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# CHECKING CLOCKS IN THE NEAREST DIMENSION



## Presidents of Belarus and Russia held talks in Novo Ogaryovo

*It should be noted that this was the first meeting between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin this year. The leaders of the two countries agreed to hold it during a recent telephone conversation. And the day before, in an interview with foreign and Russian media, the President of Belarus spoke in detail both about the agenda of the negotiations and*

*about the prospects for Belarusian-Russian cooperation. It is based on the economy with an emphasis on closer cooperation and import substitution. There are already noticeable results here. No wonder Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, “We are going deeper, we are doing everything in order to somehow overcome the barriers that are artificially created for us.”*



## There is something to add to the asset

In a word, it is no coincidence that the presidents began their meeting in Novo Ogaryovo with an analysis of what has already been done. Aleksandr Lukashenko said that following the results of last year, Belarus and Russia reached an unprecedented turnover in goods and services, “50 billion dollars. About 44 billion, as you said, in terms of goods. And more services. The ambassador reported to me on the way, I was pleasantly surprised that your companies ordered more than \$300 million worth of products from our IT specialists. Paid over \$300 million. Everyone shouted: ‘Here, they fled from Belarus, left Russia and so on...’ Only Russia ordered from Belarus for 300 million and paid. And if you take Russian IT specialists, there are several billion dollars. So even here the ‘peace-loving’ countries failed to squeeze us so hard that the best minds, as they said, fled our countries. So, import substitution is still moving forward.”

The Head of State said that Belarus is fully complying with the agreements with Russia in the field of defence and security, “Everything that we agreed with you at one time, quite recently, three months ago, on defence and security, the Belarusian side fulfilled 100 percent last year. And they did even more.”

## Facts confirm progress

If we focus on changes for the better, then there is, for example, a noticeable movement in the microelectronics industry. The President of Belarus said on this occasion, “We were worried with you that we were really very tied to imports in some aspects. Soon I will have a meeting in the same vein as we discussed in Sochi with you. We have preserved the microelectronic industry, what was in the Union, as you said. We agreed with the Russians, those companies that also remained from the Union. And today experts say: ‘Don’t worry, tell Vladimir Vladimirovich, we will do everything necessary.’ Well, the dimensions will be slightly larger, but in the near future...”

We know where to go and what to do. It is most important. People understand. Therefore, with import substitution, we moved. I won’t say that we have resolved all the issues, but we have moved on.”

The facts show that cooperation has also been established between enterprises that previously considered each other competitors. We are talking, in particular, about the Minsk Automobile Plant and KAMAZ.

“We have always, as you remember, had some kind of red tape with KAMAZ and the Minsk Automobile Plant. And now there is no competition. We produce goods for KAMAZ, components, KAMAZ produces some for us. When individual companies left (Western), this is how they work. And there is enough market,” stated the President.

## Plan the way forward together

Of course, there is still work to be done. There are certain problematic moments in matters of cooperation. Although there are many obvious achievements. For example, in the

aircraft industry. The President of Belarus, addressing his Russian counterpart, specified, “You once raised the issue of cooperation in the field of aircraft construction in the EurAsEC. So I must report to you that the Belarusians make up to a thousand components for the MC 21 and Superjet 100. We have three factories. Two military and one civilian. They used to be renovations. Today, components are already being produced. And, as I was informed in the Government, they are ready to enter the production of the Su 25 aircraft, which shows itself well in Ukraine, an attack aircraft, a workhorse. We are ready to produce even in Belarus with a corresponding small technological support from the Russian Federation.”

It is obvious that Belarus and Russia are successfully overcoming the barriers and restrictions that the West is building against them.

“I am not talking about food on purpose,” continued Aleksandr Lukashenko. “We have ensured food security. I’m not saying that people should be dressed. We have done it in all directions. Therefore, the positive shifts are decent. We will have something to say to the peoples of Belarus and Russia at the Supreme State Council.”

“Not only to say, but, it seems to me, together with colleagues to outline the ways of further development,” Vladimir Putin supported the President of Belarus.

