at the symposium I lacked the presence of scientists among writers. And not only social activists, but also mathematicians, physicists, biologists, chemists. After all, they also have something to say about the knowledge of the world around them.

In this case, the question arises — how do you implement this? I have tried! Scientific — in books on mathematics. In the fiction publication *My Physics and Mathematics* I offered an analysis of university life at the faculty level, in the book *Rectors* I tried to comprehend, understand the purpose and responsibility of these people to society, in *On Mathematics and Mathematicians* I expressed a desire to systematically comprehend the development of the scientific industry in a particular country. How it all turned out is not for me to judge...”

“Raymond Queneau, French experimental writer, member of the OULIPO group, argued that the modern poet cannot rely on any ‘inspiration’, but must use the methods of the exact sciences to control his mind. While the surrealists, on the contrary, tried the ‘method of automatic writing’ and argued that a real work could only appear in a state of ‘altered consciousness’, to which, in fact, they tried to bring



themselves... Both those and others created works that have remained in the history of world literature. Whose approaches do you think are still more effective in a world where neural networks replace creators?"

"I think that many scientists and writers, and in general all educated people, have noticed that they do not remember the exact wording of the spelling rules, but write correctly. Professional philologists explained to me why this is so — back in my school years, spelling rules were systematically put into

"Relations between social groups, a person's definition of his destiny in society, the patterns of manifestation of heroism and inclinations to vices - these and many other social problems are studied by writers."

our heads, since then we have been using them subconsciously, they are already in the subcortex of the brain. Therefore, both realist poets and surrealist poets subconsciously in their work proceed from the objective laws of existence and development of the surrounding reality that are understandable and accepted by our time. It must be admitted, however, that even scientists do not know everything about the structure of our world. Stephen Hawking once said about this: 'Now I know how our Universe works, but I don't know why!' Therefore, all thinking, creative people continue to explore our world in all its manifestations, sometimes expressing crazy, at first glance, ideas. After all, this was the attitude at first to Lobachevsky's geometry, and to Einstein's theory of relativity, and to the unimaginable laws of quantum physics. But as a result, everything turned out to be real, everything works!

We must agree that creative people often put their thoughts or their conclusions in a very unusual form. For example, one of the most famous surrealists, Salvador Dali, expressed his thoughts about the concept of time in the painting *The Persistence of Memory* in the form of softening of a clock hanging and flowing from the table. It seems that he intuitively felt both the physical and philosophical complexity of the concept of time. Where does realism end and surrealism begin?

Add to this the thousand-year stability of people's attachment to religion. If we still cannot understand something, we believe in it! Both venerable scientists and famous poets believed and continue to believe in God.

And neural networks are a product of the creativity of real people, but not a generator of new ideas."

"By the way, about neural networks. All over the world, creative people fear that artificial intelligence will not only compete with them, but will force them out of the market. At conferences and seminars, the same experiments are carried out: they propose to distinguish the work of artificial intelligence from the work of a living person. And each time they state that it is difficult to distinguish, and sometimes impossible. So, are there any properties of "living creativity" that IT will not be able to master, or will the professions of

a writer and an artist disappear, just as the professions of a telephone operator and a lamplighter have disappeared?"

"Artificial intelligence, neural networks — a natural development of modern technologies. It won't stop. And, as always, innovations are ahead of society's willingness to accept them. So it was with the advent of the book, the invention of the steam engine, the entry into everyday life of cinema and widespread computerization. But everything comes from the intellect, from the human mind. It is at the heart of progress. Here it is extremely important to

correctly dispose of new scientific achievements, to direct them to the benefit, and not to the detriment of man. Atomic energy was also comprehended by the mind, but it can be directed both to peaceful energy needs and to the creation of terrible weapons of mass destruction. From artificial intelligence, from neural networks, you can also get great benefits and terrible harm. And we again return to the human mind in the hope that it will properly dispose of this innovation.

It is interesting that we have studied and understood a lot in the functioning of the human body. For example, we know how blood, lymph, and saliva are produced, but we still do not understand how thought is produced. But it is human thinking that is at the heart of creativity. Knowledge, experience, intuition give rise to a new thought, an original idea, an attractive artistic image. So far, artificial intelligence can only combine the desired result from the existing information array according to the programme entered into it by a person. It does not have intuition, is not capable of insight. Therefore, literary masterpieces from artificial intelligence can hardly be expected. At least for now."

"Is it possible with the help of mathematics to accurately calculate the success of the book with the reader?"

"It is! But it will take as much time and expense as writing the book itself. Here is a diagram of such work. First you need to understand what kind of readership you are counting on with the idea of your book. How many people are in this intended audience? It is necessary to determine the ratio of people still reading books in this community. Try to make a timely and intriguing announcement of the planned work. Use for this your available, preferably ubiquitous, friendly agents. Based on probabilistic calculations, determine the optimal circulation of the publication, set the correct price for the book. Verify, together with the publishing house, an effective circulation distribution network, correctly calculating deliveries to book and online stores. Presentations, speeches to readers, dissemination of information through all possible information channels. Here, too, a mathematical calculation is needed — you won't cover everything, you won't have enough time and energy for this, and a scientific approach will help determine the optimal model for moving your creation into life.

Expecting everyone to line up for your book at once is a big mistake. Especially now, when books are read less and less.

Therefore, it is desirable to carry out all the proposed actions. Although even with your calculations thoroughly verified, the need to publish your book, as well as its circulation, will still be determined by the publisher. One can only hope that he also has a mathematical calculation for this.

I will give one piece of advice that I use for the promotion of a book. I say everywhere that books are now read only by the elite. In part, this is true. Reading develops thinking, imagination, enriches with new knowledge of a deeper, philosophical nature, allows you to show off your knowledge of modern literary trends and fashion publications in the right circles. Moreover, printed editions are now expensive. The elite certainly consists of very educated and wealthy people. And who doesn't want to be one of them? That's where they buy books."

"Do you believe that every work of art has some kind of energy field that affects the perceiver? Did you feel it clearly, and what kind? Positive, negative?"

"I'm sure yes. Through the artistic image, a complex stream of rational and sensual information is transmitted. The impact on the consumer of this flow can also be defined as an energy field, especially since even physicists do not know such a field. The currently known fields (gravitational, electromagnetic, Higgs field) we perceive only by a certain impact on the environment, but we do not yet understand their physical nature. However, we are attracted to the ground thoroughly and the current can hit us noticeably. Similarly, music, a picture, a book definitely affect a person energetically — they can cause joy or fear, laughter or tears, elation or deep despondency.

In nature, there is a physical phenomenon of resonance, this is when the amplitude of forced oscillations of a system increases when the frequency of an external influence on this system coincides with the frequency of its own oscillations. It seems that the resonant approach can to some extent explain the personal perception of the artistic image, in particular the book. You open it and immediately you physically feel (or do not feel) excitement, a growing interest in what is written there. This is a complex perception — the theme, the author, the plot, the external design, the font, the form of presentation of the material. If the content captivates, the resonance intensifies; if interest in the written is lost, it fades. It happens that you want to repeat such a positive resonant feeling of a book, then you re-read it. And it happens that the book does not immediately, or over time, cause awe, does not increase the heartbeat — it means that it does not resonate with you. No, it's not bad, maybe very good, but it's not yours!"

"Are there any books you would not like to have in your home library?"

"I am sure that almost every healthy person physically felt certain taboos on the brain modelling of certain life processes. For example, committing violence, a bloody crime. Or deviations from natural physiological needs, in particular the ugly imposition of same-sex love on society. There was a case when

in our microdistrict a rapist took a six-year-old girl with him, and three days later her dismembered body was found in the river. My brain analysed the yards, playing children, even the conversation of this girl with the criminal, but then it simply refused to work, even blocking thoughts about what this child had to endure. Therefore, I do not like and do not want to read books with perversions, bloody violence, propaganda of something alien to man."

"It is believed that reading develops the intellect. But does the opposite sometimes happen in the modern world — reading a certain kind of literature makes a person 'stupid'?"

"My first graduate student was Sergey Gutsanovich, a very talented scientist and an original person. He always came to me with a whole list of questions and did not leave until he received a thorough answer to each of them. My colleagues in these cases said that Gutsanovich got to Radkov and until he found out everything he was interested in, he would not get out of there. Sergei worked recklessly, with maximum immersion in the study of scientific problems, did not spare himself. I held him back, took care of him, pitied him.

He comes to me at the end of August and brings the manuscripts of two scientific articles prepared by him for publication. I ask: 'Serezha, where did you spend your vacation?'

'In Crimea.'

'What did you do there?'

'Studied modern publications on the research topic, wrote two articles.'

'I want to warn you for the future that scientific work consists not only of immersion in research work, but also of the hot southern sun, warm sea, juicy fruits, not to mention easy resort communication between young people!'

I hope that this advice of mine also helped Sergei with his Ph.D. thesis, and soon his doctoral dissertation.

The intellectual potential of a person is innate. At the same time, it is important to determine what kind of subject orientation it

"Artificial intelligence, neural networks - a natural development of modern technologies. It won't stop. And, as always, innovations are ahead of society's willingness to accept them."

is, in which direction the child should be developed from an early age. The level of general intelligence is also immediately noticeable. After all, the people have always singled out and revered an intelligent person, whether he is a shepherd in the village or a foreman at work. And officially recognised sages — priests, philosophers, writers, scientists — were respected unconditionally. The attitude towards a thinking person sounds very clear in folk art, for example, in the proverbs: 'There is no mind, it is a cripple', 'It is better to lose with a smart than to find with a fool', 'Where the mind is, there is sense'.

Intelligence develops not only reading books, but certainly reading does not impede it. I met people who devoured books in large quantities, but could not even retell them properly. And

there were acquaintances who did not read anything at all, but the interlocutors were the most interesting. Books that are empty in content also come across, but here you need to be correct in your assessments. Maybe you didn't understand them, didn't grow up to perceive them, they weren't written for you. You can't go wrong with books..."

“In art, there is a ‘frame effect’ — any object, isolated so that the public’s attention is concentrated on it, acquires unexpected significance and ambiguity, symbolism... You write in the non-fiction genre, have you encountered such an effect in your work — some detail described by you, a fact, someone’s act, someone’s personality are suddenly highlighted, acquire an unexpected interpretation?”

“Yes, I have! For example, for a long time I was writing a book about mathematics. I have always been fascinated by this science, I was happy to teach its sections at the university, participated in the organisation of mathematical education in Belarus. Even as Minister of Education, I conceived a story about the masterpieces of mathematical thought. I really wanted to attract as many talented young men and women as possible to this science with the beauty and originality of ideas, the results of research by famous scientists. The project attracted many Belarusian mathematicians who shared with me their admiration for the rise of mathematical thought. This painstaking work took twenty years, as a result, it was focused on the book *On Mathematics and Mathematicians* published by Mastatskaya Litaratura. And when this work came out, I suddenly began to receive feedback about the patriotic orientation of this book. Scientists, teachers, people who simply read suddenly realised that world-class mathematicians have worked and are working in our country, they are capable of solving problems that great scientists have struggled with for centuries, we have world-famous scientific schools. After all, only highly developed countries can participate in the development of world mathematical culture, and this book clearly shows that Belarus is among them. People told me that they became even more proud of our country!”

"Do not rush to reject the bizarre adventures of Alice in Wonderland - there, in every phrase, the mathematician Lewis Carroll laid a deep, though often very unusual, meaning. If you want, read the tales of our famous Belarusian mathematician Oleg Isidorovich Melnikov."

“We have already talked about science fiction physicists... But mathematicians were the masters of the literature of the absurd Kharms, Khlebnikov and Lewis Carroll. Velimir Khlebnikov even tried to derive an ‘equation of happiness’ by combining mathematics, poetry, history and mysticism. Does mathematics help to go beyond logic? Do you know examples of dreamer mathematicians in the modern world?”

“If people professionally came into contact with mathematics, then they will never let him go. This is explained, in my opinion,

by the fact that it requires a deep immersion in its theories and secrets, a huge strain of mental strength, and a lot of time spent on mastering densely packed information. It is no longer possible to finally emerge from the depths reached. Therefore, in any artistic work of a mathematician, one way or another, there will be a manifestation of his professional qualities — abstract thinking, validity of actions, evidence-based conclusions, strict logic of events. A mathematician, no matter what he writes, will load every word to the limit, as he was brought up by the requirement of maximum curtailment of the information presented. And if the reader at first glance does not understand the artistic creativity of a mathematician, this does not mean that it is absurd. Well, how can you assume that two parallel lines will intersect somewhere? And if we allow this, we get not only consistent, but also useful geometry in life. And how can you represent the multiplication of rectangular numerical tables? And this is the theory of matrices, without which it is difficult to explain the fantastic for perception, but the real laws of quantum physics. Do not rush to reject the bizarre adventures of *Alice in Wonderland* — there, in every phrase, the mathematician Lewis Carroll laid a deep, though often very unusual, meaning. If you want, read the tales of our famous Belarusian mathematician Oleg Isidorovich Melnikov. I am sure you will enjoy what you read and see for yourself the proof of my statements about the specifics of the artistic creativity of scientists in this scientific field.”

“I would like to recall in our conversation the most interesting personality of Yazep Drozdovich... He is not only an artist who is compared with Čiurlionis, but also the author of the scientific treatise *Heavenly Run*. On the one hand, he claimed that in his ‘visions’ he travels to different planets, describes meetings with aliens, landscapes of Saturn and Mars, which borders on mysticism. On the other hand, he tried to be a scientist. How can one evaluate the works of Drozdovich from the point of view of modern science? Is there a foresight of scientific discoveries, as some claim?”

“Yazep Drozdovich’s *Heavenly Run* is more of a work of art than a scientific treatise. Even at the time of writing this book, much in science has already been interpreted in a completely different way. According to Drozdovich, all the planets of the solar system are inhabited, located and moving according to the laws invented by him (by the way, very original ones), in his own way he explains the origin of our star system. But in many ways, the naive perception of outer space closest to us is accompanied by magnificent author’s lithographs, so the book is fascinating and original. The author hardly foresaw scientific discoveries, but he accurately conveyed his genuine interest in space exploration to many readers.

I also see that Yazep, with his *Heavenly Runs*, intuitively feels one riddle that the human mind is still struggling with — why a brain with such capabilities is given to man by nature. After all, such

abilities are not needed to complete the food chain. And with the help of the brain, man went beyond the limits of the Earth. Only human! For what? Are we meant to travel to other star systems? They are inconceivably far away! Will we find alien intelligence? And do we need it, is it not dangerous? And after all, mankind has already made noticeable steps in this direction. What awaits us in the future? As a creative person, Drozdovich, an originally thinking person, was looking for answers to these questions, so his thoughts are still interesting. **“Is it possible to derive universal rules for educating a talented writer? What qualities of a young person can tell that he will become a good creator — or is it impossible to predict? Have you ever inspired someone on a creative path?”**

“It seems to me that creative inclinations are innate, and their development to a noticeable manifestation is shaped by the environment surrounding a person. Since childhood, I often observed that some of my boyhood friends had the ability to tell interestingly about school life, about summer adventures, about the behaviour of adults. It was interesting to listen to them. In my student years, such talents became even more noticeable. Vanya Shved lived in the same dorm room with us. This observant, smart guy could tell us about what he had heard and seen so entertainingly, with Polissya flavor, that we did not even doubt that he was a future writer. For example, it was from Vanya that I heard a story about how our classmate Vasya Kovalev passed the exam in electrical engineering.

Vasya had obvious artistic abilities. When he read excerpts from *Virgin Soil Upturned* about grandfather Shchukar from the stage, the audience sobbed with laughter. But mathematics and physics were not easy for him. Not a single session was without failures. All the same artistic talents saved Vasya from expulsion, all the teachers listened to his monologues with pleasure. But when he received an excellent mark from the strictest teacher in our physics department, Aleksandr Yevstafievich Nesterov, at the exam in the most difficult course of electrical engineering, there was no limit to our surprise. But we did not go further than outward amazement at this fact, and Vanya made a brilliant sketch out of this. He went to Aleksandr Yevstafievich to ask how Vasya managed to answer like that in the exam. And he gave us the explanation of the teacher:

‘I’ve been teaching electrical engineering for twenty years, and only now have I seen how a three-phase electric motor can be explained with the help of hands and feet!’

We could listen to such stories by Vanya Shved for hours. After graduation, he worked as a school director and continued to accumulate similar stories about the life of fellow countrymen. He did not have time to publish them — he tragically died in a car accident.

I see that writing skills are developed and polished by the human environment, primarily in the family. It is already possible, by the way the baby talks, to understand the level of communication culture of his parents and other relatives. Then school, university.

"It seems to me that creative inclinations are innate, and their development to a noticeable manifestation is shaped by the environment surrounding a person."

I am sure that if Pushkin had not had such a creative environment in his family, and then at the Lyceum, we would not have admired his brilliant style.

And now, in my opinion, the main thing in this matter. What to write about? Good if you are gifted with the ability to fantasise. But even for the genre of fantasy, you need to have a good

educational base and solid life experience. It is not for nothing that Maksim Gorky, before writing, ‘went to the people’. And Arthur Hailey wrote his bestsellers *Wheels*, *Airport*, *Hotel* after he had been introduced to work in the relevant industries for a long time. From the practice of my political work, I know that in order for people to listen to you, accept your views on life, hear your calls, it is not enough to correctly structure your speech. It is necessary that they see in you an experienced person who has already achieved something in life. I think they perceive the writer with his book in a similar way. Therefore, acquire a profession, improve in it, move up the career ladder and never cease to be interested in life in all its manifestations. Notice the bright, unusual, retell what you see to your friends. You can write down the most impressive. And don't tell anyone you're writing a book. At best, it will irritate those around you. Believe me, the time will come, and everything you have accumulated will ask for an exit.

You say — what about bloggers? Young, without knowledge and experience, but collect millions of subscribers. It must be admitted that many of them are creative, skilfully focus on the appropriate audience, and master modern forms of presenting information. But after all, everything is superficial with them, it came easily and left just as easily, therefore, not for long. And people will always look for solid answers to vital questions for them. And in order to offer them options for such answers, you need to work hard and hard on this.”

“Your creative portfolio now contains an unusual book — *Little Stories of a Big Family*, written jointly with your daughter, poetess Natalya Ignatenko. I wonder how the work on the selection of material went, because it is very sincere, it concerns family life — were there any disputes about what to show to the reader and what not? Are there any plans for a sequel?”

“Stories about one’s family only outwardly look like a topic that is understandable and interesting for a wide readership. Indeed, every family has its own history. And Belarusian families went through years of social upheavals, bloody wars, survival in the most difficult economic conditions. But there was also rejoicing from the great victories, joy from the establishing peaceful life, pride from the heyday of the independent Belarusian state in recent years. So many family stories! I just want to write about the exploits, achievements, experiences, tragedies of my loved ones.

They all deserve to be remembered. This is where the problem arises. The family story is interesting first of all to the closest ones, and whether it will captivate a wide range of readers is a big question. And the number of stories about their relatives only at first seems inexhaustible. When you try to write them down, they immediately end. And yes, you need to know how to write.

In our large family, stories about each other were savoured. Educated people, with good humour, many communicate with a wide range of interesting people at work — there is always something to talk about. Excellent storytellers also clearly stood out, especially my older brother Vladimir with his aphoristic statements and younger brother Nikolai with excellent folk humour. I will give as an example the story of how Nikolai, who lived more prosperously, once again changed his passenger car. At that time, the younger brother Viktor could not buy a car for himself at all. And immediately after the purchase, Nikolai calls Victor on the phone:

‘Vitska, I’ll make a new purchase for myself! Are you happy?’

I savoured such stories, but did not write them down. It just wasn’t up to it. He was engaged in scientific work, taught at the university, took care of his children. But gradually I began to notice that my eldest daughter Natalya noticed and retold such stories. She still got poetry. By the way, the first ones were written just on family topics. Over time, Natalya began to publish collections of her poems, then she wrote several books for children, gained some fame as a writer and always shared her observations about the life of members of our ever-increasing family in the family circle. In her interpretation, these stories played with original colours, were artistically designed and effectively presented. And I began to push her to publish them in the form of a book. Natasha resisted for a long time. She, as a fairly experienced writer, understood that such a publication implies some kind of original approach. Otherwise, the book will not arouse readers’ interest. Everyone has family stories, and their own are obviously more interesting than others.

It is now difficult for us to say who originally came up with this idea, but we decided to write such a book together. Father and daughter, male and female approach, different generations, strict business and artistic style of presentation, different views on the same events, we even asked the publishing house to type us in different fonts. I think that in many ways this book was born thanks to the eldest son of Natalya, my grandson Pavel. Thanks to him, we felt the incredible possibilities of new information technologies. Pavel set up a computer programme for us that allowed us to write at the same time. I saw what Natasha was



writing, and she saw what I was writing at the moment. And this despite the fact that I worked in Minsk, and she worked in Moscow.

Amazing creativity! Sometimes, the two of us flew and savoured the stories, described the characters, remembered more and more new cases. And it happened that we quarrelled, sharply diverged in assessments and approaches in presenting the material. We stopped, it seemed that we would not return to this work. But it has already enslaved us. Time passed, and we again returned to the creative flight.

The book is out. Its publication was viewed with interest by the leadership and editors of Mastatskaya Litaratura. We thought it would be well received by readers. In general, this is what happened. The book’s circulation sold out quickly. But quite unexpectedly for us, this work was rather negatively treated by... relatives. Why such frankness, some stories were distorted, everything was wrong, ‘you wrote something completely wrong about me’... This is a difficult thing, writing.”

“Today, domestic tourism is becoming more and more popular in Belarus — more and more young people are traveling around our native country, discovering its castles, temples, estates, chapels, all kinds of historical monuments, which means that it is so rich and still not fully known... What historical monuments of Belarus are dear to you, which ones you once discovered and were impressed with, where would you advise to visit in order to get to know your native Belarus better?”

“The duties of the Minister include regular review of the press. This is feedback, public analysis of decisions made. And then one day I came across a note from a young mother. She wrote that her husband, an avid fisherman, puts her and their two sons in a

car for the weekend and they go to the river or lake. And always in different places. The husband sits on the shore and freezes for a long time with fishing rods, the boys cannot sit in one place for a long time and the problem arises — what to do with them. And I, writes this mother, by external signs I see that every time we find ourselves in memorable places. Somewhere there were foundations from the old estate and nearby a neglected, but still distinguishable park, and bloody battles obviously took place in this place, trench scars are still visible, and here, it seems, an ancient spring springs from under the ground. I would like to tell the children about all this, but I don’t know anything about these places, and I can’t find pointers anywhere to feel the history and beauty of my native land.

I told my colleagues about it, and we decided to develop an educational and patriotic programme Live in Belarus And Am Proud of It! We started its implementation in each school, where teachers with children and their parents would first find and mark on the map all the memorable and iconic places (natural, historical, cultural). Then it was necessary to designate them already on the ground — with a sign, a fence, an arbour. Over time, we planned to involve local authorities and even traffic police structures in this work to develop and install appropriate road signs. And it went well! At least the



schools took up this work with enthusiasm.

The well-known archaeologist in Belarus Vyacheslav Fedorovich Kopytin once led me to this idea of implementing patriotic education. He and his students walked around the Upper Dnieper region, marking on the map and on the ground all the archaeological sites of this region. During the day — exhausting work with a shovel, annoying

midges and the scorching sun, painstaking scientific notes, and in the evening, by the fire — fascinating stories about the tribes that have long inhabited our fertile and most beautiful places, fish soup cooked right there on the fire, songs with a guitar. Here is the objective education of love for one’s land, its history, for the people who created it. Aleksandr Grigorievich Lukashenko also participated in these archaeological expeditions under the guidance of Associate Professor Kopytin as a student of the Faculty of History. You can be sure that they also contributed to the formation of true love for Belarus of our President.

Developing the idea of educational and patriotic education of schoolchildren and students, we decided to organize systematic

excursions around the country, identifying seven main memorable places that every Belarusian must visit. One in each region. But the iconic places should include not only ancient historical, natural and cultural monuments, but also modern production, which we are famous for all over the world. At first we tried to identify these places. And immediately faced with insurmountable difficulties. There were much more such objects, and the choice of the seven most important ones threatened to turn into heated and endless disputes.

In Minsk — the Palace of Independence, the Museum of the Great Patriotic War, Minsk Tractor Works, Minsk Automobile Plant, Horizon, the Bolshoi Theatre, the Academy of Sciences, ... In the Minsk Region — Nesvizh, Khatyn, the Mound of Glory, BelAZ, the Great Stone park, the Stalin line, the Soligorsk Potash Plant...

In the Brest Region — Brest Fortress, Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Kossovo Castle, Savushkin Product, Berestye Archaeological Museum, Kamenets Tower, Ruzhany Castle...

In the Vitebsk Region — ancient Polotsk, Orsha Flax Mill, Summer Amphitheatre in Vitebsk, Naftan, the memorial complex Breakthrough, the House-Museum of Marc Chagall,

"Stories about one's family only outwardly look like a topic that is understandable and interesting for a wide readership. Indeed, every family has its own history."

the National Park Braslav Lakes...

In the Grodno Region — the Kolozha Church, the Old Castle, the Mir Castle, the Lida Castle, the church in Gervyat, the Zhirovichi Monastery, Grodnoazot...

In the Gomel region — the Palace of the Rumyantsevs and Paskeviches, the Museum of Nature in Lyaskovichi, Gomselmash, the Yurovichi Monastery, the Mozyr Oil Refinery, the Zhlobin Metallurgical Plant, the Rogachev Milk Canning Plant...

In the Mogilev Region - Buinichi field, Mogilev City Hall, Bobruisk fortress, Belshina, Gorki Academy, Mogilevkhimvolokno, Belarusian Cement Plant...

