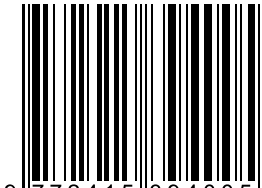


COUNTRY IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

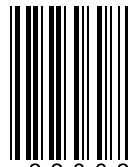


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No. 2 (1061), FEBRUARY, 2022

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WHAT WILL THE CONSTITUTION BE LIKE:

WILL THE EXISTING
CONSTITUTION REMAIN
IN FORCE OR A NEW ONE
ACTUALLY APPEAR?

The answer to this question
will be known shortly after
the nationwide referendum
on **February 27th**.



The popular science illustrated
environmental journal

Rodnaya Pryroda is:

- information about the natural potential of Belarus;
- reflection of the state policy in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources;
- technologies and innovations for solving environmental problems;
- issues of environmental education and upbringing;
- the best photographs of the animal and plant world from professionals and amateurs.

At the exhibition of works by Lazar Khidekel at the
National Art Museum of Belarus



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In recent years, the trend of shifting the planetary centre of gravity of the economy to Asia is obvious. And the leader of this region is undoubtedly China, with which Belarus established diplomatic relations 30 years ago. The PRC is not only strengthening its presence in many sectors of the economy, but also striving to become a technological leader.

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The Innovation Storm is a battle of simple words with complex terms: in an informal setting, entrepreneurs and scientists talk in an accessible way about technologies and innovations that may soon radically change our lives.



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With the advent of frost, the demand for these eco-friendly footwear increases. After all, even luxury boots will not warm your feet the way felt boots do. If you want to buy an exclusive item, and authenticity is of the greatest importance here, you should come to the Dribin District — the capital of shapovalstvo (tradition of making felt boot and hats). Local craftsmen, each with their own secret techniques, have long earned the reputation of being the best in the country. Their skills have become an intangible historical and cultural value of Belarus.

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Impeccable shooting and good speed are the main components of success, thanks to which biathlete Anton Smolski won silver.



90 "We will be understood in 100 years"

These words belong to the author of unique works, the Suprematist architect Lazar Khidekel, who designed, do not be surprised, the cities of the future. By the way, the avant-garde artist, author of the first ecological architectural manifesto and one of the founders of the famous UNOVIS creative association, was born in Vitebsk. In the leap year 1904.



FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES IN THE BROADEST POSSIBLE SENSE



At the very end of January, the President of Belarus delivered his annual Address to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly. Of course, it caused a wide resonance in society. For a variety of reasons.

A

According to the Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic, Natalya Kochanova, this Address is special. Not only because it took place on the eve of the constitutional referendum, and not because in the future such a format can be used for the Head of State's addresses to the Belarusian People's Congress.

Parliamentarians reacted immediately

"The President gave this event a new sound, calling it 'Three questions to the Belarusian people,'" specified the speaker of the upper house of the Parliament. "The first question is whether we, Belarusians, are ready to pay for our own defence, for our own state. The second question is whether we, Belarusians, are ready to pay for such an expensive thing as sovereignty and independence. And the third question is whether we, Belarusians, are ready to be proactive and work for our family, for ourselves? It seems that for true patriots of Belarus the answer to these questions will be absolutely obvious."

On the same day when the President delivered the Address, the seventh extraordinary session of the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the seventh convocation ended in Minsk. Undoubtedly, the central topic for discussion at the session, which is understandable and logical, was the Address of the Head of State to the Belarusian people

Vladimir Andreichenko:

"It is important to organise this work in the format of a dialogue," emphasised the speaker of the Council of the Republic. "You need to know and understand what people think about the problems raised by the Head of State, and what they see as ways to solve them. Feedback will allow achieving the maximum result in the implementation of the President's programme settings. Formalism, indifference and distance in this matter are simply unacceptable."

and Parliament. The Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic, Natalya Kochanova, set the senators the task of bringing the key theses of the Address to the widest possible audience.

"It is important to organise this work in the format of a dialogue," emphasised the speaker of the Council of the Republic. "You need to know and understand what people think about the problems raised by the Head of State, and what they see as ways to solve them. Feedback will allow achieving the maximum result in the implementation of the President's programme settings. Formalism, indifference and distance in this matter are simply unacceptable."

Chairman of the House of Representatives Vladimir Andreichenko expressed confidence that the future of our country lies with the patriots, who have proved their devotion to the country in word and deed. The speaker of the House

of Representatives noted that the Address provides answers to difficult, but vital questions posed by time, "First of all, this is a reliable protection of sovereignty, ensuring the security of Belarus, improving the quality of life of citizens and, of course, strengthening the principles of democracy, improving the architecture of state administration. In this sense, the Address is a policy document that outlines clear tasks for all state bodies, including the Parliament."

The deputies agreed that the Address of the Head of State was the culmination of a broad public dialogue that determines the country's development strategy for the coming decades. Vladimir Andreichenko summed up, "Our first task is to preserve the unity of society, its cohesion around such values that are close to all of us,



such as peace, social justice, the ability to independently create our own future. This is precisely what the draft amendments and additions to the Constitution, submitted to a national referendum, are aimed at."

As Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised in his Address, the vast majority of citizens support the course towards preserving the social state and evolutionary development. However, given the seriousness of the proposed changes, some still had questions. That is why it was necessary to clarify the essence of constitutional innovations so that people make an informed choice at the referendum, clearly understanding that the fate of the country is in their hands. This is perhaps the most important thesis of the Address.



As Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised in his Address, the vast majority of citizens support the course towards preserving the social state and evolutionary development. However, given the seriousness of the proposed changes, some still had questions. That is why it was necessary to clarify the essence of constitutional innovations so that people make an informed choice at the referendum, clearly understanding that the fate of the country is in their hands. This is perhaps the most important thesis of the Address.

A very important economic aspect

Observers note that the President's Address to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly was diverse. The foreign policy situation in the world is not improving; on the contrary, it is only getting worse. And society should clearly feel that now we live in a completely different world (to put it mildly) than before the pandemic. Georgy Grits, Rector of Kadry Industrii (Industry Personnel) Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Managers and Industry Specialists, believes that fair international cooperation in the broadest sense of the word no longer the case, "In global markets, we are no longer talking about tough competition with at least formal observance of the rules: it is fair to talk about trade wars. These are global wars, with a 'zero' result,

when only one manufacturer remains on the market. Let representatives of numerous industries, which are the hallmark of the country in different fields with a weighty list of achievements and victories, not be offended, but in difficult times of a pandemic and a nervous external environment, it was industry that saved the Belarusian economy and social sphere. And it is not for nothing that the President devoted one of the key places in the economic block of the Address to the real sector.

The most reliable partner

According to Georgy Grits, it was thanks to the well-coordinated work of the real sector that very significant indicators were achieved in the economy, even despite the difficulties associated with the pandemic



Kuzlitmash JSC is one of the leading Belarusian machine-tool enterprises

and the aggravated international situation. The industry, according to the expert, made a significant increase in production, export deliveries, was able to largely meet domestic demand, maintain a social benefit package for its employees, “It so happened that during the trying times, it was the industry that turned out to be, perhaps, the most reliable partner of Belarus. And it has been proven in peremptory practice: only our own production is able to ensure national sovereignty and economic stability. In the last two decades, a lot has been said about various variations of the service economy. However, in reality, services (for all their importance in the modern economy) cannot exist on their own, in a vacuum, be self-sufficient, and ensure the rigorous well-being of the nation.”

By and large, Georgy Grits is sure, this was obvious even during the global financial crisis in the late 2000s.

Such a powerful financial hub as Great Britain was then going through a crisis in severe pain, many analysts and experts did not have a good word for Margaret Thatcher, thanks to whose reforms the industrial power of England decreased (one might say, almost disappeared), and the service economy is not always able to feed the country. A number of studies clearly demonstrate: services arise and develop around material assets, goods, and values that are created precisely by the industrial economy, “If you have factories and plants that produce goods, then industrial companies need the following services: for the transportation of products, raw materials, components, logistics, legal, financial, insurance, research, scientific... If we exclude industrial production, then effective demand for a significant number of services will disappear.”

Exhibition of achievements of Belarusian science presented at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus



Science and manufacturing conglomerate

Re-industrialisation was not allowed in Belarus. The industry is developing, increasing its competitiveness. But, of course, for even more significant achievements, it is necessary to focus other industries and areas of activity on it. The President also spoke about this, that with the undoubted achievements of the IT industry, industrial enterprises today cannot offer a comparable salary level to their specialists. And in the industrial sector, Georgy Grits emphasises, not only IT specialists are lacking, there is a shortage of qualified personnel: technologists, designers, engineers and other positions. This is also due to the fact that companies in preferential zones offer more favourable conditions and ‘pull’ personnel at the expense of tax incentives. Especially the youth.

The rector of Kadry Industrii (Industry Personnel) Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Managers and Industry Specialists is convinced that it is very important to bring the industrial sector in the country to a new level, when its development will be the concern not only of the state, but also of private business, society as a whole. Unfortunately, a certain part of the business is sceptical about cooperation with domestic enterprises, preferring to work in foreign markets. “Paradoxically, in terms of consulting and digitalisation services, it is sometimes

easier to negotiate with foreign companies that consider the Belarusian market as very promising, but we find misunderstanding on the part of native specialised companies, which, if they are ready to work, offer very tough and uninteresting conditions,” complains Georgy Grits.

In his Address, the President noted that it is necessary to increase the efficiency of interaction between production and science. Undoubtedly, there are interesting inventions and developments in Belarus. But if they are not introduced into production, they will never be able to bring a financial and economic effect and even recoup the costs of research and development. Georgy Grits expressed hope that the State Committee for Science and Technology will develop technology transfer centres more actively so that the scientific potential is reflected in production decisions.

Of course, it is necessary to expand the tools for financing projects in the industrial sector, to develop mechanisms for public-private partnerships. It is obvious that industry has been the hallmark of Belarus and will remain so, but for the development of an industrial country it is important to constantly develop both industrial sites and infrastructure in the broadest sense of the word: financial, consulting, scientific.

Aleksandr Pimenov

PRIORITIES SET THE RIGHT COURSE

Without a doubt, an important topic of the Address is the development of the economy. The President noted that today all three key indicators of balanced economic growth are being maintained: the exchange rate is stable, the growth of gold and foreign exchange reserves is 30 percent ahead of forecasts, and the foreign trade surplus is the highest since 2012. Experts analyse the priorities in the economy, outlined by the President in the Address to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly.



■ "BKM Holding" is one of the leading manufacturers of urban ground electric transport

Excerpt from the Address of the Head of State to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly:

"At the sixth Belarusian People's Congress, the people spoke in favour of maintaining such an economic course. We accepted it. This course is provided by the joint efforts and contribution of everyone to the economy and budget of the country. Therefore, without a strong economy, there will be no Belarus as an independent state."

Experts are sure that no matter what happens in the world, it should be well understood and always remembered that it is the economy, which is the basis of people's well-being, that is the top priority. And in this regard, Belarus has something to be proud of. "The strengths of the Belarusian economic model are obvious. First of all, its social orientation," says the Head



Economists note that more attention should be paid to innovative development.

of the Department of Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the Belarusian State University Valery BAYNEV. “This is what makes people appreciate our model and believe in it. We did not destroy the public sector, but made it possible to coexist with the private sector. The Belarusian model has a time-tested advantage — the traditional stake on the real sector of the economy, primarily on agriculture and industry. We need to continue to place our hopes in them and ensure their dynamic development. Moreover, with an emphasis on their high-tech transformation through the introduction and mass use of digital technologies.”

Another strong side of the Belarusian economy, according to the expert, which needs to be preserved, is export orientation. It is also necessary to pay more attention to innovative development. The new digital industrialisation of the Belarusian economy is bound to become one of the most important priorities in the near future. And finally, one more condition for the successful development of the country: closer integration with Eastern partners — Russia and other countries of the EAEU, as well as China.

Excerpt from the Address of the Head of State to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly:

“We can do a lot, if not all, ourselves. This is a condition for preserving our sovereignty; we only need systematic and orderly work to ensure the economic self-sufficiency of the country. The first task is to get rid of dependence as soon as possible and replace key components for the real sector of the economy with Belarusian counterparts.”

According to Leonid BRICH, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, the issue of import substitution is of particular importance in the face of external pressure on Belarus from the collective West. This especially concerns heavy engineering, “The President said correctly that the time has come for the IT sector to give something back and, together with scientists, to contribute to the development of import-substituting industries.”



Professor of BSU Mikhail KOVALYOV considers this demand to take categorical measures to prevent unreasonable price increases expressed in the Address of the President to be extremely relevant, “I agree with this both as an economist and as a consumer. World inflation due to excessive printing of dollars in the world has become too high. Imported consumer goods are getting more expensive, as well as intermediate goods that Belarus buys for \$20 billion, including oil, gas, and so on. The laws of economics work. As the dollar rose in price, so did these intermediate goods. In six months, their cost will be included in the cost of Belarusian final goods. And those who produce them will demand an increase in their prices, otherwise they will be unprofitable.”

According to the expert, the key to the planned inflation of 6 percent this year is a stable exchange rate of the Belarusian rouble against the US dollar. And here, the professor is sure, it is necessary to get rid of the dependence on the excessively volatile Russian rouble. Therefore, the National Bank needs to create an anti-inflationary commission and jointly develop measures to curb inflation this year.

Experts consider the demand to take drastic measures to prevent unreasonable price increases one of the important points in the Address.

Excerpt from the Address of the Head of State to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly:

“The main problem that the population is talking about is rising prices. The entire social bloc and the Prime Minister were instructed to take drastic measures to prevent unreasonable price increases. Our people must understand that the rise in prices, this inflation is not ours. It’s an external factor.”

Excerpt from the Address of the Head of State to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly:

“Investment is the only safe source of economic growth. The current state of affairs is unacceptable. It is necessary to launch a new investment cycle as soon as possible. The list of projects drawn up within the framework of the five-year plan must be implemented without fail, especially in the regions. That’s where we need to make a breakthrough.”

The year 2021, the first year of the five-year plan, was completed quite successfully, with the exception of attracting investments, Leonid Brich, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, believes, “The export volume, as well as a foreign trade surplus of about four billion dollars, is quite impressive. However, we did not meet the investment target. On the eve of the Address, the President signed the State Investment Programme and instructed to implement it. Of course, the main message is that investments should come not only to Minsk and regional cities, but also to ‘80+ cities’. It is also necessary to develop investment projects in small towns and district centres. It is important to provide the local population with jobs.”

The economy is definitely the foundation, experts say. But it should develop not only in terms of industrial production. One of the key factors is construction, including infrastructure. Since infrastructure is one of the constituent parts of the entire economy. Without infrastructure it is impossible to develop production. Including in small towns. Therefore, this year, according to experts, it is necessary to pay special attention to investments. Taking into account the fact that the country is under pressure, it is necessary to develop investment at the expense of our own funds and look for friendly countries that are ready to cooperate and invest on a parity basis.

Vasily Kharitonov

ALL DOORS IN THE COUNTRIES ARE OPEN FOR PARTNERS

AMBASSADORS OF EIGHT STATES PRESENTED THEIR
CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT OF BELARUS

Presentation of credentials is a procedure that officially legitimises the rank of ambassador of a candidate for a high diplomatic post. So, this time, upon the presentation of credentials to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the ambassadors of Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, Laos, Morocco, Nigeria, Russia, Chad and Sri Lanka began their diplomatic mission in Belarus. Representatives of eight states, the total population of which is more than half a billion people. Huge potential for cooperation.

Peculiarities of the present moment

During his speech at the ceremony, the President invited diplomats to have frank communication in the future not only with representatives of state structures, but also with Belarusian experts, journalists, and activists of public organisations, "All doors in Belarus are open for you. But in order to better understand how the country lives today, you also need to know how the Belarusian people won their freedom and the right to live in their own state."

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that the most tragic page in our history is the Second World War, which

claimed the lives of at least every third Belarusian. Therefore, it is no coincidence that 2022 has been declared the Year of Historical Memory in the country. The Head of State said that the Belarusians remember well the horrors of that war and today they are watching with concern the escalation of tension in the world. And, in his opinion, those who escalate this situation, those who introduce new factors of escalation, try to shift the blame on others: According to the President of Belarus, this is very reminiscent of the late 30s-early 40s of the last century. The situation is dangerous because of its unpredictability and can escalate at any moment.

Aleksandr Lukashenko is sure that the current state of affairs has been provoked by the systemic destruction of the international security architecture and the growing militarisation of the European region. The President also focused on the fact that the destabilisation of the situation in the world is facilitated by the increasingly large-scale application of illegitimate sanctions by some states, "As one of the manifestations of neo-colonialism against countries they don't like, which inevitably leads to sanctions wars."

There are no little things in diplomacy

According to the President, today Belarus is actively working in traditional markets and developing new ones. The country invites all states to mutually beneficial cooperation. Aleksandr Lukashenko is sure that the country has much to offer in industry, agriculture, construction, pharmaceuticals and many other industries. Belarus is also ready to develop trusting relationships in the cultural, educational, scientific, sports and other humanitarian spheres.

The Head of State suggested that many of the diplomats starting to work have already thoroughly studied the structure of the Belarusian economy and, perhaps, have outlined for



"Today, Minsk and Moscow face big, ambitious tasks. 2021 went down in the history of our states as the year of making fateful decisions to deepen economic integration, which will bring strategic partnership to a qualitatively new level. I very much hope that in your professional activities, as an experienced leader in the Russian state, and on a global scale, you will contribute to the strengthening of multifaceted Belarusian-Russian ties and the development of integration cooperation."

themselves the most promising areas for interaction and cooperation. Aleksandr Lukashenko also focused on the following point, "It is also important for us that you take the time to get to know the rich history and original culture of Belarus, the traditions and hospitality of our people. I have no doubt that here you will find new good friends."

The Head of State congratulated the diplomats on the start of a responsible diplomatic mission and wished them success in their work.

The specifics of mutual actions

A traditional part of the communication between the Head of State and the newly appointed diplomats is the emphasis on the interaction of Belarus with the countries

they represent. Here is what, in particular, Aleksandr Lukashenko said to Russian Ambassador Boris Gryzlov, "Today, Minsk and Moscow face big, ambitious tasks. 2021 went down in the history of our states as the year of making fateful decisions to deepen economic integration, which will bring strategic partnership to a qualitatively new level. I very much hope that in your professional activities, as an experienced leader in the Russian state, and on a global scale, you will contribute to the strengthening of multifaceted Belarusian-Russian ties and the development of integration cooperation."

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation Boris Gryzlov, in turn, later in an interview with journalists stressed, "We are starting serious and painstaking work. Last year, at a meeting

of the Supreme State Council, a powerful impetus was given to the development of the Union State. It will be necessary for me, as an ambassador, and our entire embassy, to provide diplomatic support for all decisions made. And there are many. We are talking about the implementation of the Union Treaty. The main directions for its implementation have been adopted. This is both the military doctrine approved recently and the concept of migration policy. In fact, 28 sectoral union programmes are a stream of issues that we will need to painstakingly resolve. It will be necessary to saturate these programmes with real laws, real normative acts. And this is a very big job. Considering that these directions have been adopted for 2021-2023, I think that the population of both Russia and Belarus at the end of this period will appreciate the real fruits of our Union State. The main thing is that our citizens begin to live better. There are all prerequisites for this."