“Absolutely. 28 programmes that we have outlined with you have already been implemented by 80 percent,” continued Aleksandr Lukashenko. “But there, you noted this in St. Petersburg, there basically remained humanitarian issues. But we adopted laws with regard to customs and taxes.”

“The key points have been resolved,” agreed the President of Russia.

## Cooperation is more important than ever

Vladimir Putin expressed confidence that all this will certainly make the overall economy even more competitive, “We can use the results of this development together today. Moreover, by joining forces, we create some kind of synergy. On the one hand, your opportunities in the field of industry, on the other hand, the needs of our market and additional efforts on the part of Russian enterprises, engineers, even the scientific school. All this adds up very effectively in some industries. We hope that this will give a good result for both Belarus and Russia.

The agenda of the meeting between the leaders of Belarus and Russia also includes issues of strengthening the Union State, the implementation of union programmes.

“They have been worked out by our colleagues in the Government. This creates the conditions, the basis for moving forward in the development of our cooperation, primarily, of course, in the economic sphere,” stressed Vladimir Putin.

The President of the Russian Federation also shared his impressions of Aleksandr Lukashenko’s interview with Belarusian and foreign journalists, “I watched your press conference. I share your positions and approaches.”

Vladimir Velikhov

# ALTERNATIVE TO WAR

Aleksandr Lukashenko met with representatives of foreign and Belarusian media. The event, unplanned in the schedule of the Head of State, appeared spontaneously: the President responded to the requests of the foreign guests who arrived, he agreed to the conversation. In a conversation with the Head of State, which lasted more than three hours, in addition to Belarusian journalists, representatives of the media from Austria, Azerbaijan, Great Britain, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the USA, France, Japan and the Mir TV and Radio Broadcasting Company took part. And the conversation, as always with Aleksandr Lukashenko, turned out to be very rich and multifaceted.

## Address and Big Talk are ahead

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that the current meeting with journalists does not cancel the previously announced Big Talk with the President.

"It just turned out to be a kind of overlay. In just a few weeks, we will have a Presidential Address to the people and parliament. Two events, one after the other, there will be some repetitions," he explained. "We are preparing the message absolutely frankly, there will be a reaction to all questions, and we will try to look a little ahead within the framework of this message."

According to him, in the future, time will be allocated for meetings with media representatives as part of the Big Conversation.

## On the conditions for the entry of Belarus into the war

The BBC international observer Steven Rosenberg was the first to ask Aleksandr Lukashenko a question. He recalled the events of a year ago, when a special military operation of the Russian Federation in Ukraine began, including from the territory of Belarus. The journalist asked if the President of Belarus was ready to give the Russian troops the opportunity to take such a step again. Aleksandr Lukashenko immediately answered briefly, "Yes, I'm ready."

At the same time, the Head of State asked not to take this phrase out of context and developed the idea, "I have already brought this point of view to high-ranking officials who wear epaulettes on their shoulders in the Western world. I'm ready. And not just to provide, but together with the Russians to fight from the territory of Belarus only in one case so far: if at least one soldier from there comes to our territory with a gun to kill my people... If from the territory of Ukraine (this applies not only to Ukraine, this also applies to others our neighbours, who behave even more inappropriately), if they commit aggression against Belarus, the response will be the most severe and the war will take on a completely different character."



Steve Rosenberg tried to oppose, suggesting that a year ago there was no threat to Belarus.

"Who told you?" retorted Aleksandr Lukashenko. "You didn't listen to me well and you don't know the situation well. Do you know what the first units that were hit from the territory of Belarus are? Do not know. Sadly. I spoke about this, and the West howled after my conversation, where I posted a map and showed where the attack on our territory was being prepared from. These are four positions of multiple launch rocket systems (including Tochka-U), which covered practically industrial cities of our country, from Gomel to Brest. Come back to this... These were deliberate actions by the Ukrainian side. I just don't know why it was necessary. In the first minutes they were attacked from the territory of Belarus. It was a few minutes before the start of a special military operation in the morning."

Aleksandr Lukashenko also suggested recalling who was the first to impose sanctions against Belarus even before Western countries, "Not the USA, not the Anglo-Saxons, not Western Europe, but, unfortunately, our neighbour Ukraine. They closed the sky, they began to commit provocations, and then they already began to prepare bandits, militants (and now the process is ongoing) against Belarus."