There are already seven iconic objects in each region! So it’s just my taste. How many beautiful natural landscapes, historical monuments, cultural sites and powerful modern industrial enterprises are there in our country?! There is something to be proud of and something to show to every Belarusian and guests of our country.

Our programme of obligatory visits to seven iconic places by every Belarusian has also slowed down because in recent years... Belarusians have begun to live better. Almost every family has a passenger car, or even more than one. People became families with pleasure to travel around the country. There was no need for a systematic organisation of collective bus excursions, as in Soviet times. However, systematic work on the restoration and preservation of monuments of our national culture is relevant. Every person should know and love his Motherland.”

Ludmila Rublevskaya

THE LORD OF PURE WATER



In the Central Park named after Maksim Gorky, in Minsk, there is an elegant commemorative sign of an abstract form, evoking associations with the water element: a drop of water (in human height) frozen in metal... This symbolic park sculpture (by Yevgeny Kolchev) was made in our time in honour of a long-standing event: the discovery in 1929 of the underground mineral water Minskaya-4. This medicinal water, which is recognized and loved by Minsk residents and guests of the capital, which meets the highest international standards was discovered by Gerasim Bogomolov, a prominent scientist in the field of hydrogeology and applied geology, who dealt with the problems of water supply to cities and towns, drainage of Polissya, one of the founders of the USSR Geological Survey, statesman, academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Doctor of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences, Professor.

■ Memorial sign at the site of a mineral water well in Gorky Park in Minsk, 2014



In 1928, a young man without any titles or awards, a graduate of the Stalin Moscow Mining Academy, who led the search for sources of water supply in Minsk, was only 23 years old. At a depth of 354 meters, his drilling team stumbled upon a unique underground source of natural mineral water. The well was the deepest in the western regions of the USSR. At that time, Minsk was still a deeply provincial quiet city with a very leisurely rhythm of life, with a wooden water pipe constructed from barrels. And in 1929, in the capital, not far from the cobblestone pavement of Zakharyevskaya Street (now Nezavisimosti Avenue), the first well was drilled under the leadership of Gerasim Bogomolov, which gave the famous Minskaya-4 mineral water. Subsequently, he proposed projects for the water supply of Minsk from Quaternary deposits (for the first time in world practice), the effectiveness of which has been confirmed to date. We owe to Gerasim Bogomolov the discovery not only of Minskaya-4. He devoted most of his life to the study

of the underground riches of Belarus. He conducted extensive research in hydrogeology, dealt with the problems of rational use of natural resources of Polissya and water supply to large cities. For the first time, a large-scale geological map of the primary deposits of Belarus compiled by him in the pre-war period was the basis for the discovery in the future of deposits of potassium salts, oil and mineral waters. His activities organically combined geological and hydrogeological research, which gave science original concepts, and specific competitive practical projects. He also became one of the first ecologists who made observations of changes in the ecological situation on large lakes and their surrounding landscape complexes. The scale of Gerasim Bogomolov's personality cannot be imagined without his foreign activities: the discovery of oil in India, the forecasts of minerals in Chile, the search for underground water in North Africa. He represented Soviet science at international forums: he visited more than 50 countries on five continents. Professor Bogomolov was a corresponding member of the geological societies of France and Belgium. He was a consultant to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and a UNESCO fellow, Deputy Minister of Geology of the USSR, Director of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology and the Institute



- Gerasim Bogomolov at the springs in the village of Kruptsy near Minsk. Here, the first studies on the water supply of Minsk at the expense of groundwater were carried out. 1920s.
- Research work on the Svisloch River, 1929

Then Minskaya-4 won the competition for the People's Brand 2015 award, in which the votes were cast by consumers. And a pleasant coincidence was the fact that the discovery of Minskaya-4 was immortalised shortly after this event. But it has come a long way to take its place in history.

As the media wrote at the time (<https://www.kp.ru/>), the solemn opening ceremony of the memorial sign in December 2014 turned out to be extremely emotional and educational. It was attended not only by representatives of the Administration of the Partizansky District of the capital, the Minsk Soft Drink Factory. For the sake of an important event, the son and grandson of the famous geologist Gerasim Vasilyevich Bogomolov arrived from Moscow.

We all know that today Minskaya-4 mineral water is bottled where it is extracted from the well - on the territory of the Minsk Soft Drink Factory. But its history, we repeat, began in 1929, when the future scientist Gerasim Bogomolov discovered this underground source. Exactly at the same place in the Gorky Park, a memorial sign was erected.

We were told about how important the year 2023 is in the scientific biography, in the life of an outstanding personality, which was Gerasim Bogomolov, by his son, a well-known Russian hydrogeologist, Chairman of the Russian Union of Hydrogeologists Roshydrogeo Yuri Bogomolov, who lives in Moscow. Yuri Gerasimovich himself started as a laboratory assistant at the Geological Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, presented his thesis at Moscow State University, worked in Africa and the Middle East.

of Geological Sciences of the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR. Geologists and hydrogeologists of the planet owe many achievements and discoveries to the scientific foresight, creative energy and consistent support of Gerasim Vasilyevich (<https://belchemoil.by/>). Let's return, however, to the 'water'. By the way, according to Yuri Gerasimovich, it was the discovery of Minskaya-4 that his father considered the main achievement of his life, "When I asked him about it, my father immediately remembered Minsk. Not the discovery of deposits of potash salts, underground waters in North Africa, oil in India, not about high official positions in the USSR and

abroad. Most of all, he was proud, as he said, of the 'water', which he discovered on the banks of the Svisloch." We remind the reader that the legendary mineral water is 100% natural, natural, characterised by moderate mineralisation and a balanced composition of salts and minerals. This allows you to consume it regularly for the general improvement of the body, as well as for the treatment and prevention of diseases associated with the digestive system and metabolism. Over the years, the popularity of Minskaya-4 has not diminished. This water has repeatedly won at various prestigious competitions, but the award received in 2015 is special.



He called the editorial office of the magazine and said that this year is the anniversary for his father. "No, no," he clarified, "the 120th anniversary of the birth is still ahead, but the anniversary of the opening of Minskaya-4 is significant." And he asked to publish a small material of his colleagues — candidate of geological and mineralogical sciences, doctor of technical sciences, professor D.A. Manukyan and the discoverer of the deposit, Honorary Scout of the Mineral Resources of the Ministry of Geology of the USSR, Candidate of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences V.A. Manukyan. Here are some excerpts from their article.

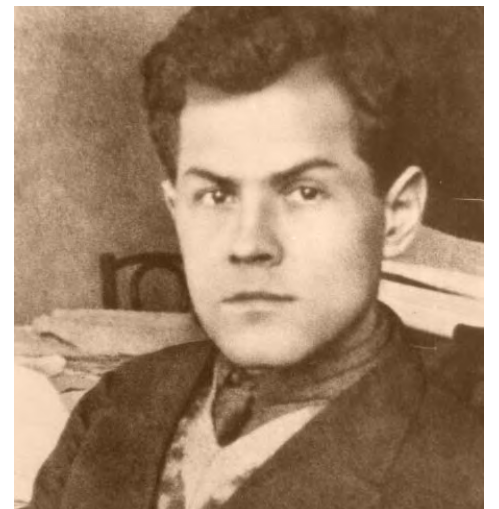
"This year marks the 65th anniversary of the founding of the city of Salihorsk in Belarus. It is worth recalling in this regard: the city was founded on the place where Gerasim Vasilyevich discovered a deposit of potassium salts, for which he received the Stalin Prize in 1952. Another anniversary is approaching: the 95th anniversary of his discovery of the underground mineral water Minskaya-4 in the Gorky Park in Minsk. It must be said that it was in this well, which revealed mineral water, that 23-year-old Gerasim carried out the first in the USSR, and possibly in world practice, experimental filtration work to determine the productivity of the aquifer and hydrogeological parameters.

Gerasim Vasilyevich Bogomolov has published more than 300 scientific and applied papers, including those in the main UN languages. He was the discoverer of oil deposits in Belarus, for which he was awarded the State

Prize in 1972, as well as in India. He also discovered groundwater in the Northern Sahara. His book 40 Days in North Africa became a bestseller. Gerasim Bogomolov made an invaluable contribution to the study of engineering and geological properties of soils during the construction of large engineering structures: the Dnieper Hydroelectric Power Plant, the Volga-Don Canal, the Moscow and Minsk metros, and others. He is also the author of the method of chemical fixation of soils. Therefore, in 1947 he was awarded the Stalin Prize. In 1979, the professor was elected Honorary President of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences. He is the first in the USSR and the only one so far in the post-Soviet space to receive a UNESCO scholarship. Gerasim Bogomolov is the first head of the Department of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology of Mikhail Lomonosov Moscow State University (1941), his textbook Hydrogeology With the Basics of Engineering Geology went through three editions in the USSR, translated into Arabic, Hungarian, Vietnamese, Chinese, German, Polish, Serbian-Croatian languages. He prepared dozens of doctors and candidates of sciences. For more than 30 years he has been teaching at the Moscow Geological Prospecting Institute and at the Belarusian State University.

Gerasim Bogomolov is the founder and first director of the All-Union Research Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology (VSEGINGEO, 1939), the first such research institute in the world,

- Gerasim Bogomolov, a student of the Moscow Mining Academy
- "Father met his future wife, a native of the Minsk province, my mother Franciska Vrublevskaya, with whom he lived for more than 50 years, in 1929. Franciska Vladislavovna is a graduate of the Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages. She was fluent in German, Polish, even Chinese... The romantic relationship of the future spouses developed in provincial Minsk, not far from the cobblestone pavement of Zakharyevskaya Street (modern Nezavisimosti Avenue), on the treeless bank of the Svisloch River, where drilling was carried out..." (From the memoirs of Yuri Bogomolov)
- Father and son Bogomolov, 1974



analogues of which were created in the 50-60s of the 20th century in Eastern Europe and China. As Deputy Minister of Geology of the USSR, he oversaw the search, exploration and development of oil and gas fields, groundwater from Moldova to Kamchatka. Articles have been published about this outstanding person in the main UN languages, as well as in Azerbaijani, Belarusian, Georgian, Kazakh, Lithuanian, Uzbek and Ukrainian. One of the central streets in the Belarusian city of Salihorsk is named after Gerasim Bogomolov. Prominent hydrogeologists from the USA, France and China left their warm memories of the Russian discoverer (David D. Todd, Henry Scholler, Shen Zhao Li).

The centennial anniversary of Academician Gerasim Bogomolov was widely celebrated in 2005 in Russia (Moscow Region, VSEGINGEO), in Belarus (Minsk, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Salihorsk and Belaruskali) under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, as well as the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation and Deputy General Director UNESCO by holding the Problems of Water Resources, Geothermy and Geoecology International Scientific Conference."

In conclusion, we would like to note the heightened sense of citizenship of the academician. The Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus V.B. Dolgolev and Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Sciences A.P. Laverov wrote very accurately about this in the article Scientist and Citizen — Laureate of State Prizes of the USSR and BSSR, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the scientist's birth. Here is an excerpt from that article, "The discovery of a number of mineral deposits in the Western region of the USSR is now evaluated not only as the theoretical developments of a prominent scientist, but also as his political vision of the vulnerability of these regions of the USSR in the event of another aggression from the West. The last words, written

as if today, highlight the rare personality trait that was inherent in the period of the Great Patriotic War to the discoverer Gerasim Bogomolov, colonel and first hydrogeologist of the Engineering Troops."

By the way, during the war, as a hydrogeologist, he put a lot of effort into bringing the long-awaited Victory closer. At that difficult time, he repeatedly travelled to the Urals: many enterprises worked there for the front, where they needed his help as a consultant hydrogeologist. Gerasim Bogomolov was also at the front, he finished the war in Berlin (signed on the wall of the Reichstag!) with the rank of colonel of the engineering troops, being the deputy head of the rear of the Red Army.

There is one more curious moment in the biography of Gerasim Vasilyevich. His son repeatedly told reporters about him, "I have seen my father work with the vine more than once. As a child, I thought it was just such a trick when the twigs begin to 'dance' in his hands. Father took different branches: hazel, alder, aspen, willow and made something similar to a slingshot. In his hands, the design seemed to come to life. With the help of this amazing method, he accurately indicated where to drill a well for water. Of course, my father understood that the scientific justification for this search method did not yet exist. And not everyone can work with a vine. This gift has not been given to me. And in the spring of 1944, Bogomolov, speaking at the Second All-Union Geophysical Conference, turned to the assembled scientists with a request to create a device for the rapid detection of groundwater. Our troops were already liberating Europe at that time. And on the lands that were under occupation, the Nazis, leaving, blew up wells, part of the water was poisoned. Gerasim Vasilyevich told the conference participants how water can be detected with the help of a vine branch. What he himself did. And when there were battles, and decisions had to be made quickly, the issue of the origin of this phenomenon did not arise. Bogomolov just found water with the help of a vine.

Many delegates then heard about this phenomenon for the first time... Father also said that when people devote their lives to a big idea (he hinted at the dowsing effect), then it becomes meaningful. In general, he repeated at the end of his life that we must live in the 21st century, this will be the century of parapsychology..."

We know that today both the dowsing method and parapsychology no longer surprise anyone.

It should be noted that anniversaries, like the 100th anniversary of the birth of Gerasim Bogomolov, and subsequent anniversaries were widely celebrated by the Belarusian scientific community. A native of Russia, a prominent scientist worked fruitfully for many years not only in Russia, but also in Belarus. Therefore, for example, the International Scientific Conference Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Gerasim Bogomolov was held with the support of the governments of Russia, Belarus and the bodies of the Union State. Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated its participants, focusing on the great contribution of the scientist to the development of geology, hydrogeology, and ecology. The greeting said, "The creation of a national geothermal school, the discovery of deposits of potash salts and oil in our republic, the exploration and exploitation of groundwater are associated with his name. It is these areas of geology and related issues of environmental safety that constitute the main issues of your forum..." The President also expressed hope that the conference dedicated to the anniversary of Gerasim Bogomolov would contribute to the expansion of cooperation between researchers from different countries.

The anniversary events were covered in the media, a number of publications were published in different languages. It is also symbolic that in March 2005, in the anniversary year of the academician, Water for life, the programme of the International Decade, was launched under the auspices of UNESCO. Problems of security of water resources of the CIS countries have long been



■ Gerasim Bogomolov at the 15th Session of the General Assembly of UNESCO, 1968

■ During a conference on the protection of water resources at the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Moscow. In the presidium, from left to right, Permanent Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation Yuri Yaroshevich and Yuri Bogomolov, Chairman of the Russian Union of Hydrogeologists, son of his father, successor to his work, 2008.



discussed at various levels, including the UN. In the spring of 2007, the Future of Hydrogeology: Current Trends and Prospects International Symposium was held in St. Petersburg. Its participants noted that the organisation of scientific research in the field of hydrogeology is of particular importance in modern conditions, when the importance of water resources for the development of the productive forces of society is growing,

and the preservation of the quality of natural drinking water is becoming increasingly important. Now this is already one of the most important tasks facing any state. And on May 14th, 2010, the Russian hydrogeological community established the Union of Hydrogeologists of Russia, open to foreign members of the CIS.

As you can see, the work of the academician continues to live and develop.

He, as an outstanding personality, attracted people of different generations with his simplicity, accessibility, humanity, spiritual beauty. By modern standards, he met the best qualities of a mentor. Nature gave him a full supply of deep decency, tenderness and love. Gerasim Vasilyevich did not need to look for them in himself, they manifested themselves. It is these qualities of those who go ahead that positively influence, as a rule, the human psyche itself, and through its prism, ultimately, the environment surrounding a person... This is how the Belarusian writer Vasily Yakovenko spoke about Gerasim Bogomolov.

And here is what we find in the notes of his contemporary, the famous sculptor, People's Artist of the USSR Zair Azgur, "Recently, I finished the bust of Gerasim Vasilyevich Bogomolov. Now I know that with all his being he carried light and love, but he himself deeply doubted that evil could be overthrown with their help. The pressure of his spirit was so strong that it was possible to understand this contradiction only with time. I think when they talk about the mysterious Russian soul, they mean exactly this phenomenon."

And further. It seems that Anton Chekhov wrote about such people as Gerasim Bogomolov and others like him, "Ascetics are needed like the sun. Constituting the most poetic and cheerful element of society, they excite, console and ennoble. Their personalities are living documents indicating to society that apart from people who argue about optimism and pessimism, who write unimportant novels out of boredom, unnecessary projects and cheap dissertations, debauchery in the name of denying life and lying for a piece of bread, there are still people of a different order, people of achievement, faith and a clearly conscious goal." To this we add: and purity. For as pure and drinkable the water that Gerasim Vasilyevich found, so pure was he himself. Figuratively speaking, he lived without impurities — in his thoughts, feelings, in his attitudes towards people and the cause, which he served all his life.

Mikhailina Cherkashina



From the life-giving source of the Word we draw strength to live with inspiration and beauty...

The 30th Day of Belarusian Written Language, a celebration of the unity of the printed word, literature and history, was held on September 2nd-3rd in Gorodok, in the Vitebsk Region, once again demonstrating the unique attitude towards the printed book in Belarus. As in many other cities and towns of our country, in this region, which is famous for its rich traditions and creative heritage, the book is revered and appreciated. It is symbolic that the 30th anniversary of the holiday is celebrated on Vitebsk land, which gave the main impetus to the development of Belarusian book publishing through the iconic representatives of the educational centre of the Polotsk Monastery — Euphrosyne of Polotsk, Francysk Skaryna, Simeon of Polotsk and other ascetics.



It is not difficult to understand why this large-scale event takes place at the beginning of September. The Day of Belarusian Written Language seems to take the baton from the Knowledge Day. After all, education, information and culture are three important spheres of services that form the intellectual elite of a nation, its present and future.

more than 60 facilities were updated for the holiday. A mural dedicated to the cities that previously hosted Writing Day was placed on a house along the street. It contains the coat of arms of each city, which was declared the capital of Belarusian writing. For new works of art, excerpts from poems and other works of Belarusian writers and poets were

transformed. It is noteworthy that in the Centre of Crafts they made a wooden book with a decorative insert — an image of Francysk Skaryna, which was solemnly handed over at the closing to the host of the Day of Belarusian Written Language in 2024 — Ivatsevichi, in the Brest Region. Today Gorodok is a modern and



For those who don't know: for the first time, festive events dedicated to the Day of Belarusian Written Language took place in ancient Polotsk in 1994, exactly thirty years ago. Since then, it has been held annually in different cities, which are historical centres of culture, science, literature and book printing — in Turov, Novogrudok, Nesvizh, Orsha, Pinsk, Zaslavl, Mstislavl, Mir, Kamenets, Postavy, Shklov and other places. As you know, such cities receive a new impetus in development: they carry out work on the repair, reconstruction and restoration of buildings, streets and squares, update the housing stock, put into operation social and cultural facilities, and open architectural and artistic monuments. The town was no exception; it was intensively preparing to receive guests:

also applied to the facades of residential buildings and institutions in the town. These are quotes from Yanka Kupala, Yakub Kolas, Anton Belevich, Anatoly Grechanikov, Vladimir Skorinkin, Rygor Baradulin, Konstantin Verenitsyn and others. Quotes from poems related to the theme of the Motherland, the Vitebsk Region, the town and the region, as well as Belarus in general were used. Verenitsyn Park was also updated. Sculptural compositions also appeared in Gorodok, the preparation of which was carried out by students of the Belarusian Academy of Arts. The main art object was the Primer, which was inaugurated on September 2nd in Verenitsyn Park. The Gorodok Centre of Crafts and Folklore and the Gorodok Regional Museum of Local Lore have been

dynamically developing settlement. It is located approximately 30 km from Vitebsk. As of January 1st, 2023, 11,570 people lived in the town. The Vitebsk-Nevel railway passes through Gorodok, as well as the M8 highway. By the way, a train with images of Belarusian writers ran along the Vitebsk-Gorodok route. The anniversary events of the Day of Belarusian Written Language on August 30th were kicked off by the republican scientific and educational expedition Road to the Shrines. The expedition members covered a distance of 1,300 km. On September 3rd, the festive events began with the traditional Divine Liturgy, with which the expedition ended. On this day, the winners of the competition Praise to the Hands That Smell of Bread" were also awarded.

Let us note that over the years, the Day of Belarusian Written Language has received a particularly wide scope and support at the highest level. The President sent congratulations and greetings to the participants and guests of the Day of Belarusian Written Language this year as well. It is symbolic that the anniversary date fell on the Year of Peace and Creation and is celebrated in the Vitebsk Region, where Belarusian statehood was born, noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. The Head of State wished everyone health,

happiness and inspiration for the good of the Motherland. The town lived in a festive rhythm these days. A special energy of positivity, inspiration and joy was felt everywhere. We were lucky with warm weather. One of the northernmost corners of the country welcomed thousands of guests. These were authors, heroes, and readers. Mohammad al-Umrani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Syria to the Republic of Belarus, also attended the festival, "This is the second time I am attending the Day

of Belarusian Written Language," he said. "Last year I was in Dobrush, now I've come to Gorodok. It is very good that there is such a holiday that emphasises the importance of language and national culture for society. Belarusian culture is very rich. It is clear that in your country they value and preserve it."

The celebration reflected the 140th anniversary of the birth of Yanka Maur, as well as the history, culture and traditions of the town. The themes of the Year of Peace and Creation, as well as the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Town from the Nazi invaders, were revealed. In honour of this date, participants in the Day of Belarusian Written Language laid flowers at the Immortality memorial, where over five thousand Soviet soldiers who liberated these places are buried. History shows that the front stood here for two years, and the loss of life

was enormous. Those present honoured the fallen heroes with a minute of silence. Gorodok land is the birthplace of Konstantin Verenitsyn, the author of one of the most popular works of Belarusian literature of the 19th century — the poem Taras on Parnassus, which for a long time was considered anonymous. In 1973, Doctor of Philology Gennady Kiselev lifted the veil of secrecy about authorship. Later, a festival was founded in the city in honour of the famous fellow countryman called Gorodok Parnassus, and a sculpture was erected to the main character of the poem, the woodsman Taras. And here, in the homeland of Taras on Parnassus — the most famous Belarusian poem of the 19th century — the National Literary Prize was awarded to loud applause from those gathered in the main square of Gorodok. Prose, poetry, journalism, criticism... Alas, the dramaturgy remained unmarked again. Although there is such a nomination. More than 40 works were nominated for the award this year. Only six were awarded the coveted statuette with "Ÿ". The best prose work was the book According to Our Faith... by Vladimir Gavrilovich, Chairman of the Gomel Region Branch of the Union of Writers of Belarus. It intertwines the past, present and future. The events of the novel take place today, as well as ten centuries ago in ancient Turov, Kyiv and Krakow. Awards for the best journalistic work In the Name of the Future of the Country. On National Security Priorities in the New Century was awarded to Vladimir Makarov. Alena Stelmakh was awarded for the best work for children Pashka and a Ray of Sunshine. Grodno critic, candidate of philological sciences Alina Sabut won in the Work of Literary Criticism category. Alesya Prikhodko makes her debut of the year with the book Khlyupik and His Friend Nyunya.

■ The winners of the National Literary Award are on stage. More than 40 works were nominated for the award this year. Only six are marked with the coveted statuette with "Ÿ".

■ Minister of Information Vladimir Pertsov and Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus, Editor-in-Chief of the Zvyazda Publishing House Alexander Karlyukevich during the presentation of the award. On the left, Alina Sabut, a critic from Grodno, won the nomination "Work of Literary Criticism"



■ One of the main locations for the large-scale event was Verenitsynsky Square, where the festival of folk art, Belarusian poetry and folklore "Gorodoksky Parnassus" was held, as well as the "Gourmet Mara" festival with competitions of cakes, pies and edible bouquets.

The poet and translator Sofia Shah from the Gomel Region received an award for the book of poetry Diadem Confession: A Wreath of Wreaths of Sonnets. "On the one hand, the Day of Belarusian Written Language is a traditional event, on the other hand, the essence of the events and their adjustments is still something new," said Aleksandr Karlyukevich, Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus, editor-in-chief of the Zvyazda Publishing House. He emphasised that it is especially significant for the Union of Writers that the organisers have separately allocated platforms for regional branches of the Union of Writers. And he explained, "Our colleagues — writers, prose writers, poets, playwrights, publicists from the regions — came together with librarians, with the leadership of their regional libraries and showed the line of literature that is associated with a specific region." The meeting of regional branches of the Union of Writers was accompanied by performances by poets and prose writers, and meetings with songwriters. During the festival, participants and guests got acquainted with new book publications, met not only with Belarusian writers, but also foreign ones, as well as with journalists and publishers, and listened to performances by creative groups and performers.

The highlight of the forum was the musical production Taras on Parnassus, which was presented at the opening ceremony. A striking feature of the festival, according to tradition, was the concert on the central platform. It was based on the repertoire of the famous Belarusian composer Igor Luchenok. The programme also included songs specially written for the Day of Belarusian Written Language in Gorodok. The guest of the anniversary celebration was the Honoured Artist of Russia, a native of Belarus, Sergei Volchokov, who decorated the closing concert with his creativity. The Day of Belarusian Written Language

received support from young people. Deputy Minister of Information Igor Buzovsky spoke about this to journalists at the press conference on the preparation and holding of the 30th Day of Belarusian Written Language in Gorodok on the eve of the start of the festival.

According to Igor Buzovsky, one of the projects of the Day of Belarusian Written Language started even before the forum began — it was the republican competition of young readers — Living Classics. On the eve of the celebration, the final and recording of the video version of the competition took place. This year, about 10 thousand schoolchildren took part in it, they read their favourite works of classics of Belarusian literature and modern authors. The final was broadcast on September 3rd. In the exhibition pavilions, delegations from all regions presented the most striking book projects published in the cities that were once the capitals of the Day of Belarusian Written Language, and held presentations of new projects with the participation of authors, members of the Union of Writers of Belarus.