The President drew special attention to the fact that Belarus intends to intensify cooperation with the countries of the far arc, the states of Asia, Africa and Latin America, which, although geographically remote, are for the most part its close allies and partners in political and economic terms. In this regard, this is what Aleksandr Lukashenko said

to Ambassador of Vietnam *Nguyen Van Ngu*,
"Our successful cooperation in the political sphere has become the foundation of economic cooperation. We look forward to further development and strengthening of relations. In 2022, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Vietnam. Our peoples have much in common: we fought against external aggressors together and won our right to build sovereign and independent states."

to Ambassador of Laos *Vilavanh Yiapoher*,
"Belarus is interested in giving a new quality to traditionally friendly relations with Laos. The possibilities of our country can largely meet the needs of the Lao economy. As you know, today Laos is striving to develop industry, agriculture, scientific and technological base. Our state is ready to offer you its experience and knowledge."

to Ambassador *Lotfi Bouchaara* of Morocco,
"We see potential in the development of economic cooperation with African countries. An important

trading partner of Belarus in the north of this continent is the Kingdom of Morocco. We have significant untapped potential for trade development. Great prospects are opening up in agriculture, industry, and also in the humanitarian fields."

to Ambassador *Janitha Abeywickrema Liyanage* of Sri Lanka,

"Two years ago we celebrated the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka. Since the moment they were established, significant progress has been made in the development of political contacts, trade, and cooperation in the field of education. Our country has established itself as a reliable supplier of potash fertilizers. But we would not limit economic relations only to this export position. Belarus has something to offer Sri Lanka to improve the efficiency of its agricultural sector."

to Ambassador *Abdullahi Shehu Yibaikwal* of Nigeria,
"Belarus considers the Federal Republic of Nigeria as an important and promising foreign economic partner. In our opinion, we are able to significantly add to mutual trade. The participation of our country in the mechanisation of agriculture in Nigeria, the development of infrastructure and the implementation of joint projects for the extraction of minerals will bring cooperation to a higher level."

to Ambassador of Chad *Mahamoud Adam Bechir*,
"Belarus is interested in intensifying contacts with the Republic of Chad in all areas of bilateral cooperation. Large reserves of minerals have been explored in your country, and Belarus has the necessary mining machinery and equipment. We are also ready to establish effective partnerships with local companies in agriculture."

to Ambassador *Frank Hans Dannenberg Castellanos* of the Dominican Republic,

"We see good prospects for intensifying interstate ties with the Dominican Republic. Despite our geographical remoteness, we have many points of contact. The economies of Belarus and the Dominican Republic are largely complementary."

When there are plans, there will be results

And here is what was said in response. Even excerpts from only two speeches are very revealing.

Frank Hans Dannenberg Castellanos, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Russia and Belarus concurrently,

"Last year, more than two thousand tourists from Belarus visited the Dominican Republic. Therefore, we are looking forward to increasing the number of guests from your country. In this regard, it is important for us to sign an agreement with Belarus in the field of aviation, as well as an agreement on a visa-free regime. I would like to note that today there are a large number of direct flights from our country to many cities of the Russian Federation. This, among other things, has a good effect on the supply of our products, in particular cigars and rum. We believe that the development of direct air links with the Republic of Belarus will give an additional impetus to our bilateral cooperation. There are other potential areas for deepening our cooperation. In particular, in the field of education, the pharmaceutical industry, trade in wood and furniture products. We propose to Belarus to consider the possibility of increasing the import of fruits and exotic products from our country."



Janitha Abeywickrema Liyanage, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russia and Belarus concurrently,

"Cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and Sri Lanka has been going on for 22 years. We really have many areas where we cooperate. But there are still many agreements and agreements that need to be concluded and signed. We plan to work especially closely in the field of education, where we already have close ties. More than two thousand students from Sri Lanka study in your country. We would like to conclude agreements at the official level between educational institutions in order to continue this work. Sri Lanka is also an agricultural country. In Belarus, not only agriculture is developed, you have really modern, worthy, advanced technologies and equipment. And of course, it will be very interesting for us to cooperate in this area."

Vladimir **Velikhov**

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA, THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE WEST, UKRAINE, THE EVENTS OF AUGUST 2020...

AFTERWORD TO INTERVIEW



The time factor will to some extent affect certain components of this interview. After all, it may take almost a month for the reader to finally get acquainted with the content of the conversation between Russian journalist Vladimir Soloviev and the President of Belarus. However, our publication includes those parts of the interview that, in our opinion, will retain their relevance and satisfy, as it seems to us, the interest of the reader, primarily foreign, in the personality of Aleksandr Lukashenko, in his statements regarding important issues on the agenda and to the motivation of those or other solutions to many topical problems.

One of the interviewer's questions concerned the behaviour of individual representatives of the Russian leadership, large companies. Aleksandr Lukashenko mentioned one of such episodes that happened not so long ago, "We buy oil from you at the world price. And they tell us that we need to pay 14 or some dollars on top for the fact that you supply us with oil. I say in negotiations: 'This is wrong'. Putin turns around and asks the Russian members of the government: 'Are you out of your mind? He's right.' What should I have done when they stopped supplying oil to me (from Russia. Editor's note)? I say: 'Ilham (I. Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan. Editor's note), please supply me a couple of oil tankers, through the 'enemy' Ukraine.' And we unloaded and delivered in Odessa... I was bludgeoned in all the media and summed up my approach as the multi-vector one, as if I'm trying to 'sit on two chairs'. This has never happened, never, even in the most critical period (of bilateral relations with Russia. Editor's note).

"You can always pick up the phone, call Putin, and this issue will be resolved," said the TV presenter.

"I called him and said: 'If you think that you can wound me with this, you are mistaken. Security and defence are sacred,'" said Aleksandr Lukashenko, thereby confirming Belarus' unchanging course towards cooperation with Russia in security matters.

On the use of Russian ports for cargo transshipment

In connection with Lithuania's ban on the transit of Belarusian fertilizers, it became necessary to use Russian ports for cargo transshipment. According to the President of Belarus, the Russian side provided a site where a project is being implemented to create additional infrastructure to increase the capacity for transshipment of Belarusian potash fertilizers through Russian ports. Aleksandr Lukashenko clarified that the project is being implemented through private investment from Belarus, "Now we need to become very active so that we can start



- The Russian side provided a site where a project is being implemented to create additional infrastructure to increase the capacity for transshipment of Belarusian potash fertilizers through Russian ports.

loading this potassium chloride within the just-in time system at least in a year."

The Head of State noted that he plans to discuss this topic in a conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, "I will need support in terms of ensuring that there is no delay, no red tape, including withdrawals, permits..."

On the recognition of Crimea and other issues

Vladimir Soloviev would not be himself if he had not asked the notorious question about the recognition of Crimea, and at the same time Abkhazia and South Ossetia...

"Is there any need for this?" followed by a counter question.

"There is always a need."

"As soon as I understand and the President tells me that there is a need for this..."

"You are a man of principle. I was surprised when you said: the President will recognise when the Russian oligarchs recognise. Since when does President Lukashenko orient himself towards some Russian oligarchs?"

"I addressed this not only to you, but also to someone, so that they would deal with their citizens who earned unrighteous money, and so that they would at least recognise Crimea in line with Russian statehood. They are afraid to even touch the Crimea."

"I would start by reviewing the results of privatisation," the Russian journalist supported the President of Belarus.

"That's why you were afraid of Lukashenko, so that he would not even closely trample on the Russian field, because privatisation would be decided within six months. You would have carried it back to the people, if that were my decision."

"There was so much stolen that it would have been necessary to transport it by echelons..."

"They would transport it," assured Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Focus on Lithuania

On geopolitics. Aleksandr Lukashenko considers the situation in relations with Lithuania, difficult in general and threatening with serious consequences. Only not for Belarus. For Lithuania itself. And the point is in the very transit of potash fertilizers.

"Will Lithuania lose everything?" asked the Russian journalist. In response, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, "Lithuania will get what it deserves. They should not have done it. No America and Europe will help them. 30 percent of the budget was formed at the expense of Belarus. Now what? Do they think

that the Europeans or the Americans will compensate them now? No. Tomorrow the President and power will change in America, and the new power, as it usually happens, will forget what the old one did and promised."

The journalist also recalled that Lithuania opposed China. At the same time, the Belarusian President drew attention to the fact that this was not an independent decision of the Lithuanian leadership.

As for the transportation of potassium, Aleksandr Lukashenko's reply to a clarifying question whether it was possible to find an opportunity and traffic flows for its supplies in addition to the Lithuanian direction was that a corresponding proposal on transshipment through the ports of Odessa was being considered from representatives of Ukrainian business. However, later the Ukrainians abandoned this idea.

"Did you actually think that they could do it with bypassing the Americans?" said Vladimir Soloviev.

"I understand the trend, but I did not think that they would respond in this way. Why I didn't think? Because they understand that we will ship this potash anyway."

On relations with Ukraine

According to the Russian journalist, Belarus is subjected to constant attacks not only from the collective West. Also from Ukraine and its authorities. Although, as Vladimir Soloviev noted, the President of Belarus has done more for them since 2014 than anyone else...

"At the request of your President and my friend, so that you know," Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked to this.

"And they betrayed you," the journalist continued. ***"At the most crucial moment, they first began to supply militants and weapons, then they also tried to play incomprehensibly with our guys, to detain, and then they imposed sanctions against you ahead of the rest. And now they constantly wipe their feet on you personally. And you still treat them (not the people, but the authorities!) somehow, I would say, gently..."***

"I'm not a journalist. I'm the President. And in general I follow this principle: if I need to fight, I'll fight. If I need to work, I'll work in different modes. Therefore, do not think that I will turn a blind eye to all that they have created. You are right, but this is not a personal matter. Belarus generally treated them well. We traded with them for almost \$ 7 billion last year. Can you imagine that? This is the second partner in trade over the past year. And basically, these are our deliveries there, food. Once Ukraine

fed us all in the Soviet Union. Now we are supplying, Russia is supplying. Together with the Russians, we supply them with the same amount of oil products. Lithuania seems to have supplied one and a half billion through Belarus. Now we have closed these deliveries.”

The President stressed that the continuation of cooperation with Ukraine is, first of all, helping ordinary people, Ukrainians. For example, as in the case of recent deliveries of additional volumes of electricity.

“If we hadn’t supplied them with electricity, the whole system would have collapsed.”

As for the supply of oil products to Ukraine, which is done not only by Belarus, but also by Russia, then, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, even if we admit the possibility of the outbreak of hostilities, fuel and lubricants supplied from Belarus and Russia will be enough for Ukraine for at least one day, “Maybe they will reach the border, but then what? They work on the just-in-time basis, we know that very well. Therefore, it was not in vain that I told you: to fight means to fight. If we are not at war, then there is no need to worry.”

When answering the question whether there is a chance not to fight now, the President said, “Yes, there is. Everything will depend on them. On the authorities. On the Ukrainian army.”

At the same time, the Head of State agreed that in Ukraine the authorities were dependent in their decisions, “I know this not from the media. I know how it’s done. As you say, our special services are also doing a good job, we know very well that they are being pushed to this. I did not expect such behaviour even from Zelensky. He has already begun to shout: no, no, there will be no war, no war, and so on. They are already trying to drive him into a ‘stall’, to make him say that there will be a war, we will attack and so on. The only danger is that they will take very serious actions in the direction of Donetsk and Luhansk, Donbass.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko described Volodymyr Zelensky himself as an amorphous person who has no core.

“And at what point did you become disappointed in him, in Zelensky? When did you realise that something was wrong?” asked Vladimir Soloviev.

“I thought of Zelensky as of a young person who couldn’t understand everything, and so on. It accumulated. But when he openly began to declare: ‘America is us, come on here, and Russia and Belarus are enemies’, it was crazy.”

In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled the ongoing talk about the impending war in Ukraine and said that it was the Americans who were pushing the neighbour to war.

■ Kiev today



■ Meeting of Aleksandr Lukashenko with Mike Pompeo

“How can we behave properly in this situation?” asked the journalist.

“Everything was done correctly by the President of Russia, I support this. We have drawn red lines. Cross the red line, and you will get the appropriate response” answered the President of Belarus.

“What response? Missile attack on the territory of Ukraine?” said Vladimir Soloviev.

“And not only them. Everything there is,” explained Aleksandr Lukashenko explained.

On the transformation of the allied configuration

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, Ukraine can still become an ally for Belarus and Russia. Vladimir Soloviev received such an answer to a question about the future of the Union State. The journalist asked how Aleksandr Lukashenko saw it in 10-15 years and who could become its new member during this period.

“I think that it was a good lesson for Kazakhstan. If you are talking about a period of 15 years, I am sure that Ukraine will be there if we do not make mistakes,” replied the President of Belarus. “Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, I think, due to their economic necessity, will also join.”

On negotiations with Pompeo

In relations with allegedly ‘democratic’ countries, Belarus also experienced a thaw for some time. In February 2020, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo even visited the country. Aleksandr Lukashenko revealed some details of the negotiations with him. According to the President, during the meeting, among other things, the US policy towards China and Russia was discussed:

“I asked him several questions in a row. I say: ‘Are you crazy? Tell your Trump you’re crazy.’ He looks

at me: ‘What do you mean?’ ‘Why did you unite the most powerful nuclear country with a huge military potential with the most powerful economic power and are trying to wage war against this union? You will never win. Why are you fools doing this?’ He: ‘China is stealing technology. We will stop them.’ I say: ‘Too late. I know China better than you. Nobody will stop China today. They can do without your technology...’

On the events of August 2020

“For me, there was a critical moment, such a fundamental one, including a change in my personal attitude towards you, when you flew in with a gun. I realised that you were definitely not Yanukovich,” said Vladimir Soloviev.

“Yanukovich and I are a big difference. He had a lot of money. You see, money always prevails. They are making your pocket heavy and you need to save money,” retorted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“Well, it is definitely not about money for you? I think when you came out with a rifle, it became clear that you were ready to die, but not to leave, not to run away, not to surrender,” concluded Soloviev.

Through the eyes of the Head of State, the evening of August 23, 2020 looked like this, “First. They (the protester. Editor’s note) spread this fake that, like Yanukovich, I fled, that I was already in Rostov, that the children had flown away. I took the rifle, put on a bulletproof vest, I even forgot to put on a helmet. I didn’t know this would happen. Nobody trembled. I knew how our guys act (law enforcement officers. Editor’s note). They did everything I told them. But I had to show them that I hadn’t run away, I was there. And my children too. I got into the helicopter and just a few minutes later landed there. The rifle was with me.”

Another peculiarity of August 2020: shortly before the elections, NATO began to concentrate its forces near the Belarusian borders.

“You were ready for war on the border with Poland...” began the journalist.

“More than ready,” stressed Aleksandr Lukashenko. He said that one of the protesters’ plans was to stir up the situation inside the country and appeal to NATO with a request to send troops to resolve the conflict.

“They would have invited NATO literally for a moment. And imagine the situation: they invited NATO here, and what? Then there would be a war,” said the President.

“Third World War,” added the host.

“Yes...”

About the Wagner group

Another resonant topic of the summer of 2020 is the detention of the Wagner group in Belarus. At first, they saw a Russian trace in this story. However, this story did not affect relations between countries.

“For me, it was just a speck of dust in our relations with Russia. Did we have to start a fight because of this?” asked the Head of State. “But just so you know: when we detained these people, the full materials of the Federal Security Service were handed over, we had a tough conversation with Putin. At that time, the Russians did not tell us that there was some kind of mole. The investigation started. I spoke with Putin on this subject three times. He says: ‘Wait, now we are going to investigate, let’s do it together, and we will see the source of the situation.’ And we knew the truth in a week or a few days.”

“But you were offended by Russia?” asked Vladimir Soloviev.

“Very much,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“So did you believe?” asked the host.

“Absolutely.”

“Did you pick up the phone, call Putin right away?”

“More than once.”

“And Putin said that...”

“And he didn’t just say. When the time comes, I’ll tell you how it was...”

On those who escaped abroad and prisoners

“These are bandits who fight against the state,” this is how the President described the fugitives who call for sanctions against Belarus abroad.

The journalist asked if they had a way back. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that recently in his Address to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly he called on the fugitives to return home, kneel down and repent, “Many, probably, thought that I wanted to rehabilitate them here, even criminals. It is nothing like that. I told you: a public commission will be created, including specialists and those whom they wanted to kill —

journalists. Here we will decide. If there is the decision that they go to prison, they will go to prison. And then, you did not notice the phrase, you missed that there is a practice, if you want to save face: throw them at the border, we will pick them up. This is what Poland and Lithuania are doing now with refugees. They beat them half to death, and sometimes the corpses are thrown to us on the border line, we take them away. If you want to save face, please.”

As for Viktor Babaryka and his son, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, they decided to go to prison instead of returning the stolen goods. The Head of State recalled that he had previously spoken at a meeting in the pre-trial detention centre, where Viktor Babaryka was also present, “Viktar, return everything that you stole. Return it. And then we’ll talk to you. It’s okay that you have property in Turkey, I won’t take it, I understand and I won’t take it, but you must return this and this. And they discussed with their son whether it is worth returning. They decided for now that no, they’ll serve their time, then NATO will come or Tikhanovskaya will come, and she will free everyone. Tikhanovsky says: ‘Comrade President, when will we leave and so on?’ I say: ‘What did you say? The president? Your ‘president’ is in Lithuania. Ask her when you’re leaving the prison.’ And Babaryka honestly said (about the need to return the stolen. Editor’s note), which was a signal for everyone. But they don’t want to return.”

The Head of State also spoke about Maria Kolesnikova in response to Vladimir Soloviev’s remark that the opposition and the West have forgotten about her, and they are mainly promoting Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, “I do not think that the West will forget, that the special services will forget their agents. It’s just that it takes time, as you recently said.”

On the present and the future

“How do you feel?” Vladimir Soloviev asked Aleksandr Lukashenko. **“Are you the President of Belarus? Are you the father of the Belarusian people? The creator of the modern Belarusian state? Are you a dictator on whose will the life of every Belarusian depends? How do you see yourself?”**

“As a human. I did not become, did not acquire those qualities, fortunately. I don’t consider myself the Creator. Together with my colleagues who worked with me at different times, I created this sovereign independent state for the first time in the history of Belarus. This is the main thing that my generation, not just me, did.”

“This is your brainchild...” Vladimir Soloviev supported the conversation.

“This is something dear to me. I have nothing else besides this.”

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko characterises his work as the Head of State not as a job, but as a service.



■ Alexander Lukashenko visited the 2nd children's clinical hospital in Minsk

And answering the question of how much longer he will lead the country, the Belarusian leader stressed that he would not leave the presidency if the situation around Belarus were difficult. War, for example. Or if they tried to tear the country apart from the inside, as it was in 2020.

“But if everything is calm, as you say ‘who, who, who’, that’s when we will decide. But believe me, I’m not President because I really want to be President. God forbid you get into this situation, when you depend on the many circumstances. You are simply tied to everything, your country, which you created with someone with your own hands and so on. Including the children!” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“If I only felt that the majority of the Belarusian people do not support Lukashenko, I would decide my own fate within 24 hours. I would leave. Retire.”

How would he know? The President said that public opinion polls are being conducted in the country. At the same time, the Head of State requires to report exclusively truthful information to him, whatever it may be.

“Flattering is prohibited. This is a feature of Belarus and the Belarusian President, sorry for the indiscretion.”

“Are you able to give up power?” asked Vladimir Soloviev.

“Elementary! To whom? Let the people decide this. I’m a wordly person, I understand: the people decided that enough is enough, well, that’s good. So the people have made their choice. Now a huge, overwhelming number of people think: ‘Lord, it’s good that he stayed.’”

“Did they see what could be?” once again clarified the journalist.

“Certainly. Especially after Kazakhstan.”

On the future of his sons

When asked how the Head of State sees the future of his sons after he leaves the post of President, Aleksandr Lukashenko, talking about his youngest son Nikolai, noted his extraordinary abilities in chemistry and biology, which is also confirmed by high-level experts in these areas, “Specialists who often test him (I ask the Academy of Sciences) say that he has already graduated from the university, he has nothing to do at the university.”

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko added that the youngest son must make his own choice. He stressed that none of his sons have presidential ambitions. Indicative in this regard is the example of the eldest son of Viktor Lukashenko, who was Assistant to the President for National Security, with the rank of Major General, but left this post and was later elected President of the National Olympic Committee, “He said: ‘No, dad, I don’t want to be in the public service anymore, I’m fed up.’ I say: ‘Well, can you go into sports, like Dima, the middle one, would you like that?’ I thought for a long time (he was my first deputy, served as the Vice President of the NOC), and when I left, he was elected.”

In addition, being in the post of President carries the threat of physical elimination, which Vladimir Soloviev drew attention to during the conversation, asking, **“Did they try to kill you?”**

“Even now they are trying. Even you are sitting next to me now and don’t know it, I’ll tell you in a month,” replied Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“Are they trying to kill children?” said the journalist.

“It’s overwhelming. This is not a red line, this is something more,” said the President.

Aleksei Fedosov

未来的合作载体

VECTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROMISING COOPERATION

In recent years, the trend of shifting the planetary centre of gravity of the economy to Asia is obvious. And the leader of this region is undoubtedly China, with which Belarus established diplomatic relations 30 years ago. The PRC is not only strengthening its presence in many sectors of the world economy, but also striving to become a technological leader. In this context, it is certainly important and interesting to consider the prospects for cooperation between Belarus and China, focusing on the vectors of its development.