The President also pointed out that in August 2020, snipers were sent to Belarus through Ukraine, who, according to the Maidan methodology, were supposed to shoot protesters and blame everything on the authorities. In addition, today Western politicians say that the Minsk agreements on their part were initially a hoax and were needed only for a respite in order to prepare the Ukrainian army for war.

## On the perpetrators of the escalation in Ukraine

Aleksandr Lukashenko did not agree with the term 'invasion' used by the British journalist, "You say 'invasion'. I don't think it's



an invasion. This is not an invasion. The Ukrainian authorities themselves provoked this operation. Here are similar actions. I only named a few of them. It was then necessary to agree with Russia that there would be no such war. But everything was aimed, including with the Minsk agreements, to unleash a war. There was no invasion. I think this is the protection of the interests of Russia and the people who lived there, the Russian people.”

The President of Belarus also recalled the actions of the Ukrainian authorities in the Donbass and the story of the burning of people in Odessa. Aleksandr Lukashenko is sure that Ukraine was just a pretext for unleashing the war, which was pushed by the West. Moreover, there is an interest in the dismemberment of Ukraine. Returning to the question of whether ‘aggression’ on the part of Belarus is possible, the Head of State repeated once again, “We are peaceful people. We know what war is. We don’t want war. And we are by no means going to send our troops to the territory of Ukraine. Unless you commit aggression against the territory of Belarus from there. Here is my answer. It has been given for a long time.”

### On the Belarusian contribution to security

Aleksandr Lukashenko also reminded that Russia is an ally of Belarus, the countries have a joint military group. But even so, Russia never asked Belarus to start a war against Ukraine. In this case, Belarus provides security in the western direction. Aleksandr Lukashenko voiced intelligence data that the West wants to draw Belarus into the war and literally dreams of it, which would allow, taking into account the length of Belarus’ borders, to further stretch the front by 2.5 thousand kilometres.

“Correct calculation. But empty, stupid. We won’t give you that chance. But if you dare to set foot on our soil, the answer will be terrible. Westerners know how and with what kind of weapons,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. And he drew attention

to one more thing, it is the West that sends mercenaries to fight in Ukraine, already more than 20 thousand people.

“How many people did Lukashenko send there? How many? Zero! And you reproach me. I do not send people there and I am not going to do it,” noted the President.

### On the closure of checkpoints

Aleksandr Lukashenko called the closure of checkpoints on the western borders of the country an economic provocation, and Belarus has prepared a response to these actions, “You see how Poland and Lithuania are behaving. So far, from an economic point of view, they are constantly provoking. Transferring liability to me. So they closed the checkpoints. What is it? This is an economic provocation. So there is no trade, no economy. And now they gradually arrange these provocations. They just provoke us. Well, for the time being. Now we are thinking about how to respond to this. Decisions have been made. Let’s answer softly first. If they don’t understand, we will strengthen. We have enough leverage for this. The President of Belarus remarked, “But it’s still an escalation. We are forced to respond. Our response is symmetrical and adequate for now. If it comes to the point where we have to take asymmetric measures, we will. They are on the table. But we don’t want that. We want to be friends with the Poles, Lithuanians, as it has always been.”

### On the ‘democratic dictatorship’ in Belarus

Aleksandr Lukashenko told how the state took a step towards those who fled from Belarus by committing offenses. The President stated, “I personally, like many here, here are Belarusian journalists, I don’t want our compatriots to hang out somewhere with you abroad. Not in England, not in France. And even in Poland, where today there is no one to work in hospitals. But ‘bad Belarus’, our doctors are in great demand there. I want them to live here and work here. And we are ready to forgive what can be forgiven. This is our democratic dictatorship.”

### Belarus is not going to announce mobilisation

“We are working as before. Our servicemen are operating as before. We have not announced any mobilisation and are not going to carry out and announce it. But we are preparing for war in terms of ensuring that aggression is not committed against us. That’s all. Belarusians can absolutely be calm in this regard,” assured the Head of State. “Our people should each do their own thing and live absolutely calmly.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko told in which case mobilisation can be carried out, “This is written in the documents, they are not secret. If we feel the threat of war, we will mobilise. So far, there is no such threat.”