The book festival area, separate areas for young people, as well as interactive areas and exhibitions of book printing were full of people. In such cases they say: there was nowhere for the apple to fall. Festival of Books and Press, the distinctive feature of which this year was thematic exhibitions of the cities where the Day of Belarusian Written Language was previously held, as well as a large-scale exhibition of the project Motherland. Search for the Lost of



the Ministry of Information and the laureate of the Prize for Spiritual Revival Vladimir Likhodedov did not leave any of the visitors indifferent. They were interested to know that next year the project Motherland. Search for the Lost will be 20 years old. It was in Gorodok that the anniversary year began. The main goal of the project, as the author said, is to study, preserve and popularise the history of Belarus and Russia. Over the past 20 years, 47 book-albums have already been published (three more will be released in the near future), thousands of publications in the media, both Belarusian and Russian. Hundreds of exhibitions, many of them international. All this is based on a unique collection of postcards and photographs related to the history of Belarus at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. This collection, the pride of the collector, is the largest in the world. Also, guests who got

acquainted with the thematic art objects of Vladimir Likhodedov, including the bison — a symbol of Belarus made from parts of printing machines, and wool from letters from the mid-20th century, were invited to evaluate the Motherland tea. They were also interested in Pegasus — the symbol of all creative people; most of its parts are printing machines. And also a mechanical clock representing the main educators of Belarus.

One of the main locations for the large-scale event was Verenitsyn Park, where the festival of folk art, Belarusian poetry and folklore, Gorodok Parnassus, was held, as well as the Gourmet Dream festival with competitions of cakes, pies and edible bouquets.

With special repitidation, folk craftsmen of the region prepared to receive guests, so that everyone could take away not only warm memories, colourful selfies, but also souvenirs in the traditions of the Gorodok region. They prepared a lot of interesting things. Marina Gushcho, head of the Gorodok Centre of Crafts and Folklore, told reporters about this, "Preparations began in September last year, as soon as we learned that such an important event was to be held. We managed to make more than 300 products — from simple magnets, coasters and mugs with festival symbols to more complex souvenirs. These are ceramics, various dolls, sets of napkins made from several types of natural materials, bells, plaques. And to the Ivatsevichi that will become the next capital of the Day of Belarusian Written Language, we will symbolically hand over a book in a wooden frame with the coat of arms of their city and the profile of Francysk Skaryna. We tried to show what our land is famous for, the rich variety of our traditional crafts, including reflecting in the works the carefully preserved skills of our ancestors. These are our openwork weaving, spiral weaving, straw weaving and naive art, which are included in the list of intangible cultural heritage of Belarus. At the end of the year, it should also be replenished by the unique equipment of our birch bark growers. At all exhibitions, our works always stand out and are easily recognizable for their lightness and sophistication,

characteristic of the harsh beauty of the north. At the same time, we try not to stand still, but to develop our traditional crafts."

If we are talking about Gorodok, then, of course, it was worth visiting the local brand festival Gourmet Dream. Guests of the anniversary Day of the Written Language were given this opportunity on the second day of its holding. Taking into account the limited space, the gastrofest was held on September 3rd in a presentation format. The director of the Gorodok City Centre of Culture, Irina Romanyuga, shared the details on the eve of the holiday, "This year our brand festival will take place for the fourth time in the city park on Sovetskaya Street, although its traditional venue is the Vorobyovy Gory tract, where a large, convenient platform allows for various culinary competitions and tastings to be held on a grand scale. The highlight of the current forum will be a competition of cakes, pies and edible bouquets on the theme of the Day of Belarusian Written Language and the Year of Peace and Creation. More than two dozen participants are expected who will not only present delicious exhibits to the jury, but also conduct a creative defence of their works on stage."



And so it was. Local chefs everywhere delighted the holiday guests with a delicious abundance. Potato pancakes, shurpa, aromatic pastries, national dishes, as well as broiler chicken kebab and a signature cocktail for adults based on a quail egg prepared by workers of the Gorodok poultry farm are just an incomplete list of those wonderful dishes that delighted gourmets.

The regional festival of children and youth Prastora was also bright. There were demonstration performances and

master classes in various sports, and an open regional mini-football tournament. There was a newspaper boulevard, sports and children's playgrounds. A number of thematic events were also held, organised by the National Library of Belarus, the National Art Museum, and the Yakub Kolas National Academic Drama Theatre.

Traditionally, as part of the holiday, an international round table was held with the participation of Belarusian and foreign writers, as well as a scientific and practical conference Gorodok Readings jointly with the National Academy of Sciences.

Every year, the Mastatskaya Litaratura publishing house publishes books related to the places where the Day of Belarusian Written Language takes place. This year the re-release of Taras on Parnassus saw the light. In addition to the poem itself, the book presents chapters from the book by Gennady Kiselev, Doctor of Philology (we have already mentioned him above), about the difficult search for historical truth regarding who is the author of the poem. One of the sections of the publication is also dedicated to the Gorodok Local History Museum. For the literary holiday, printed publications dedicated to Gorodok and the region

were released: Gorodok Region, River of Memory, Under the High Heavens of Motherlands, From Vitebsk to Polotsk. More than 100 of the best books about the Vitebsk Region were presented by the regional library on the Day of Belarusian Written Language.

About three dozen cultural, educational, religious, gastronomic and military-historical tourist routes were updated especially for the holiday. The main route was connected with the author of the poem Taras on Parnassus, writer

Konstantin Verenitsyn. The route began in Gorodok, and then led through the writer's native place to the village of Ostrovlyane. Tourists were also offered an interesting nine-kilometre route Gems of Gorodok, which runs along three lakes: Lugovoye, Orekhovoye and Shcherbakovskoye.

In general, the festival programme was extensive. But still, its main heroine was Its Majesty the Book. With its magical



rustling and smell of both old and new pages, it was filled with the lively and warm energy of the authors.

They say that today a neural network can write a poem or even a novel in a matter of minutes. They say that there will be no need to spend as much time as it takes for a person. But so what? Anyone involved in creativity knows: the creation of a work of art is not only the end result, but also a process from which the author experiences pleasure, feeling the happiness of creativity.

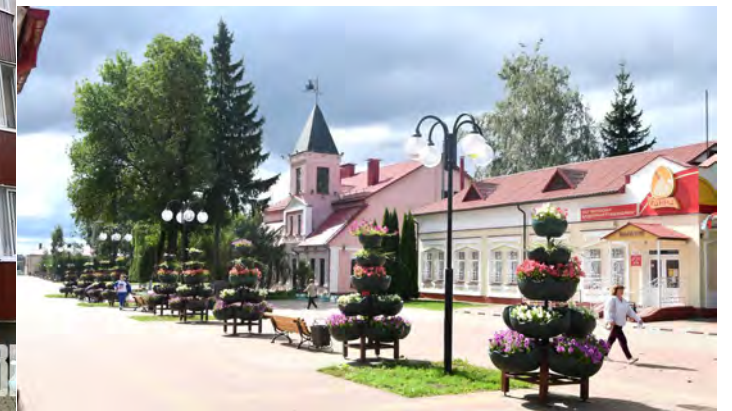
After all, a neural network can only successfully imitate a person, but there will be no real creativity, a new word, or a new meaning in this. That's what writers say. And there will be no living warmth, that energy that we feel when we pick up a book. In this regard, the considerations of Vladimir Pertsov, the Minister of Information of Belarus, are appropriate, "It seems to me," he said in an interview with ONT just on

September 3rd, "that dialogues about the neural network are

then we will see how quickly the output of this neural network will become empty."

There is an example of a book on the Internet that was written using neural network programs in a couple of days. American designer Ammaar Reshi used ChatGPT to write a children's book. Artificial intelligence generated a story about a girl Alice and her robot friend. Ammaar added images drawn by another neural network, Midjourney, and published a book. Paper copies quickly sold out, there was an electronic version

■ In Gorodok, more than 60 objects were updated for the holiday. A mural dedicated to the cities that previously hosted Writing Day was placed on a house along the street. It contains the coat of arms of each city, which was declared the capital of Belarusian writing. For new works of art, excerpts from poems and other works of Belarusian writers and poets were also applied to the facades of residential buildings and institutions in the Town. These are quotes from Yanka Kupala, Yakub Kolas, Anton Belevich, Anatoly Grechanikov, Vladimir Skorinkin, Rygor Borodulin, Konstantin Verenitsyn and others. Quotes from poems related to the theme of the Motherland, the Vitebsk region, the Town and the region, as well as Belarus in general were used.



somewhere more a tribute to fashion. After all, the neural network does not generate a product on its own; it takes a layer of literature, those works that are already on the Internet. Yes, this is a compilation. If the human brain, human talent does not create something in order to throw it into the network, then the neural network will not have anything to take from, and at some point it will simply end. Well, if there are still rules, international agreements that limit and make the network not so international,

on Amazon. The book was criticised by readers, writers, and even illustrators. Most of them are upset that Ammaar has put in minimal effort and is now selling a dummy (<https://okocrm.com>). Fortunately, nothing like this was offered to the people on the Day of Belarusian Written Language. And all because in Belarus those who truly value the printed book understand that we draw strength from the life-giving source of the Word — to live inspired and beautiful.

Inga Likhtarovich

"Unravel the mystery of Pushkin ..."

Russian literary critic Larisa Cherkashina was born in Belarus

I always read with particular interest the books of Larisa Andreyevna CHERKASHINA, who was born in 1949 in Volkovysk, Grodno Region. In the family of a front-line officer. Author of the books Pushkin and Natalie, *The Last Duel, or Why Pushkin was Killed, Secrets of the Pushkin Tree, Pushkin is a Military Name* and a number of other historical and literary narratives dedicated to the great poet, his circle, the Pushkin era, to the heirs of Aleksandr Sergeyevich. In her books, Larisa Cherkashina, to whom the passion was passed on from her father, Andrei Andreyevich Cherkashin, who compiled the pedigree of Aleksandr Pushkin. This is how the Director of the Institute of Russian Literature A. I. Jesuitov spoke about his work many years ago, "The genealogical chart of the ancestors and descendants of the great Russian poet A. S. Pushkin, developed by A. A. Cherkashin, for the first time representing the family ties of the poet, his ancestors and descendants with exhaustive completeness, is of great scientific importance and will provide invaluable assistance to Pushkin scholars in the study of the life and work of the poet, in the work on preparing the new Complete Academic Works of A. S. Pushkin, which is in the long-term plan of the institute." A description of the complete genealogy of A. S. Pushkin is presented in the joint book of father and daughter *The Thousand-Year Tree of A. S. Pushkin*, as well as in the book *Pushkin, Descendant of Rurik*. The work of Andrei Andreyevich Cherkashin, who passed away in 1993, is still continued by Larisa Cherkashina. We talked with her about what the famous Pushkin scholar in Russia and Belarus has published recently and what she is working on.

"Larisa Andreyevna, year 2023 is still far from over, but if we were to sum up the results, what has already been done..?"

"It just so happened, unexpectedly for me, that the theme of my books was the comprehension of Pushkin's genius. Moreover, in many manifestations — this is the genealogy of the poet, which Aleksandr Sergeevich valued very much, this is the fate of his children and grandchildren, and the earthly goddesses glorified by Pushkin, and travel.

This year, 2023, is a 'fruitful' year for me. The book *Three Centuries with Pushkin. The Journey of Manuscripts and Relics* was published (by the way, one of its chapters talks about the search for Pushkin's rarities, which on the eve of the Great Patriotic War were delivered from the Lithuanian estate

Markuchai, where the poet's youngest son Grigory Pushkin lived, to Minsk).

Three Centuries with Pushkin — this is for how long Pushkin's admirers have been trying to recognise the phenomenon of the Russian genius. As if piecing together an endless puzzle bit by bit and being convinced every time — no, no one can complete that plan!

Perhaps for the first time on the pages of this book, points of intersection between Pushkin, previously unknown, and great names in world culture: Andersen, Dostoevsky, Bunin were found.

Heroes from different eras peacefully coexist under one book cover: Peter the Great and his ward Abram Hannibal, the grandson of the poet Leonty Dubelt and dancer Serge Lifar, Pushkin historian Modest Hoffmann and Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich, the great-grandson of the poet Aleksandr Mezentsov and our contemporary Baron Eduard Falz-Fein.

"Pushkin died in the full development of his powers and undoubtedly took some great secret with him to the grave. And now we are unraveling this mystery without him," Fyodor Dostoevsky once said prophetically. As if he bequeathed to us, future generations, not to give up those attempts."

"Pushkin was always interesting to his descendants for his surroundings..."

"And another book, *Love Dramas of the Goncharov Sisters* (about the fate of Natalia Pushkina, the poet's wife, and her sisters Yekaterina, who married Dantes and Alexandra, Baroness von Friesengoff by marriage) was published this year.

Three Goncharov sisters: Yekaterina, Alexandra and Natalia. Without a doubt, the names of the sisters would have been forgotten two centuries later, and it is unlikely that they would have remained in history if... If their life paths had not intersected with the fate of Aleksandr Pushkin. Finding themselves in the orbit of the Russian genius, they forever remained in the anthology of world poetry.

From the heights of the twenty-first century, it is so easy to reflect on the interweaving, whimsical ligature of past destinies — the earthly paths of the Goncharov sisters have been studied thoroughly, as if drawn graphically. It would seem that in their life everything is accomplished and everything is complete, as in the old novels they read. But no, that same, either mysterious,

or mystical aura, or rather, love flair has not dissipated in past centuries.

It just so happened that the two eldest: Yekaterina and Alexandra changed their maiden names to foreign, baronial ones. History has put everything in order: two sisters are baronesses, one is a queen. The title given to Natalie during

"Truly, love is a great mysterious force..."

"Modern civilization was created in its name. An almost unknown, but really existing area of human knowledge is the genealogy of Love. Despite all its apparent ephemerality, this is an enormous formative force on which the oldest and most famous families are based. And in our history — the heirs of Pushkin and the Romanovs.

The book itself can be classified as a literary sensation, because for the first time on its pages the Grand Duke's autobiographical novel *Don't Give Up*, dedicated to his beloved, will see the light of day. In the native Russian language!

At one time, the novel by Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich was written in English in 1908, the book was banned in Russia. So now readers will have the opportunity to learn all the vicissitudes of forbidden love first-hand from the heroes themselves."

"How did this unusual creative project of yours begin?.."

"My interest in the Romanovs is not accidental. As you know, everything starts from childhood. I was born in Volkovysk, but in my early years there were other cities — Slonim, Shchuchin, Smorgon. And yet, my favourite city is Baranovichi, where my brother, writer Nikolai Cherkashin and I made a trip not so long ago."

"Nikolai Andreyevich is well known in Belarus... He also takes part in excavations of the remains of Red Army soldiers, and speaks in many museums and libraries in our country..."

"Thank you. And my brother's books are published in Belarus. One of them is a novel about the heroic defence of the Brest Fortress *Brest Gates*..."

It turns out that taking a ticket to the city of childhood is possible!

Our house still stands in the former air town. The yard, where we played lapta, cops and robbers and 'chizhik', remained almost unchanged. Later I found out: we lived in the very place where the tsar's headquarters was located at the beginning of the First World War. It was here that strategic military plans were developed, the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich Jr. was located here, and Emperor Nicholas II came here to Baranovichi. And not just once, but ten times, as Belarusian historians have calculated.

I had the rare opportunity to meet the heirs of the House of Romanov: Prince Georgy Yuryevsky, great-grandson of Aleksandr II; Prince Dmitry Romanov, great-great-grandson of Nicholas I; Paul Kulikovskiy, great-great-grandson of Aleksandr III; Clotilde von Rintelen, great-granddaughter of Aleksandr II and great-great-granddaughter of Pushkin.

The fact is that the Pushkins and the Romanovs became related twice: the daughter of the Russian Tsar Aleksandr II and Princess Yuryevskaya became the wife of Count Georg von Merenberg, the poet's own grandson.

And this is an extraordinary love story! I really want to convey my interest to readers."

"Thank you, Larisa Andreyevna! And in Belarus we are waiting for your new books!"

Interviewed by Kirill Ladutko
Moscow — Minsk



her lifetime by the great Pushkin. And no one can overthrow her from the poetic pedestal.

I hope that a third book will soon appear, *Love is Outside the Law*, dedicated to the family ties of the descendants of the poet and the royal Romanov dynasty.

The love between the grandson of Nicholas I and the granddaughter of Pushkin happened at the crossroads of two eras. Against the backdrop of fateful events: the Russo-Japanese War, World War I, riots and revolutions.

However, the origins of that love, recognised as illegal in the fatherland of Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich, lie in the peaceful 1890s (for Russia) and far from it — in France. It was there, on the Cote d'Azur, that the Grand Duke, in love with countess-maid of honour Yekaterina Ignatieva and expelled from St. Petersburg in order to forget his former love, met the beautiful Sophie. In violation of the laws of that time, he married his new chosen one, which aroused the royal wrath of Emperor Aleksandr III — the marriage was recognised asmorganatic, and Grand Duke Mikhail Mikhailovich was forbidden to appear in Russia.

But his love for Countess Sophie de Torby, the poet's granddaughter, turned out to be his salvation, because three of his brothers, the Grand Dukes, were executed by the Bolshevik authorities."



VIKTOR SHNIP, “THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO WRITE ABOUT THE MOTHERLAND MEDIOCRELY!..”

Viktor Shnip, who today is both the editor-in-chief of the Belarusian literary and art magazine Polymya and the editor-in-chief of the Mastatskaya Litaratura publishing house, was and remains a poet, prose writer, and translator of Russian poetry into Belarusian. His creative works are the basis of his artistic worldview and as the head of the poetry section of the Union of Writers of Belarus. So we decided to talk about poetry with the winner of the National Literary Prize of Belarus, the special prize of the President of Belarus in the field of culture and art, the writer, whose creative works were awarded the Francysk Skorina medal, Viktor Shnip.

“Viktor Anatolyevich, today it is often said that poems cannot save anyone. But it would be unbearable to live in this world without poetry... What view do you hold?..”

“Poems have always not only called for work and battle, but also saved people from loneliness. Authentic talented poetry is beauty. And beauty saves the world. And poetry has always been and will be one of the main components of any national culture. If there were no poems, there would be no songs, and even those who do not read poetry collections love songs. In a word, poetry both inspires and saves, and unites not only individuals, but entire nations through translations of poems. Here we will soon publish an almanac of translations from other literatures into Belarusian in the Mastatskaya Litaratura publishing house. And most of it is poetry. Is there Russian poetry..?”

There are reincarnations into Belarusian of Gavriil Derzhavin's odes God, as well as poems by Sergei Yesenin, and contemporaries — Sergei Gloviuk, Pyotr Koshel, Valery Lipnevich, Yuri Shcherbakov... And in recent years we have made great friends with the writers of Bashkortostan. There are also their poems in the almanac..”

“Boris Pasternak has a poem The Definition of Poetry, written in 1917... Here is the first stanza: ‘This is a steeply poured whistle, / This is the clicking of crushed ice. / This is the night chilling the leaf, / This is the duel of two nightingales...’ And how would you define poetry?”

“I fully agree with this definition. Poetry is figurative, metaphorical. But not everyone who writes this, unfortunately, understands, and not everyone can adhere to this rule. Often, when reading poems proposed for publication, it is necessary to explain to the author that the relevance of the topic is good,

but the relevance is not yet artistry, which distinguishes a work of art from a simply rhymed truth. Sometimes, when I explain to some authors the quality of their poems, I also use the lines of Nikolai Glazkov as an argument:

They tell me that Windows of TASS
Are more useful than my poems.

The toilet is also helpful.

But this is not poetry.

“Offended...?”

“I try, quoting these lines, to approach them gradually, so as not to offend the author. And Nikolai Glazkov does not offend almost everyone. Sometimes I quote Mikhail Kulchitsky, who died at the front of the Great Patriotic War:

I would forbid by decree of the Council of People's Commissars
Write mediocre poems about the Motherland.”

“Is studying in a poetry seminar at the Higher Literary Courses of the M. Gorky Literary Institute a school of creative skill or inspiration lessons for you..? And is it still possible to teach poetic skill?”

“Studying at those courses for me was a good school for both poetic skill and literary criticism. I was only twenty-five years old and I wanted to study. And I already had the experience of literary seminars, where everything they think about your poems is said without fear of offending. And you listen to everyone and try to understand and accept everyone. But for yourself, select from all the comments and praises only those that will help you move forward to mastery. Only a talented person can be taught poetic skill, and a graphomaniac, no matter how much you teach, he will write as best he can. What is inspiration? For me, inspiration is a great desire to write. And if you don't feel like it, you can force yourself, but what is

written will be written without a soul, without love. This will become obvious later not only to you, but also to those who read your work.”

“Poetry has to be clear, or is its great power in indirect allusions and references, akin to those works that were created by Chinese creators from a group called Mist Poets?”

“Poetry, in my opinion, does not have to be clear or vague. Poetry must be Poetry. Sometimes it is very difficult to explain why one or another poem is Poetry and another is not Poetry. It's like Love. It is there, or it is not. Poetry is the oxygen that the soul of the reader breathes. And if there is Poetry in the poem, the reader's soul gets drunk, and if there is no Poetry, the reader's soul suffocates, and he closes the book, no matter what famous name is on its cover.”

“What, in your opinion, is the strength of such Belarusian and Russian poets as Arkady Kuleshov and Aleksandr Tvardovsky, Yakub Kolas and Mikhail Isakovsky, Pimen Panchenko and Yuri Kuznetsov, Rygor Baradulin and Robert Rozhdestvensky..?”

“Their strength is that they are poets. Real Poets. And the power of their works is in truth, which is not just truth, but one embodied in a work of art. And these Poets were the voice and honour of their people.”

“As the editor-in-chief of the publishing house and the editor-in-chief of the Polymya magazine, you devote a lot of time to working with creative youth, novice authors... Are there fewer poets today than in the past?”

“There have always been many poets. They are like the sea that waves against the shore. And in every generation of people there were, are and will be poets. In one generation, almost all of them are active and strive to be published, and it also happens that only a few want to convey their feelings to readers. Now the sea of poets has quieted down, hidden, but I am sure that behind this modern small wave there will be a big wave, a real one. And even, perhaps, the ninth wave, which will swoop down on readers and fill their souls with living poetry, which will help them enjoy life even more and live to the fullest for their homeland.”

“And what in contemporary poetry appeals to you the most? Is it different from poetry, for example, of the 1980s?..”

“I am attracted by unexpected imagery and disclosure of topics. Now many people write vers libre, sometimes not understanding what vers libre is. This is both bad and good, since the poet, thanks to his ignorance, can discover something new in versification. Poetry does not stand still. It develops, like everything else in the world. And now the level of poetic skill of novice authors is much higher than it was forty years ago. It is a pity that now many young poets do not want to have teachers among famous writers. It is a pity that there are few literary associations with small, regional, regional newspapers, with Centres of Culture. If we look for talents in poetry as well — believe me, society, culture, what can we say about literature itself, will only benefit from this. Real words, real poems are the best educators of morality. They help the spiritual maturation of society. But Poetry lives and develops, and it was, is and will always be.”

“From my Soviet years as a reader, I remember with what interest I read Yevtushenko's Bratskaya Hydroelectric Power Station in Yunost... And now I remember individual poems from Shklyarevsky's Unnamed Force... Are there any poem events that appear today?”

“They may appear, and of course, they appear, but we do not see them, and if we do, we are silent that they are. All of us who write want to write something similar ourselves, but not everyone succeeds. And the critics are silent. And the critics themselves are not the same as they used to be. They now understand that it is difficult to remain in the history of literature with criticism, and therefore they try to write prose themselves. In the second half of the 20th century, there was a critic Grigory Berezkin in Belarus. He was a real trendsetter in the poetic process... It was believed that if Berezkin drew attention to someone, honoured an author, sometimes a young one, with a review, then this was a phenomenon... And Berezkin's books about poetry and poets were published not only in Belarus, but also translated into Russian, published in the Moscow Soviet Writer..”

“In previous decades, it happened that there were separate issues of magazines and newspapers devoted exclusively to poetry. Annual collections with understandable titles Poetry, Day of Poetry were published... Are such publishing exploits possible today?”

“I was first published in the Belarusian almanac Day of Poetry in 1980. And this was a treat for me. In the almanac, I was the youngest. I was twenty years old. And I was proud that I was published in the same book with people's poets, whom I had recently studied at school. And then every year it was published, and even the last three almanacs in the early nineties came out compiled with my assistance. In our time, when there is no longer that long-standing popularity of poetry, publishing such an almanac is a risky business for a publisher. But many books of poetry by some poets are still in good demand, and therefore you can try to resume the publication of the almanac Day of Poetry.”

“And if the socio-political media spoke to the reader in the language of poetry, would the world become kinder and gentler?”

“I saw the times when almost all the republican newspapers of Belarus published poems, there were literary pages where you could read the works of young writers who went to meetings of literary associations with these publications. Each edition had a literary consultant, who was engaged in work with creative youth. And I think that even now, if there were literary associations operating under the editorial offices of republican newspapers, then the newspapers would not only find and support talented youth, but would also have like-minded people and propagandists of their publications in the face of this youth. In a word, newspapers that sometimes give their pages to good poems about the Motherland, about love, about nature, do not lose anything, but acquire poetic notes in their media voice that enrich not only the mind, but also the soul of the modern reader who wants to understand everything. what is happening in his country and around the world.”