Tatiana Vertinskaya, Head of the Centre for World Economy at the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences, believes that innovations can and should become the key area for building up Belarusian-Chinese economic ties today. In her opinion, it is not in vain that the recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for the Social and Economic Development of the PRC are associated with increasing the technological innovation of enterprises, improving the institutional mechanism of scientific and technological innovation, and developing strategic new industries. First of all, it is supposed to accelerate the development of a new generation of information technology, biotechnology, new energy sources, new materials, high-tech equipment, new energy vehicles, green environmental protection and aerospace, marine technology and other industries. The Made in China 2025 strategy sets out how to promote the internationalisation of key industries. These are the information technology industry, high-end CNC machines and robots, aerospace equipment, advanced railway equipment, energy-saving and new energy resources, agricultural machinery and equipment, new materials, biomedicine and high-performance medical equipment.

“The Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China publishes the Guides of States (Territories) for Investment and Cooperation” and the “Guidebook of Industries of States (Territories) for Investment”, which provides information about the most favourable industries for investment in various countries,” notes Tatiana Vertinskaya. “The list of priority industries for Belarus is as follows. Agriculture — growing vegetables and fruits, animal husbandry; mining of potash salt; industry — food production, woodworking, leather goods, telecommunications equipment, computers and other electronic equipment; services — trade, computer services.”

In 2019, a decision was reached with the Chinese side on the full localisation of the development and production of an electric drive, energy storage, control systems and power electronics in Belarus to create a Belarusian minivan. Now the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, in



近年来，经济重心转向亚洲的趋势很明显。而这一地区的领导者无疑是中国，白俄罗斯在30年前就与之建立了外交关系。中国不仅加强其在全球经济各领域部门的发展，而且致力于成为一个技术领导者。在此背景下，考虑白俄罗斯和中国之间的合作前景是至关重要的，而重点在于发展的载体。

cooperation with the Chinese Jiangsu Joylong Automobile (headquartered in Shanghai), has created a prototype of the seven-seater minivan Joylong EF5. The production of an electric motor can be arranged at Mogilevliftmash JSC (Mogilev), an inverter and an on-board charger — at Izmeritel JSC (Novopolotsk), an electric battery - at the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences (Minsk). Industrial assembly is planned to be organised at the Great Stone Industrial Park. Another promising direction for the development of electric transport is the organisation of joint production of electric vehicles at BELGEE CJSC (Borisov District). Currently, work is underway to launch the production of Geely Geometry electric vehicles.

Here we would like to note that with the participation of Chinese partners in the field of biotechnology, the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation CJSC in Rudensk, Pukhovich District, is implementing a large-scale export-oriented and import-substituting investment project *Organisation of High-Tech Agro-Industrial Production of a Full Cycle for 2016-2032*. Its goal is to organise deep grain processing using modern biotechnology methods to obtain essential amino acids for the production and entry of highly productive, high-tech balanced feed and premixes into the local and export markets.

Potential for new actions

One of the most promising areas is the development of cooperation between Belarus and China in the field of smart energy (Smart Energy), covering the development of energy-efficient technologies, the spread of energy-saving construction, the study of new models for the extraction of energy resources, the production and use of energy, the improvement of traditional types of energy, the use of new energy sources, and other areas.

Undoubtedly, Belarus and China have a great, but not fully realised, potential in organising effective interaction within the framework of joint projects in the 'industries of the future'. These are electric transport, biotechnology, smart and nuclear energy, digital, circular and green economy. In particular, one of the most promising areas is interstate cooperation in the implementation of projects to create new production facilities for freight and passenger electric transport, its components, electric vehicles for utility services, and a developed network of chargers.

■ At the production of BELGEE



■ Novogrudok District is one of the leaders in Belarus in the development of green economy

“In addition, in the field of IT and the digital economy, the areas of economic cooperation between the two countries can be: the expansion of e-commerce, the development of mobile payments, the development of common projects and plans for the construction of digital infrastructure, the promotion of bilateral cooperation in satellite navigation, satellite broadband services, in the creation of applications and services that support the 5G standard, cooperation in the field of industrial Internet of things and smart production,” Tatiana Vertinskaya, Head of the Centre for World Economy at the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences, lists a set of joint potential projects.

However, expansion of cooperation in the field of space exploration also looks promising, including the joint development of satellites for Earth observation, telecommunications,

broadcasting and navigation, as well as the creation of ground-based and applied systems, and the development of applied products. Possible plans for the formation of a constellation of remote sensing satellites, the construction and use of a manned orbital laboratory and a space station, the construction of ground-based infrastructure facilities for receiving data and telecommunications terminals cannot be ruled out. By the way, KBVATSIR LLC, a resident of the Great Stone Park, is currently implementing a project to create a high-tech aerospace research and development centre.

The establishment of the Belarusian-Chinese Research Laboratory of Internet of Things technologies, a modern information and data processing centre will also contribute to the intensification of Belarusian-Chinese scientific and technological cooperation.

扩大空间探索方面的合作看起来也很有希望，包括联合开发用于地球观测、电信、广播和导航的卫星，以及创建地面和应用系统和开发应用产品。不能排除组建遥感卫星星座、建设和使用载人轨道实验室和空间站，以及建设数据接收和电信终端的地面基础设施的可能计划。巨石工业园 KBVACIR 有限责任公司目前正在实施一个项目，创建一个高科技的航空航天研究和开发中心。

在各地区--许多机遇

为什么这个领域对深化白俄罗斯-中国关系很重要？首先，它是扩大中国和白俄罗斯之间合作的一个尚未开发的巨大潜力。毕竟，白俄罗斯各地区还没有与中国所有的省市建立经济合作。其次，对白俄罗斯来说，增加对中国区域市场的出口被视为改善其贸易平衡的一种方式。第三，与其他形式的国际合作不同，区域间的联系对各地区的社会意义更大：它们的目的是创造新的就业机会和更充分地实现人类的潜力。

显然，外贸关系增长的关键领域之一应该是增加两国区域间的合作。中国和白俄罗斯的国家元首通过决定，宣布2020-2022年为中国和白俄罗斯年，这证实了该领域的高度重要性。

第四，中国和白俄罗斯的区域间联系可以成为区域政策的有效工具，旨在通过外部经济因素实现各地区社会经济发展水平的平等。白俄罗斯地区与中国几乎所有省份（福建、河北、江西、云南等省除外）之间已经签署了一百多份关于文化、教育、科学、工业和投资关系领域的合作备忘录、条约和协议。白俄罗斯-中国政府间委员会的贸易和经济合作委员会成立了区域间贸易和经济合作工作组。通过了立法法案，例如，»关于发展白俄罗斯共和国和中华人民共和国之间的双边关系«的总统指令中包含了关于区

There are many opportunities in the regions

Obviously, one of the key areas for the growth of foreign trade relations should be to increase the role of interregional cooperation between the two countries. The high importance of this area is confirmed by the decision taken by the heads of state of China and Belarus to declare the Year of the Regions of China and Belarus for the period 2020-2022. Why is this area important for deepening Belarusian-Chinese ties? Firstly, this is a significant unused reserve for expanding cooperation between China and Belarus. After all, the Belarusian regions have not yet established economic cooperation with all the provinces and cities of the PRC. Secondly, for Belarus, increasing exports to regional Chinese markets is seen as a way to improve the trade balance. Thirdly, interregional ties, unlike other forms of international cooperation, have a much greater social significance for the regions: they are aimed at creating new jobs and fuller realisation of human potential.

Fourth, interregional ties both in China and in Belarus can become an effective tool of regional policy aimed at equalising the levels of socio-economic development of the regions due to the external economic factor. More than a hundred memorandums, treaties and agreements on cooperation in the field of culture, education, scientific, industrial and investment relations between the regions of Belarus with almost all Chinese provinces (with the exception of the provinces of Fujian, Hebei, Jiangxi, Yunnan) have been concluded. A working group on interregional trade and economic cooperation of the Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation has been set up as part of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee. Legislative acts are adopted, for example, the Directive of the President 'On the Development of



Obviously, one of the key areas for the growth of foreign trade relations should be to increase the role of interregional cooperation between the two countries. The high importance of this area is confirmed by the decision taken by the heads of state of China and Belarus to declare the Year of the Regions of China and Belarus for the period 2020-2022.



■ Belarusian-Chinese Youth Robotics Tournament took place in Minsk

Bilateral Relations Between the Republic of Belarus and China' includes the Interregional Relations section. Every year, roadmaps are designed for the development of interregional relations between Belarus and China. However, it should be recognised that despite the agreements concluded, trade cooperation has not been established with all Chinese provinces and there are a number of restrictions for the further development of interregional cooperation.

"The fact is that the foreign trade activity of our entities with Chinese partners is concentrated in several Belarusian regions," specifies Tatiana Vertinskaya. "There is a lack of information about the regional markets of China. The commodity distribution network of the Republic of Belarus in the PRC is represented mainly by sectoral infrastructure facilities, there are practically no regional trade representations in the PRC. A number

域间联系的章节。白俄罗斯和中国之间的区域间联系的发展路线图每年都会制定。然而，需承认，尽管缔结了协议，但并没有真正与中国所有省份建立贸易合作关系，而且区域间合作的进一步发展还存在一些限制。

塔蒂亚娜·维尔廷斯卡娅具体指出，实际上，我们与中国合作伙伴的外贸活动集中在白俄罗斯的几个地区。- 目前缺乏关于中国区域市场的信息。白俄罗斯共和国在中国的商品分销网络主要由部门基础设施代表，而且在中国几乎没有区域贸易代表团。一些白俄罗斯公司不得不通过其外国分支机构供应货物，这增加了货物的最终成本，因为银行对转移到白俄罗斯的货币进行复杂的审计。因此，有必要在区域层面改善对白俄罗斯-中国区域间经济关系的支持，使用新的创新方式来推广产品，包括在数字基础上，并与现有机制对接，以促进在中国的外国经济活动。

战略合作领域

为了解决这些问题并进一步建立区域间合作，白俄罗斯政府考虑制定中华人民共和国和白俄罗斯共和国之间区域间关系的发展战略，该战略已被写入总统指令中。这一战略的科学阐述是由国家科学院经济研究所进行的。该战略草案概述了白俄罗斯-中国区域间经济合作的优先事项。其中包括以下内容。第一，促进对中国区域市场的商品和服务出口的商品多样化。第二，促进白俄罗斯-中国区域间关系的地理多样化，考虑到中国各省既定的专业化程度、各地区的交通便利性、与白俄罗斯企业已开发地区的位置关系、参与中国《一带一路》倡议的程度、区域经济结构的互补程度。第三，在加强区域专业化和形成增长点的基础上，考虑到各地区和明斯克市现有的出口潜力、竞争优势和国际专业化的新兴部门，深化白俄罗斯和中国的区域间生产合作。评估了白俄罗斯各地区的竞争潜力，确定了它们

- Head of Amino Acid Production
CJSC "Belarusian National
Biotechnology Corporation"
Dmitry Khlimankov

of Belarusian organisations are forced to supply products through foreign branches, which ultimately leads to an increase in the final cost of goods due to a complicated bank audit for the transfer of currency to Belarus. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the support of Belarusian-Chinese interregional economic relations at the regional level, use the new innovative ways to promote products, including on a digital basis, and to interface with the current mechanism r stimulating foreign economic activity in the PRC.”

Strategy based on tactics

To solve these problems and further increase interregional cooperation, the Belarusian government considered the development of a strategy for the enhancement of interregional relations between the PRC and the Republic of Belarus, which is normatively enshrined in the Presidential Directive. The scientific study of this strategy was carried out by the Institute of Economics of the National Academy of Sciences. The draft strategy defines the priorities of interregional Belarusian-Chinese economic cooperation. Among them are the following. Firstly, ensuring commodity diversification of exports of goods and services to Chinese regional markets. Secondly, assistance in the geographical diversification of Belarusian-Chinese interregional relations, taking into account the existing specialisation of the provinces of the PRC, the transport accessibility of the regions, their location in relation to the regions where Belarusian enterprises are now present, the degree of involvement in the Chinese Belt and Road initiative, the level of complementarity of economic regional structures. Thirdly, the deepening of interregional production



的生产专业性，并拟定了一份向中国出口的潜在产品清单，这些产品以前没有出口过：毛皮、药品、聚酰胺、化妆品、矿泉水。

计划扩大白俄罗斯和中国区域间关系的参与者名单，吸引各种所有制形式的新经济实体参与合作，这意味着增加中小企业的份额，扩大有白俄罗斯经济实体参与的集群结构层面的关系。计划在白俄罗斯地区积极利用中国在创建工业和技术园区、生态城市和数字经济领域的先进经验。

这些计划还包括通过在新的和现有的工业基地建立能源、工程、运输和电信基础设施，提高白俄罗斯地区对中国投资的吸引力--主要是高科技产业的外国直接投资，通过吸引中国的金融机构，包括不相关的信贷资源，改善信贷和投资机制，以及与中国银行合作。在中国不购买技术而依靠自己的技术解决方案的部门，促进白俄罗

斯和中国之间的区域间科学、技术和创新合作也是一个优先事项。首先，它涉及农业、医药、远程医疗和数字经济等部门。

也有计划使用新的管理工具。它是指利用数字技术在区域市场推广产品，在标准化、认证和新产品的认证方面协调工作，在工业园区的基础上发展区域间的联系，利用白俄罗斯在中国的侨民的潜力作为与中国区域市场的沟通渠道。将启动特别的出口信贷方案，也将启动出口保险。以及对华出口的新金融产品，如租赁、保理、出口前贷款和海外项目融资，将得到更广泛的应用。

总之，设想了一揽子措施，在目前趋势下，这些措施应该对加强白俄罗斯与中国的经济关系产生实际影响。

弗拉基米尔-维利霍夫



cooperation between Belarus and China on the basis of strengthening regional specialisation and the formation of growth points, taking into account the existing export potential, competitive advantages and emerging industries of international specialisation of the regions and the city of Minsk. An assessment of the competitive potential of the regions of Belarus was carried out, their production specialisation was determined, and a list of promising commodity items for deliveries to the PRC that had not previously been exported was developed: furs, medicines, polyamides, cosmetic products, mineral water.

It is envisaged to expand the list of participants in interregional relations between Belarus and China, to attract new business entities of various forms of ownership to cooperation, which implies an increase in the share of small and medium-sized businesses, expansion of ties at the level of cluster structures with the participation of Belarusian business entities. It is planned to actively use the

advanced Chinese experience in the regions of Belarus in the field of creating industrial and technological parks, eco-cities, and the digital economy.

The plans also include increasing the investment attractiveness of the regions of Belarus for the Chinese investment presence, mainly foreign direct investment in high-tech sectors of the economy, based on the formation of energy, engineering, transport and telecommunications infrastructure at new and existing industrial sites, improving the credit and investment mechanism by attracting financial institutions of the PRC, including unrelated credit resources, as well as in cooperation with international financial organisations, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The priority is also given to the promotion of interregional scientific, technological and innovative cooperation between Belarus and China in industries where China is not focused on acquiring technology, but is based on its own technological solutions. This primarily

concerns such areas and industries as agriculture, medicine, telemedicine, and the digital economy.

It is planned to use new management tools. We are talking about the use of digital technologies in promoting products to regional markets, coordinated work in the field of standardisation, accreditation and certification of new types of products, the development of interregional relations based on industrial parks, using the potential of the Chinese diaspora of Belarus in China as a communication channel for entering regional Chinese markets. The development of special export credit programmes will be started, as well as export insurance. New financial products to support exports to China, such as leasing, factoring, pre-export lending, project financing abroad, will be more widely used.

To sum up, a whole range of measures is envisaged, which should have a practical effect on the activation of Belarusian-Chinese economic ties, taking into account current trends.

Vladimir Velikhov

COOPERATION BETWEEN BELARUSIAN AND CHINESE MEDIA: BEGINNING, CURRENT STATE, PROSPECTS



白俄罗斯和中国媒体之间的 合作：开始、 现状、前景

In December 2005, an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Press was signed between the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus and the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China. This agreement obliged to build new prospects for media partnership. However, now, as it has been before, the basis for the multifaceted information support of the Chinese agenda is governmental agreements between our countries. As well as the very fact of the strategic partnership between Belarus and China in all spheres of life. Our information work is based on the commonality of principles of domestic and foreign policy, the coincidence of views on the most important problems on the world agenda..

2005年12月，白俄罗斯共和国新闻部和中华人民共和国国务院新闻办公室签署了《信息和新闻合作协议》。该协议要求建立新的媒体伙伴关系前景。我们两国之间的政府协议仍然是对中国问题进行多方面宣传的基础，也基于白俄罗斯和中国在生活所有领域的战略伙伴关系。我们的信息工作是建立在国内和外交政策的共同原则以及我们对世界议程上最重要问题的看法一致的基础上。

In December 2005, an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Press was signed between the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus and the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China. This agreement obliged to build new prospects for media partnership. However, now, as it has been before, the basis for the multifaceted information support of the Chinese agenda is governmental agreements between our countries. As well as the very fact of the strategic partnership between Belarus and China in all spheres of life. Our information work is based on the commonality of principles of domestic and foreign policy, the coincidence of views on the most important problems on the world agenda.

The information space of the Belarusian television product, the news feed of the BelTA news agency, the pages of the main printed publications, such as the newspaper of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus *SB. Belarus Segodnya*, the daily government and parliamentary newspaper *Zvyazda*, the magazine *Belarusskaya Dumka*, are filled with Chinese news, they provide extensive and multifaceted about life in the PRC and the Belarusian-Chinese cooperation. Since January 2017, the Chinese version of the monthly country magazine *Belarus* has been published in our country.

May 2017 was marked by a press tour of representatives of Chinese central and regional media to Belarus with a press conference of the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko for Chinese journalists. The materials published by Chinese journalists received a wide response, including outside of China. Most of the publications were replicated by leading Chinese news agencies.

The determining factor for the expansion of the Belarusian-Chinese media partnership was the participation in September 2015 of a group of Belarusian media leaders in the *One Belt, One Road* forum of media cooperation. In total, 170 media representatives from 60 countries

白俄罗斯电视产品的信息空间、BelTA新闻社的新闻网，以及主要印刷媒体——白俄罗斯共和国总统府报纸版面。《今日白俄罗斯》、政府和议会日报《星辰》以及杂志《白俄罗斯人的思想》都对中国的新闻，对中国的生活以及白中合作进行了广泛和多方位的报道。自2017年1月起，国家月刊《白俄罗斯》的中文版本在白俄罗斯出版。

2017年5月，中国中央和地区媒体代表对白俄罗斯进行了新闻访问，白俄罗斯共和国总统亚历山大·卢卡申科为中国



记者举行了新闻发布会。中国记者发表的文章得到了广泛的响应，包括在中国境外。大多数文章都被中国的主要新闻机构转载。

发展白俄罗斯-中国媒体伙伴关系的一个决定性因素在于2015年9月，一批白俄罗斯媒体主管参加了最大的媒体合作论坛《一带一路》。共有来自世界各大洲60个国家的170名媒体代表参加了此次媒体论坛。白俄罗斯的媒体一报纸SB。《今日白俄罗斯》、《星辰》和《BelTA》新闻社分别与世界领先的媒体和中国最有影响力的报纸《人民日报》签署了谅解和合作备忘录。作为版本之间直接合作的一个例子，网络版zviazda.by中的来自中国的新闻项目。新闻报道的主要内容是由有影响力的中国新闻机构和期刊的材料组成。《星辰》的文章也被刊登在门户网站《浙民



of the world from all continents of the planet participated in this media forum. Belarusian media, including newspapers *SB. Belarus Segodnya*, *Zvyazda*, BelTA news agency, signed separate Memorandums of Understanding and Cooperation with the *People's Daily* newspaper, the leading global media space and the most influential mass media in China. As an example of direct cooperation between publications, one can note the project *Vestki z Kitaya* (News

from China) in the online publication *zviazda.by*. The content of the *News from China* is formed mainly from materials from influential Chinese news agencies and periodicals. In turn, the publications of the *Zvyazda* newspaper are posted on the news feed of the People's Daily Internet portal. The Belarusian news agency BelTA and the Chinese news agency Xinhua are cooperating productively. Their activities can rightly be called the main information bridge between our countries. For a long

time, *SB. Belarus Segodnya* has published vivid reports, in-depth articles by Inessa Pleskachevskaya, correspondent of this publication in the People's Republic of China. This experienced international journalist opened the world of China, the life of the Chinese, as well as the features that distinguish their worldview, national character, to ordinary readers with love and in great detail, which made China closer and more understandable to Belarusians. Today, her statements

International Book Fair in Minsk 明斯克国际书展

in the press, in the network resource sb.by are reflected in books. One of the recent works of Inessa Pleskachevskaya in this format is the collection *How to Unravel China*, published by the Zvyazda Publishing House in 2021. Anatoly Tozik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the PRC in 2006-2011, noted in the introductory speech to the book, "The book that you, the reader, hold in your hands, is collected by I. Pleskachevskaya during the first-early second decade of this century. Much has changed in China since then. It has entered a new era of its development, declaring itself as a global world power, the country has completed the construction of a moderately prosperous society, almost the entire adult population is covered by medical and pension insurance. At the same time, Inessa Pleskachevskaya's book is still relevant and useful for everyone who is interested in China and the life of the Chinese. For in China, dynamic changes and the fundamental principles of state administration and organisation of social life, formed over millennia, are combined in an amazing way, exist in a dialectical unity."