### On the non-alternativeness of the peace

The President said that the conclusion of peace is inevitable in any case, and therefore it is necessary to start negotiations as soon as possible, and not continue the war.

“Wake up. Who needs such freedom when you go to bed and do not know if you will wake up tomorrow morning? Who needs such freedom?” Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed the representatives of the Western media.



## IN FOCUS

The President of Belarus urged, “Let’s negotiate. Only peace. It will end in peace anyway. The world is moving towards the fact that, perhaps, it does not matter whether you live in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine or America. The world was moving towards this, people freely moved around the world, chose their place of residence. It doesn’t matter if there is a border here or there. Everything goes to this. Why are we killing each other?”

### On the meeting with Putin

“We will discuss security and defence issues. But the main thing (I have already said that we are preparing a meeting of the Supreme State Council sometime in April-May) is to discuss economic, military and political issues that will be discussed at the Supreme State Council. One of the most important issues is that we still want to see how the governments of Belarus and Russia are fulfilling the tasks we have set. First of all, economic: in terms of energy resources, the single market, import substitution, how they are financed, how they are implemented. This is a whole range of questions. Therefore, we will discuss all issues. And if we come to the issue of our joint grouping in Belarus, of course, we will discuss this as well,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

### On readiness to accept Biden

Having revealed the details of the meeting with his Russian counterpart, the Head of State noted, “Why is Biden going to Poland? Why go to Poland? But we don’t sweat it. If he has a desire (you tell him there through your channels), we in Minsk are ready to accept him and have a serious talk. If he wants peace in Ukraine.”

The Head of State also said that he was ready to hold a joint meeting with Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden, “And even Putin will fly to Minsk, and the three of us will meet here: two ‘aggressors’ and a ‘peace-loving’ President. Why not? To end the war. Now, if he wants to stop the war, we will accept him... And here, in your presence, the three of us (I guarantee you that Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin will come here) will sit down and solve the whole problem.”

### On nuclear weapons

Answering one of the questions, the Head of State recalled that when he became President, nuclear weapons were withdrawn from Belarus, as the Americans insisted.

“We had the most modern Topol-M. The most modern weapons stood here. We brought it out in exchange for guarantees from the Americans, Europeans and Russians that they would never infringe on our sovereignty and independence and would never impose economic sanctions on us. It’s written there. They (the West) spit on it, trampled on it, apply sanctions against us...” noted the Head of State. “We do not need strategic nuclear weapons. We are not going to strike at America and even at the European countries. And tactical nuclear weapons, this is what we are talking about, so that aircraft that can carry tactical nuclear weapons are prepared.”

### On the best option for the European Union

“The best option for Europeans is to unite with Russia. Resources here, high technologies there. And this would be the main pole of the planet. The Americans and the Chinese (for all my friendly attitude towards China) would be jealous of this alliance. And there would be

three powerful points on which our planet would be held, the USA, China and the European continent together with Russia, consider it Eurasian. Perhaps a fourth pole would have formed around India, or India and others would have joined these poles. It would be worthy for the planet,” the Belarusian leader expressed his opinion.

### About Zelenskyy

“Volodya Zelenskyy is destroying Ukraine,” the Head of State said. Aleksandr Lukashenko explained this idea by saying that no one will restore Ukraine after the end of the conflict, “You see, tomorrow there will be a new acute question (in the world). And everything will turn there. Forget about Ukraine. It will take a hundred years (to restore the country). Nobody will help.”

And if someone helps, be it the United States or the European Union, then others will govern the country in parts by economic methods. “If Ukraine needs it, Zelenskyy, let them fight. But this is definitely not necessary for ordinary people,” emphasised the Head of State.

Moreover, the military in Ukraine does not need it either.

“That’s why I say that it is necessary to talk with the military there. Slowly, step by step, we will somehow agree,” said the President.

Aleksandr Lukashenko sees danger in the escalation of the conflict, during which conventional weapons are still being used. But it can potentially reach hypersonic, God forbid nuclear.