Interview by Ales Karlyukevich

ЖАНЧЫНА З БУНТАРСКОЙ ДУШОЙ

Вершы Цёткі ўпершыню перакладзены
на кітайскую мову

有着革命
灵魂的女
诗人——
乔特卡的
作品首次
被翻译成
中文



阿莱扎·帕什克维奇 (1876-1916) 是白罗斯现代文学的先驱之一。她的作品和库帕拉、柯拉斯、霍雷茨基和鲍格达诺维奇的作品一样，都是经典著作。这位女诗人的笔名有乔特卡、阿内尔卡、马泰·克拉皮夫卡、来自波洛茨克的加夫里拉和季姆恰索维。她的寿命不到四十岁，著作也不多，但她在白罗斯文学史上和20世纪白罗斯民族运动史上占有重要地位。

在谈论阿莱扎·帕什克维奇时，我们想强调使用女性形容词——女诗人、女社会活动家、女政论家、女革命者、慈悲修女、女教师 and 女演员。此外，她最著名的笔名‘乔特卡’（白罗斯语直译为‘姨妈’）促使我们思考她对自己在白罗斯民族复兴事业中的独特价值的理解。“女儿、姐妹或母亲……她可以选择任何笔名，因为她是她出生的土地上忠诚的女儿，是所有在困难时期等待帮助的人的牺牲姐妹，她也是现代白罗斯语言之母。但她称自己为‘乔特卡’，以便对共同祖国的每一个儿子更亲切”，这就是献给阿莱扎·帕什科维奇的电视节目《边缘笔记》中诗意地解释了她的笔名选择。这个笔名是在《白罗斯儿童第一读物》中首次使用的，女作家主要在最后几年的创作活动中使用了这个笔名。

乔特卡在《白罗斯风笛》作者弗朗齐斯卡·巴古舍维奇的影响下于1902年开始写作。她的诗《男人》发表在《自由》杂志上。后来，1906年，她在她的第一本诗集《白罗斯小提琴》的序言中写道：“感谢您，马泰·布拉乔克（弗朗齐斯卡·巴古舍维奇的笔名）！荣耀归于您的言语！而您，‘风笛’继续演奏并给我一个声音。从那时起，我也开始制作乐器。《小提琴》出炉了。”1904年，《圣诞节皮桑卡》和《复活节皮桑卡》中刊登了充满同情朴素农民命运的诗歌：《农民的命运》《农民没有改变》《没有，但将来会有》《白罗斯音乐家》。积极参与1905-1907年革命对乔特卡的创作产生了重大影响。女诗人的经典诗《海》《走向自由》《白罗斯人的信仰》号召白罗斯人民反抗沙皇制度，将革命比喻为难以压制的强大力量。如果说《白罗斯小提琴》诗集主要收录的是呼吁诗，那么乔特卡第二部诗集《走向自由》（1906）则主要歌颂了革命本身及其血腥事件。乔特卡大声而鼓舞人心地揭露了她那个时代的主要思想——争取平等和博爱的革命斗争，她塑造了一个具有积极公民立场和革命意识的抒情英雄。她的诗是革命和鼓动诗歌的真正杰作，这些诗首次印刷了数千册，并在1906年为革命斗争的人们中分发。但对乔特卡来说，革命活动不仅是为了社会弱势工人解放而进行的斗争，而也与祖国的民族解放紧密相连。扬卡·库帕拉在《白罗斯小提琴的作者》一诗

Імя Алаізы Пашкевіч (1876-1916) стаіць у шэрагу пачынальнікаў навейшай беларускай літаратуры. Творы яе, як і творы Я. Купалы, Я. Коласа, М. Гарэцкага, М. Багдановіча, з'яўляюцца хрэстаматыйнымі. Вядомая пад псеўданімамі Цётка, Анелька, Мацей Крапіўка, Гаўрыла з Полацка, Тымчасовы, пражыла менш за сорак гадоў і напісала зусім няшмат, аднак яна па праве займае істотнае месца ў гісторыі беларускай літаратуры і беларускім нацыянальным руху пачатку ХХ стагоддзя. Распавядаючы пра Алаізу Пашкевіч, хочацца падкрэсліць карыстацца фэменетывамі – паэтка, грамадская дзеячка, публіцыстка, рэвалюцыянерка, міласэрная сястра, настаўніца і акторка. Гэта і яе найбольш вядомы псеўданім – Цётка – падштурхоўвае нас паразважаць пра яе разуменне сваёй унікальнай каштоўнасці ў справе беларускага нацыянальнага адраджэння. “Дачка, сястра ці маці... Яна магла абраць любое імя, бо яна была і адданай дачкой краю, дзе нарадзілася, і ахвярай сястрой усім, хто чакаў дапамогі ў складаны час, яна была і маці сучаснаму беларускаму слову. Але назвалася цёткаю, каб быць па-сваёцку з кожным сынам агульнай радзімы”, – так паэтычна тлумачылі выбар Алаізы

Пашкевіч у прысвечанай ёй тэлеперадачы “Запіскі на палях”. Упершыню гэты псеўданім быў ужыты ў “Першым чатанні для дзетак-беларусаў”, і пісьменніца карысталася ім пераважна ў апошнія гады творчай дзейнасці. Цётка пачала пісаць у 1902 г. пад уплывам аўтара “Дудкі беларускай” Францішка Багушэвіча. У часопісе “Свабода” быў змешчаны яе верш “Мужык”. Пазней, у 1906 г., у прадмове да свайго першага зборніка “Скрыпка беларуская” яна адзначала: “Дзякуй табе, Мацей Бурачок (псеўданім Францішка Багушэвіча – В.К.)! Чэсць і слава тваему слову! А ты, “дудка”, грай і мне голас дай. З таго часу пачаў і я майстраваць інструмант. Выйшла з-пад рук “Скрыпка””. У 1904 г. у “Каляднай пісанцы” і “Велікоднай пісанцы” былі надрукаваны прасякнутыя спачуваннем да лёсу простага мужыка вершы: “Мужыцкая доля”, “Мужык не змяніўся”, “Нямаш, але будзе”, “Музыкант беларускі”.

Непасрэдны ўдзел у рэвалюцыі 1905-1907 гг. зрабіў моцнае ўздзеянне на творчасць Цёткі. Хрэстаматыйныя вершы паэтки “Мора”, “Хрэст на свабоду”, “Вера беларуса” заклікалі беларускі народ да барацьбы з царызмам, рэвалюцыя параўноўвалася з магутнай стыхіяй, якую цяжка суняць. Калі ў зборнік “Скрыпка беларуская” ўвайшлі пераважна вершы-заклікі, то ў другім зборніку Цёткі “Хрэст на свабоду” (1906) апяваецца непасрэдна сама рэвалюцыя, яе крывавыя падзеі. Цётка гучна і натхнёна выкрывала галоўную ідэю свайго часу – рэвалюцыйную барацьбу за роўнасць і братэрства, яна стварыла лірычнага героя з актыўнай грамадзянкай пазіцыяй і рэвалюцыйнай свядомасцю. Яе вершы – сапраўдныя шэдэўры рэвалюцыйна-агітацыйнай паэзіі, упершыню яны былі раздрукаваны тысячамі экзэмпляраў і распаўсюджваліся сярод паднятых на рэвалюцыйнае змаганне ў 1906. Але для Цёткі рэвалюцыйная дзейнасць была барацьбой не толькі за сацыяльнае вызваленне абяздоленых працоўных, але цесна лучылася з нацыянальным вызваленнем Бацькаўшчыны. Янка Купала ў вершы “Аўтарцы “Скрыпкі беларускай” так напісаў пра Цётку:

Беларуса й яго жонку
Назваеаш ты людзьмі,
Беларусь, яго старонку,
Славіш песнямі сваймі.

Аж так хочацца, хоць сціха,
Тваёй скрыпцы ўтараваць,—
Піць з таго, што й ты, кяліха,
Аб чым граеш, апяваць.

У больш позні перыяд – у 1908-1914 гг., у творчасці паэтки панавалі матывы смутку, тугі па радзіме, выявіліся засяроджанасць на долі адзінокага чалавека, зварот да фальклорных вобразаў (“3 чужыны”, “Грайка”,

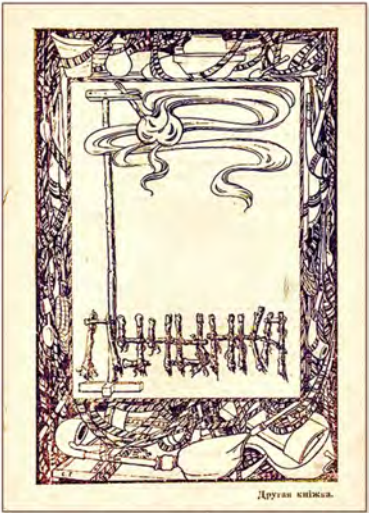
У дарогу

Цераз моры, акіяны
Палячу ў далёкі край,
Бо люблю я ураганы,
Бо я ў буры чую рай,
Бо на дзікіх грывах хвалі
Маім думам лягчэй плыць,
Бо у дзікай, страшнай буры
Я аб песьні магу сьніць,
Бо я толькі на прасторах
Ў звонкай ліры маю слух,
Бо у дзікай, страшнай буры
Крэпне мой свабодны дух.

1906

中这样描写乔特卡：
你的名字叫白俄罗斯人·
人群中跟别人并无差异·
你歌唱亲爱的家乡·
你歌唱一支赞美曲·
心里乐意·就随口回应·
回应迢迢远方的歌声·
恰似畅饮祖国的甘泉·
喝吧·喝吧·畅饮不停！

(谷羽译)



Вокладка часопіса «Лучынка» (1914)

后期——1908-1914年·女诗人的作品中盛行悲伤、思念故乡的主题·关注孤独者的命运·诉诸民间传说形象（《来自异国他乡》、《演奏吧》、《在坟墓上》、《在异国》、《鹰兄弟·赐予翅膀》、《孤女》、《给乡村的妇女们》和《算命》等）。乔特卡也是白罗斯散文的先驱之一。她的短篇小说充满了人文主义、对劳动人民的同情、对不公正的拒绝（《青绿》、《秋天的树叶》和《剩余的》）。她描绘了艰难的乡村生活（《新年信》和《米哈斯卡》）。短篇小说《血色峡谷的誓言》以及她的诗歌也被印成宣言。

女诗人的政论作品揭示了她的公民立场、她为白罗斯人民的民族复兴、白罗斯的未来——年轻人而奋斗的昂扬精神和情感。她呼吁年轻人尊重自己的母语·为公共工作做好准备：“你们·年轻人·肩负着重大责任：

启程

飞越浩瀚大海与汪洋，
我飞向那遥远的地方，
要知道我钟情于风暴·
风暴中能够听到天堂；

抓紧浪涛狂野的马鬃·
我的思想畅游得轻松；
置身野性恐怖的暴风·
我的梦中才会有歌声；

只有祖国辽阔的天地·
竖琴响亮我听觉灵敏；
置身野性恐怖的暴风·
我灵魂自由才更坚韧。

1906
2023 · 5 · 2 谷羽译

进一步发展你们的母语·用知识和文化丰富你们的人民。你们为自己获得了知识·所以与那些通过辛勤工作作为你们赚到一块面包的人分享它。只是不要放弃你们的母语：因为如果忘记自己的母语·就会为你们的人民而死了！”

乔特卡也创作了儿童读物和教科书《给小孩子的礼物宾馆》和《白罗斯儿童初读》。柯拉斯·梅佐尔卡和阿拉贝称乔特卡是第一个《白罗斯语识字课本》的作者。此外·她撰写新闻文章和散文·研究白俄罗斯戏剧史。1914年·在乔特卡的努力下·青年杂志《松明》开始在明斯克出版·她实际上是该杂志的编辑。

乔特卡创作了鲜明而真诚的抒情诗歌、短篇小说、游记·撰写教科书和科普文章·研究民间戏剧和民间传说·进行文学翻译·并积极参与出版白罗斯第一份合法报纸和杂志。她为人民进行自我牺牲活动是时代的需要·而乔特卡的艺术、新闻和书信作品是白罗斯民族文化的宝贵遗产。

在白罗斯与中国的文学关系史上·乔特卡的诗歌第一次用中文朗读。本期刊登了乔特卡的两首诗的译文：《启程》和《鹰兄弟·赐予翅膀》。汉译为俄罗斯、白罗斯文学翻译家、南开大学教授谷羽先生。他翻译的作家有普希金、费特、巴尔蒙特、勃留索夫、茨维塔耶娃、别列列申、伽姆扎托夫、罗日杰斯特文斯基等。此外·谷羽先生还已翻译了白罗斯诗人马克西姆·唐克（100首）、雅库布·柯拉斯、扬卡·库帕拉、马克西姆·波格丹诺维奇、泰特卡、阿纳托利·西斯等。

维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇（韦兰妮）

“На магіле”, “На чужой старонцы”, “Арлы-брацця, дайце скрыдлы”, “Сірацінка”, “Вясковым кабетам”, “Гаданне” і інш.).

Цётка таксама з’яўляецца адной з пачынальніц беларускайпрозы. Яеапавяданніпрасякнутыгуманізмам, спачуваннем да чалавека працы, непрыняццем несправядлівасці (“Зялёнка”, “Асеннія лісты”, “Лішняя” і інш.). Адлюстравала цяжкі вясковы побыт (“Навагодні ліст”, “Міхаська”). Апавяданне “Прысяга над крывавымі разорамі” таксама, як і яе вершы, друкавалася ў якасці пракламацыі.

Публіцыстычная спадчына пісьменніцы выяўляе грамадзянскую пазіцыю аўтара, яе высокі дух і эмоцыі ў змаганні за нацыянальнае адраджэнне беларускага народа, будучыні Беларусі — маладых людзей. Звярталася да моладзі з заклікам шанаваць родную мову, рыхтаваць сябе да грамадскай работы: “На вас — моладзі — ляжыць вялікая павіннасць: развіваць далей родную мову, убагачаць свой народ знаннем і культурай. Вы здабываеце навуку для сябе, дык дзяліцеся ёю з тымі, хто для вас цяжкай працай здабывае кусок хлеба. Толькі не кідайце роднай мовы: бо сапраўды для свайго народа тады вы ўмёрлі!”

Пяру Цёткі належаць кніжкі і падручнікі для дзяцей “Гасцінец для малых дзяцей”, “Першае чытанне для дзетак беларусаў”. Я. Колас, П. Мядзёлка, Л. Арабей называлі Цётку аўтарам першага “Беларускага лемантара”. Пісала публіцыстычныя артыкулы і нарысы, даследаванні па гісторыі беларускага тэатра. Стараннямі Цёткі ў 1914 г. у Мінску пачынае выдавацца часопіс для моладзі «Лучынка», рэдактарам якога яна фактычна з’яўлялася. Цётка стварыла яркія і шчырыя лірычныя вершы, апавяданні, падарожныя нарысы, пісала падручнікі і навукова-папулярныя артыкулы, вывучала народны тэатр і фальклор, займалася перакладам, прымала актыўны ўдзел у выдані першых легальных беларускіх газет і часопісаў. Яе самаахвярная дзейнасць у імя свайго народа была запатрабаваннем часу, і мастацкая, публіцыстычная, эпістальная спадчына Цёткі — вялікі набытак беларускай нацыянальнай культуры.

Упершыню ў гісторыі беларуска-кітайскіх літаратурных стасункаў паэтычныя радкі Цёткі загучалі па-кітайску. У гэтым нумары друкуюцца пераклады трох вершаў Цёткі: “У дарогу”, . Перакладчыкам на кітайскую мову выступіў перакладчык рускай і беларускай літаратуры, прафесар Нанкайскага ўніверсітэта Гу Юй. У яго пераўвасабленні ў Кітаі выдадзены вершы А.Пушкіна, А.Фета, К.Бальмонта, В.Брусава, М.Цвятаевай, Я.Бершына, Р.Гамзатава, Р.Раждзественскага і інш. З беларускіх паэтаў Гу Юй ужо пераклаў Максіма Танка (сто вершаў), Якуба Коласа, Янку Купалу, Максіма Багдановіча, Анатоля Сыса, Міколу Пракаповіча, Навума Гальпяровіча і іншых.

Вераніка Карлюкевіч



AUTUMN MOSAIC OF CRAFT CHEESES

Notes on a tasty topic

Autumn, as you know, is an energetic time of abundance and wealth: the time of accepting the gifts of nature and harvesting. This is also a reason to be grateful to Nature. And, of course, we thank the people who, in one way or another, are professionally involved in growing and harvesting crops so that the prepared, processed gifts of autumn end up on our table. Therefore, culinary, mainly autumn fests in Belarus have long been loved by the public. At gastro festivals, including cheese festivals, we discover new tastes, and everyone there will find something they like.

The beginning of autumn is also a great time for cheesemakers who want to share the fruits of their labours: ripened cheeses. This was the case in Grodno on September 8th-9th, where, according to tradition, the 10th Open Cheese Festival was held. During the anniversary celebration, 90 types of cheese from all over Belarus were presented to a professional tasting commission from the famous Molochny Mir company and a popular vote. Even Minsk residents rushed to get to this festival in order to get acquainted with the newest and best examples of cheese products from the country's leading enterprises. There you can also choose your favourite cheeses in a public tasting, take part in master classes from chefs and have fun at many venues. But this time, cheese gourmets didn't have to go to Grodno, which was celebrating the 895th anniversary of the former royal city during the cheese extravaganza...



As they joke in such cases: we had our own 'wedding'. In Minsk, which turned 956 years old, City Day was also celebrated on September 9th. And there was a cheese festival in the capital, which brought together the best cheesemakers in the country: both large and craft producers. Unique! We'll tell you about it.

FESTIVALS

Gourmet festival with Maksim Yugov

The capital's cheese festival took place in one of the most picturesque places in Minsk — on the territory of the lake complex of the Central Botanical Garden. And over 10 thousand guests attended the fest.

"Last year there were fewer people, and it's nice that we have grown noticeably in terms of the audience," says manager Inna Los. "And this festival is our love. We gather farmers from all over Belarus. They are here nearby, in a large white tent, presenting their amazingly delicious craft cheeses. The festival is very young, it's in its second year..."

Inna invites one of the main organisers of the festival, Maksim Yugov, for a conversation. "This is the same Yugov who was a television and radio presenter," the girl says, "he hosted the Morning of the Capital show on STV for eight years."

Yes, he is a famous person, although Maksim does not consider himself a journalist. He jokes: I am an electrician who graduated from BSU. Alfa Radio listeners knew and loved him. In addition, Maksim is the famous voice of the Minsk Arena. For ten years he was a host at international tournaments in basketball, badminton, hockey... Every fan of the famous Dinamo hockey team is familiar with Maksim's voice. After all, he accompanied the bright victories and unfortunate failures of the 'bisons' at the Minsk Arena. We read on the Internet: "The secret of the showman's popularity, apparently, is the sincerity with which Yugov works with the fans."

By the way, we were also convinced of his sincerity.

While waiting for Maksim, we sit down with a colleague on a bench among the majestic pine trees not far from the tent where, as we later learn, an expert commission meets, tasting cheeses. Behind it rises a tent where a brisk trade in cheeses takes place. Not far from the main tent there are smaller kiosks where they sell cheeses from the Slutsk Cheese Factory and from a manufacturer known under the Savushkin Product brand.

The place is full of people. There is fun everywhere, lively smiling faces, children play on the lawns between the trees, some parents relax in bean bags, fortunately their children are busy. And everywhere there is talk about cheeses, someone has already bought the one they like, someone is rustling the bag, breaking off the coveted piece, and someone is narrating, flaunting the names, talking about the taste of this or that cheese, sipping coffee... We hear the phrase: they say, in Grodno there are fewer people than here, a friend called... We also hear that 'at that festival' Molochny Mir presented a new product: Hubert cheese...

Maksim approaches. Let's get acquainted. He is indeed very sincere and easy to talk to. He talks about the cheese festival



■ Maksim Yugov: "If you are a cheese maker or make something healthy and tasty with your own hands, if you have a small cheese or candle factory, if you keep an apiary or raise rabbits, or maybe you bake the most delicious bread in the world, in general, if you are interested in promoting and selling your products, please contact us! We'll see you next year!"

■ Brisk trade in craft cheeses



and his involvement in it in such a way that one gets the impression that in his new role he rolls around like cheese in butter.

"The festival's history, which revolves around craft cheese, began last year with the support of the Central Botanical Garden," says Maksim. "About 9 thousand people visited it. I think more would have come if there had not been the peak of the June heat then. Therefore, this year we moved it to September. The weather is favourable. In addition, this is an ideal time for cheese makers: farmers have managed to prepare a sufficient amount of products and will be able to show them without haste."

Representatives of our 12 small farms brought their handiwork to the festival, where they make unique cheeses that you won't see anywhere else. Yes, of course, there are small markets around Belarus where farmers go. But before, before our festival, no one had ever brought together such cheesemakers with their wonderful products. Therefore, we try to do everything so that cheese makers are satisfied and are able to display their cheeses in a comfortable environment and even talk about them. However, selling and telling the story at the same time is not easy: there are a lot of people who want to buy what they like and taste the products. The queues, as you can see, are huge. And the cheeses are delicious, each has an exquisite aroma and bright taste. They are made from natural milk, which is not pasteurised, without any additives. And everything is done by hand.

What do I like about the festival? The main thing is that happy people walk here: they are happy, smiling, enjoying the taste of cheeses. And we, the organisers, also get great pleasure from the festive atmosphere."

How did craft cheeses come into Maksim's life? Two years ago he came across a box... He continues with pleasure and emotion, "I opened it and tried the cheese. And I was very surprised,



- Anton Kalenik, world-class chef during a master class
- Cooking cheese is a labor-intensive process. Cheese making demonstration.
- Employees of the Slutsk cheese-making plant are proud of their products
- Photo zone
- Ready for tasting!

By the way, last year they won first prize at the cheese festival."

As cheese gourmet Maksim Yugov admits, he can talk about cheeses endlessly. Perhaps, having learned about this, representatives of the Botanical Garden approached him and offered to organise a cheese festival, "And I couldn't refuse. Last year I hosted a cheese tasting. I can host anything... This is the background of the festival... I understand that everything in life is not accidental. True, if they told me a few years ago that this would become my new business, I would not have believed it. And the roots of personal admiration for craft cheeses come from Italy. This is my favourite country, I have travelled far and wide. I tasted a lot of cheeses there. I also went on a quiet hunt in Piedmont, where truffles were collected... And I myself am from Molodechno."

Maksim notes that the place in the Botanical Garden seems to be specially created for such events, small authentic stories. There is a lake nearby, fresh air, distance from city noise... He expressed kind words to the enterprises that have been supporting the festival for the second year, "This, as you already know, is the Slutsk Cheese-Making Plant and Savushkin Product. They did a miracle, this time they don't just sell cheeses, but also show the history of cheese making. Go to master classes with Anton Kalenik... He conducts them under the

Brest-Litovsk brand. He is a world-class chef, businessman and winner of an international professional competition. By the way, he studied in Italy, he could have stayed there, but he is here, he is with us. And I am proud that such a person conducts master classes today..."

Master class from Anton Kalenik

On the way to the Brest-Litovsk tent, where there is a crowd of gourmets eager to enjoy both the spectacle of cheese cooking



wondering: can they really do this here? It turns out they can! I travel to many countries, go on gastronomic tours, and the gastronomic theme gives me a lot of emotions. And here is craft cheese... I was told that it is made

in Ivatsevichi by a woman who has a small household called Cheese. I went there and met the owner: this is Natalya Prokopenya. I tasted her other cheeses and was delighted...



and the tasting of the hot cheese sauce that is poured over the potatoes (straight from the hands of the Master!), we google and read information about it. What a personality! Anton Kalenik is among the top 200 best chefs in the world and is the first chef in the CIS to join the World Master Chefs Society. This title was awarded to him at the official reception of the World Master Chefs Society at the Fornello restaurant in the Minsk Marriott Hotel. Kalenik is the first and so far only holder of this title. And we understand why Maksim Yugov is proud of this man's participation in the cheese festival. Anton Kalenik is a patriot of his country. This is how he answered fellow journalists in one of his interviews, "I love Belarus, I proudly represent our country at culinary competitions and am happy when our Belarusian flag flutters in the wind. By the way, running a restaurant business here is much easier than in other countries. And our products are excellent. I developed a recipe for croissants based on our flour and butter. The taste is 100 percent identical to the French original. I went with it to a tasting commission in Russia — everyone was put to shame."

As you know, over 400 types of hard and semi-hard cheeses are produced in Belarus. And in large quantities: in terms of equivalent, this is approximately 30 kilograms per person per year, while the average Belarusian eats only seven, the rest is supplied abroad. The country ranks fourth among the world's cheese exporters. How is this product prepared, what affects its taste? Guests of the festival could learn a lot of interesting things by participating in various quizzes, competitions and tastings. As well as directly from the chef: by watching Anton Kalenik perform. Despite the abundance of visitors, we still managed to push closer and photograph him at work.

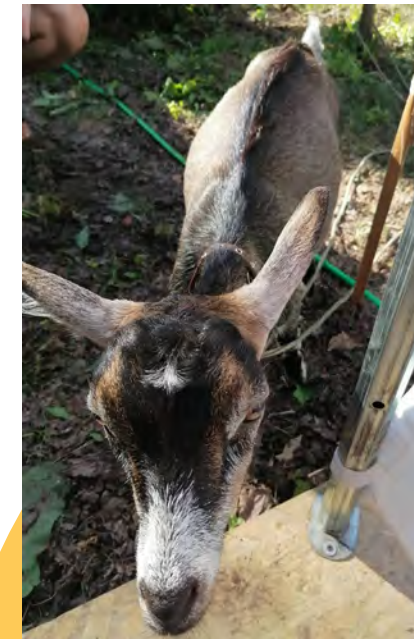
In a snow-white robe, a tall cap, stately, agile, he cannot help but attract attention, first of all, with his positive energy. He manages to answer questions from the crowded audience, looks up, smiles, jokes, and at the same time pours something into the pan, mixes something into the fragrant white brew...