Earlier, in October 2014, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus and the Main State Administration of Press, Publishing, Radio Broadcasting, Cinematography and Television of the People's Republic of China on the Project for the Translation and Publication of Classical Literary Works of China and Belarus for 2015-2020. In February 2015, China was represented as an honoured guest at the traditional Minsk International Book Fair. For the first time, residents and guests of the capital of Belarus were able to see a large volume of Chinese literature published in Chinese and Russian. In the framework of the book exhibition in Belarus in 2015, the International Symposium of Writers *Writer and Time* was held for the first time. Chinese



网 «的新闻联播上。白俄罗斯新闻社BelTA和中国新华社进行了卓有成效的合作。他们的活动可以正确地称为两国之间的主要信息桥梁。在很长一段时间里，报纸《今日白俄罗斯》长期以来一直刊登其驻中华人民共和国记者伊妮莎-普列斯卡切夫斯卡娅的有见地的报告和文章。这位经验丰富的国际记者充满激情，积极地为大众读者展现了中国的世界，中国人的生活，以及不同的世界观、民众的特点，使中国人民更加接近和理解白俄

罗斯人。今天，她在报刊和网络资源sb.by上的宣传演讲在她的书里也有体现。伊妮莎-普列斯卡切夫斯卡娅最近以这种形式创作的作品之一是《解开中国之谜》，2021年由星辰出版社出版。2006-2011年，白俄罗斯共和国驻中华人民共和国特命全权大使阿纳托尔-托齐克在该书的导言中指出：»你们手中的这本书是普列斯卡乔夫在本世纪第一和第二十年初所写的汇编。从那时起，中国发生了很多变化。步入了一个新的发展阶段，宣



称自己是一个全球性的世界大国，国家已经完成了中等收入社会的全面建设，几乎所有的成年人口都有健康和养老保险。同时，伊妮莎-普列斯卡切夫斯卡娅的这本书对于所有对中国人民生活感兴趣的人来说仍然具有现实意义和实用价值。因为在中国，几千年来形成的国家管理和社会生活组织的动态变化和基本原则完美地结合在一起，并存在于辩证的统一之中»。

此前，在2014年10月，白俄罗斯共和国信息部与中华人民共和国国家新闻出版广电总局就2015-2020年《中白两国经典文学作品翻译出版项目》«签署了合作备忘录。而早在2015年2月，中华人民共和国就作为主宾国出现在传统的明斯克国际书展上。白俄罗斯首都的居民和客人首次看到了以中文和俄文出版的中国文学作品。作为2015年书展的一部分，»作家与时代《国际研讨会首次在白俄罗斯举行。来自20多个国家的中国作家与其他国家的作家一起积极参加了此次研讨会。在展览和国际研讨会之前，2月份举行了白俄罗斯-中国作家论坛。

白俄罗斯和中国之间的媒体和人道主义合作的最有发展前景的领域之一是出版领域，即小说和艺术翻译领域。如果我们研究一下这个问题的历史，从1949年到60年代初，在苏联和年轻的中华人民共和国之间的双边关系发展框架内，我们的共和国在介绍翻译成白俄罗斯语的中国小说方面做了相当多的工作，这在某种程度上是白俄罗斯书商和作家的榜样。这里只是一个比较。在20世纪中期，有近30本翻译成白俄罗斯语的中国小说在白俄罗斯出版。第一本是《中国作家的故事》，1953年由白俄出版社出版，安娜-萨普利科翻译。两年后，他出版了《鲁迅的故事》，这是中国现代文学的创始人。译者：列夫-索洛维。这一时期，杰出的白俄罗斯雕塑家扎伊尔-阿兹古尔创作了鲁迅的半身像。在1954-1959年，赵树理的《作品选》、茅盾的小说《黎明之前》、周立波的《飓风》、丁林的《桑干河上的太阳》，还有部分中国民间故事书在明斯克出版。小读者通过

masters took active participation in it, along with writers from more than 20 countries of the world. The exhibition and the international symposium in the same February was preceded by the Belarusian-Chinese Writers' Forum.

One of the brightest areas of media and humanitarian cooperation between Belarus and China is the publishing sector, the field of fiction and literary translation. If you look into the history of the issue, then an example for Belarusian scribes and writers to some extent is the period from 1949 to the early 1960s, when, within the framework of the development of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and the young People's Republic of China, much was done in our republic

to represent Chinese fiction translated into Belarusian. Let me give you just one comparison. In the middle of the 20th century, almost 30 fiction books by Chinese writers translated into Belarusian were published in Belarus. The first was the book *Stories of Chinese Writers*, published by Belgosizdat in 1953, translated by Anna Sapryko. Two years later, *Stories* by Lu Xun, the founder of modern Chinese literature, came out. The book was translated by Lev Solovey. By the way, at that time a wonderful Belarusian sculptor Zair Azgur created a bust of Lu Xun. Only in 1954 - 1959, Zhao Shuli's *Selected Works*, Mao Dun's novel *Before Dawn*, Zhou Libo's *Hurricane*, Ding Ling's *Sun Shines Over the Sanggan River*, as well

as separate books of Chinese folk tales, were published in Minsk. Young readers of Belarus got acquainted with the life of Chinese teenagers in revolutionary China through the novels *Combat Order* by Luo Dan, *Ten Little Friends* by San Shan-Fai, *Chicken Feather Letter* by Hua Shan, and other works. The works were translated by Vasil Vitka, Lydia Arabey, Yanka Bryl, Yanka Kazeka, Ales Yakimovich, Sergei Mikhalechuk, Pavlyuk Pronuso... Many Belarusian poets were beginning to actively translate and publish Chinese poetry in periodicals. Some of the first people to do it were the People's Poet of Belarus Maksim Tank, Mikola Avramchik, Sergei Dergai, Vladimir Dubovka, who, by the way, began studying Chinese poetry and the Chinese language back in the 1920s at the famous Moscow Literary and Art Institute named after Valery Bryusov.

Such a retrospective became a kind of beacon in the resumption of literary, book publishing ties between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China at the beginning of the 20th century. It is gratifying that, to the same extent, the Belarusian reader began to receive publications of works in the periodical press, including fiction, publicist, popular science, and scientific books, both in Russian and Belarusian. It should be noted right away that the scale of such work is acquiring ever larger formats, it is even difficult to form a complete picture of the world of Chinese books in Belarus. Let us pay attention to the key, milestone moments in this process, at least for the last ten years.

In 2012, the Zvyazda Publishing House, with the support of the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus and the Confucius Republican Institute of Sinology of the Belarusian

■ Confucius class in the Mogilev gymnasium 莫吉廖夫体育馆孔子班



State University, published an author's anthology of Chinese poetry *Under the Wings of the Dragon: One Hundred Poets of China* in a circulation sufficiently large for our country. It is rightly called the author's anthology, as the translator of all poems, starting from the first famous lyric poet of China, Qu Yuan (born in 343 BC), in whose honour the Dragon Boat Festival is still celebrated, was the laureate of the State Prize of the Republic of Belarus Mykola Metlitsky. The creative project of the poet-translator was awarded the special prize of the President of the Republic of Belarus for art luminaries. It is worth noting that in 2018, another author's anthology by Mykola Metlitsky,

罗丹的小说《战斗命令》、桑尚辉的《十个小伙伴》、华山的《带鸡毛的信》等作品了解中国革命时期的青少年生活。翻译家——瓦西尔·维特卡、莉迪亚·阿拉贝、扬卡·布莱尔、扬卡·卡兹卡、阿列斯·亚基莫维奇、谢尔盖·米哈尔丘克、帕夫留克·普罗努佐……许多白俄罗斯诗人开始积极翻译并在期刊上发表中国诗歌。其中最重要的是白俄罗斯的民族诗人马克西姆·汤克、米科拉·阿夫拉姆奇克、谢尔盖·德格伊、弗拉基米尔·杜波夫卡，他们早在1920年代就开始在莫斯科著名的瓦莉娅·布鲁索瓦文学艺术学院学习中国诗歌和中文。

这是白俄罗斯共和国与中华人民共和国在二十世纪初恢复文学和出



■ Over 600 schoolchildren in Grodno study Chinese 格罗德诺超过 600 名学童学习中文

版关系的一盏明灯。令人鼓舞的是，白俄罗斯读者也开始在期刊上发表作品，包括中国的艺术大师和署名评论、科普读物和科学书籍。它们同时以俄语和白俄罗斯语出版。值得一提的是，这一工作的规模越来越大，很难全面了解白俄罗斯的中文图书世界。让我们看看这个过程中至少在过去十年中的节点、里程碑式的时刻。

2012年，在白俄罗斯共和国信息部和白俄罗斯国立大学共和国孔子学院的支持下，星辰出版社为我国出版了中国诗歌作者选集《龙之翼：中国百名诗人》。作者称之为文集——所有诗歌的译者，从中国第一位著名的抒情诗人邱园（生于公元前343年）开始，至今仍在为他庆祝端

午节，他就是白俄罗斯共和国国家奖得主米科拉·梅特利茨基。诗人兼翻译家的创作被授予白俄罗斯共和国总统在文化艺术领域的特别奖。展望未来，应该指出的是，2018年米科拉·梅特利茨基的另一本作者文集——《荷花和菊花瓣、二十世纪中国百名诗人》。诗歌的代表作包括黄遵宪、津津、苏曼殊、刘大白、闻一多、徐志摩、萧三、毛泽东、艾青和其他有才华的作者的诗歌作品。而在2019年，在获得中国的版权后，将出版由米科拉·梅特利茨基翻译的中国诗歌经典之作艾青的重要作品《光之赞歌》。

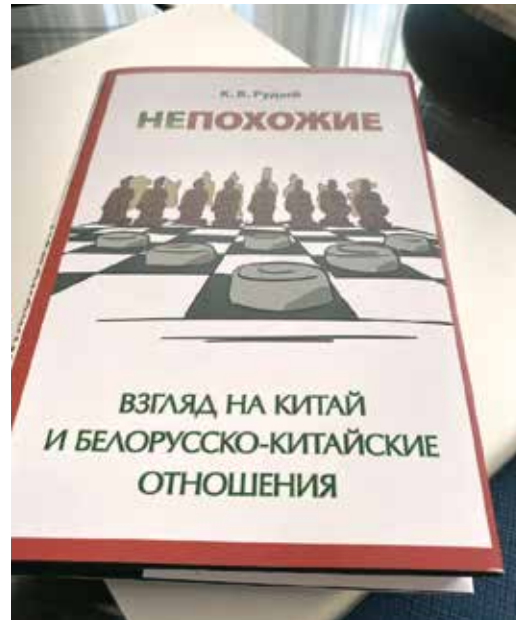
现今白俄罗斯教育体系为汉语学习创造了一切有利条件。而在2014年底，白俄罗斯的图书出版商开始结

Lotus Petals and Chrysanthemums. One Hundred Poets of China in the 20th Century, was released in the Mastatskaya Litaratura (Fiction) Publishing House. The poetic palette was represented by the poetic works of Huang Zunxian, Cu Jin, Su Manshu, Liu Dabai, Wen Yido, Xu Zhimo, Xiao San, Mao Zedong, Ai Qing, and other talented authors. In 2019, having received copyright from China, Mastatskaya Litaratura published a large book by the classic of Chinese poetry *Ai Qing Hymn to Light* translated by Mykola Metlitsky.

Today's Belarusian educational system has created all the conditions for a fruitful study of the Chinese language. And at the end of 2014, Belarusian publishers began to develop new practices of artistic interaction, taking into account the development of the Chinese language environment in Belarus. With the support of the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus, the Zvyazda Publishing House launched a translated poetic series *Light Signs: Poets of China*. One by one, the reader received books by Wang Wei, Du Fu, Li Bo, Ai Qing, Li He, Li Qingzhao, Wang Guozhen, Meng Haoran, Xu Zhimo, Wang Jiangzhao, Liu Yuxi, as well as other poets. From 2017 to 2019, the series was published by the Mastatskaya Litaratura publishing house. Publishers, embarking on this project, have created an International Editorial Board. In addition to Belarusian translators and literary critics, representatives of the Chinese side were also included in it. Over the years, Messrs. Zhang Hongbo, Gao Man, Zhang Huiqin, Cai Jianfeng, Deputy Director of the Republican Institute of Chinese Studies named after Confucius BSU Liu Sulin worked in the editorial board. The Belarusian publishers express their special gratitude to Professor Zhang Huiqin, Doctor of Philology, from the Second Beijing State University of Foreign Studies. The participation of the Chinese side in the international editorial board made it possible to make the right choice of the most interesting Chinese poets, both classics and contemporaries, as the authors of the series *Light Signs*... The

book series *Light Signs: Poets of China*, the remarkable design of which was created by Belarusian book graphic artists Aleksei Zvonarev and Kamil Kamal, seems to be a good event, a phenomenon in the Belarusian-Chinese cultural and book publishing relations at the beginning of the 21st century.

Of course, the strategic meanings of intercountry partnership involve large-scale decisions, agreements that determine the path of development, as well as the determining of the phenomena themselves. However, media, culture and even education probably remain those areas of interaction in which the personal factor is significant. In the history of Belarusian literature of the previous decades, there will remain poems, diary entries brought from travels to China by Belarusian poets Maksim Tank, Rygor Borodulin. In China, Gao Mang (1926-2017: the years of his life), a translator, literary critic, calligrapher, long-term editor of the World Literature magazine, was a person with a great love for Belarus. Back in 1958, a book of poems by Maksim Tank in his and Ge Baoquan's translations was published in China. Gao Mang came to Belarus in the mid-1950s. He met with Belarusian writers and artists. He appeared in the Chinese press with publications about Belarusian literature, Belarusian artists, made a number of translations from Belarusian. He also painted graphic portraits of Belarusian writers Yakub Kolas, Yanka Kupala, Maksim Tank, Vasil Bykov, Svetlana Aleksievich, Naum Galperovich and others. In the 1970s-1990s, for various dramatic reasons, the 'Belarusian connection' with Gao Mang was lost. In the last five years of his life, ties were restored. Gao Mang was often visited by guests from Belarus. He was often mentioned in Belarusian periodicals. The translator himself appeared in the Chinese press with a long article on Belarusian-Chinese literary and cultural ties, emphasising their development at the present stage. An evening dedicated to Gao Mang was held in Minsk. The



■ *Dissimilar* by K. Rudy
书“不一样”



translator actively corresponded with Belarusian book publishers, expressing support in many undertakings, subtly directing certain creative efforts. In 2016, when the Belarusian diplomatic mission in the PRC was headed by Doctor of Economic Sciences Kirill Rudy, a submission was prepared for awarding Gao Mang with the Francysk Skaryna medal. Unfortunately, the translator died on October 6th, 2017.

The participation of the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus, Belarusian book publishers in the

合白俄罗斯的中文环境发展，开展新的艺术互动实践。在白俄罗斯共和国信息部的支持下，星辰出版社推出了翻译诗集《闪光的标志：中国诗人》。王维、杜甫、李白、艾青、李贺、李清照、汪国真、孟浩然、徐志摩、王江照、刘禹锡等诗人的书陆续来到读者面前。从2017年到2019年，该系列由文学出版社出版。出版商在启动这个项目后，成立了一个国际编辑委员会。除了白俄罗斯的翻译家和文学评论家外，还包括中方的代表。张洪波、高曼、张惠琴、蔡剑锋、北京大学孔子学院副院长刘苏林等先生曾在



编委会工作。白俄罗斯的编辑们对北京第二外国语学院的语言学博士张惠琴教授表示特别感谢。中方参与国际编委会的工作，使我们有可能选择最有趣的中国诗人，包括经典诗人和当代诗人，作为《闪光的标志》系列的作者。由白俄罗斯图书设计师阿列克谢-兹沃纳列夫和卡米尔-卡玛尔设计的《明亮的标志：中国诗人》系列图书，是21世纪初白俄罗斯-中国文化、图书出版关系中的一件大事。

当然，跨国伙伴关系的战略意义涉及大规模的决策、确定发展道路的协议。但也许媒体、文化甚至教育仍

然是个人因素重要的互动部门。在前十年的白俄罗斯文学史上，白俄罗斯民族诗人马克西姆-汤克和雷霍尔-博罗杜林前往中华人民共和国的诗作和日记将被保留。在中国，还有一位对白俄罗斯抱有真心、爱心的人是翻译家、文学评论家、书法家、《世界文学》杂志的长期编辑高曼（1926-2017：91岁）。早在1958年，一本由马克西姆-汤克和葛宝全翻译的诗集就在中国出版。高曼在1950年代中期来到白俄罗斯。他会见了白俄罗斯的作家、艺术工作者。他在中国媒体上发表了关于白俄罗斯文学和白俄

traditional Beijing International Book Fairs, as well as negotiations with Chinese book publishers in Belarus have prepared and allow successfully implementing new areas of cooperation. In Minsk, the Beijing State Book Publishing House in foreign languages is well known. By the way, since 2015, a Belarusian subgroup of the Belarusian-Chinese negotiating group in the field of book publishing has been working under the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus. As a result of many contacts, two investment Chinese book projects have become the result of which the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House is working on. The beginning was laid by such a difficult project as the preparation of the original layout of the *Encyclopaedia of China* translated into Belarusian. The release itself was made in China. As for large-scale, serial investment projects, the first of them is the multi-volume library *Study of Chinese Civilisation*. Together with the Beijing Education Publishing House, which is part of the Beijing Group of Publishing Companies, Mastatskaya Litaratura published in Russian the encyclopaedic books *The Charm of Frozen Perfection*, *Chinese Architecture*, *Circulation of Feelings*, *Chinese Literature*, *Chinese Calligraphy*, *Calligraphy as the Voice of the Heart*, and others. A total of eight books were published between 2018 and 2020. The second project is *Key Concepts of Chinese Thought and Culture*. Of course, Belarusian sinologists are working on translating the books of this series into Belarusian. Six books in the series have been published from 2018 to 2021. The seventh and eighth books are in the works. An event for Belarusian publishers, and at the same time a crucial test, was the work on the translation and preprint preparation of the first volume of the book *On Public Administration* by President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping translated into Belarusian. In 2020, Mastatskaya Litaratura entered into an agreement with the Chinese Foreign Language Literature Publishing House

to publish the second volume of Xi Jinping's book *On Public Administration*. A memorandum on the publication of the third volume was also signed.

Such publishing practices lay a good foundation for even greater prospects in the development of Belarusian-Chinese book publishing cooperation, regardless of the form of ownership of publishing houses, regardless of their affiliation to a particular department. A striking example is the start of work in Minsk of the Vostochnaya Kultura (Oriental Culture) Publishing House, its joint publishing and book-selling activities with the Chance International Publishing Company. An impressive project of *Vostochnaya Kultura* was the publication of the book *15 Lectures on the History of China* that answers many questions in Belarusian. Undoubtedly, this publishing house has great prospects for creating its own, original part in the Belarusian multi-volume book, which will be even more actively formed in subsequent years.

Talking about the Chinese issues in the Belarusian book publishing, one should note the development of the scientific and journalistic direction in this area. One of the interesting recent event was *Dissimilar: Look at China and Belarusian-Chinese Relations*, a unique book by Doctor of Economics, Professor Kirill Valentinovich Rudy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the PRC in 2016-2020. It gives the reader the opportunity to find similarities and differences with the politics and economy of China, based on unique data, research results and personal memories of the author, to get first-hand experience of the development of Belarusian-Chinese relations in recent years.