“That’s the danger. Therefore, we must stop now, not fool around and not fight,” said the Head of State.

### About new reserve currencies

The President of Belarus predicts that a new reserve currency will appear in the world, and maybe several. He made a relevant statement about this, answering a question about the details of his negotiations with the leadership of the United Arab Emirates. Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that for many years he has been very friendly with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan. And noticed, “As for the Middle East and an additional foothold, more and more Arabs are beginning to influence politics in the world. In America everything is about money. If not all, then a lot. Very influential Middle East. Their role is great now. And we discussed one of the issues in this vein with the President of the Emirates. Today, there is a trend in the world that a new reserve currency will appear. Or maybe several.”

### On relations between Belarus and the West

American journalists asked the President how he feels about the fact that the Belarusian state system is called a dictatorship, and he himself is called a dictator.

“The fact that you in the West think that there is a dictatorship here is good for me. Soon you yourself will call for dictatorship. You have it, only unfair, twisted, stupid. There is complete laxity in the West: there is neither dictatorship nor democracy, there is nothing,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. “We in Belarus make decisions on certain issues and solve certain problems. Yes, I have to either intervene or make most of the decisions. If you consider this a dictatorship, God be with you. I believe that this is not a dictatorship. There is no dictatorship here.”

The President of Belarus stressed, “Do not interfere with our lives, and we will be good partners for you. We are ready to do everything

that does not contradict our interests and the interests of our allies. If you do not bend us over the knee, we will quickly come to an agreement.”

### About the path in the conditions of reformatting the world

Belarus needs to carefully go its own way while the world is being reformatted. Therefore, the country is consistently developing relations in various areas, including with Russia, China, Iran, India, and other countries of the far arc. In particular, the Head of State spoke about the upcoming negotiations and the meeting with Vladimir Putin in Russia at that time.

“Then we have China, Xi Jinping invited us in early March. Then we are negotiating with Iran, and it is being worked out with India,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. He stressed that diversification is extremely important for Belarus to maintain its independence. At the same time, the Russian market remains the main one. Now the whole world is going through a difficult process of transformation, and in this regard, it is important that Belarus maintain its positions and be able to increase them.

### On the “revelations” of Merkel and Hollande

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that all problems must be resolved peacefully, by negotiating at the negotiating table. And Belarus, personally the head of state, were involved in this process in the course of reaching the well-known Minsk agreements.

“Well, come to an agreement, sit down, you see that you can agree. And there were a lot of offers. And you, together with the West, began to deceive Russia, having gathered in Minsk,” noted the Head of State. “Although there was no deception there. It’s just a trend. Now Hollande and Merkel want to show that they played an important role in keeping Ukraine going, that they gave Ukraine the opportunity to prepare for war. In those days, everyone believed that it was necessary to follow the path of the Minsk agreements.” Aleksandr Lukashenko summed up, “Today both Hollande and Merkel lie. And Poroshenko is also lying. Because today it is not fashionable to talk about what happened in Minsk. Not fashionable. That’s the whole problem.”

### On cooperation with distant regions of Russia

Belarus has begun to deliver its goods through Russian ports, this format of cooperation will expand. The Head of State stressed that Belarus aims to develop economic cooperation with the Far East.

“The most important thing for us is that we started working through your ports,” the President remarked to Far Eastern journalists. “The madmen in Lithuania, Latvia closed their ports to their own detriment, they don’t let us into Odessa either (the war is on), although we could load grain there. And we are starting to work with eastern ports. We want to build a port in Murmansk and we will use the Northern Sea Route to reach you with our goods. Such were the plans, they began to be realised. But this is only the beginning.”

### About signals from the West

One of the participants of the meeting asked if there were signals coming from the West, at least unofficial, behind the scenes, about their interest in ending the conflict in Ukraine. It turns out that such signals are coming. In this case, the lines are marked differently. For



example, the following thesis is being promoted, “We must stop the war. Why? So that Putin never again has the opportunity to attack someone.”