Authoritative experts and pet goat Sarah

Maksim Yugov advises us to look into the tent where the meeting of the expert commission of the Experts' Choice tasting competition is taking place. This is the scientific support of the festival, which cannot be done without, an authoritative jury that will choose the winner.

Here are five processing engineers working at separate tables, representatives of the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry, which is a partner of the festival. They evaluate cheeses 'scientifically', and according to many criteria. Each farmer provided his own cheese, which he is proud of, described it according to 'technical' parameters, submitted it to the commission, which, in the so-called blind format, seeing the description of the cheese, tastes it. But first, Tatyana Shakel, head of the Institute's Food Innovation Centre conducting the process of assessing cheeses by the commission, reads information to the experts: what type of product, what texture, colour and taste, what kind

of milk it is made from... Then Tatyana's assistant shows each of them a piece of cheese on a plate so that they could see what the cheese looks like. Aesthetics is, as we know, an important thing. And then she brings pieces of this cheese to everyone for tasting. They smell the cheese and taste it... And next to the experts on the tables there is water, pieces of apples, pears... After all, you need to overcome the taste of one cheese in order to feel the taste and aftertaste of another after a short time. We admit, the spectacle in



■ A special guest of the festival, the goat Sarah from "Shalenai Gaspadarki" (Stolbtsy district), looking into the tent where the expert commission is tasting craft cheeses, "tells" in her own language that the jury members should pay attention to the products of her owners. Ekaterina Besspalova, head of the dairy product technology department at the Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry, cannot help but smile when she looks at Sarah. Tatyana Shakel, head of the department, also smiles, food innovation center of the Institute and leading the process of assessing cheeses by the commission.

this tent is interesting.



FESTIVALS

The experts' faces are concentrated and serious. You can see how slowly the cheese is chewed, rolled in the mouth, they are immersed in its taste, not forgetting about the aroma... Experts are prohibited from talking over each other.

And yet one voice can still be heard in the tent. It is from a special guest of the festival: a goat named Sarah, who is sniffing the aromas and peering into the tent. Olga and Andrey brought her with them to Minsk from the Shalenyaya Haspadarka farm, which is successfully developing in the Stoltbtsy District. Watching Sarah, we assume: the goat is tired. She does not react to children and is worried. "Maybe she's looking for owners?" we ask her guardian. "No," the owner's assistant smiles, "the goat is tame, and someone needs to be with her. Her dog raised her. So she misses someone: either Olga or the dog. And, by the way, she handles the road very well..." We joke, "Probably, then she prompts the experts to better evaluate her owners' cheese." By the way, the cheese from Shalenyaya Haspadarka took third place.

Then we are talking in the tent where cheeses are sold with Andrey, Sarah's owner. He is a process engineer; his family moved to the village from Minsk in 2019. The farm has 18 goats and a hectare of land. They work using technologies from Holland, Italy, France, and give their cheeses their own names. Andrey tells how at the last festival a young man came up to them, tried the cheese and said: it's not the same as in the Alps. Andrey to him, "Have you seen our water meadows near Neman? Of course, we don't have the Alps: the grass is different... And the milk is nourished by our grass, and the goats breathe different air. And our basements

are made of natural stone: a long time ago a glacier rolled them into our area. And that's why the taste of our cheese is not like in the Alps..." Why is the fram 'shalenyaya' (an inaccurate analogue of this Belarusian word — crazy)? Well, Andrey is either joking or seriously asserting, 'we all are working non-stop there from morning to evening...'

Flying Goat

We move further along the tent. The flow of people does not stop, although it is already afternoon. We welcome Valery, the owner of the Flying Goat farmstead and his assistant, and try the cheeses. We buy one of them and ask them to give a mini-interview for the magazine. We are interested in the name of the farm: why is it the 'flying goat', we ask. This is just an image, Valery answers with a smile, "In our village of Tomashovka, in the Brest District, everything, one way or another, is involved in the space theme. Because cosmonaut Pyotr Klimuk, twice hero of the Soviet Union, comes from our area. If you know, this is the southernmost point of the Brest region, at the junction of Belarus, Ukraine and Poland. There is a cosmonautics museum in Tomashovka at the school. It happens that Pyotr Ilyich Klimuk celebrates his birthdays with us. Two years ago I came with four cosmonauts. Nowhere in Belarus was there a place where 4 cosmonauts were sitting at one at the festive table. That's why we used the word 'flying' (laughs)."

Valery has been making cheese for four years. There are 50 goats on the farm; on Saturdays they go to the All Your Own market: it's next to the famous Minsk Komarovsky market. Although he himself is a veterinarian by training, there are so many worries around the household that sometimes there is not enough time even to treat his own animals: it happens that he invites colleagues. Valery and his wife moved from Minsk to live in the countryside eight years ago.

"To be honest, we

committed a bold act," he admits, "at first it was difficult financially, morally and physically. But several years passed, and I realised that my favourite business and closeness to nature had completely reprogrammed me. It is rural work, hard, endless and even sometimes merciless, that does not give you the opportunity to fall into depression and melancholy. And we don't fall in. Organic products on your table, working with animals that love you, gratitude from satisfied customers — all this reflects the pricelessness of every minute of your life. My wife Ilona is by my side in life. She stayed on the farm at home. And here her friend is helping."

Veska_cheese

Cheese maker Oksana Nasevich and Yuri Bizunov from the village of Novoye Pashkovo, Mogilev Region, are at the festival for the first time. They have been making cheese using Italian technologies for five years. They make cheeses using French, Italian and Danish starter cultures. They keep 70 cows and 15 goats. They also have a cheese shop in Mogilev. Oksana attracts attention with her calm reaction to the flurry of emotions of buyers who need everything at once. Someone asks to urgently cut off soft cheese, someone asks how much cheese balls in a jar cost... The hostess behaves with dignity. Waves of energies of feverishness and vanity, which, figuratively speaking, roll towards sellers and often overwhelm them when trading is going briskly, do not catch Oksana, do not overwhelm her. One can envy her endurance.

It's our turn. Tasting yellow blue cheese. The taste is incredibly refined, sharp and spicy, a little salty. The aroma is creamy, with a hint of nuts and dried herbs. Called: Shropshire Blue or Shropshire Blue. This, says Oksana, is a semi-soft English cheese made from cow's milk with streaks of noble mould. She decided not to change the name. For what? She is pleased to know that today this cheese is made not only at the Long Clawson factories in Leicestershire, Cropwell Bishop and Colston Bassett in Nottinghamshire, but also in Belarus, in the Mogilev Region.

Oksana is from Mogilev, a sociologist by profession, and spent many years in office work. But at some time she realised that she would like to acquire another profession. And she decided to study to become a cheese maker. So that, she says, more people can try cheeses. After all, they are of great benefit. And Shropshire Blue, for example, if consumed regularly, helps reduce the frequency of changes in blood pressure, improves intestinal function, and suppresses the



- Participants of the craft cheese festival happily posed for history
- Oksana Nasevich, winner of the 2023 cheese festival and her Shropshire Blue cheese



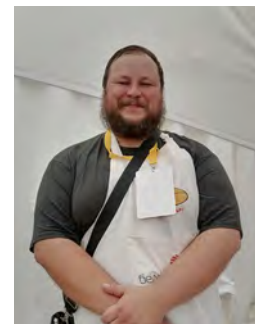
activity of pathogenic microorganisms that have invaded the digestive and respiratory system. So it became the winner at the festival. Oksana, of course, is very happy about this. The expert commission unanimously praised Shropshire Blue.

Maksim Yugov is also happy about the victory. "I," he says, "am eternally grateful to all the craft farmers who took part in the festival. Special respect to the winners! But we also awarded everyone else with diplomas. All are worthy of attention. I leave the festival with a huge feeling of happiness! And with the realisation: how much talent and cheese making there is in Belarus."

Valentina Zhdanovich
Photo by the author



- Olga and Andrey at work ("The Crazy Gaspadarka")
- Vitaly, the owner of the "Flying Goat" (he has an assistant nearby) is sure: "Environmentally friendly products on your table, working with animals that love you, the gratitude of satisfied customers - all this reflects the pricelessness of every minute of your life."
- Anastasia Shandrikova and her husband Alexander from the farm "Hlev and Cheese" took second place in the "People's Vote". The products of this married couple are simply fireworks in the mouth, as buyers say on social networks. There are even cheese candies that are in demand. And, say, segretto - cheese made from mozzarella dough with a creamy filling inside - last year at the cheese festival "Cheese to the World!" took first place as the best cheese in terms of flavor combination. Trout roll has its fans. This is so creative that it cannot be expressed in words. It looks so aesthetically pleasing that you immediately want to buy it for your holiday table.



DO NOT RUSH THE TIME AND EVEN MORE SO DO NOT TRY TO GET AHEAD OF IT



— this is the life principle of Eleonora Kachalovskaya,
who won the Miss Belarus - 2023 contest

24 girls from the regions and the capital competed for the title of "Miss Belarus" in the final of the XIII National Beauty Contest. Some of them have been in modeling for a long time, and some are just starting... Everyone has their own interests and lifestyle, but the goal was the same — to become the main beauty of the country. The intrigue was resolved! Eleonora Kachalovskaya won the coveted crown, the Geely Coolray car and the right to represent Belarus in the Miss World contest. The girl is 23 years old, she graduated from the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts and receives a second higher education as a psychologist at the Pedagogical University, and in parallel works as a manager of a modeling agency at the National Beauty School. It can be said for sure that Eleanor is a charismatic and refined nature who makes high demands on herself. The beauty thinks deeply, does sports, travels around the country with pleasure. Her life motto is "Don't pass by." One day I couldn't get past my future best friend — a homeless puppy named Tiger. Continue good deeds together.

— I want to say to all the girls who strive to achieve a lot in their lives: be yourself and keep your individuality in any situation, — the main beauty confessed after the victory. — Even if you did something wrong, smile and go ahead. Nothing is so confusing as fear and panic. These feelings partly took hold of me, but I tried to overcome the excitement. I am proud of myself and say a big thank you to all the people who surround me. Eleonora Kachalovskaya's life principle is not to rush time and especially not to try to get ahead of it, because it's pointless. She prefers to do everything in a measured and calm manner: — For example, I never run for transport, there is no logic in this. If I'm late, I'd better warn my counterpart, get on another transport, and next time I'll try to get out early. There is a simple proverb that has many meanings: who understood life, he is in no hurry. It is impossible to run over, to step over time. Either you go with him, or you try to break the system of the universe, which is basically impossible.

The main beauty said that she knows how to break down internal barriers, she learned this during university time. It was then that I began to try innovation, to offer a variety of ideas, to get rid of the fears that we generate in our own head:

— Life loves the brave. We ourselves build frames, boundaries, put ourselves there and are in a comfort zone, telling that it doesn't work out any other way and we can't change anything. But thinking needs to be expanded — with books, travel, bold decisions, interesting acquaintances. Each of us is created to live exactly as he dreams!

Other beauties also received well-deserved awards. The first vice-miss was Ksenia Vlasjuk, the title of the second vice-miss went to Milana Yakimovich. "Miss Top Model" — Nadezhda Tolstikova, "Miss photo" — Alina Gerasimenko, "Miss Audience Sympathy" — Marta Mireiko, and "Miss Friendship" — Elizaveta Aldanova.



The main struggle for the elegant crown was primarily in self-improvement: long-term pumping of the skills of the fashion show, choreography classes, master classes in speech production and makeup application. The finalists' busy schedule also included work with a nutritionist, stylist, cosmetologist, make-up artist, charity events, creative meetings with actors and even filming. The audience saw all their skills in the palm of their hand, or rather, on the solemn stage of the Sports Palace!

— Beauty is usually associated with appearance, but Belarusian women, plus, are beautiful from the inside, directly shine with the blessed light of education, wisdom, the desire to harmonize the space, — the singer Serega shared his opinion. — This zest is only in Belarusian women, for which they are famous.

Every year the contest "Miss Belarus" is gaining more and more popularity. For example, in 2022, 570 beauties signed up for auditions. Now they were selected from a much larger number, because the rules have changed: the age limit of girls has increased — up to 27 years, and the permissible height has decreased by 2 cm and should not be lower than 172 cm.

— This year about 850 girls attended the auditions, — Elena Lobach, director of the Directorate of special Projects of the Second National TV Channel, calculated. — The jury evaluated not only external data, but also erudition, was interested in the motivation of participation in the project.

The participants publicly expressed their position on various life issues, shared ideas of unique socially oriented projects that they want to develop. Let's say there is an initiative to create a mobile application to help elderly people. By the way, during the preparation for the final, which lasted about a month, the girls held a marathon of good deeds. We visited, for example, with a charity event in the capital's orphanage No. 5, a boarding house for pensioners and the disabled, helped to equip new recreation areas.

Timofey Overyanov

NOSTALGIC RETURN TO THE PAST

An open-air photo exhibition was organised at the Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery. And it's called Memory of Nemiga.



The exhibition runs in the courtyard of the Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery.

At the opening of this undoubtedly interesting and educational exhibition, representatives of institutions spoke, cooperation with which allowed the gallery administration to display rare archival materials.

Black and white photographic witnesses tell what one of the oldest streets in Minsk looked like at different times. The exhibition Memories of Nemiga was located in the open air in the courtyard of the Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery.



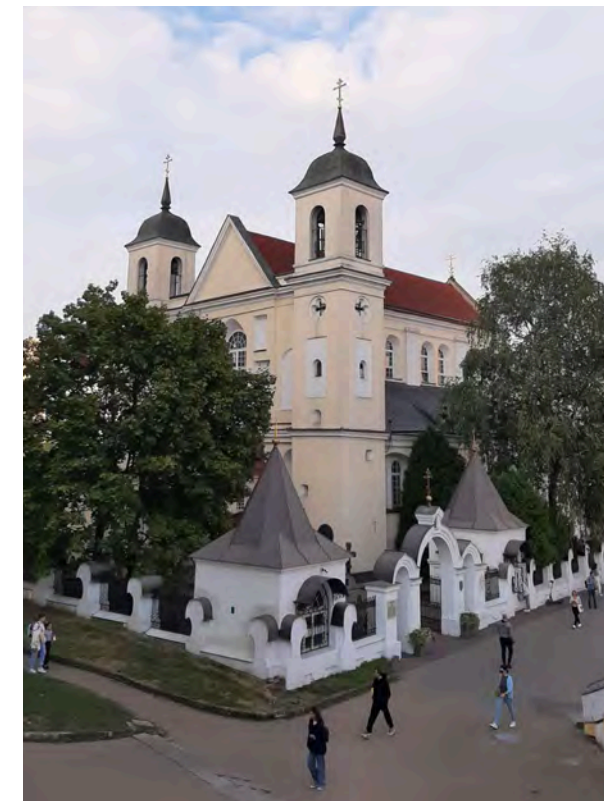


And this exhibition was prepared jointly with the Museum of the History of the City of Minsk, the Belarusian State Archive of Film, Photo and Sound Documents and the Belarusian State Archive of Scientific and Technical Documentation.

The exhibition tells the history of Nemiga — one of the oldest streets in the city. The photographs depict buildings in various architectural styles, places of worship, the process of street transformation, and the beginning of the construction of modern buildings.



Rare photographs of the early 20th century show Nemiga with its low-rise buildings in the Baroque and Classical styles and wooden pavements, as well as the oldest building in Minsk — the Cathedral of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.



Minsk and Nemiga have been inseparable from each other since the first chronicle mention in connection with the battle of March 3rd, 1067. Near Nemiga there was the Minsk Castle, from which Minsk began to grow, and the Lower Market, one of the shopping centres of the ancient city. By the way, the oldest building in Minsk, the Cathedral of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, has survived to this day. Rare photographs from the 1900s to the 1970s are presented to visitors of the exhibition, depicting Nemiga with its low-rise buildings in the Baroque and Classicist

styles and wooden pavements. One of the photos is dedicated to the construction of a deck over a dry river flowing through the centre of the street. The photographs from the 1950s to the 1970s reflect the last decades of the life of the old street. The religious buildings that were located on Nemiga deserve special attention: the Cathedral of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and the Cold Synagogue. The cathedral has gone through several reconstructions, and the change in its appearance can be seen at the exhibition. The buildings on Shkolnaya Street, which connected



the Upper Town with Nemiga, and one of the oldest stone buildings in Minsk — the Cold Synagogue — have been preserved only in photographs.

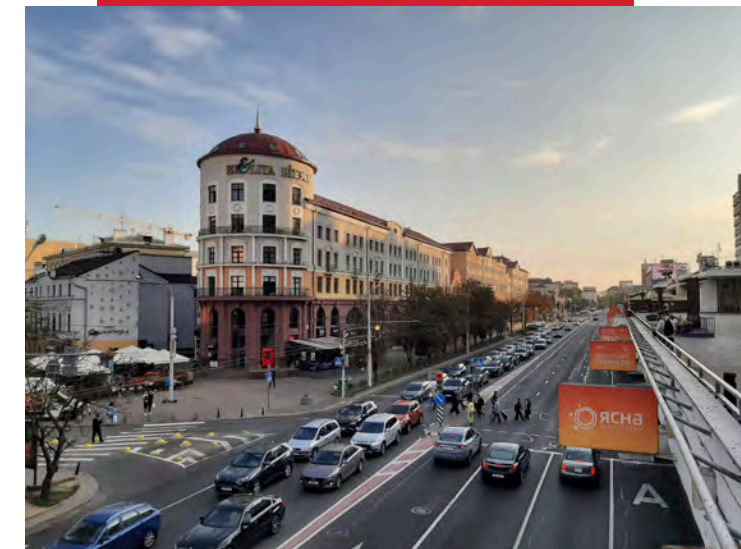
The process of transformation of Nemiga, the beginning of the construction of modern buildings on it — the Belpromproekt Institute and an apartment building with the Shopping Centre on Nemiga — is presented in the form of architectural projects and plans by the architect S. Musinsky.

The chronicle of the construction of the capital's metro and Nemiga station is reflected in photographs by the famous author P. Kostroma.



In photographs from the 1950s to the 1970s, city life of the Soviet period seemed to have stopped on the old street.

Nemina today

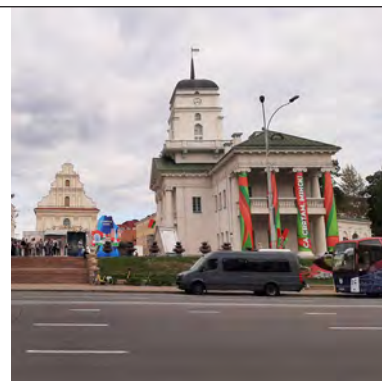
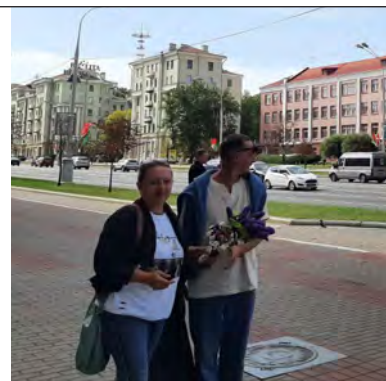


The last transformations of the street in the 2000s, carried out under the project Memory of Nemiga under the leadership of S. Baglasov, completed the development of its odd side of the street.

Despite the fact that modern Nemiga has lost its original appearance, it has by no means lost the power of its attraction and still remains one of the noisiest and hectic streets where large flows of citizens intersect.

Veniamin Yevseyev

THE CITY IS ANCIENT



AND YOUNG AT THE SAME TIME



In September, Minsk traditionally celebrates its date of birth. Today it is no less than 956 years old.



The large-scale programme of the holiday this year was Heart of Belarus — MyNativeMinsk. Numerous festive events were dedicated to this event. Official with the laying of flowers at the symbolic monuments of the city. The winners of the Minsk Resident of the Year competition were presented with awards. Young people were invited to participate in the Young Minsk quest. Fairs and sports competitions attracted everyone to participate. As always, a notable event was the Minsk Half Marathon, which traditionally takes place in the Belarusian capital on the second day of the City Day celebrations. Festive events usually cover all areas of the capital. The historical festival Ancient Minsk was organised near Pobediteley Avenue, during which an equestrian knightly tournament took place, and various reconstructions of events from the past were presented. The Republican Festival of National Cultures took place in the Upper Town. Guests of the festival were able to get acquainted with the creativity, traditions and cuisine of different peoples of the world. The festive events traditionally ended with fireworks. This year it took part in the Starostinskaya Sloboda park on the banks of the Svisloch River, not far from the Yubileiny and Belarus hotels.

Discover the city in a new way

However, in this publication we will focus on how the diverse life of Minsk was reflected in works of fine art at different times, and we will see what the mood of this city was. And we will feel this through exhibitions. For example, in the Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery, the exhibition that we will visit was called Minsk Mood. The exhibition was organised by the Museum of the History of the City of Minsk together with the Belarusian Union of Artists. The exhibition presented more than 60 works of painting and graphics in the genres of urban landscape, portrait and thematic painting. Minsk and Minsk residents are depicted on the canvases of folk artists Vashchenko and Poplavsky, as well as such famous authors as Gerus, Tychina, Kudrevich, Basov, Baranovsky, Pasyukevich, Krol and many others. Looking at the landscapes, the visitor will discover the city in a new way: recognise familiar places, streets and buildings, compare them with modern Minsk and form an idea of the city atmosphere of past decades. The main feature of these exhibition works is that they are able to convey the mood of the city. Looking at graphic and pictorial works, you will





feel the warm summer air of a city evening or the breath of January frost at the New Year's skating rink, you will share the joy of meeting students at a summer internship or the loneliness of an elderly Minsk resident watching the city from the window of his apartment. This is how, in particular, they commented on the exhibition compiled at the Museum of the History of the City of Minsk. The works in the exhibition are distinguished by a variety of subjects; the mood of the city changes from painting to painting. On the canvases you can see the silhouettes of the historical centre of Minsk and residential areas of the city, and get acquainted with the post-war architecture of the capital. In some landscapes, the streets of Minsk appear especially festive. The mood is conveyed through the depiction of episodes from the life of the townspeople: dancing on the summer playground, evening ice skating, returning to the city from a trip. A separate section of the exhibition is dedicated to the work of Anatoly Tychyna. The exhibition features his lithographs, linocuts and watercolor sketches of the Belarusian capital of the 1970s and 1980s. This multifaceted artist created the image of Minsk as an ideal phoenix city, reborn from the ruins. By the way, the exhibition included a video zone where you could watch

documentaries about the city.

Amazing diversity of the capital

Such is the attractive image of the capital. It was created, each in their own way, by literally all famous Belarusian artists. And at this exhibition, dozens of paintings and graphics conveyed the collective image of the city — ancient and modern, pre-war and post-war, formal and everyday, a city of squares, avenues and residential areas. The exhibition aimed to show Minsk as multifaceted both in time and in artistic styles, to come closer to understanding the theme of the city in Belarusian fine art, and to identify the range of ideas, motifs and techniques within this theme. In other words, to comprehend and show a certain cross-section of almost urban iconography. The exhibition provided a rare opportunity to see in a single exhibition space the works of Belarusian artists of different generations, artistic traditions and style guidelines, which were created over almost a hundred years and reflected the capital of our state in such different ways. Among those who painted Minsk is the magnificent realist painter, Honoured Artist Boris Arakcheev. The painter's daughter, artist Oksana Arakcheeva, says, "Nature was his first teacher. A boy from a Russian village on the Sit River, running along its banks, collected pebbles. For him they



were colourful. This is how he saw them..."

The boy grew up with a great painter, whose paintings today occupy a worthy place in museums, galleries, and collectors' houses not only in our country, but throughout the world. Moreover, the master trained dozens of students. "Father treated his students as creative individuals," continues Oksana Arakcheeva. "I believed that the main task of a teacher is to arrange a creative atmosphere for the student. The students loved him very much. Many have become good teachers themselves."

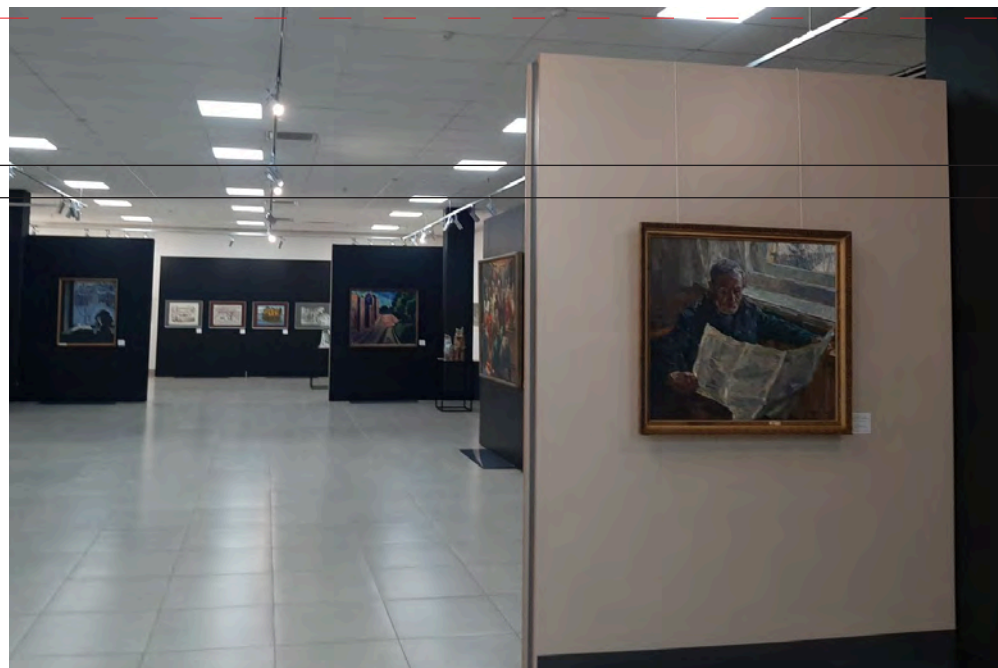
Not being a Belarusian by origin, Arakcheev became one due to his worldview and the love he felt for Belarusian history, culture, and nature. *Berezina*, *Silence*. *Zhirovichi Monastery*, *Lake Svityaz*, *Crossing of Bagration's Army Across the Dnieper Near Old Bykhov* — this is only part of his artistic heritage. Landscape, portrait, still life, military, historical paintings... Arakcheev was artistic in all genres. And, of course, many sketches of Minsk made with extraordinary sincerity. "Once upon a time, my father painted buildings that have long been missing from Svobody Square. As a little girl, I watched the life of the city from the windows of his workshop, and at that time my father was painting a tram ring." Now there is no tram ring in this square and those impressively huge trees. But in the paintings of Boris Arakcheev there lives what was once in the capital and what is interesting to 'read' today. Oksana Arakcheeva herself learned a lot from her father. Today she is not only a painter, but also an expert in book graphics — she designs books for children and school textbooks for primary school students. Oksana is also a fan of urban landscapes. She has her favourite corners of Minsk:

Yanka Kupala Square overlooking the Svisloch River, the embankment, Yubileynaya Square with the Cathedral, the city hall and the old streets of the city. Naturally, time makes its own adjustments to the appearance of the city. And Oksana depicts them in her works. She often compares her works with her father's paintings. She rejoices when she finds something close in spirit. No, she has her own style in creativity, but its philosophy was still invisibly passed on by inheritance. And she values this very much, dedicating many of her creative ideas to her father.