The Chinese theme is becoming a significant area in the daily work of political scientists, researchers in the fields of economics, public administration and other important areas. As a result, new books are published, theses of



罗斯艺术家的文章，进行了一些白俄罗斯语的翻译。他还为白俄罗斯作家雅库布-科拉斯、扬卡-库帕拉、马克西姆-汤克、瓦西里娅-比科娃、斯维特拉娜-阿列克谢耶维奇、纳姆-加尔佩罗维奇等人拍摄肖像。在20世纪70年代至90年代，由于各种戏剧性的原因，与高曼的《白俄罗斯联系》《已经消失。在他生命的最后五年里，双方的关系得到了恢复。高曼经常接待来自白俄罗斯的访客。他们经常在白俄罗斯的期刊上写到他。译者本人在中国媒体上写了一篇关于白俄罗斯-中国文学和文化关系的大文章，强调了它们如今的发展。在明斯克举行了专门为高曼举办的晚会。译者积极与白俄罗斯图书出版商通信，对许多工作提供了帮助。2016年，当白俄罗斯驻中国外交使团在经济学博士基里尔-瓦伦丁诺维奇-鲁迪的带领下，准备向高曼颁发弗兰西斯克-斯卡里纳奖

章。遗憾的是，该译者于2017年10月6日去世。

白俄罗斯共和国信息部、白俄罗斯图书出版商参与传统的北京国际书展，以及与中国图书出版商在白俄罗斯的谈判，为新的合作领域做了准备并成功实施。北京国家外文出版社在明斯克是很有名的。自2015年以来，白中图书谈判小组的白俄罗斯分小组一直在白俄罗斯共和国信息部下工作。许多接触促成了两个中国投资的图书项目，文学出版社正在进行这些项目。开始准备翻译成白俄罗斯语的《中国大百科全书》的原始版面。该出版物本身是在中国实施的。至于投资大型、系列项目，其中第一个项目是多卷本图书馆《中国文明研究》。马斯塔特斯卡娅-利塔拉与隶属于北京出版集团的北京教育出版社合作，用俄语出版了百科全书《冰冻的完美魅力》。《中国建筑》、《情感圈》

■ The Chinese-Belarusian Center for Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technological Achievements was opened in the Great Stone park 中白科技成果合作中心在“巨石”揭牌



young Chinese scientists are presented in Belarusian universities under the guidance of our faculty, including in the field of the media sphere at the Faculty of Journalism of the Belarusian State University.

The cooperation of the Belarusian Union of Journalists with the journalistic community of China, as well as the creation of the Belarusian-Chinese Club of Journalists and Experts, is a breakthrough project in its own way, which will undoubtedly expand the media partnership between Belarus and China, widen the information window from Belarus to China.

Ales Karlyukevich

、《中国文学》、《中国书法》、《书法——心灵之声》等。从2018年到2020年，共出版了8本书。第二个项目是《中国思想和文化的关键概念》。当然，这套丛书是由白俄罗斯的中国学者翻译成白俄罗斯语的。在2018年至2021年期间，该系列的六本书已经出版。第七本和第八本正在制作中。对于白俄罗斯出版商来说，这是一个重大的挑战，将中华人民共和国主席习近平的《论国家管理》一书的第一卷翻译成白俄罗斯语并进行预印。2020年，文学出版社与中国外文出版社达成协议，出版《习近平论政府》第二卷。还签署了一份关于出版第三卷的备忘录。

这样的出版实践为白俄罗斯-中国图书出版合作的更大发展前景奠定了良好的基础，无论出版社的所有制形式如何，无论其隶属于哪个部门。一个显着的例子是，东方文化出版社在明斯克开业，它与机会国际出版公司共同开展出版和图书贸易活动。东方文化出版社的一个令人印象深刻的项目是用白俄罗斯语出版了人们期待已久的《中国历史15讲》。毋庸置疑，这家出版社有很大的潜力，可以在今后几年里，出版自己的原创作品。

谈到白俄罗斯图书出版中的中国问题，我们应该注意到该领域的科学和新闻趋势的发展。最近经济学博士基里尔-瓦伦迪诺维奇-鲁迪教授的一本特别的书，他在2016-2020年担任白俄罗斯共和国驻中国特命全权大使，书名是《异曲同工：看中国和白俄罗斯-中国关系》。《异曲同工》«使读者在独特的数据、科研成果和作者个人回忆的基础上找到与中国政治和经济的异同，并获得近年来白俄罗斯-中国关系发展的实际经验的第一手资料。

在政治学家、经济学、公共管理和其他重要领域的研究人员的日常工作中，中国主题正在成为一个重要的焦点。因此，新书正在出版，年轻的中国学者在我们的教授和讲师的监督下在白俄罗斯大学进行论文答辩。这包括白俄罗斯国立大学新闻系的媒体领域。

白俄罗斯记者联盟与中国新闻界的合作是一个具有突破性的项目，这无疑将扩大白俄罗斯和中国的媒体合作空间，使白俄罗斯到中国的信息窗口更加宽广。它还包括创建白俄罗斯-中国记者和专家俱乐部。

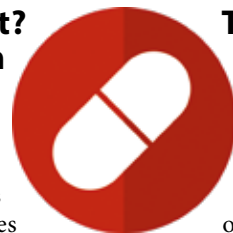
阿列斯-卡柳克维奇

SIMPLE WORDS ABOUT COMPLEX THINGS

THE SCIENCE OF THE VOICE, DRUG DESIGN, AND THE SECRET TO HAPPY FATHERHOOD

How will a supercomputer and artificial intelligence help defeat viruses? Why is natural insemination a roulette game? What does our brain 'hear' better: words or emotions? What is emotional hearing? What should be a real 'smart home' and who really needs it? The participants of the recent Minsk Science and Business Forum Innovation Storm.

The Innovation Storm is a battle of simple words with complex terms: in an informal setting, entrepreneurs and scientists talk in an accessible way about technologies and innovations that may soon radically change our lives. The form of communication with the audience provides for short speeches and questions after them. By the way, the audience sent the speakers more than 80 questions. The guests of the forum were also able to participate in innovative fun: to show their artistic abilities in virtual reality, to get a tattoo using a tattoo printer, to fight with each other using the power of thought, as well as to take bright photos in a neon tunnel.



A 'shot' at a molecular target

In November last year, the American company Pfizer announced that its antiviral drug for the treatment of covid-19, taken orally, according to the results of the second phase of clinical trials, showed an 89% reduction in the risk of hospitalisation or death. Pfizer expressed a desire to obtain permission for the emergency use of its new drug... In general, the COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be unprecedented for the 21st century and affected countries with a total population of billions of people. Therefore, the search for medicines for coronavirus has become the number one task for many pharmaceutical companies.

It should be noted that Anna Karpenko is part of the team that got into the TOP 10 according to the results of the work of scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for 2020 - for identification by computer screening and molecular modeling of potential inhibitors of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. This team is multidisciplinary and consists of specialists in such fields as chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics.



The participants of the recent Minsk Science and Business Forum Innovation Storm

Given the relevance of the topic, the National Academy of Sciences has also announced a large number of grants for scientists engaged in coronavirus research. This was told by the scientific secretary of the Council of Young Scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, a specialist in the field of bioinformatics and the development of algorithms for computer design of medicines, senior lecturer of BSU Anna Karpenko. "According to experts, investments in the creation of one drug range from 1 to 2.6 billion dollars, and the creation and entry into the market of a new drug takes from 10 to 15 years —it all depends on the relevance and degree of knowledge of a particular disease," says Anna. "However, the pandemic has

made it clear that humanity does not have such resources in time, and we must find effective solutions much faster! In addition, all expenses may become in vain if the created medicine does not pass clinical trials."

"The creation and launch of innovative drugs is a prerequisite for the existence of any competitive pharmaceutical company. However, the amount of investment in drug development is growing along with the requirements of regulators to prove the effectiveness and safety of drugs," says the young scientist. "Manufacturers are looking for effective ways to develop new molecules to increase the number of drugs that have the potential to become a breakthrough for the market."



“The supercomputer is used to ensure that, for example, not a thousand compounds, but a hundred, get to the stage of preclinical and clinical trials, since these are the most expensive and time-consuming stages of creating new medicines. Thus, the chances of success increase significantly,” explains Anna Karpenko. “Without them, the medicine will not be registered. A computer database contains more than a billion connections, and with the help of a computer, it is determined how well they fit the selected targets. There are various methods of checking how the selected compounds combine with each other, how they will behave under certain conditions, at certain temperatures, and so on.”



Drug technology has ‘come down’ today to the molecular level and is based on such a concept as a molecular target. This is a specific molecule in the body, the biochemical function of which is closely related to the occurrence or development of a certain pathology. Its exposure to the molecule of the drug gives a therapeutic effect. Almost every disease has its own molecular target, some diseases have even more than one. Now one of the most promising areas for solving these problems is the mathematical modelling of medicines. Its development is explained by the improvement of computer technologies and the possibility of processing large data arrays with their help.

The first step is target selection. The next one is the selection of a chemical compound. By analysing hundreds of millions of chemical compounds, a computer is able to find those that can destroy or block a specific target. Computer modelling allows you to carry out, in fact, the same processes that take place in a real experiment in a test tube, only to do it much faster and cheaper... It allows pharmaceutical companies to abandon the screening of ‘unpromising’ substances and study only effective compounds, thereby saving tens of millions dollars.

As supercomputing technology comes to the rescue of researchers, today every pharmaceutical company has a research department staffed by artificial intelligence specialists. Still, no mathematical modelling can replace preclinical and clinical trials, and without them, the drug simply will not be registered...

So far, COVID all over the world is being treated with drugs that have been developed to treat other diseases. And the pandemic has shown everyone the importance of computer modelling of drugs when you need fast and effective solutions...

Genetically perfect people

Andrei PEKUROV, an entrepreneur with experience in opening 27 different businesses, investor, founder and co-owner of the EvaClinic group of companies and the Adam&Eva reproductive bank, is sure that science and society are moving towards ensuring that every person has a complete detailed genetic analysis. Then, for example, when planning a pregnancy, couples could match their genomes in order to understand and avoid the risk of potential abnormalities in the genome of the unborn child. And he compares natural conception with a game of roulette.

“I think that very soon the entire civilised world will move to the conscious conception of a child outside the human body using preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) of the embryo. It will be as natural as the birth of a child in a maternity hospital, and not ‘in the field,’” he explains. “Diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities is the most important component of innovative reproductive technologies. Not a single pregnancy planning within the framework of the in vitro fertilisation protocol can do without PGT, which can significantly increase the effectiveness of the procedure itself.”

Statistics say that the older the expectant mother, the higher the risk: if at the age of 30 a woman’s chances of giving birth to a healthy baby are 92-96 percent, then closer to 40 years and at a later age they drop to 5 percent.

Normally, all human genetic material is distributed in 46 chromosomes (23 pairs). Disorders in the number of chromosomes occur quite often, and the future embryo may receive an extra chromosome or a loss of one of them may occur. Most often, during PGT, 5 chromosomes (13, 18, 21, X and Y) are analysed, defects in which cause the development of the most dangerous hereditary diseases.

In 1997, the American science fiction film Gattaca was released. It told about



genetically perfect people who occupy the highest positions in the social hierarchy. Their physical and intellectual perfection was formed even in test tubes, and parents could order both the sex of their children and the colour of their eyes. But people who were born in the usual way (they were called ‘children of love’) became second-class people in society. A quarter of a century later, fantasy begins to come true. The level of development of modern genetics allows parents to choose the sex of the children and the colour of their eyes even today. In recent years, there has even

been a discussion about the ethics of the appearance of ‘designer babies’.

Previously, the only available method for selecting embryos for transfer into the uterine cavity was the assessment of morphology (appearance). But, unfortunately, there is no clear connection between the appearance of the embryo and its genetic ‘normality’. The preimplantation genetic testing allows you to determine genetic disorders in the embryo even before its implantation.

To detect congenital or genetic malformations of the foetus, expectant

mothers undergo ultrasound screening three times — in the first, second and third trimesters of pregnancy. Unfortunately, this type of research does not provide answers to all questions. And if the defects appear, the woman is offered to terminate the pregnancy. It is especially painful to lose a child in late pregnancy...



“In vitro fertilisation allows to minimise such risks,” says Andrei Pekurov. “Moreover, such programmes as ‘delayed fatherhood’ and ‘delayed motherhood’ are practiced today. Under the first one, you can freeze sperm for the future and use them when the man is ready for the birth of a child. The chances of successful conception decrease with age not only in women, but also in men.

The quality of spermatozoa also decreases in a situation where a man works, for example, in a hazardous industry or after undergoing chemotherapy... Therefore, such a programme is an excellent ‘insurance’ against such risks. Women can also freeze their own eggs if motherhood is not yet in their plans. In addition, with age, the risks of genetic abnormalities in a child increase. Cells are stored in liquid nitrogen at a constant temperature of minus 196 degrees. All biological processes in them are suspended.”

The best words are intonations

And now imagine the following situation. The phone rings in the room. We pick up the phone, talk, and although we have never seen the interlocutor, our brain begins to draw a ‘portrait’ of a stranger in our head. And if we are offered, for example, to make a purchase, then out of two sellers with exactly the same product or service, we make our choice in favor of a friend. How does this happen? Professional speaker, language image specialist, actor and theater teacher Andrey Bibikov told the participants of the Innovation Storm about the science of voice and why the skill of public speaking is important in absolutely all spheres.

Emotional expressiveness of speech is the most important means of communication and mutual understanding of people. Speech is not just the transmission of information by signs, it is emotions, images, it is much more. The audience listens to the text, but it understands exactly the motive of speech - intonations and meanings that are put into words. The phrase ‘Good afternoon’, pronounced with different intonation, may differ significantly in meaning.



- Research underway in one of the laboratories

The COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be unprecedented for the 21st century and affected countries with a total population of billions of people. Therefore, the search for medicines for coronavirus has become the number one task for many pharmaceutical companies. Given the relevance of the topic, the National Academy of Sciences has also announced a large number of grants for scientists engaged in coronavirus research.

In particular, he said that in the research of the Russian physiologist and psychologist Vladimir Morozov on emotional hearing, there is an important conclusion that the audience creates a psychological portrait of the speaker by hearing. So, the doctor of biological Sciences came to the conclusion that there are specific areas in our brain that are responsible for reading the emotions of another person through the voice. And in hundredths of a second, he is able to create a very accurate psychological portrait of a person.

When a person comes out and tells something to the public, it is important not only what he tells, but also how he does it. Expressive speech is contagious by nature, it helps the listener to better understand the narrator. Convincing speech is not only an intellectual, but also an emotional impact on the interlocutor. By the way, neuroscientists from Princeton University have proved that the clearer we convey a thought, the easier it is for the interlocutor to agree with it and the more actively he joins in the conversation. “Keep in mind: our brain reads negative emotions much better. Words fade into the background. The poet Marina Tsvetaeva said that ‘our best words are intonations’. But the text on paper is devoid of emotions. If you didn’t put a smiley face in the correspondence, then you don’t even know whether to pack a suitcase or not,” jokes Andrey Bibikov. “Many people with good intelligence and inherently interesting personalities, however, do not know how to express their thoughts, feelings and emotions in words. But a well-delivered speech is not a natural gift, it can and should be trained. Even if you are not going to become a professional speaker, these skills will not hurt you in everyday life.”

How to convey a thought so that it resonates in the head of a person who listens to you? How to divide phrases into speech measures? How to place logical accents? What is the power of pauses and how to choose the right intonation? All this is a science that you can learn if you want.

Nadezhda **Nikolaeva**

THE FORMER MANSION IS READY TO WELCOME GUESTS IN A NEW FORMAT

More than one generation of Grodno residents knew this building as a city archive. And two and a half centuries ago, the famous Italian architect designed it for the mayor of the city Anthony Tyzenhaus. Now, after a large-scale reconstruction, tourists will be welcomed here, as well as foreign delegations, investors and businessmen.

In the meantime, we, together with the guide, will walk through the former mansion and learn about its past: after all, it was built in the era of kings and magnates. At that time, a lot of iconic architectural structures appeared in Grodno, which have survived to this day.

Authentic, but with a new touch

Our guide is Sergei Kolyada, Deputy Chairman of the Grodno Region Branch of the Republican Tourist and Sports Union. The public association, together with the City Department of Sports and Tourism, became a partner of an international project, within the framework of which the building was reconstructed.

Here is his brief history. The two-story mansion was built as the house of the vice-administrator of Grodno Anthony Tyzenhaus. At different times, there was a tax department, a post office, and since 1921, the central state historical archive.

The historical object began to acquire a new image two years ago. And finally, it turned from the crumbling building into a luxurious one, worthy of the most distinguished guests. It is true that much work has been done to give it a new look.

“It was difficult,” recalls Sergei Kolyada. “The basement was flooded, the water reached the second floor. We used modern German technology, which made it possible to secure the structure with a special solution. They found windows in the basement, it turned out that the building sank almost a meter. Perhaps the heavy limestone tiles on the second floor played a role in this. All this was removed and restored.”

Modern technologies just made it possible to preserve the authenticity of the building. Niches for sculptures draw attention. “They were here before,” notes my guide. “Apparently, they were made for some kind of sculptures. We left the niches, but there are no sculptures yet. Perhaps they will appear in time.”

Architectural gallery

The two-story building has several halls for receptions. One of them is senatorial, with massive columns up to the very roof. Due to the fact that the room occupies two floors at once, it looks especially majestic. It is expected that meetings, conferences



**WHAT'S NEW
AWAITS TOURISTS
IN THE RESTORED
TYZENHAUS
CASTLE**



and negotiations will be held here. Of course, tourist groups will also be invited here.

During the conversation with my guide, we also find out the situation with the city hall. Indeed, once there was a magistrate in the central square. But in the 18th century, its building was destroyed, only the tower clock remained, which has survived to this day and is now on the Farny Catholic Church. By the way, they are considered one of the oldest tower clocks in Europe, they run regularly today, and even with chimes.

We go up the beautiful marble staircase to the second floor. The art gallery attracts attention. It was created by Belarusian artists during the open air. Their task was to show those ancient buildings that relate to the era of Tyzenhaus on the canvases. It turned out that many such objects have survived to our times. Therefore, there turned out to be about two dozen paintings.

They depict the former royal residence, the first medical academy in Belarus (still at the stage of sale), the building called 'Krivaya Ofitsina' (curved school building), the Volovich house (today the Orthodox diocese), a modern puppet theatre, buildings on Tyzenhaus Square, including the former lamus (storage building) (now there is a restaurant), the house of artisans (now the museum of the history of Gorodnitsa), the former House of Masons (the building belongs to the Grodno University). All objects reflect the architecture of the second half of the 18th century.

Architect in bronze

Many houses were built according to the designs of famous architects. For example, the project of the restored town hall was carried out by the famous Italian architect Giuseppe de Sacco. His image in bronze is presented just next to the building. According to Sergei Kolyada, the ancient architect is discussing the urban development plan with the king himself. Both figures are made in human height.

The Belarusian sculptor Vadim Matskevich once said that bronze for the sculptural composition was cast in the best foundry in the capital. The whole work took six months. True, there were certain difficulties. For example, it was not immediately possible to make a figure of the required size, after the sculpture left the workshop, some flaws were discovered on site that had to be corrected. Meanwhile, the composition soon gained popularity as a photo zone. This is facilitated by a bench on which you can sit next to noble persons.

Walls for Grodno belts

One of the rooms of the new facility is dedicated to Grodno manufactories. And this is no coincidence



These were highly artistic works that were not inferior to the famous Slutsk belts. Only men wove them with gold and silver threads, and the craftsmen were brought from French Lyon. Belts were expensive, so only nobles, including royalty, could order them.



they were guided by similar royal halls. The same goes for the design of the rooms themselves. Bas-reliefs, balconies, columns, stairs, ceiling, walls — all this is based on various elements of other mansions. The

building will be suitable for both official meetings and cultural events. In particular, there will be a music salon. By the way, an ensemble of violinists of the children's music school demonstrated their skills during the opening of the facility.

Off-season playground

After its reconstruction, the facility will be transferred to the City Department of Sports and Tourism. The city authorities will organise the tourist traffic and all events. The programme is being developed in the Grodno City Executive Committee. Of course, everything is subordinated to the idea of preserving the elements of the city hall and the tourist site. By the way, there is an intention to open a restaurant in the basement over time.

Meanwhile, Sergei Kolyada also has news on this matter. He said that a continuation of the project regarding the mentioned historical era is being prepared. Its name is Tyzenhaus Melodies. It is assumed

that the project will give rise to systematic weekly parties that were once held with the participation of famous musicians, artists, architects, artists.

"The main goal of our projects is the development of tourism. We adopted the idea from the Czech Republic. In the off-season, a rather popular project, Tourism under the Roof, works there. When the Czechs saw that the flow of tourists during the 'dead' season was falling, they were actively engaged in the reconstruction of facilities for receiving guests. The group is met, taken to a former mansion or palace, given a tour, treated, and given a musical performance. We can also do this," says Sergei Kolyada.