The Head of State pointed out the inadequacy of such a wording, “Listen, it’s complete nonsense. What, Putin or I are eternal?.. What does Putin, Lukashenko have to do with it? It is not necessary to focus on us, but to focus on the future already without us. Neither I nor Putin are eternal, no one clings to this power. You don’t have to close on us. But if someone wants to pin the blame on us, we agree to it. Let. If only the war would stop.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that after some time the public will be informed about the signals that the West is giving. The main thesis is this, “Fear of nuclear war. Because there will be no winner. And we also don’t know what the result of the nuclear confrontation will be. We understand one thing: that it will be scary. It will be a catastrophe that history has not known... There may be no more life on this earth. There are many uncertainties, because we have not experienced anything like this. There were two explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but this is a hundredth of what could be.”

The President of Belarus calls, “To prevent this from happening, we need to take steps, and preferably in the right direction. If we take a step in the right direction in Ukraine, it will be some kind of détente”

### About some tips and cautions

Already outside the format of the interview, saying goodbye to journalists, Aleksandr Lukashenko turned to BBC columnist Steven Rosenberg and suggested that he ‘work with Zelenskyy’ and give him good advice, “No need to push away from Europe, from America. They still supported him, and he owes them. But we need to turn around a bit here and take a more independent pragmatic position in the interests of the Ukrainian people and the future of Ukraine. I won’t be specific because it’s a long conversation. A lot today depends on the Ukrainian side. I won’t say that everything is from Volodya Zelenskyy, he has already lost a lot, but not everything.”

The President, in particular, mentioned Zelenskyy’s recent trips to Western Europe, where he was applauded and greeted with a bang, “And remember: Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev. ‘Gorby! Gorby!’, Yeltsin in America, they laughed and applauded. And those leaders who were applauded and cheered in the West ended badly. Didn’t you think, Steve, that this could happen to the President of Ukraine? Think.”

Vasily Kharitonov



The beginning of February passed under the sign of notable foreign policy events: the visits of the President of Belarus to the Middle East and Africa. Aleksandr Lukashenko visited the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe at the invitation of the leadership of these countries. The regions are strategically important, and therefore the attention to past meetings and negotiations was significant. Their result is already obvious: Belarus is systematically and purposefully expanding its presence in the countries of the far arc.

# MUTUAL INTEREST SHORTENS DISTANCES

## What did Minsk and Harare agree on? Details of Aleksandr Lukashenko's state visit to Zimbabwe.

**W**ithout a doubt, Belarus' cooperation with Zimbabwe and with Africa in general has received a powerful new impetus. There are new agreements and contracts worth tens of millions of dollars, and there are real prospects for expanding the Belarusian presence in the huge African market. In fact, this continent has enormous resources and opportunities. And the state visit of the President of Belarus to Zimbabwe was a good signal for ministers, heads of enterprises, businessmen to advance and gain a foothold in the African markets in all areas. Our country has something to offer African partners: from technology and food to fertilizers and consumer goods. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted the following fundamental point during his visit, "Africa has long woken up. Without Africa, there can be no prospects in the world at all. The world cannot develop without Africa. Africa is the future..."

### Don't miss out on competitive opportunities

First, some details and chronology of the state visit of the President of Belarus to Zimbabwe. Aleksandr Lukashenko arrived in Harare in the afternoon on Monday January 30th. In the language of diplomacy, this is the highest protocol status of a visit. To match it, there was the welcome ceremony at the capital's airport — a guard of honour, hymns, salute shots. The atmosphere was very colourful. Residents of the Zimbabwean capital greeted the distinguished guest with authentic songs and dances to the beat of drums, chants and applause. President of the country Emmerson Mnangagwa

personally met Aleksandr Lukashenko at the stairway of the plane. After a brief conversation, the leaders of the two countries left the airport in one car. An informal dinner was next on the programme of high-level bilateral communication.