Masterful penetration into the urban image

The exhibition also includes works about Minsk, written by Honoured Artist Vasily Sumarev. To understand the origins of this artist's work, you had to visit his studio. However, this is always desirable when writing about a master. However, in relation to Sumarev it has a special meaning. His workshop is unusual. It was always full of children from the studio that he headed: here they painted, glued, took prints from engravings, wove tapestries on homemade looms... In other words, the spirit of collective creativity reigned here, and it was difficult to imagine the art of Sumarev himself outside this atmosphere of constant invention and sincerity of feelings... But he himself was engaged into art as a child, from the time he remembers himself: he helped his father and brother with carpentry, went to the children's art studio

REFLECTION IN ART



at the railway school, studied at the Minsk Art School and then at the Painting Department of the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute, which he graduated in 1965.

The years of his study coincided with an interesting period in Belarusian art, when a new post-war generation of young artists joined it. It brought into the atmosphere of creative

life the spirit of excitement, the search for life's truth. It was a time when many things were rethought and rediscovered, when each exhibition caused heated debates, which attracted not only students, but also young teachers.

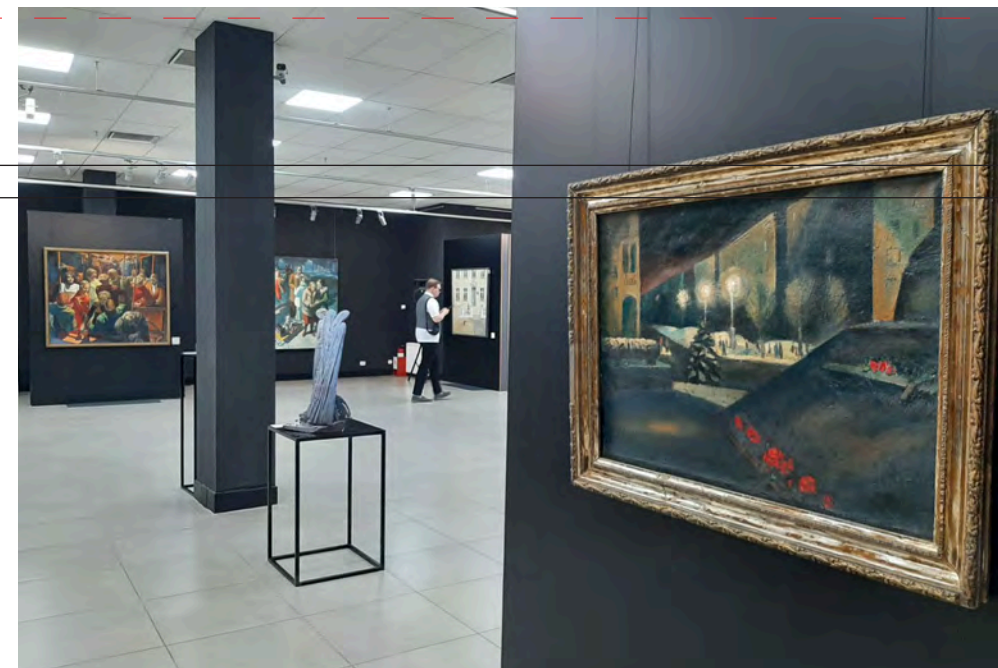
Sumarev was also formed in that environment, acquiring not only mastery of fine arts, but also artistic taste, an outlook on life and art, in which he sought his own points of reference.

He learns from Konchalovsky the fullness of the feeling of life, its materiality, the richness of colours; turned to the experience of Kustodiev and through him came to understand the significance of folk origins in culture, was carried away by the primitivists... And after this came that most important moment in biography when it turned out to be necessary to rethink the conscientiously acquired textbook concepts and the formation of positions began.

With his first works, Sumarev declared himself as a unique artist. His diploma painting *Rafters* was shown at the All-Union Art Show of Art University Graduates. Also in 1966, at the republican exhibition of works by young artists, he showed a whole series of the first independent works brought from a trip to Leningrad and Karelia: *City Landscape*, *Northern Village*, *Quarry*, *Chemical Plant* — the latter was also selected for All-Union Youth Exhibition.

All of the listed works were distinguished by their expressiveness of colour and form. But these qualities were especially evident in *Chemical Plant* — a bleak and somewhat urban picture. The artist conveyed the feeling of the angularity and discomfort of the industrial massif in gradations of cold emerald blue and black and white tones, in contrasting comparisons of planes and volumes, sharp angles of factory buildings and rounded arcades over the surface of the river, in the rhythm of rearing pipes, which seem to be cramped in format of the painting, and they burst it, giving the composition internal tension.

The state of some alienation characteristic of this landscape gradually changes in Sumarev with a sense of lyricism, a personal attitude to what is happening. These qualities are



gradually becoming more inherent in his work.

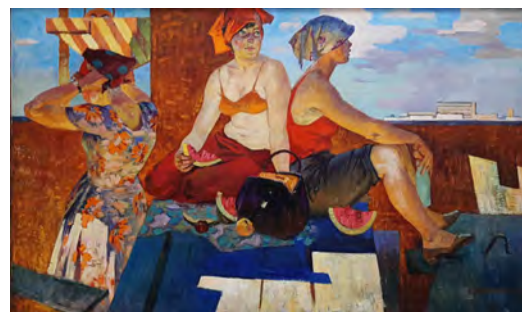
The artist sees his hometown from different angles in the painting *Thermal Power Plant 2*, painted for the 900th anniversary of Minsk. He does not follow the beaten path of head-on contrasting the new with the old, which sometimes became the main thing in landscapes on similar themes. Although its composition consists of combinations of architectural images from different eras. In these images, fragments of real nature are recreated, the same one that is always before the artist's eyes — he sees it from his windows or on the way to the studio, on the way to the city centre. Here a place was found for the house in which Sumarev was born and raised, a story about people, their life concerns. The life of a city suburb is recreated with amazing warmth. But the corners of Minsk are transformed into some new plastic composition, where familiar details, seen from unexpected points of view, from an unexpected angle, intrigue the viewer. All this is slightly reminiscent of old engravings with city perspectives framed by scenes. A keen eye, observation, spontaneity of impressions



from what he saw in life and an increased interest in traditions, in issues of stylistics, rethinking the experience gained at the institute, and the search for his own pictorial style — everything was intertwined in Sumarev's work, determining the diversity of his creative aspirations. Works known from publications may give the impression that the artist has developed in one direction. Actually this is not true. In the early attempts to address the civil theme, timid echoes

of the 'severe style' in the art of the early 60s are felt — the monumentalization of images, the generalization of forms. However, almost at the same time, Sumarev painted a whole series of paintings, where various plastic and genre principles acquired an unexpectedly new and interesting interpretation. The combination of landscape and everyday painting in one composition with many plot scenes becomes the principle of his painting. Sumarev plunges with some pleasure into this 'microworld' of stylized images open to him, showing a predilection for 'miniaturization'. Some of the works done in this way are of a very small format, but the details and figures of people are even more meticulously drawn out in them — each has its own gesture, its own facial expressions, its own character. Thus, the author unfolds a whole series of plot scenes on the square of Sunday Minsk with a round dance of buses, store signs, and a queue at the kiosk. The painting is called *Sunday* (1968) and sparkles with the colors of a festive rainbow, permeated with high spirits and light.

In the second work about Minsk — *Happy Winter in*



Loshitsa — with the same inexhaustible imagination and almost childish impartiality, an image of a celebration of life is created. The very plasticity of colour, its musicality and reverence conveys the feeling of a winter fairy tale, inhabited by cheerful people — boys and girls, who here look almost like ‘tin soldiers’.

Giving all of himself to children and sincerely believing that a little artist lives in each of them, Sumarev involuntarily experienced the charm of their unbiased subject-relaxed drawings, colour extravaganza, and boldness of compositional and plastic constructions. Probably, only professional demands on himself and a sense of humour protected him from deliberate primitivism, into which it would have been easy to fall — after all, even with purely thematic things dedicated to event exhibitions, such as *Physical Education and Sports* or *Always on the Lookout*, he tried to perform in the same half-joking manner.

The same deliberateness is felt in the ‘fire’ colouring of the hot-orange composition *Hot Day. Firefighters Training* with fiery red cars and human figures, locomotive smoke against the backdrop of the Minsk panorama with slogans on houses and a loving couple at the fountain, with a fussy

grandmother driving a goat into the yard. Everything here seems like a toy, almost like a fairy tale. The long and somewhat prosaic title of this painting emphasises its narrative image and the slow pace of thought. The artist, as if from above, slowly watches what is happening.

The perspective construction of Vasily Sumarev’s compositions with an invariably high, seemingly abandoned horizon makes it possible not only to maximise the viewing area and populate it as much as possible, but also to solve the space as a conditional environment. This technique is used especially clearly in the painting *The Day Awakens*. The conventionality of the space is emphasised here by a very elegant, slightly silvery colour, sparkling like a precious metal.

This approach, as already mentioned, is characteristic of Sumarev. In his painting *New Year is Coming*, the Minsk pre-New Year market turns into a colourful kaleidoscope. Fair colour with a predominance of cold colours of crimson, yellow and blue. The fair composition is like a carousel spinning around a huge tree, with lace of branches and flocks of birds. Finally, the fair spirit that dominates the market — all this is noticed by the sharp eye of the



artist, who knows how to not only catch the characteristic details, but also organise them, subordinate them to the logic of the compositional structure of the picture.

For all the ‘verbosity’ of his works, Sumarev remains an interesting and thoughtful interlocutor. The key to this is the trust in the intonation with which he addresses the viewer, while invariably maintaining a distance between the audience and himself without violating that measure of convention, beyond which the art of everyday life turns into a sad repetition of the well-known. That is why with such interest you turn again and again to his works, which have been seen many times and are well known.

Among them, the painting *My House* occupies a special place. It was painted in 1970, was included in many exhibitions and quickly gained popularity. The painting, to a greater extent than other works, reveals the artist’s worldview. It seems to focus one of the main lines of his work, generalises his searches. Critics noted that this work stands in a number of those works where, taking into account modern artistic merits, the traditions of folk pictures and miniatures are transformed. The narrative here consists of many events that seem to occur simultaneously on one stage. It should be added

to the above that, using a similar technique of stylising folk art as an active means of introducing traditions, Sumarev does this not abstractly and not in pursuit of fashion, but as a result of his natural attitude to the origins of ‘naïve’ art. He organically thinks in these categories, and the artist’s personal beginnings are clearly evident in his work. *My House* is really the house in which he was born and raised; it is, in a way, a ‘family photograph’ that depicted relatives and neighbours, memorable episodes, feelings of childhood, adolescence and youth, which add up to a unique panorama of life. It unfolds against the backdrop of the construction of a new city, flying helicopters, electric trains... And in this colourful but intelligent current, a cheerful red house floats through the years, like a fairy-tale ship. It once seemed huge, pierced by the sun. This is how it remained in memories, this is how it is reflected in the picture, filled with a glow of colour, with the windows wide open, where weddings are played, dreams are made, books are read — people live in the house without hiding, a simple, everyday life.

The artist returns to his favourite theme more than once. He wants to take a closer look at what is happening in ‘his’ house. He seems to enlarge and give a close-up view



of one window. This is how the painting *Wedding* appears, made two years after *My House*. The desire to highlight the window with the wedding in an independent composition is very significant. It testifies to the artist's need to move on to portrait characteristics, to talk about the inhabitants of the house in more detail and detail.

People's artists of Belarus Mai Dantsig, Leonid Shchemelev, and Honoured Artist Leonid Dudarenko painted Minsk. Their works also adorn the exhibition. Like the paintings of other authors, for whom the image of the capital of their native country was very close.

Wide avenues and cosy streets

There are central streets, tall and important, with mirrored shop windows, with garlands of lights. But I prefer the ones that are not noisy, I prefer the one-story ones... You can

nostalgically continue the famous song of our fellow countryman Yuri Antonov, but it is these first lines that best represent this exhibition. Here you will see the central streets, as in the paintings of Mikhail Chepik *Bridge over Svisloch* and Abram Krol's *Lenina Square*, graphic sheets of Semyon Gerus *Round Square* and Anatoly Tychina's *Stalina Avenue*. Then you will turn onto Kirova Street, depicted back in 1968 on the canvas of the same name by Sergei Katkov. Follow it to Station Square from the late 50s of the last century, painted by Ivan Dmukhailo. Or you can go to the same Station Square, but from 1967, which will remain in history as a small linocut by Arlen Kashkurevich. And again, let's not forget about the 1990 lithograph by Semyon Gerus *Minsk. Station Square*. As noted above, you can look at Minsk in the 1960s from the windows of Boris Arakcheev's workshop, and many probably will not recognise the Park Highway (now Pobediteley Avenue, and a little earlier — Masherova Avenue), with the Sports Palace still under construction. But for some it will be a discovery that a tram ran along Svobody Square, which left a mark in the work of B. Arakcheev *Tram Ring in the Upper Town*.

Perhaps someone will be left with a sad impression of the destroyed Minsk during the occupation in the 1943 work *Minsk. Ruins* by Nikolai Duchits and the post-war ruins of our city on canvases by Vitaly Tsvirko *Minsk* dated 1944 and *Winter Day. Outskirts of Minsk* dated 1946. And the work of Meer Axelrod dated 1928 depicts the famous two-story red brick house that stood in the Lower Market area, and which was demolished before the war.

However, Minsk is also about people, city residents, who can be seen in the works of Vladimir Stelmashonok *After a Shift at the Factory*, Algerd Malishevsky's *Workers on the Street*, Aleksandr Semiletov's *Steel Worker*, Leonid Shchemelev's *Stranger*, Fyodor Baranovsky's *On a Construction Site, Brigade*.

By the way, the National Art Museum also, on the eve of City Day, presented in the lobby of the main building an exhibition of artistic works *Panoramas. Minsk Holiday*. It shows the capital of Belarus — a city that is ancient and at the same time young. With wide avenues of new buildings, cosy streets of the old city and picturesque suburban areas. A place of attraction and inspiration for people of creative professions, residents of our country and tourists.

A unique picturesque ode to the beauty of Minsk and its surroundings was sung by the classics of Belarusian painting Gavriil Vashchenko, Viktor Versotsky, Mai Dantsig, and many others. It was not by chance that the artists chose a panoramic landscape to depict the capital: it, like no other genre, embodies the multifaceted space of the city with its opposing characteristics.

Veniamin Mikheyev

СВЯТА ЯДНАННЯ

З 2021 года ў Беларусі менавіта 17 верасня адзначаецца Дзень народнага адзінства. Увядзенне гэтай даты ў памятны календар краіны накладвае на прадстаўнікоў творчай інтэлігенцыі, гісторыкаў і літаратуразнаўцаў пэўны сацыяльны і грамадска-палітычны абавязак, адзначыў на адкрыцці круглага стала "Шляхі вялікіх выпрабаванняў", прысвечанага Дню народнага адзінства, старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Алесь Карлюкевіч: "Літаратарамі зроблены заўважныя крокі ў яе асэнсаванні. Мы чытаем вершы на старонках перыядычных выданняў. Гэтая тэма адлюстроўваецца ў калектыўных зборніках."

Круглы стол, які прайшоў у Доме літаратара, сабраў пісьменнікаў, гісторыкаў, мовазнаўцаў, літаратуразнаўцаў. Яго арганізатарамі выступілі Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі, Інстытут гісторыі НАН Беларусі, Інстытут літаратуразнаўства імя Я. Купалы НАН Беларусі.

У сустрэчы прынялі ўдзел таксама кіраўнікі выдавецтваў. Як заўважыў Алесь Карлюкевіч, свята народнага адзінства яшчэ да многага абавязвае, і нашымі айчыннымі кніжнымі выдавецтвамі, нягледзячы на тое, што Дзень народнага адзінства адзначаецца толькі трэці год, ужо зроблена нямала. Прыгожа аформленыя кнігі па гэтай тэматыцы выпусцілі выдавецтвы "Мастацкая літаратура", "Чатыры чвэрці". У "Выдавецкім доме "Звязда" пабачыла свет кніга Уладзіміра Ліхадзедава "17 верасня. Дзень народнага адзінства". Выданне здзейснена ў рамках буйнога праекта "Бацькаўшчына. У пошуках страчанага". У ёй пададзены не толькі рэпрадукцыі старых паштовак, але і іншыя ілюстрацыі, копіі заходнебеларускіх газет, якія выходзілі ў той час. Дзякуючы такой візуалізацыі можна пабачыць,





у якіх няпростых умовах жылі і працавалі людзі, як праходзіў працэс уз'яднання Заходняй Беларусі з БССР, як дату 17 верасня ўспрымалі беларусы, якія атрымалі правы на свабоднае, вольнае жыццё.

— Як толькі ў Беларусі пачалі святкаваць Дзень народнага адзінства, мы адразу падрыхтавалі зборнікі “Адзін народ, адзіная радзіма” і выданне ў серыі “Сто вершаў” – “Мы беларусы” (апошні выйшаў у серыі “Сто вершаў”). І ў адной, і ў другой кнігах была вельмі шырока прадстаўлена літаратура Заходняй Беларусі. Тыраж хутка разышоўся. Гэта гаворыць пра тое, што тэма вельмі важная, актуальная не толькі для пісьменнікаў, навукоўцаў, але, я не сумняваюся, для ўсяго беларускага народа, – заўважыў дырэктар выдавецтва “Мастацкая літаратура” Алесь Бадак.

Наогул тэма яднання вельмі часта ўздымаецца беларускімі пісьменнікамі. Творы паэтаў і прозаікаў Заходняй Беларусі прадстаўлены ў разнастайных зборніках. Напрыклад, можна ўзгадаць серыю “Залатая калекцыя беларускай літаратуры”. Зусім нядаўна выйшаў з друку зборнік “Выбранае” з твораў Максіма Танка, у які ўвайшлі яго вершы, напісаныя яшчэ да ўз'яднання. Дапаўняецца змест кніг, што выпускаюцца для школ. У іх дадаецца інфармацыя пра Дзень народнага адзінства, творы пісьменнікаў, створаныя ў 20 – 30-я гады мінулага стагоддзя як у Заходняй, так і Усходняй Беларусі. Хутка выйдзе перавыданне аўтабіяграфічнай аповесці Янкі Брыля “Сірочы хлеб”, дзе расказваецца, як жылося дзецям пры панах, уздымаецца тэма барацьбы, жадання жыць у свабоднай Беларусі.

Наогул, пры распрацоўцы тэмы народнага адзінства не трэба абмяжоўвацца толькі гістарычным перыядам, звязаным з уз'яднаннем Заходняй Беларусі і БССР, нельга пакідаць без увагі падзеі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, трэба гаварыць і пра савецкі час, і пра гады, калі яна стала незалежнай дзяржавай. Усё гэта пазначана ў выдавецкіх планах.

“Часам уздымаюцца пытанні, ці хацелі беларусы аб'ядноўвацца. Пачытайце вершы Максіма Танка, якія ён

■ **Ігар Капылоў: "Мова – гэта адзін з найважнейшых складнікаў нашай нацыянальнай культуры, патрыятычнага выхавання, паколькі ў ёй адлюстравана і светабачанне, і ментальнасць народа, і сацыяльны вопыт, цэлы комплекс таго, што вызначае нас як нацыю."**

пісаў з-за кратаў. Пачытайце Купалу, Коласа. Ці хацелі яны аб'ядноўвацца? Безумоўна, хацелі”, – сцвярджае Алесь Бадак.

Першая сусветная вайна, падзел Беларусі – усе гэтыя гістарычныя падзеі знаходзілі адлюстраванне ў тагачаснай літаратуры. Але, як заўважыў кандыдат філалагічных навук Анатоль Трафімчык, ва ўсіх кутках Беларусі, і перад усім – на захадзе, пісьменнікамі ўздымалася ідэя народнага адзінства, нацыянальнай кансалідацыі. Гэта тэма з'ядноўвала ўсіх творцаў: тых, хто жыў у БССР, у Заходняй Беларусі і нават апынуўся ў іншых краінах. У думках пра адзіную для народа дзяржаву яны былі, нягледзячы на рознасць у сваіх палітычных поглядах, адзінадушыя. Аднолькава станюча і на захадзе, і на ўсходзе ўспрынялі верасень 1939 года. Даследчык узгадаў адну з літаратурных заканамернасцяў: калі нават інсітная паэзія адгукаецца на пэўныя падзеі, гэта лепшая характарыстыка адносінаў усяго народа, чым калі гэтая тэма раскрываецца толькі ў творчасці класікаў.

З заходнебеларускіх паэтаў найбольш вядома імя Максіма Танка, але даследчыкі звяртаюць увагу і на вялікую колькасць іншых паэтаў, пры гэтым пошукі працягваюцца, бо ў старых падшыўках газет можна пабачыць творы аўтараў, імёны якіх схаваныя за псеўданімамі.

Рабоце па вяртанні імёнаў паэтаў-заходнікаў і папулярызацыі іх творчасці надаецца асабліва ўвага Гродзенскім абласным аддзяленнем Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, у гэтым яго старшыня Людміла Кебіч пераканала ўдзельнікаў круглага стала: “Папярэднікамі мы пачалі цікавіцца ўжо з дня стварэння нашага аддзялення. Мы наведваем мясціны і музеі, звязаныя з творцамі. Пастаянна бываем у Лідзе, дзе знаходзіцца дом-музей Валянціна Таўлая. Вельмі плённа працуе выпускнік Гродзенскага дзяржуніверсітэта, паэт, прозаік Алесь Хітрун. Ён склікае паэтаў, знаёміць моладзь з творчасцю Таўлая. На сустрэчах літаратурнага аб'яднання “Суквецце” мы чытаем свае вершы. Мы вывучаем творчасць папярэднікаў, натхняемся іх твораў, захапляемся мужнасцю, бо многія працягвалі пісаць нават у турмах. Будзем праводзіць конкурсы, прысвечаныя не толькі Купале, Коласу, Багдановічу, але і цудоўным паэтам Заходняй Беларусі, наогул песнярам

айчыны. Нам ёсць на каго раўняцца, кім ганарыцца і каго браць у прыклад”. У Гродне прозвішчамі пісьменнікаў-заходнікаў названы вуліцы, школы. Напрыклад, адна з вуліц носіць імя Міхася Васілька, а недалёка ад абласнога цэнтра ў вёсцы Баброўня, на радзіме паэта, ствараецца яго музей.

Штогод на Гродзеншчыне праводзяцца конкурсы да Дня народнага адзінства, дзеці вучаць вершы, прысвечаныя гэтай падзеі, усё часцей да пісьменнікаў па дапамогу звяртаюцца настаўнікі. Літаральна за пару гадоў гродзенскімі пісьменнікамі напісана столькі вершаў, што можна стварыць асобную кнігу. З ідэяй аб яе выданні Людміла Кебіч звярнулася да ўдзельнікаў круглага стала. Прапанова была не толькі падтрымана, выступоўцы выказаліся за стварэнне падобнага рэспубліканскага праекта.

— Мова – гэта адзін з найважнейшых складнікаў нашай нацыянальнай культуры, патрыятычнага выхавання, паколькі ў ёй адлюстравана і светабачанне, і ментальнасць народа, і сацыяльны вопыт, цэлы комплекс таго, што вызначае нас як нацыю. Калі звярнуцца да нашай гісторыі, менавіта мова служыла тым важным вызначальным фактарам, які садзейнічаў кансалідацыі нашага народа, фарміраванню нацыі, – заўважыў дырэктар Інстытута мовазнаўства імя Якуба Коласа Ігар Капылоў. Безумоўна, праца мовазнаўцаў у наш час набывае асаблівае значэнне.