So far, this is a new direction in the tourist activity of Grodno. But it seems to be quite promising. As you can see, even one single building can give a lot of impressions even to the most demanding tourists.

Margarita Ushkevich

either. At one time, the vice-administrator, or, simply speaking, the headman Anthony Tyzenhaus attached great importance to the development of industry. He founded 15 manufactories in Grodno. One of them specialised in weaving silk products, including Grodno belts.

"This skill, like the belts themselves, is undeservedly forgotten," Sergei Kolyada noted during the tour. "Therefore, we decided to remind about it and decorate the walls of one hall with samples of the famous Grodno belts. The famous artist Aleksandr Silvanovich gave them, one might say, a second life through his artistic technique. And the colours were chosen corresponding to the threads that were taken to make the belt, they are not bright, but calm, pastel colours.

As for the interior, it also matches the overall style of the facility. True, there were no sketches that would shed light on the former decoration. Therefore,





With the advent of frost, the demand for these eco-friendly footwear increases. After all, even luxury boots will not warm your feet the way felt boots do. If you want to buy an exclusive item, and authenticity is of the greatest importance here, you should come to the Dribin District — the capital of shapovalstvo (tradition of making felt boot and hats). Local craftsmen, each with their own secret techniques, have long earned the reputation of being the best in the country. Their skills have become an intangible historical and cultural value of Belarus.



FASHION IS NOT AGAINST WOOL, WHEN BOOTS HAVE TWO SOULS — ONE OF THEIR OWN AND THE OTHER OF THE CRAFTSMAN WHO MADE THEM

The craftsman hides no secrets

Dribin District Historical and Ethnographic Museum is one of the points where you can see the whole process of creating unique footwear. For more than ten years, Vladimir Osipovsky has been working here as the Head of the Shapovaly folk amateur group. The craftsman teaches children all the secrets of the ancient craft. This is not an easy task.

“Working with wool requires not only skill, but also strength. After all, to make felt boots, you need to perform up to 40 operations! To obtain a quality product, all stages are important, from wool (autumn shearing of the Romanov breed of sheep is considered the best) to the boot last that stretches the model to fit the right foot. Despite the uniform work principles, each craftsman has his own secrets. Therefore, craftsmen can immediately tell their products apart from all others. Once I met a woman in the market: I didn’t remember the customer, but I recognised the felt boots,” he laughed.

My mother learned the manufacturing process from a passing master Evdokim Egorovich Ogorodnikov. Previously, it was practiced in villages that a traveler could stay for several months at the customer’s house. The owners only had to provide a table for rolling wool and a tablecloth. If shapoval was poorly received, little was fed, and a place for the night was determined not at the stove, then in the end the felt boots came out ugly.



Vladimir inherited the art of wool felting from his mother, Maria. They come from the Vitebsk District. In a family with three children, up to 30 sheep were kept. It supported them well, as the wool saved the family not only from the cold, but also from hunger. The proceeds from the sale of felt boots allowed to feed the family.

“As a child, I was an apprentice to the craftsman,” recalls Vladimir. “For example, I brought the wool or the boot last, when asked. Thus, I was gradually learning all the subtleties. I made my first felt boots after the army. I remember my mother complimented me on getting the job done, scolded me for the quality, which was poor. Since then, I have taken a more responsible approach.”

It takes Vladimir Osipovsky at least two or three days to make one pair. The harvested wool is laid out on the canvas, the basis for future boots is formed, it is given the desired shape. After the felt boots are trimmed, adjusted to the desired size on the boot last,

According to various estimates, from one to three dozen craftsmen now live in the Dribin District. Once katrushniks (felt craftsmen) were in almost every family. The subtleties of their craft were kept secret, they were passed down from generation to generation. They even invented their own special language — Katrushnitski Lemezen. This way they protected the technology, which was unique for each craftsman, from prying ears, and they also evaluated the customer. If they saw that he was stingy, they could discuss it among themselves.



Vladimir Osipovsky knows the Katrushnitski language. But this, he says, is not what makes a craftsman a shapoval: you need to feel and love the material you work with. You also need to put your soul into each pair. Maybe that's why the boots are so warm in the cold.

a special matter called the ‘soul’ is placed inside each. They are rolled several times, then filled with boiling water and rolled again in the water.

A pair of beauty

The craftsman's felt boots are popular. From time to time, he leaves to trade at the market in Gorki. However, he likes more to work to the order. After all, the pleasure of having eco-friendly footwear, which, they say, even gives masculine strength, is not cheap. By the way, the larger the size, the more wool is required. But the high price, the master is sure, is justified. It's not even about the manual work and the cost of the material, but about the durability of the boots. They can serve the owner from five to ten years. This is because they are based on a natural material. Eminent fashion designers have long laid eyes upon such eco-friendly shoes. You will not see such a variety of models and colours on the catwalk!

Dribin also produces exclusive shoes decorated with embroidery. Employees of the District Historical and Ethnographic Museum are experimenting with drawings: for the New Year, felt boots with snowflakes, bullfinches, and fir trees are in trend.

Vladimir Osipovsky knows the Katrushnitski language. But this, he says, is not what makes a craftsman a shapoval: you need to feel and love the material you work with. You also need to put your soul into each pair. Maybe that's why the boots are so warm in the cold.

Now tell me: how to distinguish the right boot from the left one? It is a difficult question. It turns out that the boots made are identical at first. And only after several days of wearing, their owner determines which boot will be the right one and which will be the left one.

Tatiana **Sedunova**



PRIMER AS ONE OF THE CULTURAL BRANDS OF BELARUS

Do you know that the primer was invented by Belarusians? Yes, the first primer in the world was prepared by our ancestors, as proved several years ago by a famous researcher, Deputy Director General for Research of the National Library of Belarus Ales Susha. And the other day his unique monograph on Belarusian primers was published. The researcher emotionally informed:

“It’s done! The result of five years of work has been revealed! So many days, months, years, days and nights, on weekends and on vacation, at home and on the road, were given to it...”

The scientific study was conceived for the 400th anniversary of the first book called ‘Bukvar’ (primer), but has significantly expanded compared to the original plan. The monograph contains 336 large-format pages, 8 sections, 125 paragraphs, 730 illustrations, 1,025 references to published and archival sources. The history of domestic textbooks for elementary education from antiquity to the present day is considered. A large proportion of such works is completely unknown even to researchers, and their illustrations are published for the first time.

“In order to collect information about Belarusian primers, I had to travel around many countries, work in dozens of libraries, museums, archives, search in private collections, because old (and relatively modern) Belarusian textbooks are exceptionally poorly preserved in Belarus itself (they hardly survived to this day). In fact, illustrations from 78 public and private collections in Belarus, Austria, Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, USA, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Ukraine, France, Czech Republic and Sweden were used,” explains Ales Susha.

Only a few primers have been preserved, since this type of book has always been in high demand and read through-and-through. In addition, according to the author of the monograph, this is not only the first book for teaching literacy, but also the source of the highest universal and national values. According to these publications, one can study the history of culture and education of our country.

Вы ведаеце, што буквар придумалі беларусы? Так, першы буквар у свеце быў падрыхтаваны менавіта нашымі продкамі, што колькі гадоў таму давёў вядомы даследчык, намеснік генеральнага дырэктара па навуковай рабоце Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Беларусі Аляксандр Суша. І вось днямі на свет з’явілася яго ўнікальная манаграфія пра беларускія буквары. Даследчык эмацыянальна праінфармаваў:

— Адбылося! Вынік пяці гадоў работы з’явіўся на свет! Ёй аддаваўся амаль цалкам так шмат дзён, месяцаў, гадоў, удзень і ўначы, на выхадных і ў водпуску, дома і ў дарозе...

Навуковае даследванне задумвалася да 400-годдзя першай кнігі пад назвай «Буквар», але істотна пашырылася ў параўнанні з першапачатковай задумай. У манаграфіі 336 старонак вялікага фармату, 8 раздзелаў, 125 параграфаў, 730 ілюстрацый, 1025 спасылак на апублікаваныя і архіўныя крыніцы. Разглядаецца гісторыя айчынных падручнікаў для пачатковага навучання ад старажытнасці да нашых дзён. Вялікая доля такіх помнікаў зусім невядомая нават даследчыкам, а іх ілюстрацыі публікуюцца ўпершыню.

БУКВАР ЯК АДЗІН З КУЛЬТУРНЫХ БРЭНДАУ БЕЛАРУСІ



— Каб сабраць звесткі пра беларускія буквары, давялося аб’ехаць шмат краін, працаваць у дзясятках бібліятэк, музеяў, архіваў, шукаць у прыватных зборах і калекцыях, бо даўнія (ды і адносна сучасныя) беларускія падручнікі выключна слаба захаваліся ў самой Беларусі (ды што там, амаль не захаваліся). Па факце былі выкарыстаны ілюстрацыі з 78 дзяржаўных і прыватных калекцый у Беларусі, Аўстрыі, Вялікабрытаніі, Германіі, Даніі, Ірландыі, Італіі, ЗША, Латвіі, Літве, Польшчы, Расіі, Славеніі, Украіне, Францыі, Чэхіі і Швецыі, — тлумачыць Аляксандр Суша.

Буквароў захавалася няшмат, бо гэты від кніг ва ўсе часы быў асабліва запатрабаваны і зачытваўся да дзірачкі. Да таго ж, на думку аўтара манаграфіі, гэта не толькі першая кніга для навучання грамад, але і крыніца найвышэйшых агульначалавечых і нацыянальных каштоўнасцяў. Па гэтых выданнях можна вывучаць гісторыю культуры і адукацыі нашай краіны.

— Многія з даўніх беларускіх буквароў былі выяўлены адносна нядаўна. Гэта дазваляе нам спадзявацца, што новыя знаходкі яшчэ могуць быць зроблены ў будучыні. Сёння мы можам упэўнена сцвярджаць, што буквар стаў вельмі важнай з’явай у гісторыі айчыннай культуры, паўплываў на развіццё нашага народа, станаўленне яго як нацыі. У той жа час буквар можа быць упэўнена названы і адным з культурных брэндаў Беларусі, сведчаннем выключнай ролі асветы ў жыцці нашых продкаў і сучаснікаў, яскравым дасягненнем творчага генію беларускага народа.

Манаграфію ўжо цяпер можна набыць у кнігарнях, у прыватнасці, у «Акадэмікнізе», і ў выдавецтве «Беларусь». Не прпусціце інфармацыю пра прэзентацыі.

“Many of the old Belarusian primers were revealed relatively recently. This allows us to hope that new finds can still be made in the future. Today we can confidently assert that the primer has become a very important phenomenon in the history of national culture, influenced the development of our people, its formation as a nation. At the same time, the primer can be confidently called one of the cultural brands of Belarus, evidence of the exceptional role of education in the lives of our ancestors and contemporaries, a striking achievement of the creative genius of the Belarusian people.”

The monograph can already now be purchased in bookstores, in particular, in Akademkniga, and in the Belarus Publishing House. Don’t miss out on presentations.

Liudmila Rublevskaya

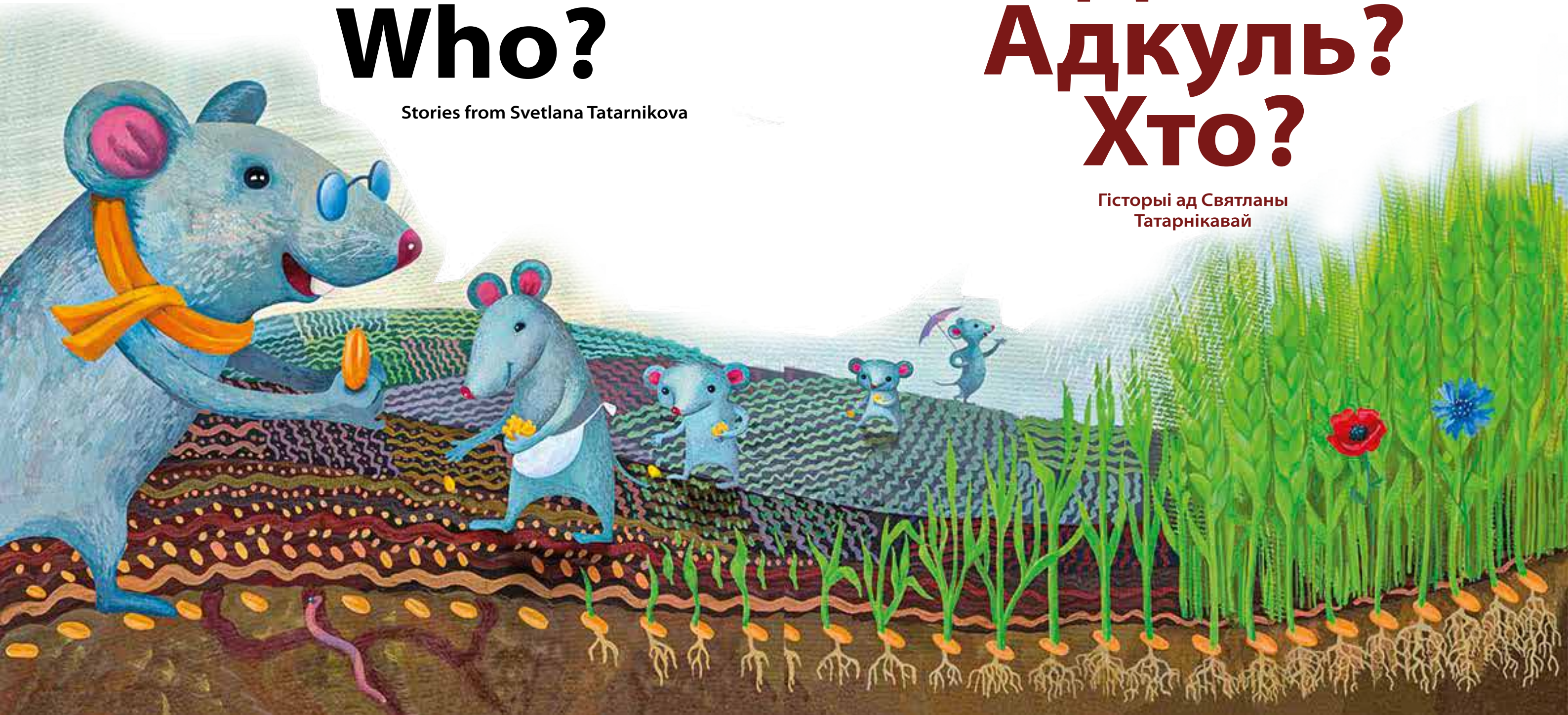
Людмила Рублёвская

Where? From where? Who?

Stories from Svetlana Tatarnikova

Дзе? Адкуль? Хто?

Гісторыі ад Святланы
Татарнікавай



Ratings of popular children's books in the Belarusian language appear from time to time. Ratings of popular or simply interesting book graphic artists working in the field of Belarusian children's books are much rarer. And yet their names are also well-known. They may at least be known to publishers are looking for the best illustrators, hoping that the fruits of their creative work will help bring the book to wider attention of buyers — especially parents of the youngest readers. Yekaterina Dubovik, Tamara Shelest, Yelena Karpovich, Rita Timokhova...

And yet, sometimes you can't help thinking that we need as many well-illustrated children's books as possible. And we need books where the main focus would be on the illustration... there are simply not enough such books — both for the youngest readers and for young parents who have chosen the native Belarusian language as the language of education. Three books by the artist Svetlana Tatarnikova (and she was also the author of short, very concise texts) published by the Yanushkevich Publishing House, attract and literally make you open them, turn their pages.

The trilogy is as follows: Where Do the Cookies Grow (the last cover contains the explanation which seems not superfluous at all: 'a fun and educational story about wheat for little ones'); Where Does the Cheese Fly From? (there is another explanation from the author and publisher explain: 'a funny and informative story about wool for the little ones'); Who Gives Us Mittens? ('a fun and informative story about wool for the little ones'). Conciseness of texts, clarity in determining the addressees of the book — this feature speaks of a good culture of book publishing, about the culture of communication between the publisher and the reader, the buyer of the book. This is also confirmed by the format of the abstracts for all the books by Svetlana Tatarnikova: 'a fun and exciting book for the youngest children about how delicious cookies appear on our tables'; 'a fascinating book for the youngest children about where does delicious cheese of different varieties comes from to our tables'; 'a useful and fascinating book for the youngest children about how wool,

Перыядычна з'яўляюцца рэйтынгі папулярных дзіцячых кніг на беларускай мове. Шмат радзей — рэйтынгі папулярных ці проста цікавых кніжных графікаў, якія працуюць у галіне беларускай дзіцячай кнігі. І ўсё ж... І ўсё ж іх імёны таксама — на слыху. На крайні выпадак — у выдаўцоў, якія шукаюць лепшых ілюстратараў, спадзеючыся, што плён іх творчай працы дапаможа прыцягнуць болей шыроую ўвагу да кнігі пакупнікоў — асабліва бацькоў самых юных чытачоў.

Канешне ж, добра ілюстраваных дзіцячых кніг патрэбна як мага болей. І патрэбны кнігі, дзе галоўны рэй вяла б ілюстрацыя... Такіх кніг проста не хапае — і самым юным чытачам, і маладым бацькам, якія выбралі як мову выхавання — родную, беларускую. Тры кнігі мастака Святланы ТАТАРНІКАВАЙ (а яна выступіла і аўтарам кароткіх, зусім лаканічных тэкстаў), выдадзеныя ў выдавецтве "Янушкевіч", прыцягваюць і літаральна па-добраму прымушаюць адкрыць іх, перагарнуць іх старонкі.

"Трылогія" выглядае наступным чынам: "Дзе расце пячэнне" (на апошняй вокладцы, што падаецца не лішнім, — тлумачэнне: "Вясёлая і пазнавальная гісторыя пра пшаніцу для маленькіх"). "Адкуль прылятае сыр?" (ізноў аўтар і выдавецтва патлумачваюць: "Вясёлая і пазнавальная гісторыя пра сыр для самых маленькіх"). "Хто нам дорыць рукавічкі?" ("Вясёлая і пазнавальная гісторыя пра воўну для самых маленькіх"). Лаканічнасць тэкстаў, яснасць у вызначэнні адраса кнігі — гэта рыса гаворыць пра добрую культуру кнігавыдання, пра культуру зносінаў выдаўца і чытача, пакупніка кнігі. Пацвярджае гэта і фармат анатацый на ўсе кнігі Святланы Татарнікавай: "Вясёлая і займальная кніжачка для самых маленькіх дзяцей пра тое, як на нашых сталах з'яўляецца смачнае пячэнне"; "Займальная кніжачка для самых маленькіх дзяцей пра тое, адкуль з'яўляецца на нашых сталах смачны сыр розных гагункаў"; "Карысная і займальная кніжачка для самых маленькіх дзяцей пра тое, як вырабляецца воўна, ніткі і розныя рэчы з іх".



Агульная канструкцыя "трылогіі" трымаецца на тым, што цікаўнасць да той ці іншай тэмы праяўляюць мышаняты. "Цікаўныя мышаняты", якія вельмі вобразна вымаляваны аўтарам кнігі. "У цікаўных мышанят заўжды шмат пытанняў! Адкуль? Навошта?

Дзе расце пячэнне? — спытала аднойчы мышаня ў свайго браціка.

Можа, на высачэзным дрэве, сярод зялёных лісточкаў? — адказаў ён.

А можа, пячэнне, як жоўценькія кветачкі, расце ў траве на лузе? — сказала яна.

Ах, мае вы фантазёры! — усміхнуўся мышка-тата. — Пойдзем са мной, я пакажу, дзе і як расце самае смачнае пячэнне.

Хадзем! ..

Вось гэта пшанічнае зярнятка мы пасадзім у зямлю. Потым яшчэ адно, і

threads, as well as various things from them, are made.

All the books in the 'trilogy' are linked by the mice who show curiosity about a particular topic. 'Curious mice', who are drawn by the author of the books in all the detail. Curious mice always have a lot of questions! Where? What for?

"Where do the cookie grow?" the little mouse once asked her brother.

"Maybe on a tall tree, among green leaves?" he replied.

"Or maybe cookies, like little yellow flowers, grow in the grass in the meadow?" she said.

"Ah, my sweet dreamers!" Daddy smiled. "Come with me, I'll show you where and how the most delicious cookies grow."

"Let's go!.."

"This is a grain of wheat we will plant in the ground. Then another one, and

another — a lot of grains. Let's sow the whole field!.."