Як расказаў Ігар Лявонавіч, асобныя артыкулы вучоныя прысвяцілі даследаванням мовы Максіма Танка, Янкі Брыля, іншых пісьменнікаў. Нядаўна пабачыла свет



■ Арганізатарамі круглага стала выступілі Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі, Інстытут гісторыі НАН Беларусі, Інстытут літаратуразнаўства імя Я. Купалы НАН Беларусі

кніга, прысвечаная архіўнай спадчыне Браніслава Тарашкевіча, дзеяча Заходняй Беларусі, аўтара першай беларускай граматыкі. У ёй даследчыкі падалі і новыя архіўныя матэрыялы, якія раней не друкаваліся. Вучоныя працуюць над унікальным праектам “Падрыхтоўка корпусу тэкстаў перыяду 1918–1941 гадоў”, у рамках якога вывучаецца мова мастацкай літаратуры і тэксты перыядычных выданняў, якія выходзілі на тэрыторыі Заходняй Беларусі. Гэтыя звесткі доўгі час былі недаступнымі, малавядомымі ці наогул незнаёмыя даследчыкам. Цікава прасачыць, як развівалася мова ў іншых сацыяльна-палітычных, культурных умовах. Яна значна адрознівалася ад той, якая была ў БССР. Сёння ўжо тэксты 1918–1941 гадоў аблічбаваныя, пасля апрацоўкі яны будуць уключаны ў Тлумачальны слоўнік. Словы, якія ўвойдуць ў яго новае выданне, будуць ілюстраваны прыкладамі з той факталагічнай базы, што сабралі вучоныя.

Дзякуючы мовазнаўцам выйшла ўнікальная кніга “Вайна – трагедыя і памяць народа”. Яна пабудавана на тэкстах-успамінах, якія даследчыкі запісалі падчас экспедыцый у розныя раёны Беларусі. Аналагічныя тэксты сабраныя і па тэме ўз'яднання. Яны знаходзяцца ў фундаментальнай базе дыялектолагаў і вартыя таго, каб быць апрацаванымі і апублікаванымі, бо захоўваюць унікальныя даныя па гісторыі нашай краіны.

Ганна Трошына
Фота Лізы Голад

Падчас Маскоўскай міжнароднай кніжнай выстаўкі і напярэдадні Дня беларускага пісьменства прайшоў круглы стол "Роля кнігі ў жыцці грамадства. Мінулае і сучаснасць". Прадстаўнікі Міністэрства інфармацыі, Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Беларусі, выдаўцы, пісьменнікі разам з калегамі з Расіі і Казахстана абмеркавалі пытанні, якія падкідвае час. Як выкарыстоўваць сучасныя тэхналогіі, але не стаць ад іх залежнымі? Чаму ўзнікла канкурэнцыя паміж кнігай друкаванай і інтэрнэт-прадукцыяй? Як за тэхналагічнымі навінкамі не ўпусціць змест? Як данесці да чытача тое, што з'яўляецца важным, спрыяе асвеце і выхаванню?

— Сёння нашу працу можна акрэсліць словамі "Як прадаць дабро?" — узняў праблему генеральны дырэктар Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Беларусі Вадзім Гігін. — Але мала гаварыць толькі пра запатрабаванасці і папулярнасць кнігі ў сябе. Не менш важна тое, як беларуская і руская літаратуры прадстаўлены ў свеце, дзе нас спрабуюць адмяніць, выкінуць з бібліятэк, вучэбнай праграмы, штучна палітызаваць класікаў нашай літаратуры. Мы гэтаму супрацьстаім і, канешне, разумеем, што веліч Дастаеўскага, Пушкіна, Купалы, Коласа ўсё роўна застаецца, проста пройдзе час, сядзе ўвесь бруд. Але мы не можам проста сядзець і назіраць за гэтым. Мы помнім, як больш за сто гадоў таму вірлівы рэвалюцыйны

час парадзіў хвалю літаратуры і мастацтва. Цяпер мы гаворым пра вялікія геапалітычныя, эканамічныя, унутрыпалітычныя змены на планеце. Безумоўна, гэта павінна быць адлюстравана на старонках нашых твораў.

Удзельнікі круглага стала імкнуліся не толькі акрэсліць няпростыя задачы, якія стаяць перад сучаснымі творцамі, але і вызначыць, якую ролю літаратура адыгрывае ў грамадстве. Галоўнае, як заўважыў старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Алесь Карлюкевіч, сёння майстры мастацкага слова павінны адстойваць тую кнігу, што выходзіць патрыёта: "Па іншаму нельга. Відаць, нешта ўжо было упущана, калі сёння адбываюцца трагічныя і драматычныя падзеі".

Як заўважыў намеснік міністра інфармацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь Ігар Бузоўскі, важна вырашыць, якой павінна быць кніга. Ці зменіцца яна ў параўнанні з тым, якой была 100 ці

асэнсоўваецца Вялікая Айчынная вайна, эпохі Хрушчоў і Брэжнева. Не апісаны 90-я гады, жнівень 2020 года, нядаўняя гісторыя. У літаратараў вялікае поле дзейнасці. Калі навіны чытаць цікавей, чым літаратуру, гэта дрэнна. Трэба стымуляваць пісьменніцкую працу. Гэта задача, у першую чаргу, улады, дзяржавы. Літаратура павінна падавацца як неабходны від правядзення вольнага часу. Важна, каб было разуменне, што свет падзяляецца на тых, хто чытае і не чытае. Першыя вызначаюць лёсы свету, а другія становяцца аб'ектамі злачынстваў, ці, як мінімум, маніпуляцый.

Але ці можна прыспешыць пісьменніка, калі патрабаваць з яго адразу ж ствараць творы пра сучаснасць, ці будзе ў іх глыбіня, якую чакае чытач. Напрыклад, "Вайну і мір" Талстой напісаў амаль праз чвэрць стагоддзя пасля заканчэння падзей, ім апісаных, апошні том "Ціхага дона" Шалахава быў выпушчаны толькі ў 1941 годзе. На гэты аспект звярнуў увагу прэзідэнт, публіцыст, галоўны рэдактар часопісаў "Раман-газета" і "Дзіцячая раман-газета" Юрый Казлоў: "Мы зацікаўлены ў творах, якія разглядаюць сітуацыю, што склалася ў краіне, свеце, правільна адлюстроўваюць

тэмы тэндэнцыі, што адбываюцца ў грамадстве. Пры гэтым мы павінны ўлічваць, што матэрыял, над якім пісьменнікі працуюць сёння, узяты з папярэдніх гадоў. Асэнсаванне ў прэзідэнта ідзе вельмі доўга. Гэты матэрыял структурыруе іх свядомасць. Яны бяруць адтуль характары, грамадскія калізій, сюжэты".

— Роля кнігі ў мінулым была краевугольнай. Гэта быў фундамент адукацыі, навучання, ведаў, ідэалогіі. Мноства кніг стваралі нейкія апоры, на якіх стаяла грамадства. Пасля добрых



кнігі скончыліся і мы маглі бачыць, як да нас прыходзяць іншыя, чужыя і далёкія, — заўважыў член прэзідыума праўлення Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Андрэй Мукавозчык. Калі з-пад ног убіраюць апору, грамадства пачынае гайдацца. І цяпер мы стаім на краі. Роля кнігі — у асэнсаванні часу. Як мы можам пабудаваць будучае, калі не асэнсавалі, неадрэфлексавалі, не напісалі і не прачыталі пра тое, што з намі адбылося ў мінулым? Член Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, лаўрэат прэміі Прэзідэнта "За духоўнае адраджэнне" Вячаслаў Бандарэнка заўважыў, што пошукі героя для сучаснай літаратуры з'яўляюцца складанай праблемай, бо мы доўгі час чулі, што герояў у нас няма і быць не можа, а тыя, хто з'яўляліся, былі фальшывымі, надуманымі. "Цяпер мы вярнуліся да архаічнага зыходнага ўспрымання літаратуры, калі нам патрэбны герой у папярэднім былінным значэнні гэтага слова. Як герой эпасу, як Ахілес, як чалавек ідэальных якасцяў, у якога можам вучыцца, які можа натхняць нас жыццём далей і рабіць нешта добрае. Сапраўды важна чытаць пра чалавека, які ўзвышае, прымушае імкнуцца ўверх, а не прыгінае да зямлі, нагадваючы, што ты слабы, што ўсё навакол дрэнна і ты

з гэтым не справішся". Таму Вячаслаў Бандарэнка пачаў працаваць у жанры дакументальнай біяграфіі і пісаць невялікія нарысы пра герояў вайны. На Маскоўскай кніжнай выставе ён прэзентаваў кнігу "За другі своя", якая складаецца з невялікіх нарысаў пра герояў і подзвігі, здзейсненыя на беларускай зямлі з XVIII па XXI стагоддзі. Ён узняў праблему пра тое, што ўжо вырасла пакаленне, якое можа не ведаць герояў Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, таму сёння трэба нанова расказаць у тым ліку хрэстаматыйныя рэчы. Вячаслаў Бандарэнка выступіў з прапановай аб наладжванні абменаў, каб беларускія пісьменнікі маглі нейкі час пажыць у Расіі, а іх калегі прыехаць у Беларусь, каб пісаць пра тое, што бачылі на ўласныя вочы. Старшыня Федэральнай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі "Беларусы Расіі" Сяргей Кандыбовіч падзякаваў Міністэрству інфармацыі Беларусі за падарунак. Традыцыйна Маскоўскай кніжнай выставе-кірмашы арганізацыі ўручаецца сертыфікат на перадачу кніг беларускіх выдавецтваў. Гэтыя кнігі заўсёды чакаюць, яны паступаюць у рэгіянальныя і мясцовыя культурныя аўтаноміі

беларусаў Расіі, трапляюць у бібліятэкі. Сярод актыву "Беларусаў Расіі" многа творчай, пісьменніцкай інтэлігенцыі. "Патрыятызм — дамінуючая тэма ў нашых культурных арганізацыях. За гэтыя гады сіламі нашага актыва праводзіцца даследчыцкая работа, дакументальная, гістарычная. Выданы знаходзяцца годнае месца ў бібліятэках, перадаюцца ва ўсе вобласці Беларусі для школ і грамадскіх арганізацый. Прычым усё гэта бязвыплатна. Гэта прынцыповая пазіцыя", — адзначыў Сяргей Кандыбовіч і ўгадаў, што летась падчас фестывалю "Славянскі базар" з рук Прэзідэнта Аляксандра Лукашэнкі творчаму калектыву нашых суайчыннікаў за выдавецкі патрыятычны праект уручана прэмія. Адзін з праектаў, над якім цяпер працуе беларуская дыяспара ў Расіі, — выданне вершаў Максіма Багдановіча ў зборніку "Зеленя", якія класік напісаў на рускай мове. Гэтыя вершы перакладзены на беларускую мову, украінскую. А сёння рыхтуецца чарговае выданне, дзе творы беларускага класіка будуць пададзены на крымска-татарскай мове.

Алена Дзядзюля



Святлана Ананьева: «КОЖНАЯ КУЛЬТУРА ГЭТА АКНО Ў СВЕТ»

Апошнім часам зроблена шмат для наладжвання літаратурных сувязяў паміж Беларуссю і Казахстанам.

У Беларусі выдаюцца кнігі казахскіх пісьменнікаў на беларускай і рускай мовах. У прыватнасці, пабачыў свет унікальны альманах «Казахстан-Беларусь». Літаратуразнаўцы і пісьменнікі вядуць сумесныя даследаванні, дзеляцца сваімі напрацоўкамі на канферэнцыях, сімпозіумах, круглых сталах, якія праводзяцца ў нашай краіне. Так, у верасні адразу ў некалькіх круглых сталах узяла ўдзел загадчыца аддзела міжнародных сувязяў Інстытута літаратуры і мастацтва імя М. Ауэзава, член праўлення Саюза пісьменнікаў Казахстана, кандыдат філалагічных навук Святлана Ананьева. Мне давалося пагаварыць з ёй пра тое, як ствараецца агульная культурная прастора, якія тэмы важныя для сучасных пісьменнікаў і як літаратурныя сувязі змяняюць свет. А пачаць нашу размову вырашылі з няпростага пытання аб ролі і будучыні літаратуры.

— Цяпер вядуцца дыскусіі на тэму: ці замяніць электронная кніга папяровую. Я глыбока ўпэўнена, што традыцыйная кніга застанеца. Менавіта папяровая кніга перадае і культурны код нацыі, і ўсе духоўныя багацці, назапашаныя папярэднімі пакаленнямі, якая захоўвае сувязь са скарбонкай народнай мудрасці – фальклорам. Складаючы праграму вучэбнага курса «Гісторыя літаратур СНД» для Казахскага нацыянальнага ўніверсітэта імя аль-Фарабі, я асабліваю ўвагу

надавала пераемнасці літаратуры XX – першай чвэрці XXI стагоддзяў, таму што кожная нацыянальная літаратура схіляецца да незалежнасці, імкнецца захаваць усё лепшае, што ёсць у ёй і развіваць далей закладзеныя традыцыі. Літаратура абаяраецца на дасягнутыя паэтамі, пісьменнікамі, публіцыстамі, драматургамі, перакладчыкамі. Звяртаючыся да творчасці Янкі Купалы, Якуба Коласа, Абая Кунанбаева і Мухтара Ауэзава, мы бачым іх традыцыі ў сучасным літаратурным працэсе.

Зразумець, што мы дасягнулі, а што страцілі, ад чаго адышлі і да чаго прыйшлі, – безумоўна, важна. Імпануе выказванне галоўнага рэдактара выдавецтва «Мастацкая літаратура», частага гасця ў Беларусі і вялікага сябра казахскай літаратуры, расійскага пісьменніка Георгія Прахіна. Падчас правядзення першага сімпозіума літаратараў «Пісьменнік і час» ён заўважыў, што ніхто і ніколі не адмяняў выхаваўчую ролю мастацкай літаратуры. Гэта мы асабліва адчуваем сёння, калі

рушыцца свет, адбываюцца гіганцкія, тыктанічныя зрухі ў палітыцы, грамадстве. Каму, як не майстрам мастацкага слова, трэба гаварыць ва ўвесь голас пра мір, пра здабыткі нацыянальнай літаратуры маладым аўтарам і, канешне, чытачам. Не магу не ўзгадаць і выказванне на адной з прэзентацый у Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы Рэспублікі Казахстан патрыярха казахскай літаратуры Абдзіжаміла Нурпеісава, які не так даўно пайшоў з жыцця, наконт таго, што кожнае дакрананне да кнігі – гэта напаўненне новымі сэнсамі. Глыбока ўпэўнена, што літаратура павінна быць, таму што менавіта яна кансалідуе грамадства.

— Многія пісьменнікі, як беларускія, так і казахскія, былі перакладчыкамі. Ці магчыма прасачыць, як такі від дзейнасці ўплываў на іх творчасць, а, магчыма, і на лёсы?

— Вялікі казахскі паэт, мысліўца, філосаф Абай Кунабаеў, паэт Шакарым Кудайбердыяў, удзельнікі руху Алаш – вядомыя вучоныя, лінгвіст, літаратуразнаўца Ахмет Байтурсынаў, педагог, паэт, вучань Валерыя Брусава Магжан Жумамбаеў і іншыя творцы, засталіся ў гісторыі казахскай літаратуры як і цудоўныя перакладчыкі. Класічныя пераклады твораў Шэкспіра і Талстога, іншых аўтараў на казахскую мову здзейсніў класік казахскай і сусветнай літаратуры Мухтар Ауэзаў.

Наш вядомы пісьменнік Герольд Бельгер пісаў на трох мовах: нямецкай, казахскай і рускай. Дзіцём разам з сям’ёй як этнічны немец ён быў дэпартаваны ў Казахстан. Скончыў школу ў ауле. Казахскі язык стаў для яго такім жа родным, як нямецкі і рускі. Абдзіжаміл Нурпеісаў далучыў яго да галіны мастацкага перакладу. Герольд Карлавіч пачаў перакладаць апавяданні, раманы, а пасля сам стаў цудоўным пісьменнікам, тэарэтыкам літаратуры ў галіне мастацкага перакладу.

— Заўважаю, што перакладной літаратуры з Усходу пакуль мала. Ці ёсць адной з прычын таго дэфіцыт перакладчыкаў?

— Сапраўды, перакладчыкаў не хапае. У Савецкім Саюзе яны рыхтаваліся на дзяржаўным узроўні. У нас пры Саюзе пісьменнікаў была секцыя мастацкага перакладу, якую ўзначальваў Мурат Ауэзаў. Сёння яе, на жаль, у Казахстане, няма. Але функцыянуе Савет па рускай літаратуры і мастацкім перакладзе, створаны Саюз перакладчыкаў, які ўзначальвае паэт, былы галоўны рэдактар часопіса «Простор» Кайрат Бакбергенаў. Паспяхова функцыянуе Нацыянальнае бюро перакладаў. У рамках рэалізацыі праекта «Культура ў глабальным свеце» Нацыянальным бюро перакладаў перакладзеныя і прэзентаваныя Анталогіі казахскай прозы і паэзіі на шасці мовах ААН, перакладаюцца на казахскую мову лепшыя падручнікі вядомых аўтараў свету. У серыі «Класіка літаратур СНД» выйшаў том «Волшебная свирель. Фольклор и литературные памятники Беларуси», які ўключае беларускія народныя казкі, тэксты XI–XX і мастацкія творы класікаў беларускай літаратуры Янкі Купалы і Якуба Коласа. Кнігі серыі «Класіка літаратур СНД» перададзены ў Нацыянальныя бібліятэкі краін СНД і далёняга замежжа. На жаль, гэта работа пакуль носіць эпизодычны характар. У апошнія гады пайшлі з жыцця людзі, якім падабалася займацца перакладамі, якія ўкладалі ў гэта душу. Напрыклад, Францыска Скарыну на казахскую мову пераклаў наш вядомы паэт-песеннік Шомішбай Сарыеў. Многа на казахскую мову перакладаў Амантай Ахетаў – паэт, пісьменнік, выдавец. Гэта асобы, якім пераклад быў важны і для ўласнай творчасці, і як знаёмства адной літаратуры з другой.

— Што страчвае сучасны чытач, калі не мае доступу да літаратуры Усходу?

— Мы хочам ведаць пра свет як мага болей. Сваім студэнтам, магістрантам, дактарантам гавару пра шматколернасць культур і літаратур. Так важны былі дэкады, прысвечаныя літаратурам іншых краін. Пісьменнік, перакладчык, даследчык, крытык, выдавец, чытач уздымаюцца на новую прыступку, калі чытаюць перакладную літаратуру.

— Кожны народ у сваёй культуры імкнецца перадаць сваё бачанне свету, знайсці адказы на пытанні, як і для чаго жыць. Што цікава, на адны і тыя ж пытанні людзі ў розных краінах могуць адказаць па-рознаму...

— Кожная культура – гэта акно ў свет. Сёння мы імкнёмся, каб казахскую літаратуру перакладзілі на еўрапейскія мовы з арыгінала, а не з ужо зробленых перакладаў на рускую мову. Многія творы на іспанскую, англійскую, кітайскую ды іншыя мовы перакладзіліся непасрэдна з казахскага. Мы лічым, што гэта новы вопыт, які ўзбагаціць нашы краіны, культуры, літаратуры, дазволіць зразумець, як казахскі пісьменнік успрымаў свет, што хацеў сказаць пра сваю Радзіму. Адно з выданняў аддзела міжнародных сувязяў і сусветнай літаратуры Інстытута літаратуры і мастацтва М. А. Ауэзава называецца «Казахстан у маім лёсе». Многія аўтары з розных краін свету захоўваюць памяць аб Казахстане. Напрыклад, Пауло Каэль ўключыў у тэкст рамана «Заір» паданні казахскага народа, раскажаў, як успрыняў стэп, як яго герой уражаны непаўторнымі пейзажамі. Салідна пададзена ў хрэстаматыі і творчасць беларускіх паэтаў і празаікаў.

Важна чуць і чытаць людзей, якія родам з Казахстана, але доўгія гады жывуць за мяжой. Так, Аляксандр Шмідт родам з Семіпалацінскай вобласці, ужо многа гадоў жыве ў Германіі. У паэтычным зборніку «Тут і там», «тут» у яго – гэта Казахстан, а «там» – Германія. Люблю канцэпты радзімы,



перасячэння культур, памежжа. Дарэчы, самыя цікавыя творыцяпер ствараюцца на грані жанра, на мяжы еўрапейскага ўспрымання. Валерый Міхайлаў, які жыве ў Алматы, напісаў «Хроніку Великога джута» аб галадаморы ў Казахстане, а пасля звярнуўся да раманаў-эсэ і напісаў пра Лермантава, Баратынскага, Забалоцкага. Цудоўным вобразам усё звязваецца ў літаратуры, у свеце слова, у філасофіі. Без космаса казахскай літаратуры, гэтак жа як і без космаса беларускай, сусветная літаратура будзе прадстаўлена не ў поўнай меры.

— А як звязаны беларуская і казахская літаратуры?

— У нас многа тэм, перасячэнняў. Письменнікі-франтавікі ваявалі ў Беларусі. Сярод іх – Адзі Шарыпаў. Ён быў міністрам асветы і міністрам замежных спраў Казахскай ССР, шмат гадоў узначальваў наш інстытут. У гады вайны быў камісарам партызанскага атрада на Магілёўшчыне. Адзі Шарыпавіч пісаў, што ў яго дзве радзімы, два крылы – Казахстан і Беларусь. Ён часта прыязджаў у Беларусь. У адной са сваіх лепшых аповесцяў

«Памяць» ён расказвае, як едзе ў Магілёў, на сустрэчу партызан і ў дарозе сустракае маладых людзей, якія хочуць даведацца пра лёс бацькі, што ў гады вайны прапаў без вестак. Канцэнт памяці важны: у жыцці, у творчасці, у лёсах. Вячаслаў Рагойша перакладае вершы Сагінгалі Сеітава – таксама ўдзельніка Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Вызваляў Беларусь Бісенгалі Наурызбаеў. У шпіталі ў Гомелі пасля цяжкага ранення праходзіў курс лячэння пачынальнік жанра дэтэктыву ў казахскай літаратуры Кемель Такаеў, бацька нашага Прэзідэнта. Такія кроўныя сувязі літаратурны працэс. Сувязі нас узбагачаюць. Мы ўдзячны Міколе Мятліцкаму, які ўпершыню пераклаў Абая на беларускую мову. Дзякуючы гэтаму перакладу Абай, па меркаванні старшыні Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Алеся Карлюкевіча, «Ідзе ў шырокую еўрапейскую прастору». Нас звязвае сяброўства з Міхаілам Пазняковым, перакладчыкам рамана-эпапеі Мухтара Ауэзава «Шлях Абая». Письменніцкія

кантакты даюць новае жыццё перакладным творам. Дзякуючы ім Казахстан уваходзіць у творчасць беларускіх аўтараў, а Беларусь – у творчасць казахскіх.

— Мы ведаем, на колькі шырокімі былі пісьменніцкія кантакты ў савецкі час. Новыя рэаліі паўплывалі на сучасную літаратурную дзейнасць?

— Мы шукаем новыя формы. Спрабуем адраджаць справу мастацкага перакладу, вывесці на новы ўзровень. Мы выдалі ў выдавецкім доме «Жыбек жолы» першы літаратурны альманах «Казахстан-Беларусь» і вельмі гэтым ганарымся, у ім шмат новых перакладаў. Практычна гатовы матэрыял для другога альманаха. Будзем спадзявацца, што кожная сустрэча, выступленне на міжнародных канферэнцыях, круглых сталах збліжаюць нашы літаратуры, не даюць забыць адзін пра аднаго.

— Праз літаратуру напэўна могуць актывізавацца сувязі і ў іншых сферах?

— Безумоўна. Напрыклад, у тэатральным мастацтве,

харэаграфіі. Многія беларускія тэатразнаўцы, харэографы, кампазітары з'яўляюцца членамі саветаў па абароне дысертацый у нас у Казахстане. Асабістыя кантакты дазваляюць гаварыць аб адраджэнні агульнага гуманітарнага поля і гуманітарнага супрацоўніцтва. З'яўляюцца новыя перакладныя выданні, анталогіі і альманахі. Варта сказаць пра кніжную серыю Выдавецкага дома «Звязда» «Сугуччасэрцаў». Важную ролю ў справе знаёмства нашых літаратур і культур іграў Інтэрнэт-партал, прысвечаны літаратуры краін СНД, які функцыянаваў на базе выдавецкага дома «Звязда» з 2013 года.

— У пасляваенныя гады многія беларускія пісьменнікі прысвячалі свае творы саюзным рэспублікам. Вы пагадзіцеся, што менавіта пісьменнік на ўзроўні пачуццяў можа перадаць прыгажосць краіны і глыбіню культуры?

— Можна ўзгадаць цалінныя дзённікі, напісаныя па выніках паездак маладых беларускіх пісьменнікаў, паэтаў, публіцыстаў, журналістаў на нашы землі. На жаль, мы крыху забыліся пра такую тэматыку, сышлі ў другую, хаця гэта вельмі цікава, калі пісьменнік піша пра іншую краіну, добра ведае яе гісторыю, культуру, сучасны стан. Хто, як не майстар мастацкага слова, можа расказаць пра гэты свет.

— Якія тэмы падкідае наш час, і пра што павінны гаварыць, але магчыма, пакуль мала пішуць, пісьменнікі Беларусі і Казахстана?

— Для Казахстана гэта тэма аула. Яна актуальная, паколькі працягваецца адток насельніцтва ў вялікія гарады. Калі Леа Кошут перакладаў на нямецкую мову вершы Абая, раіўся з Герольдам

Бекерам, як перадаць сучаснаму нямецкаму чытачу, што такое аул. Гэта не вёска, не маленькі горад, не сяло, не пасёлак. Гэта асаблівы склад душы. У маленькім ауле ўсе адзін пра аднаго ведаюць, дзеці выходзяць у асаблівай атмасферы. Там захоўваюць памяць пра свой род, продкаў на працягу некалькіх пакаленняў. Гэта дазваляе перадаць самае лепшае, што было назапашана і ў фальклору, і ў гісторыі, гонар за сваіх слаўных продкаў, што адстойвалі незалежнасць казахскага стэпу. У нас трохмоўе, моладзь арыентуецца на Захад і Усход, выбірае Еўропу, Кітай, Турцыю. На жаль, адбываецца адток адукаваных людзей за мяжу. Гэта трэба спыніць, і тут узрастае выхаваўчая роля культуры і літаратуры. Мы перакладаем лепшыя падручнікі свету на казахскую мову, каб ужо ў школе і тым больш ва ўніверсітэтах хлопцы і дзяўчаты атрымалі магчымасць чытаць лепшыя работы чалавечай думкі: філосафаў, педагогаў, вучоных. Раскрываем перад маладымі людзьмі гарызонты. Важна, каб яны разумелі, што кожны з іх запатрабаваны на сваёй зямлі.