The writer and artist invites the young reader to get acquainted with the actions of mice in finding out how cookies are born... Mice collect grain, pour it into their hole (It is their usual activity! Everyone knows that mice collect grain, search for it in fields and houses and carry it to their mysterious vaults, to their holes?!). "Will the grains soon become cookies?" "Wait a little. First, the grain needs to be ground to make flour..." The artist shows all the actions that should lead to cookies appearing on the table, step by step. And finally, we draw 'the path' as a reminder of the discovery of the little mice: 'grain ... ear ... grain ... flour ... dough ... cookies'. There is still one more spread with the task: 'Help the mice combine cookies with moulds'.

By the way, despite the fact that the artist, the author sets 'intellectual' human, mental tasks for her characters, her mice are not at all caricatures, whose images and characters are close to humans... they remain mice.

We would like to point out that Svetlana Tatarnikova, having adopted the idea of Scandinavian authors to combine in one edition the text that deals with one or another significant issue, and only one main issue at that, strives to show a consistent path to the answer with illustrations. The characters are mice, the goal is to find the answer, there is an assistant in the search for the answer — the father mouse. In the search for the answer to the question 'where does the cheese flies from', the mother mouse helps. Dad appears again in the Who Gives Us Mittens book: 'Father mouse took large scissors and began to cut curls one after another...' Sheep's curls, of course ...

However, the artistic style of a talented book graphic artist is not at all a repetition of what her predecessors from other book universes have gone through. If a certain ground of traditions is felt, then it is seen rather in the illustration of children's

яшчэ – шмат зярнятак. Засеем цэлае поле!..”

Пісьменніца і мастачка ў адной асобе запрашае юнага чытача пазнаёміцца з дзеяннямі мышанят у справе высвятлення, як нараджаецца пяхэнне... Мышаняты збіраюць зерне, ссыпаюць яго ў сваю нару (яны не парушаюць звыклых свае клопаты! Хто не ведае, што мышаняты збіраюць зерне, шукаюць яго ў полі і ў хаце і зносяць яго ў свае таямнічыя сховішчы, у свае норкі?!). “А ці хутка зярняты стануць пяхэннем? – Пачакай трошкі. Спачатку зерне трэба змалоць. Тады з яго атрымаецца мука...” Мастачка паслядоўна, крок за крокам, паказвае ўсе дзействы, якія павінны прывесці да таго часу, пакуль на стале не з’явіцца пяхэнне. А напрыканцы вымалёўвае “шлях” як напамін паслядоўнасці адкрыцця мышанят: “Зярнятка... Колас... Зерне... Мука... Цеста... Пяхэнне” Ёсць яшчэ – на адзін кніжны разварот – і заданне: “Дапамажы мышкам злучыць пяхэнне з формачкамі”.

Дарэчы, нягледзячы на тое, што мастачка, аўтар задачу сваім героям

ставіць “інтэлектуальную”, чалавечую, розумавую, яе мышаняты ніколькі не карыкатурныя, з разлікам на вобразы і персанажы, блізкія да чалавека... Яны мышанятамі і застаюцца.

Святлана Татарнікава, узяўшы на ўзбраенне ідэю, як правіла, скандынаўскіх аўтараў -- спалучыць у адным выданні тэкст, які адказвае на тое ці іншае важнае пытанне, на адно галоўнае пытанне, падкрэслім гэта, імкнецца ілюстрацыямі паказаць паслядоўны шлях да адказу. Ёсць дзеючыя героі – мышаняты, ёсць мэта – знайсці адказ, ёсць памагаты ў пошуку адказу – мышка-тата. У пошуку ісціны, адкуль вылятае сыр, дапамагае мама-мышка. У кніжцы “Хто нам дорыць рукавічкі?” ізноў на сцэну жыццёвага спектакля ізноў выступае тата..: “Мышка-тата ўзяў вялікія нажніцы і пачаў састрыгаць кудзеркі адну за адной...” “Зразумела, кудзеркі авечак...”

Але мастацкая стылістыка таленавітага кніжнага графіка – зусім не паўтарэнне пройдзенага яе папярэднікамі з іншых кніжных сусветаў. Ды калі і адчувальны пэўны грунт традыцый, то ён бачыцца хутчэй у ілюс-



books by Belarusian artists. For example, by Yelena Los... The books of Belarusian folk tales illustrated by her come to mind... When considering the formation of Yelena Los's style as an artist, the famous art critic Mikhail Borozana, using the example of the design of the Belarusian folk tale The Golden Snuffbox (1967), notes, “The book includes 12 tempera illustrations. In this work, the artist's vision of the principles of designing literature for children was very clearly manifested. Full-page illustrations combine intensely loud colours. The flatness of the composition, the conventionality of the modelling of the shape, the loudness of the colour solution in this work are taken from folk art. The artist creates a conditional compositional environment, an atmosphere of fabulousness and expectation of miracles. The 'horseman' illustration, with its plasticity and decorativeness, is associated with the forms of folk colourings. The use of folk

art techniques helps to reflect the spirit of the Belarusian folk tale, successfully reveals the theme, and the illustration literally merges with the content...”

Svetlana Tatarnikova represents, of course, a completely different generation of Belarusian book graphic artists. Let's note that they are no less interesting and no less talented than their predecessors... and yet, in the colours and plasticity of graphic solutions, one can feel the exclusively Belarusian, national style of children's book graphics. And this, too, is a manifestation of the fact that the books Where Do the Cookies Grow?, Where Does the Cheese Fly From?, Who Gives Us Mittens? have become a good artistic, book phenomenon of the past year 2021. It might as well become the beginning of a series, the beginning of a special collection by one author who chose the communication with the smallest reader...

Ales Karlyukevich

траванні дзіцячых кніг беларускімі мастакамі. Напрыклад, Аленай Лось... У памяці ўзнікаюць вымаляваныя ёй кнігі беларускіх народных казак... Разглядаючы станаўленне почырка Алены Лось як мастака, вядомы мастацтвазнаўца Міхась Баразана на прыкладзе афармлення беларускай народнай казкі “Ох і залатая табакерка” (1967) заўважае: “У кніжку ўвайшлі 12 тэмперных ілюстрацый. У гэтай рабоце вельмі яскрава выявілася бачанне мастачкай прыныцпаў афармлення літаратуры для дзяцей. У палосных ілюстрацыях спалучаюцца інтэнсіўна гучныя колеры. Ад народнага мастацтва ў гэтым творы ўзяты плоскаснасць кампазіцыі, умоўнасць мадэліроўкі формы, гучнасць каларыстычнага вырашэння. Мастачка стварае ўмоўнае кампазіцыйнае асяроддзе, атмасферу казачнасці і чакання чудаў. Ілюстрацыя “вершнік” сваёй пластыкай і дэкаратыўнасцю асацыіруецца з формамі народных размалёвак. Выкарыстанне прыёмаў народнага мастацтва дапамагае адлюстроўваць дух беларускай народнай казкі, удала раскрывае тэму – ілюстрацыя літаральна зліваецца са зместам...”

Святлана Татарнікава прадстаўляе, зразумела, зусім іншае пакаленне беларускіх кніжных графікаў. Заўважым, не меней цікавых і не меней таленавітых, чым іх папярэднікі... І ўсё ж у колерах, пластыцы графічных рашэнняў адчуваецца выключна беларуская, нацыянальная стылістыка дзіцячай кніжнай графікі. І ў гэтым таксама – праява таго, што кнігі “Дзе расце пяхэнне?”, “Адкуль прылятае сыр?”, “Хто нам дорыць рукавічкі?” сталі добрай мастацкай, кніжнай з’явай мінулага, 2021, года. А мо яшчэ – і пачаткам серыі, пачаткам адмысловай бібліятэчкі аднаго аўтара, які адрасам свайго ўзаемадзеяння абраў самага маленькага чытача?..

Алесь Карлюкевіч





The only palace in the country where you can get married is located in the capital. In the past, the current Palace of Civil Rites was known as the House of Marriage, and it was the only place where foreigners could marry. Perhaps that is why so far in every fourth family created here, one of the spouses is a resident of a foreign country, and all registrations last year were solemn. Up to 20 couples become husbands and wives per day in the season. What has changed since its renaming in 2020 and what is prepared here for brides and grooms in 2022.



LIVE MUSIC, NATIONAL DRESS, SENTIMENTAL TEARS, OR A FAMILY IS BORN IN A PALACE...

Onsite registration and a quartet of musicians for hire

The main function of the building has not changed since its appearance in 1965, which is the registration of marriages, the creation of a solemn atmosphere, the development of family values. They are still supporting Belarusian traditions and popularizing the family, but they are trying to look for new forms to make this day unforgettable for the young, according to Yulia Kochina, Director of the Palace of Civil Rites, "Each country has its own legal framework, a list of certain documents, its own conditions for accepting a marriage, so our work is non-standard, and each marriage involving a foreigner is unique. All documents are considered individually, since there is no single rule for a universally defined official paper to be called the same. Our task is to give a legal assessment of the

documents, therefore, all specialists in the registry offices have a legal education. However, we have an interesting 'relationship' with documents, we even joke that the registry offices have the best legal work for women."

In addition to the fact that the palace itself is very beautiful and there is enough space in it to invite many guests, they also offer an interesting solemn accompaniment to the ceremony. Live piano music plays in the reception hall, and if you wish, you can hire a whole quartet. By the way, the service of the registrar's officiating at the couple's venue of the celebration is in such great demand that the palace simply cannot satisfy the needs of everyone. In the summer, every fifth couple asks for on-site registration. The Director clarifies, "We can hold a ceremony within the boundaries of Minsk with a visit to any restaurant or farmstead, as well as to



the location of a historical and cultural monument. However, to register in the latter, young people must obtain permission from the Minsk City Executive Committee. Everywhere where we are invited for on-site registration, the place is beautifully decorated: either in some park or near the Museum of the Great Patriotic War.”

Get it done in three days

You can sign up for marriage registration in the palace via the Internet on the website of the Minsk City Executive Committee, and the day and time of the ceremony can be booked a maximum of a year in advance.

“According to the law, the application is accepted no earlier than three months and no later than three days before registration. For those who order time on our website, the computer sets the date of application three months before the solemn day,” specified Yulia Kochina. “It is very convenient, because there are no queues, people choose their own time. All dates

are so tightly scheduled that it is simply impossible to find some extra time bypassing those officially registered. The only thing is that sometimes we do not close for lunch to register people who have valid circumstances for marrying ahead of the schedule.”

Marriages are registered in the palace from Thursday to Saturday. Weekends are Sunday and Monday. Although it happens that on Sunday, when there is a day off, there is a beautiful date, and employees go to work. It is known that an exception was also made for February 22nd. This is a palindrome date (read the same on both sides), when the couples were allowed to register their marriages, although it is Tuesday. The dates January 22nd, 2022 and July 22nd, 2022 are in demand this year. Well, the hottest wedding time is from June to October.

Mother tongue and a registrar in folk attire

The Director of the institution notes that previously, according to statistics, every fourth or fifth couple in the palace expressed a desire to be



registered in the Belarusian language. The newlyweds came in folk costumes, relatives performed a ceremony with a towel and other attributes of a long-standing wedding. This approach pushed employees to the national creativity.

“Since the end of last year, we have slightly rebuilt our approach to work. Almost every registration (if they are citizens of Belarus) is carried out in both state languages. The main text (if the Belarusian version is not ordered) of the ceremony is in Russian, and the wishes at the end must be in Belarusian. The used music is also getting closer to the Belarusian language.

Over time, a registrar in folk attire can become an additional attribute of a sought-after wedding ceremony.

Specialists, by the way, create costumes themselves, as they say, based on bare enthusiasm.

In particular, for the occasion of the holiday of the native language (February 21st), specialists chose a certain day to go to work in national costumes and conduct registration exclusively in the Belarusian language.

Marriage geography

Marriages in Belarus continue to mature. 18-19-year-old brides and grooms, who hardly look like adults, are isolated cases. The age of the first marriage now is closer to 30, when an adult awareness of reality is already coming, as noted Yulia Kochina. However, this does not save from divorces, which



are also numerous in the country. In the past year, almost every second couple broke up, which may be due to the pandemic.

At the same time, foreigners, who are most often one or two decades older than the bride, continue to come for Belarusians. For the last decade, every fourth couple has been created with a foreigner, and last year more than 200 such unions were concluded in the palace.

“The geography of the spouses is very extensive. The classics are Russia and Ukraine. Many suitors come from Turkey, there were many representatives of Turkmenistan, America, Italy, Germany. The list also includes Israel, Great Britain, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, France, Lebanon, Iraq. There are also such exotic things as the Gambia, Vietnam, Ecuador, Chile,” said the Director of the palace. “Although mostly foreign men come for Belarusians, there

were also several brides from Russia and Ukraine, a couple from America, as well as from Israel and Somalia. In most cases, all couples with foreigners then leave Belarus, but it happens that some return years later so that the groom receives a residence permit. We always warn everyone that in some countries our marriage is not recognised, for example, in Syria (religious marriages are recognised there). And we advise you to take documents with you, because if a woman arrives there, she will be powerless.”

Solemn ceremonies marking silver (25), gold (50) and diamond (60) anniversaries are also in great demand.

“Diamonds anniversaries are especially reverent events. Not a single one has been without tears. Our employees prepare a special speech for such registrations, where events from the life of the couple are woven into the solemn words. Their short biography is entrusted into us by relatives,” explained Yulia Kochina.

There are no boundaries for marriageable age (with the exception of minors). They come to get married at 50, and at 60, and even 80. Some people have lived all their life unmarried, and finally came to get married, so that it would be easier to solve inheritance issues later, while some people met their soulmates only in retirement. Employees are convinced that most people who want to get a solemn celebration come here to get married. The palace here is beautiful, and the nature around is picturesque, and the place itself, they say, is sacred.

Irina Sidorok

The Director of the institution notes that previously, according to statistics, every fourth or fifth couple in the palace expressed a desire to be registered in the Belarusian language. The newlyweds came in folk costumes, relatives performed a ceremony with a towel and other attributes of a long-standing wedding. This approach pushed employees to the national creativity.

RISE TO THE PODIUM. FOR OLYMPIC SILVER!



Impeccable shooting and good speed are the main components of success, thanks to which biathlete Anton Smolski won silver.

The first award for the Belarusian team at the winter competition of the four-year period was at the Olympic Games in Beijing.

T

“This is the first time when I have passed four shooting ranges without a miss. I am very pleased that I managed to muster my willpower and do my best on that day. I had a medal at the European Junior Championships, where I missed once. At the Beijing Games, I updated my record and am extremely happy! From the moment I arrived at the Olympics, I felt that something was going to happen. On the day of the race, I woke up and realised that I had to do everything I could,” said Anton Smolski after a brilliant performance in the individual race at the Olympic Games.

The two days during which the first individual biathlon races took place, including 15 kilometres for girls and 20 for boys, contained a lot of diverse emotions. When girls fought for medals on the track and shooting range, there was hope. The hope that Dzinara Alimbekava, who passed the first three shooting ranges without misses, would be able to put all the bullets on target during her fourth visit to the shooting range, and would get to the podium. Alas, the Olympic champion in the relay race did not manage to open an account for personal medals in the individual race. Just one inaccurate shot, and Dzinara became the fifth. Then, of course, she cried.

Anton Smolski consoled Dzinara and probably thought, among other things, that a valuable lesson should be learned from her unfortunate failure. And the very next day, the guy from Kopyl, who broke into the elite of the world biathlon this season, did what none of the representatives of different generations of the men’s team could do since February 18th, 2010, the very day



“This is the first time when I have passed four shooting ranges without a miss. I am very pleased that I managed to muster my willpower and do my best on that day. I had a medal at the European Junior Championships, where I missed once. At the Beijing Games, I updated my record and am extremely happy! From the moment I arrived at the Olympics, I felt that something was going to happen. On the day of the race, I woke up and realised that I had to do everything I could.”

when the Belarusian Sergey Novikov shared the silver in the Olympic individual race in Vancouver with the Norwegian king of biathlon Ole Einar Bjørndalen.

During this season of the World Cup, Anton Smolski has climbed the podium five times. He completed two sprints with a bronze medal, and took a medal of the same value in the pursuit race. He also took silver in the mixed relay and bronze in the classic men's quartet competition. However, the biathlete could not even get close to the podium in

individual races. Until Tuesday. On this day, Dzinara Alimbekava was one of the first to congratulate Anton at the Zhangjiakou National Biathlon Centre. After the finish of her beloved person, she again could not hold back her tears, but that was completely different, these were no longer the tears of frustration and disappointment, but the tears of pure joy.

Smolski's story is about how a guy who did not shine with talent in childhood was able to pave the way to the Olympic podium with his own diligence and



determination. To run three kilometres to the training facility in one direction every day? Easy. Not to give up when something is not going according to plan? Difficult, but doable... The fact that Smolski's current success was not an accident is evidenced not only by the places in the top three winners in the World Cup races, but also by the fact that four years ago, not having much experience in competing among the strongest, Anton managed to qualify for the team for the Olympic Games in Pyeongchang and, by the way, was one of the best among the athletes of the men's team.

...And the Beijing Olympics continued. Sprints and pursuit races, mass starts and relay races were ahead. They were followed by dozens of students of the Kopyl Specialised Children and Youth Sports School of the Olympic Reserve, the same one where the sixth grader Anton once came and said that he wanted to become a biathlete. Anatoly Senyuk, the first coach of Smolski, hopes that a new shooting range will appear at the school very soon, where children who are starting their way to big-time sports will hone their skills. Smolski made his contribution to their

future immediately after the individual race: having won silver, he became a participant in the Olympic Choice project of the Presidential Sports Club, very soon the Kopyl Sports School will receive 20 thousand roubles to enhance the material and technical facilities.

“It is clear that it is hard to run, but it is also hard to watch the race, - says Sergey Novikov, the author of the last Olympic success. “You watch, you worry, because you understand all the nuances that can be on the track, at the shooting range. You understand what exciting feelings the athletes have at the final range. For example, the Russian Maxim Tsvetkov did not manage to hit the final target, as well as Tarjei Bø. Our Anton Smolski succeeded in everything. I had exactly the same situation in 2010 when I won silver at the Olympics. I am very happy for our entire team that we managed to maintain the traditions of the Belarusian biathlon, the athletes show results at a decent level throughout the season. Now we have the medal of these Olympics. Congratulations to Anton, well done, you are a fighter! Congratulations to our entire team.

Tatiana **Pastushenko**



SILVER SWAN IN THE SKY OF BEIJING

Hanna Huskova brought Belarus the second medal of the 2022 Olympic Games, winning silver in freestyle skiing



President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated Hanna Huskova, "Dear Anya! We were hoping! We have been waiting for this medal. Congratulations! This is silver with a golden tint, because only the representative of the host country of the Olympic Games was ahead of you. Proud of you and our freestyle school!"

The final score of 107.95 is fantastic! Delight! Miracle! Hanna Huskova turned out to be a real magician, a master of her craft, a professional with a capital P, giving the country a miracle that not everyone believed in. Her decisive jump was beautiful, but the strong character and iron will of the athlete were even more admirable than her subtle skill. The inner steel that allowed her to go through all the difficulties and injuries that have befallen her since the triumph in Pyeongchang 2018, where Huskova won gold, with honour and dignity. This is another medal for our freestyle team: starting from Nagano-1998, Belarusian freestyle skiers have always taken place on the Olympic podium, which is seven Games in a row!

By that day, the Olympics had smoothly crossed the equator: the second and final week of the Games, full of events and emotions, had started. Monday was exciting, first of all, due to the performance of girls in ski acrobatics. The qualifications for this part of the programme were postponed from Sunday due to the snow storm, and the athletes were forced to compress the tournament into half a day, scheduling the preliminary stage and medal showdown for the same day. Two out of three Belarusians, Hanna Huskova and Anastasiya Andryianava, were selected in the final round, while Anna Derugo could not cope with the pressure, taking the last place in the score-sheet.

The first final series was ruthless, leaving exactly half of the athletes. The debutant of the Games Andryianava did her best taking 11th place, which is not

so bad for a start. Huskova broke into the pool of the strongest from sixth place. She did not succeed in the first jump, as well as in the second one (we all know that Hanna can perform ultra-c elements almost perfectly). But be that as it may, a score of 92.00 with a very ambiguous refereeing allowed the Belarusian to qualify for the elite contenders for awards. True, it seemed that it would be extremely difficult to compete on equal terms with the American Ashley Caldwell, the Chinese Xu Mentao, as well as the powerful Australians, whose scores exceeded one hundred. Perhaps one could only hope for a miracle.

You know the rest: Hanna Huskova flew like a falcon into the Beijing sky, drew all her elements in it accurately as if with a pencil and landed elegantly on a snowy slope, causing a storm of delight and an explosion of emotions.