Актуальных тэм для літаратурнай творчасці шмат. Сярод іх – глабалізацыя. З аднаго боку, яна ўніфікуе народы, з другога – абуджае імкненне захаваць сваю культуру. У нас, у Казахстане, унікальная літаратурная прастора, дзе прысутнічаюць творы прадстаўнікоў розных этнасаў. Семі многіх з іх былі дэпартаваныя сюды, хтосьці ўжо нарадзіўся ў Казахстане. Ствараюцца цудоўныя творы аб ўдзячнасці казахскаму народу.

У нашых народаў многа агульнага ў менталітэце, адкрытасці,

сардэчнасці, жаданні дапамагчы. Безумоўна, тэмамі для новых мастацкіх твораў павінны стаць маральныя і духоўныя каштоўнасці, якія неабходна захаваць, перадаць маладому пакаленню, каб яны ведалі, што такое сяброўства народаў, сяброўства літаратур. У гэтым надзвычай важная роля пісьменніка, грамадскага дзеяча, педагога. Літаратура не толькі захоўвае традыцыі і памяць пра мінулае, але і ўзвышае, заклікае, раскрывае лепшыя чалавечыя пачуцці і якасці.

У Мінску на вуліцы Мухтара Ауэзава знаходзіцца школа імя нашага пісьменніка. Які рэальны ўдзяляе вялікую ўвагу сяброўству школьнікаў дзвюх краін. Вучні з Мінска па запрашэнні ў той час рэктара Усходне-Казахстанскага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта імя С. Аманжолана Бейбута Мамраева пабывалі ў Семее, на радзіме Абая і Мухтара Ауэзава, у Астане і Вусць-Каменагорску. Дзеці пішуць сачыненні па творах Мухтара Ауэзава, ведаюць казахскую літаратуру.

— Інакш, можна сказаць, што літаратура – адзін з інструментаў развіцця сувязяў паміж народамі, абуджэння цікавасці і жадання ўзаемадзейнічаць, сустракацца, ключ да добрасуседства і міру?

— Безумоўна, таму кніжная серыя Выдавецкага дома «Звязда», прысвечаная літаратуры краін СНД, і называецца «Сугуччасэрцаў». Мы шчыра ўдзячныя беларускім пісьменнікам, паэтам, літаратуразнаўцам, выдаўцам, журналістам за супрацоўніцтва, у якім мастацкая літаратура выступае як асаблівы шлях, шлях адзін да аднаго.

Алена Дзядзюля

РЭЛАКС НА БАЛОЦЕ



Ельню – самае вялікае беларускае верхавое балота (19 тысяч гектараў) – нездарма назвалі лёгкімі Еўропы. Адзін гектар сфагнума дае ў 14 – 20 разоў больш кіслароду, чым гектар сасновага лесу. Таму ў гарадскіх жыхароў, што прыежджаюць на балоты, часам можа кружыцца галава. Нядзіўна, што падыхаць адным з самых чыстых ў Еўропе паветрам прыежджае вялікая колькасць гасцей з усёй Беларусі і замежжа. Сярод іх дыпламаты, прадстаўнікі экалагічных арганізацый, вучоныя, журналісты. Хтосьці едзе паназіраць за птушкамі, некага цікавяць незвычайныя прыродныя ландшафты. Ельня прываблівае як тых, хто шукае цішыні, так і аматараў вострых адчуванняў. У апошнія гады запатрабаванымі сталі экскурсіі на балатаступях, калі турыстам трэба прайсці каля шасці кіламетраў па зусім дзікіх мясцінах. Падчас такой экстрэмальнай вандроўкі, аналагаў якой няма ў Беларусі, смельчакі змогуць пабачыць адно з самых маляўнічых азёр, якое згубілася на балоце, – Курганістае. Пасярод яго – вялікая колькасць астравоў розных памераў, на якіх гняздуюцца птушкі, у тым ліку і занесеная ў Чырвоную кнігу Беларусі шызае чайка. Рэспубліканскі ландшафтны заказнік “Ельня” – самы буйны з 13 заказнікаў Віцебскай вобласці. Яго плошча – звыш за 25 тысяч гектараў. Азёрна-балотны комплекс, які размяшчаецца на поўначы Беларусі на тэрыторыі Мёрскага і Шаркаўшчынскага раёнаў, мае міжнароднае значэнне. З 2000 года яму нададзены статус тэрыторыі, важнай для птушак, з 2002-га – Рамсарскіх угоддзяў, з 2005-га – ключавой батанічнай тэрыторыі.



Дзе расце маладзільная ягада?

“У гэтыя магічныя мясціны немагчыма не захацаць. Уявіце: балоту дзевяць тысяч гадоў! Яно старэйшае за піраміды ў Гізе! Час на Ельні цячэ па-іншаму. Вы і не заўважыце, як пройдзе тры гадзіны. Гэта выдатная магчымасць перазагрузіцца, пакінуць усе цяжкія думкі”, – папярэджвае экскурсавод, педагог Мёрскага раённага цэнтра дзяцей і моладзі (трэнер каманд па інтэлектуальных гульнях) Наталля Будзько. Яна вырасла на балоце, таму выдатна ведае ўсе яго сакрэты і паданні, падкажа, як арыентавацца на мясцовасці, што рабіць, каб не ўваліцца ў багну. Мы ідзем з ёй па экалагічнай сцежцы Ельня – Азераўкі. Тут выкладзены самы доўгі і шырокі ў краіне драўляны насціл па верхавым балоце. Яго працягласць 2300 метраў. Экасіжына праходзіць праз розныя мясціны: пераходнае балота, верхавое, градова-мачажынныя комплексы, вядзе да тыповых дзя балот азяроў, у якіх, дарэчы, летам можна купацца. Вада тут незвычайная, мяккая. Яна аздараўлівае скуру лепш за любы спа-салон. Ніякі крэм не дасць такога эфекту, як простае купанне на балотных азёрах.

У час вандроўкі заўважаем, як мяняецца расліннасць. Пераходнае балота аблюбавалі барадаўчатыя бярозы. Няхай іх невялікі ўзрост не ўводзіць падарожнікаў у зман – гэтым дрэўцам не менш гадоў, чым высокім лясным беластвольным прыгажуням. Яны малыя з-за недахопу на балоце мінеральных рэчываў.

Бярозка можа дапамагчы людзям, што ідуць на балота ў ягады. Каб не заблукать, яны вяжуць на яе ствалы яскравыя стужкі. Дарэчы, на Ельні растуць самыя буйныя ў нашай краіне журавіны. Па іх запасах балота займае першае месца ў Беларусі. Штогод тут збіраюць тоны гэтай маладзільнай ягады. Наталля папярэджвае, што сёлета, на жаль, Ельня збіральнікаў журавін так не парадзе, як у папярэднія гады: працяглая засуха ў першай палове лета моцна падсушыла балота, ягады будуць драбнейшыя.

Асаблівасць многіх мясцовых раслін якраз у тым, што яны навучыліся прыстасоўвацца пад розныя ўмовы: як пад доўгае пераўвільгатненне, так і пад недахоп вільгаці. Калі бярозкі падказваюць, што ў месцы, дзе яны растуць, не хапае вады, то хвойкі растуць там, дзе дэфіцыту вільгаці няма. Наталля знаёміць з легендамі пра балотны мірт і верасы, паказвае, дзе палое на насякомых мініяцюрная расянка (падчас падарожжа па драўляным насціле можна пабачыць два яе віды). Жанчына падзялілася, што часта алергікі, якія адпачываюць на балоце, заўважаюць, што тут хвароба ніяк сябе не праяўляе, нават калі





квітнеюць мясцовыя расліны. Чым далей вядзе сцежка, тым часцей сустракаюцца ягаднікі. Можна пачаставацца як журавінамі, так і больш экзатычнай шыкшай (багноўкай, варанікай) – невялікай чорнай ягадкай. Растуць тут і буякі. У народзе іх празвалі дурніцамі. Справа ў тым, што ў людзей, якія збіраюць гэтыя ягады, можа кружыцца галава. Праўда, дурманячыя пары выдзяляе сусед буякаў – багульник. Верхавое балота сілкуецца выключна дажджавой вадой. На Ельні бяруць вытокі пяць рэк. Тут знаходзіцца больш за сотню азёр, якія захапляюць, здзіўляюць сваёй незвычайнай формай, колерамі, раскіданымі сярод вады астраўкамі. Бясспрэчна, Ельня прыгожая ў любы час, але ёсць сезоны, калі колькасць

Прыродны фільтр

Наталля Будзько падказвае, у якіх мясцінах можна саступіць з драўлянага насцілу, каб, напрыклад, сарваць ягадку, басанож пастаяць на мяккім імху ці нават пакачацца на ім. Але без суправаджэння экскурсаводаў гэта рабіць не варта. Ёсць побач са сцежкай і небяспечныя, топкія мясціны. Калі мы дабіраемся да мачажынных комплексаў, Наталля зачэрпвае бурую ваду, п’е яе, прапануе пачаставацца. Яна расказвае, што ў свеце сустракаюцца балоты, у якіх вада кіслейшая за лімонны сок, а на Ельні яна смачная, з лёгкай кіслінкай. Толькі смагу ёй не наталіш з-за недахопу мінеральных рэчываў. Ачышчае ваду сфагнум. Дзякуючы яго ўнікальнай уласцівасці Ельня

стала прыродным рэзервуарам чыстай пітной вады ў 450 мільёнаў кубічных метраў. У перакладзе з лацінскага сфагнум – расліна-губка. У сухім выглядзе ён здольны ўпітваць у 14 – 20 разоў больш вільгаці, чым мае ўласнай вагі. У сваіх ніжніх частках ён акумулюе 75 працэнтаў ападкаў, што выпадаюць на Ельні, і дае магчымасць жыць на балоце іншым раслінам. Дзякуючы яму і людзі могуць перасоўвацца па балоту. Ніцэпадобныя ўтварэнні сфагнума шчыльна прымыкаюць адна да адной і ўтвараюць мяккую падушку. Перасоўвацца па ёй, як правіла, бяспечна, але пры вялікай нагрузцы, калі шмат людзей ступае па адным і тым жа месцы, могуць утварацца разрывы. Таму на балоце трэба заўсёды быць асцярожнымі, хадзіць маленькімі крокамі. Людзі здаўна прыкмецілі асаблівасць здольнасці сфагнума. Яго выкарыстоўвалі як першыя падгузнікі. Народы поўначы ўкрываюць ім сваіх дзяцей. Сфагнум кладуць замест сцелек у абутак. І сёння яго сцеляць паміж бярвёнамі ў час будоўлі. У гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны сфагнум выкарыстоўвалі як перавязачны матэрыял. На Ельні тады хаваліся ад ворагаў мірныя людзі, дзейнічаў партызанскі атрад, у зімовы час нават працаваў аэрадром. Шкада, што расце сфагнум павольна. Яго вярхушкі за год прырастаюць усяго на міліметр. Таму і ўтварэнне торфу, і аднаўленне балот можа займаць сотні гадоў. Па яго таўшчыні можна вызначаць і ўзрост балота. Праколы торфу на Ельні паказалі, што глыбіня залежаў дасягае месцамі больш 10 метраў. Балота не толькі забяспечвае Еўропу кіслародам. Штогод яно “захошчвае” каля дзвюх тон пылу, які сюды трапляе з ападкамі. Таму яго захаванне мае міжнароднае значэнне. Ахоўнай тэрыторыяй Ельня стала толькі ў 1968 годзе. Побач з балотам яшчэ і сёння можна бачыць пакінутыя чалавекам меліярацыйныя каналы, і



Фота з адкрытых крыніц

каб аднавіцца пасля спроб асушэння, зробленых у мінулым стагоддзі, балоту спатрэбіцца яшчэ не адно дзесяцігоддзе. Калі мы праходзім праз градова-мачажынны комплекс, Наталля Будзько звяртае ўвагу на тое, што прыродныя мачажыны ідуць перпендыкулярна прарытым людзьмі каналам. Так балота само сябе лечыць... Санаторый для птушак 3 90 відаў птушак, якіх можна пабачыць на Ельні, каля двух дзясяткаў занесеныя ў Чырвоную кнігу. Тут можна паназіраць, як палююць драпежнікі сокал дзярбнік і шэры саракапут. Ельня стала домам і для самага буйнога ў Еўропе куліка – вялікага кулёна. Пашчасціць таму, хто зможа пабачыць заляцанні гэтай птушкі, калі яна высока ўзлятае, а пасля каменем падае ўніз, пры гэтым выдае гукі, падобныя ці то на піск зайца, ці то на ржанне каня. Добра маскіруецца, зліваецца з дрэвам, на якім сядзіць, звычайны ляляк. Гэтую птушку ў даўнейшыя часы часта заўважалі побач са статкамі хатніх жывёл, таму празвалі “казадоем”. На верхавых балотах робяць гнёзды гогалі. Звычайна гэтая птушка шукае

дуплістыя дрэвы, каб адкласці яйкі. Даследчыкі заўважылі, што часта ў дуплах можна щбачыць дзве кладкі. Вось яно – птушынае сяброўства. Пакуль адна самачка сядзіць на кладцы, другая можа злётаць падсілкавацца. Адным з сімвалаў Ельні стаў Чарнаваллёвы гагач (яго выяву можна пабачыць на эмблеме заказніка). Наўрадці аматарам удасца яе ўбачыць – гэта вельмі рэдкая чырванакітная птушка (у заказніку жывуць толькі дзве пары) гняздо робіць каля кромкі вады. На сушы ёй нязручна, птушка перамяшчаецца паўзком на брусце. Затое яна – выдатны нырэц, можа праводзіць пад вадой каля трох-чатырох хвілін... Ельню празвалі міжнародным аэрапортам для птушак. У час вясенняй і асенняй міграцый тут спыняюцца тысячы гусей і журавоў. Апошнія ляцяць з поўначы Расіі ў далёкі Ізраіль і Эфіопію. На Ельні яны робяць прыпынак, каб набрацца сіл перад самым цяжкім падарожжам – да канцавага пункта, агібаючы абшвыры, яны могуць ляцець каля трох сутак. На Ельні гняздуецца каля пяцідзясяці пар журавоў, таму паназіраць за гэтай

грацыёзнай птушкай тут можна і ў летні час. Маладыя птушкі, якія яшчэ не ўтварылі пар, невялікімі кампаніямі гуляюць па палях. Цікава назіраць за шлюбнымі танцамі птушак, ствараецца адчуванне, што журавы кружацца ў вальсе. Прычым робяць яны гэта не толькі, калі выбіраюць сабе пару, якую ўтвараюць на ўсё жыццё, а штогод. Па восені журавы збіраюцца ў вялікія стаі. На Ельню, якая нагадвае птушыны санаторый і дзе ўжо саспелі журавіны, прыбывае каля 5 тысяч журавоў. Тут яны адпачываюць каля двух тыдняў. Удзень кормяцца на бліжэйшых палях, а на ноч ляцяць на балота. Таму ў жураўліную сталіцу (як празвалі Мёршчыну) восенню стараюцца прыехаць і шматлікія турысты. У верасні тут чакаюць гасцей на традыцыйнае экалагічнае свята “Журавы і журавіны Мёрскага краю”, падчас якога можна будзе не толькі паназіраць за птушынымі стаямі, але і паўдзельнічаць у конкурсах і гульнях, майстар-класах па традыцыйных народных рамёствах, пачаставацца стравамі з журавін.

Алена **Дзядзюля**
Фота **Аўтара**

ТВОРЧЫЯ САКРЭТЫ МАСТАКА

У Дзяржаўным музеі гісторыі беларускай літаратуры прайшла выстава “Літаратурныя партрэты Віктара Барабанцава”



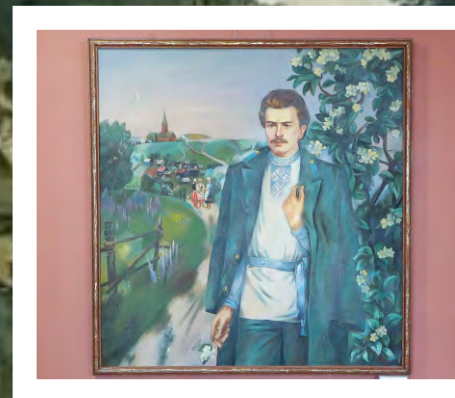
На сёння гэта адзін з нешматлікіх майстроў, які ў сваёй творчасці папулярнае беларускую літаратуру і культуру, стварае партрэты знакамітых ураджэнцаў Беларусі: як папярэднікаў, так і сучаснікаў.

Віктар Кірылавіч Барабанцаў нарадзіўся 28 жніўня 1947 года ў Гомелі. У 1968 годзе скончыў Мінскае мастацкае вучылішча, у 1978-м – Беларускі дзяржаўны тэатральна-мастацкі інстытут. Вучыўся ў М. Р. Залознага, Г. Х. Вашчанкі, У. І. Стэльмашонка. Працуе ў станковым і манументальна-дэкаратыўным жывапісе. Заслужаны дзеяч мастацтваў Рэспублікі Беларусь. Узнагароджаны медалём Францыска Скарыны, нагрудным знакам Міністэрства культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь “За ўклад у развіццё культуры Беларусі”. Адзначаны прэміяй Прэзідэнта “За духоўнае адраджэнне”.

Імя Віктара Барабанцава вядома людзям, якіх цікавіць выяўленчае мастацтва, і ў нашай краіне, і за яе межамі. Ён з’яўляецца адным з вядучых прадстаўнікоў рэалістычнага кірунку ў сучасным беларускім жывапісе.

Творы Віктара Барабанцава знаходзяцца ў Нацыянальным мастацкім музеі, Нацыянальным гістарычным музеі, Нацыянальным цэнтры сучасных мастацтваў, Дзяржаўным музеі гісторыі беларускай літаратуры, Магілёўскім

СКАРБОНКА



абласным мастацкім музеі, Дзяржаўным літаратурным музеі Янкі Купалы, Літаратурным музеі Кузьмы Чорнага, фондах Беларускага саюза мастакоў, у прыватных калекцыях за мяжой Беларусі. На сустрэчы ў музеі Віктар Барабанцаў падзяліўся сваімі сакрэтамі. Ён заўсёды імкнецца больш даведацца пра асоб, чые партрэты стварае. Напрыклад, калі пісаў вобраз Еўфрасііні Полацкай, жыў у манастыры, вывучаў жыццё манахінь. Праз розныя дэталі ён раскрывае характар сваіх герояў, іх жыццё, захапленні. Так, Алеся Бадака творца намалюваў з любімай кошкай, а Яраслава Пархуту з запlechнікам, з якім той любіў выбірацца ў падарожжы. Выстава “Літаратурныя партрэты Віктара Барабанцава” дае магчымасць згадаць, а можа, і адкрыць для сябе імёны выдатных дзеячаў беларускай літаратуры і культуры: Кірылы Тураўскага, Сымона Буднага, Адама Міцкевіча, Вінцэнта Дуніна-Марцінкевіча, Станіслава Манюшкі, Уладзіслава Сыракомлі, Браніслава Эпімах-Шыпілы, Максіма Багдановіча, Аляксея Дударова, Уладзіміра Карызны, Георгія Марчука, Алены Стэльмах, Віктара Кармазава, Віктара Шніпа ды іншых.

Ганна Трошына

АДЗНАЧАНЫ ГАЛОЎНЫ СЕРБІСТ БЕЛАРУСІ



Прэзідэнт Рэспублікі Беларусь Аляксандр ЛУКАШЭНКА адзначыў медалём Францыска Скарыны – вядомага ў Беларусі даследчыка беларуска-сербскіх літаратурных і гуманітарных сувязяў доктара філалагічных навук, прафесара Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта Івана Аляксеевіча ЧАРОТУ.

Нараджэннем з вёскі

Лышчыкі Кобрынскага раёна, што на Берасцейшчыне, славіст, перакладчык, літаратуразнавец, публіцыст, акадэмік Сербскай Акадэміі навук і мастацтваў, чалавек, які ў сваім жыцці здзейсніў нямала творчых адкрыццяў, на працягу многіх гадоў з'яўляецца старшынёю секцыі мастацкага перакладу Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі. Іван Аляксеевіч Чарота зрабіў неймаверна шмат для развіцця сербістыкі ў Беларусі. Вучоны і пісьменнік – часты госць у дружалюбнай да Беларусі Сербіі.

Прафесар пераклаў на беларускую мову многія творы з сербскай, славенскай, македонскай, харвацкай, іншых славянскіх моў. Аўтар каля 800 навуковых публікацый, Іван Аляксеевіч Чарота друкуецца ў Беларусі, Расіі, Сербіі, іншых славянскіх краінах. Навуковы кансультант многіх энцыклапедычных выданняў, ён уваходзіць у склад рэдакцыйных калегій больш за дзесяць перыядычных выданняў. Прафесарам Чаротам здзейснены пераклады больш за 1400 твораў пісьменнікаў Сербіі на беларускую і рускую мову. Многія пераклады Івана Аляксеевіча змешчаны ў штогадовым альманаху “Далягляды”.

Сярод узнагарод перакладчыка і літаратуразнаўца – Прэмія Прэзідэнта Рэспублікі Беларусь “За духоўнае адраджэнне”, Міжнародная прэмія імя Ф. М. Дастаеўскага (Сербія), Міжнародная прэмія Карычаў (Сербія), ордэн Свяціцеля Кірыла Тураўскага (беларуская Праваслаўная Царква) і многія іншыя ўзнагароды.

Падзею каментуе сербская перакладчыца Даяна Лазарэвіч: — Мы ў Белградзе вельмі рады таму, што наш сябра, старэйшы таварыш, настаўнік адзначаны высокай узнагародай. Яго добра ведаюць і нашы пісьменнікі, і нашы чытачы, усе, хто неабаякавы да славянскіх літаратур. Дарэчы, у лютым 2023 года Іван Аляксеевіч атрымаў Павелю Праекта Растко. А ў жніўні 2023-га – Залаты Знак у горадзе Любляна (Славенія). І яшчэ заўважана яго вялікая праца па ўкладанню Анталагіі беларускай дзіцячай літаратуры, якая выдадзена ў Сербіі. Перакладчык і літаратуразнаўца

таксама ўзнагароджаны за гэту працу. Мне, карыстаючыся нагодай, хацелася б сказаць і пра тое, што Іван Аляксеевіч асабіста зрабіў шмат і для мяне. Тыя пераклады з беларускай класікі, якія я ажыццявіла ў апошнія гады, заўсёды рыхтаваліся да друку ў кансультацыях з беларускім прафесарам. Заўсёды развіццё міжнародных літаратурных стасункаў трымаецца на яркіх, самахвальных асобах. Такімі людзьмі ў беларуска-сербскіх сувязях сёння з'яўляюцца: у Беларусі – Іван Чарота, у Сербіі – Даяна Лазарэвіч.

Максім Пясчанскі

СІМВАЛЫ ФЕСТИВАЛЮ

У цэнтры Мінска на сцэне каля ратушы адбылося адкрыццё XIV Рэспубліканскага фестывалю нацыянальных культур. На ім былі прадстаўлены выставачныя экспазіцыі нацыянальна-культурных аб'яднанняў горада Мінска. Удзельнікі свята дзяліліся з гледачамі сваёй творчасцю. Можна было пабачыць нацыянальныя касцюмы, пакаштаваць стравы, паспрабаваць напісаць сваё імя на розных мовах.

З кастрычніка будуць праходзіць абласныя і Мінскі гарадскі адборачныя туры, куды паступаюць заяўкі ад творчых калектываў – прадстаўнікоў розных нацыянальнасцяў, якія пражываюць у Беларусі. Маштабнае заключнае мерапрыемства з яскравым шэсцем і канцэртнай праграмай традыцыйна пройдзе ў Гродне ўжо наступным летам.

Сёлета адборачныя туры і адкрыццё фестывалю прадстаўлены ў рамках Года міру і стваральнай працы. Такое яскравае свята – гэта не толькі цудоўная магчымасць пазнаёміцца з культурай іншых народаў, яно мае вялікае значэнне для захавання міжнацыянальнай згоды і сацыяльнай стабільнасці ў нашай краіне.

МОЛАДЗЬ ДЗЕЛІЦА ІДЭЯМІ

Грамадская арганізацыя “Беларускае таварыства сяброўства і культурнай сувязі з замежнымі краінамі” праводзіць першую навукова-практычную канферэнцыю маладых вучоных па тэме “Супольнасць адзінага лёсу чалавецтва: цывілізацыйныя перспектывы і нацыянальныя інтарэсы”, якая прымеркавана да Дня ўтварэння КНР.

Да ўдзелу ў канферэнцыі разам з маладымі вучонымі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук запрошаны таленавітыя хлопцы і дзяўчаты Белдзяржуніверсітэта, Акадэміі кіравання, БНТУ і БДЭУ. Першы этап конкурсу прайшоў на базе навучальных устаноў, лепшыя работы адабраныя для ўдзелу ў другім этапе. Канферэнцыя-конкурс праводзіцца пры падтрымцы пасольства Кітая ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь. Лепшыя работы, якія адлюстроўваюць ідэі і погляды маладых вучоных, будуць надрукаваныя ў асобным выданні.