Hanna Huskova,

“When I got to my feet after the decisive jump, I realised that I had done everything I could. I note that the previous time when I did this jump was in Pyeongchang, four years ago. I was overwhelmed. This was great! The decision to perform such a difficult jump was made already on the slope, when, after the second attempt, I realised that I had to go all in. I was confident in my abilities. Of course, it was difficult to perform the jump, since it was only in my head.”

Of all the favourites, only the legendary Chinese athlete Xu Mentao, who stormed the podium back in Sochi 2014, but lost the gold to our Alla Tsuper, survived such a psychological blow and did not crumble into pieces. Now she, having perfectly performed her most difficult jump, took revenge, beating her rival from Belarus.

Here is how the Sport and Tourism Minister Sergei Kovalchuk commented on the silver result of the Belarusian freestyler Hanna Huskova at the Olympic Games. “Only the best freestylers of the world competed in the finals, and our athlete was a worthy opponent. The Chinese women showed extremely stable results, the Americans also jumped well, which was very difficult in such



conditions. But Hanna is a real fighter, she has nerves of steel,” noted Sergei Kovalchuk. “Perhaps there was some bias from the judges at the beginning, because the quality of Hanna’s jumps in the first round was higher than the marks that we saw on the screen. However, everything worked out in the finals, the risk justified itself. At the most crucial moment, Hanna pulled herself together and gave us a jump with a golden tint, such a high result in such a serious competition is an undoubted success for our sport. This is the work of a large number of people, including our young and promising coaches, the whole team, and fortunately, four years of hard training resulted in such an important medal for our country.”

In the world of freestyle skiing, there are now only two two-time Olympic medallists in individual jumps: Xu Mentao and Hanna Huskova, both with gold and silver.

The silver medal of Hanna Huskova became the eighth award for Belarusian freestylers at seven Olympics in a row. The first Belarusian freestyler to climb the Olympic podium was Dmitri Dashchinski, who won bronze in Nagano-1998. Eight years later, in Turin 2006, he forged his bronze into silver. The first Belarusian Olympic champion in this freestyle discipline was Aleksei Grishin, who had no equal in Vancouver 2010. Prior to that, in Salt Lake City 2002, Grishin was the bronze medallist of the Games. The 2014 Olympics in Sochi were the most successful for the Belarusians. Anton Kushnir and Alla Tsuper took two gold medals. Four years later, Hanna Huskova repeated their success in Pyeongchang.

Based on materials of BelTA



**AS LONG AS THERE IS
A DESIRE AND A FIRE
BURNS IN THE EYES,
FEAR IS ALWAYS IN
SECOND PLACE**

The film industry is full of talented people. However, the faces of representatives of this particular profession often remain behind the scenes, although in most cases they are the main characters of the filming process. We are talking about stuntmen. Aleksandr Sitnik, a stuntman and a team leader, told us more about what kind of profession it is, how to get into it and what difficulties you have to face during filming.

“How did you get into the industry?”

“I have always been drawn to sports, and from childhood I wanted a ‘male’ profession for myself. At one time I did taekwondo and even received the title of candidate master of sports in this type of martial art. Later I served in the army in intelligence, and this strengthened my desire for a ‘brave’ profession. Therefore, after the army, I got a job as a rescuer at the Ministry of Emergencies. However, the work there was not quite what I imagined. Fortunately, we have quite a few difficult situations, in six months I had to answer emergency calls only three times, even saved people in a fire. However, the soul asked for something more extreme. Just at that moment I found out that the famous stuntman Sergei Katorzhenko was recruiting stuntmen for his team, and decided to try to get there. They hired me, and after a couple of training sessions, I realised that I had found an occupation that brings pleasure, quit my job and devoted myself completely to this business.”

“Was it difficult at first?”

“Not really. My sports background helped me a lot, as did my job at the Ministry of Emergencies. In addition, the coach is a true professional in his field. He is recognised by the Russian Association of Stuntmen and even listed in the Guinness Book of Records for jumping from a height of seventy-two meters. I quickly joined the stunt business and now I can’t imagine my life without it.”

“How did your relatives react to such an unusual profession?”

“At first, they were surprised and suspicious, not everyone believed that I would succeed. They argued that it was not like in Hollywood. Many people tried to talk me out of it. However, I did not listen to anyone and was able to achieve a certain success in the new area.”

“How did you become a stunt coordinator?”

“It was 2017, if I’m not mistaken. I was supposed to go to the Crimea with my team leader, but it didn’t work out, and I stayed in Belarus. At that time, I already realised that I didn’t



want to quit stunt work, so I decided to create my own team. I recruited guys, and for a whole year we just trained. It took a lot of time to explain that a stuntman is not about martial arts, but rather a stage and theatrical activity. And that if you are required to show a fight, then you do not need to do it in full force while injuring your partner. When I realised that the guys got the right base, they began to take part in advertisements. And now our stuntmen are in demand and act in various films, including foreign ones.”

“Do you like being a stunt coordinator or doing them yourself?”

“Of course, I like to invent new stunts and stage existing ones, but, since my age allows, I often perform them myself. I love this job and will do it as long as I have the strength.”

“What qualities should a person have to become a stuntman?”

“A stuntman is a versatile specialist, he or she must be developed in different areas. And I’m not just talking about physical training. A master of sports of international class, for example, in boxing, will not necessarily be a good stuntman. A guy can come who hasn’t been involved in sports at all, but he develops, works, and he has an inclination and talent for it. Then he is more likely to reach the top in this matter. It is, of course, quite difficult to understand on your own whether you have the makings of such an occupation, it is better to seek a professional opinion. If we talk about what qualities, then first of all a person must be a fighter, which I search for when recruiting people for the team. So that even if you fall, you get up and still come to the site. In addition, the stuntman must be an actor. He or she must be confident. However, we are all different, and everyone needs a different time in order to feel relaxed. Of course, there are age restrictions: the stuntman must be at least 18 years old. But, again, we have a guy who is fifteen, he is just training, not taking part in the shooting. As for the ‘final’ age in this profession, then I think that it does not exist. Just recently,



we worked on the Righteous project, there was a stunt coordinator, he is 67 years old. Of course, he does not do stunts himself, but only stages them. If we talk about the age of the ‘performers’, then the age is also not the main thing, you need to feel it for yourself.”

“What about the gender issue?”

“We have girls in the team who are in no way inferior to men. They also train, participate in filming and do various stunts.”

“How are the trainings going?”

“In general, as in any sport: first it’s a warm-up, then stretching, then learning the basic techniques. It can be both combat choreography, and acrobatics or wrestling in pairs. Everything depends on the task. We mainly train for any projects. For example, we know that soon we will be shooting in an action movie, then we put more emphasis on improving out fighting technique. I want to reach the Hollywood level. It happens that we ourselves shoot some previews on camera, we come to the director and offer a new vision of old stunts.”

“Did you have to perform dangerous stunts?”

“There is an opinion that a stuntman is the one who runs and hits his head against the wall. In fact, the stuntman has to make people think he’s in pain without hurting himself or herself. However, despite this, the risk in our profession is always present. Car stunts are considered the most dangerous. In my practice, as

one of the most dangerous, I would note the stunt with a rollover of a car, which was filmed for a Netflix film. Well, and another stunt performed during one of the first shootings of Greetings from Katyusha, when I jumped from a flip board into the river. In this scene, there were many explosive devices on the site, as well as air guns with gas. I stood on the board and had to press the sensor to jump into the river. When I did this, I was pushed out of the flip board, I flew into the river, and a fireball formed behind me. In addition, stunts performed at a height, as well as stunts with fire and animals, are considered to be dangerous.”

“Is there really no injury on such shootings?”

“When deciding to become a stuntman, you always understand that in this profession there are certain risks for health and life. Therefore, on all shootings where dangerous stunts are planned, an ambulance team is on duty. Of course, there are injuries, often they are minor scratches and bruises, sometimes it is worse. I had a major injury after filming one of the films. We filmed a stunt with a half-sawn jeep. It was necessary to jump out of it on a flip board. According to the plot, it should have been like this: the car shatters, I fly out of it, behind me there is an explosion. But in the process of filming, problems arose with pyrotechnics, the explosion occurred a little earlier than necessary. And it turned out that I ‘exploded’ ahead of time. Fortunately, I managed to figure out and tuck myself up. In general, you know, no injuries will scare and force a real stuntman to quit this business. After all, as long as there is a desire and a fire burns in the eyes, fear is always in second place.”

Angelina **Novikova**



A FRIENDLY INVITATION DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED

The presentation concerning the tourism potential of Belarus was one of the most notable and striking events of the largest world exhibition Expo-2020, which was postponed several times due to the epidemiological situation. Experts and leading industry players told the guests of the exhibition in the United Arab Emirates, where it will still be open until the end of March, about the possibilities of health, recreational, cultural, educational, ecological tourism in our country, presented the national online booking service, held a series of negotiations and meetings with colleagues and foreign representatives of the tourism industry, as well as outlined prospects for active cooperation.

Specialists from the Ministry of Sports and Tourism, the Department of Tourism, the National Tourism Agency worked at the exhibition in Dubai for four days, two of which were taken by the presentation of the country's tourism potential. In addition, representatives of the tourism industry held individual meetings, studied the experience of colleagues.

"We presented the most ground-breaking areas, such as ecological, health, cultural and educational tourism, talked about industrial tourism, recalled the conditions for entry and stay in our country," said the Ministry of Sports and Tourism. "Liberal travel regime, safety of stay, good intercultural environment, richness of tourist potential, location in the centre of Europe, unique culture, history and nature, according to colleagues, were noted by many visitors to the Belarusian stand. Some of them have already heard about our country, some just carefully studied the information at the exhibition and were impressed, which pleases us a lot. By the way, we provided our specialist with a variety of materials about Belarusian tourism in nine languages."

Representatives of the leading tourist organisations of Belarus, such as, for example, Tsentrkurort, Belarustourist and Belprofsoyuzkurort, also participated in the tourism days: they told visitors about their capabilities, as well as the country's tourism potential during presentations. In addition, the Vetliva service of online

booking and payment for tourist services and the Belarus travel tourist portal were presented. There were also smaller meetings with colleagues from the travel industry representing potential markets.

"We focused on communication with representatives of the tourism industry, such as tour operators, travel agents who have the opportunity and are interested in bringing large groups of travellers to Belarus, and are ready to work in a bilateral format," they stressed in the Ministry of Sports and Tourism. "Now, for example, the issue of signing a cooperation agreement between our National Tourism Agency and the Abu Dhabi Tourism Development Agency is being worked out. There is a mutual interest in exchanging groups through direct flights, fairly comfortable visiting conditions associated with PCR tests, and the absence of a quarantine regime. A lot of Belarusians fly to the Emirates, so we would like to see a good flow of foreign tourists from this country. Moreover, we can interest them in health improvement in

sanatoriums, medical services, recreation in agro-eco-estates, enjoyment of the unique nature, rich culture and historical past."

The created videos spoke better than words about the tourism potential of the country and each region.

"These are very worthy videos that show Belarusians as hospitable people, demonstrate magnificent nature at different times of the year, significant events, good infrastructure, interesting cultural institutions and original festivals... Thanks to videos, brochures, personal communication, meetings and presentations, we managed to interest business representatives and tourists. Participation in Expo is very important for us. No wonder they say: those who were not represented there, just have nothing to say. The response will be unequivocal," they believe in the ministry. "After each major presentation, a lot of emails come from colleagues and partners, the number of subscribers in social networks is growing. Therefore, we intend to continue to talk about our tourism at major international professional and universal exhibitions, to conduct info tours for foreign tourism businesses and the media. In addition, each region and Minsk present and will continue to present their achievements at the Expo. Furthermore, they will give additional information about the local highlights of tourism."

Aleksandr Pimenov





"WE WILL BE UNDERSTOOD
IN 100 YEARS"

These words belong to the author of unique works, the Suprematist architect Lazar Khidekel, who designed, do not be surprised, the cities of the future. By the way, the avant-garde artist, author of the first ecological architectural manifesto and one of the founders of the famous UNOVIS creative association, was born in Vitebsk. In the leap year 1904. The date of birth, February 29th, is remarkable in its own way.

In general, many interesting facts are connected even with the beginning of the creative path of Lazar Khidekel. He began to study art at the Vitebsk Folk Art School under Marc Chagall, where Mstislav Dobuzhinsky, Lazar Lissitzky and even Kazimir Malevich, known for their rather bold, as well as original, views on art, also taught. At the age of fifteen, young Khidekel became one of those who in February 1920 joined UNOVIS, which glorified Belarus to the whole world. At the age of sixteen, he headed the architectural workshop of the school and devoted his life to architecture.

Discovering the unique legacy

"My father started his career in Belarus. Back in the 20s of the last century, he foresaw the planting of greenery on the roofs of houses, the need to build houses without the dependence on the sea level. And he even designed space dwellings in such a way that it would be possible to settle in them," spoke the son of Lazar Khidekel, architect and designer Mark Khidekel, a few years ago at the opening of an exhibition at the National Art Museum of Belarus, timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the UNOVIS art association (The Affirmers of the New Art). At that time, the main museum of the country displayed the early Suprematist compositions of Lazar Khidekel and the projects of his futuristic space and ecological cities. For example, flying cities, garden cities, space stations and settlements.

This was a large-scale retrospective exhibition of works by an outstanding avant-garde artist, the world's first Suprematist architect Lazar Khidekel presented by the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus together with the Centre for Belarusian-Jewish Cultural Heritage, within the framework of the #UNOVIS100 project. The artist's words 'We will be understood in 100 years', taken as the title of the exhibition, which reflected its conceptual essence and emphasised that Khidekel's innovative ideas were ahead of their time. About a hundred works from the family collection,



unique UNOVIS documents, augmented reality technologies from Feeling Digital and the architects of the Level 80 studio, who created a project thanks to which Khidekel's flying city came to life, as well as animations and fantasies on the theme of space by the artist's grandson Roman Khidekel, presented at the exhibition, gave us a comprehensive idea of the life and work of the 'revolutionary Suprematist'. The exhibition demonstrated various periods of Lazar Khidekel's work in the chronological order: from early compositions made by a 15-year-old boy, Suprematist cycles of the early 1920s, to architectural and eco-futuristic 1930s. That project became the first acquaintance of Belarusian viewers with the unique legacy of the outstanding architect following other similar projects revealing 'famous and unknown' names in the Belarusian artistic culture.

Notably, Suprematism, invented at the beginning of the last century in Vitebsk, later became the basis for world trends in architecture and design. But until recently, only knowledgeable art historians spoke about the significance of UNOVIS and its talented participants. This is wrong, they thought in Minsk at the beginning of the 21st century, and they arranged that exhibition.

Shoulder to shoulder with Malevich

Lazar Khidekel descended from a family of architects, his father also designed houses. When Lazar was 14, Marc Chagall took him to his folk art school in violation of the rules.

"Chagall saw my father, when he came to St. Petersburg in 1973. They reminisced about Vitebsk, but at the same time they were afraid to go there, to a completely



new city, to Vitebsk, which had been completely destroyed during the war. Nothing was preserved. They were old people and were afraid that their hearts would break," said Mark, the son of Lazar Khidekel. He was at that meeting of Chagall with his father, "It is interesting that Chagall, when he saw my father, said: 'Lazar, you were such a talented artist, why did you become an architect.' And then he added: 'Lazar, I am so grateful to you, you always protected me from this bandit Malevich.' It was amazing to see two people talk so passionately" recalled Mark. At the same time, according to him, Lazar Khidekel respected Malevich, perceived him almost as the

Messiah. He never called him by his last name, only Kazimir Severyanovich.

Mark Khidekel also recalled the story of how his father introduced Malevich to his teacher Nikolsky who was a famous professor who had great influence in Leningrad. And they tried to get Malevich to lecture at the Institute of Civil Engineers.

"What was surprising, however, is that in Vitebsk, 15-16-year-old teenagers simply adored Malevich, but students in St. Petersburg did not understand him. Malevich had only delivered three lectures, when they started to resent him: 'what is he telling us?!'. And Malevich failed to gain a foothold in the institute," said Mark.

By the way, Ivona Malevich, the great-niece of the famous avant-garde artist, also came to the opening of that, in its own way, unique Minsk exhibition of Lazar Khidekel's works. She admitted that she is always a little offended when her eminent relative is associated only with the Black Square. And she reminded that, in fact, the idea of space houses-architectons belongs to Kazimir Malevich, "He started making architectons in Vitebsk. When Khidekel came to Malevich, he was only 14 years old, just a boy... And UNOVIS was not only a revolution in art, it was a revolution in architecture as well. All future architecture of the 20th century began in Vitebsk, where Malevich created his architectons — houses for people who will live in space in the future. They look like modern space stations that are in space today," assured Ivona Malevich.

Of course, it is difficult to imagine how things really were. One way or another, it was Lazar Khidekel who

headed the architectural studio at UNOVIS and even managed to implement several of his Suprematist projects. And some of his ideas are being implemented now, decades later.

Is Suprematism going to save the world?

Lazar Khidekel drew designs for housing in space in the early 1920s, that is 40 years before Gagarin's flight. And he also had a project for an air city, a city on supports, as well as many other, as he himself defined them, futuristic cities.

"It is very difficult to say what inspired the UNOVIS participants. Probably, they became some kind of visionaries, such a bunch of brilliant energy, which at that moment turned out to be in Vitebsk," says Maya Katsnelson, founder of the Centre for Belarusian-Jewish Cultural Heritage.

Mark Khidekel recalls that many of the ideas of modern architects have grown from Suprematism, which prefers simple forms and minimalism. He admitted that, together with his son Roman, he was developing several projects with an eye on his father's futuristic ideas.

"My son and I are currently working on Bridge-city. This is the so-called bridge city, which should protect New York from floods. That is, it will be based on structures raised on columns, which, in case of emergency, will make it possible to withstand the natural disasters and protect people," said Mark Khidekel, in fact, describing the 'city on supports' of Lazar Khidekel.

Moreover, at the exhibition in Minsk, one could virtually wander around such a city. The organisers have provided this opportunity so that visitors can feel first-hand the relevance of ideas invented at the beginning of the 20th century in the 21st century.

By the way, Lazar Khidekel managed to implement several of his Suprematist projects back in the 1930s, including a town with an infrastructure thought out to the smallest





Lazar Khidekel's talent as an architect was recognised early on, beginning with his widely acclaimed Workers' Club dated 1926, which went down in history as the world's first Suprematist architectural structure.

detail. Mark Khidekel recalled that his father always considered architecture to be the most humane profession, designed to think, first of all, about people and their comfort.

"It seems to me that Suprematism is infinitely important today. We especially feel this in the West, when there is no unity left at all in anything: neither in politics, nor in relation to ecology and architecture, to anything. The world is extremely fragmented. And small fragments of this world are very hostile to each other. And Suprematism is a universal system, the philosophy of the universal world, the understanding that we are one world and that we are connected with nature. Such a view is necessary. It used to be said that beauty will save the world, but to me it seems that Suprematism will save the world," these are the words of Lazar Khidekel's daughter-in-law, art critic Regina Khidekel.

UNOVIS as a national treasure

Mark Khidekel admitted that he was impressed by the approach of Belarusian specialists to the formation of that exposition in the main museum of Belarus. When his father's work was exhibited in Paris at the Pompidou Centre, he had to explain to local specialists for a long time how to present the exhibits. Everything was different in Minsk. "The works are grouped and the space is organised at the

highest professional level. Therefore, I would like to thank the hosts for being able to correctly place a rather complex, sometimes incomprehensible mass of works and allow the public to understand everything correctly. This is a very important point. As my father used to say, Kazimir Severyanovich (Malevich, editor's note) would be pleased," noted Mark Khidekel when evaluating the exhibition at the National Art Museum.

The works brought to Minsk are the property of the family, a unique archive that the heirs managed to preserve. This archive survived the terrible flood in Leningrad, the Stalinist purges, the war and the blockade, as well as the weak public interest in the history of UNOVIS at home.

"I would like to quote Ivona Malevich that UNOVIS is a national treasure of our country and a national treasure of world culture. The most important thing is that we ourselves understand how much we need it. Until we understand this, it will all remain some kind of distant history. The theme of the avant-garde of the 1920s, which is getting new rounds of development, including with the support of young artists, should be modern," said Andrei Dukhovnikov, Director of the Museum of the History of the Vitebsk Folk Art School.

Veniamin **Mikheyev**
Photo of the author

At the exhibition of works by Lazar Khidekel at the National Art Museum of Belarus