It should be noted that aircraft number one flew to Zimbabwe directly from the United Arab Emirates, where the President of Belarus paid a visit for several days at the invitation of the leadership of this country. But if there is nothing surprising in the trips of the Belarusian leader to the Middle East (the UAE is an important trading partner and a significant investor for us, just to mention the construction of the largest modern Northern Waterfront complex in Minsk worth about \$5 billion), then for most Belarusians even the name of the country Zimbabwe sounds exotic. What is known about this colourful country? Let's just say, a little. Until 1980, this African state was a British colony and was called Southern Rhodesia. After the declaration of independence, it acquired its current name. In terms of area, Zimbabwe is almost twice the size of Belarus. The country has a unique flora and fauna, and on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia there is one of the natural pearls not only of Africa, but also of the world — the Mosi-oa-Tunya waterfall ('Thundering Smoke'), also known as Victoria Falls. And the Zimbabwean subsoil is rich in platinum, gold, nickel, copper, iron ore and other minerals. Rich natural resources are a good start for industrial production. A significant role in the country's economy is also assigned to the agricultural sector, the modernisation of which began several years ago. In this regard, Zimbabwe has a huge interest





in our country, and several factors came together here. President Emmerson Mnangagwa, as you know, initiated a large-scale economic development plan for the country, Vision 2030, which involves concrete steps to industrialise and mechanise the national economy, improve the quality of education, medical services, and improve the living standards of the population. In all these areas, Belarus has a high level of competence and its own developments. In addition, Belarus is perceived as a friendly, one might say, fraternal country, which does not follow the trail of the colonial past. In Soviet times, many military and civilian specialists from Belarus carried out their international duty to fight for the liberation of the peoples of Africa from colonialism.

“Now we come with respect, an open heart and a willingness to help, we don’t teach anyone and we don’t try to make someone adjust to ourselves,” said Igor Bely, Head of the Asia, Africa and Latin America Main Department of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry.

By the way, the Vision 2030 programme is already yielding first results. Last year, for example, Zimbabwe harvested a record grain harvest over the past 50 years. Igor Bely is confident that this figure has been achieved, among other things, thanks to our joint projects in the field of agriculture, “At least, we receive words of gratitude from Zimbabwean farmers who are very satisfied with the quality and functionality of Belarusian equipment.”

Meanwhile, Belarus has exported more than 2,000 tractors, combines and other agricultural machines to Zimbabwe over the past three years.

“Moreover, we came here not just as equipment sellers — an enterprise has been created here that not only sells, but also services equipment. The supply of spare parts, training of local farmers in driving and maintaining these machines have been organised. Therefore, we have gone in a comprehensive manner, and in this regard, we are quite competitive here,” explained Aleksandr Sidoruk,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to South Africa and Zimbabwe. “These are tens of millions of dollars, for which we have already supplied equipment as part of the first phase of the mechanisation programme. Last year, we actually completed the second phase of this programme. There are already agreements that we will participate in the third phase. Again, tens of millions of dollars.”

The second direction of export of equipment is due to the fact that, in addition to the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe, the mining industry is also actively developing. The first BELAZ trucks were delivered to this country more than five years ago and today they are successfully working in quarries. Negotiations are underway to increase sales. Belarusian participation in joint projects in agriculture, light and food industries, construction, fertilizer production, energy, exploration, mining, transport, education and medicine is seen as promising.

### **What did the Presidents of Belarus and Zimbabwe discuss?**

The second day of the President’s visit turned out to be very dense and eventful. And it began with a visit by the Belarusian leader to the Acre of National Heroes memorial complex, which is seven kilometres from the capital of the country. The memorial was created to perpetuate the memory of the Patriotic Front guerrillas who died during the war in the Rhodesian bush, as well as modern Zimbabweans, whose devotion and loyalty to their country deserve to be buried in this sanctuary. 161 people are buried in the memorial. Aleksandr Lukashenko laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and got acquainted with the history of the complex. And then he went to official talks with his Zimbabwean counterpart Emmerson Mnangagwa. They were held at the State House, the official residence of the President of Zimbabwe. First, the leaders of

the two countries talked in a one-on-one format, then members of the delegations, heads of enterprises, and representatives of business circles joined the dialogue.

The heads of state told reporters about the results of the talks. Aleksandr Lukashenko, in particular, noted, “Today we had substantive talks with the President. We assessed the progress in the implementation of the agreements reached, and also exchanged views on topical issues on the international agenda and the difficult situation that is developing in the world. We discussed in detail the promising areas of cooperation between our countries, which has significantly intensified in recent years. An indicator of this is the fact that last year Belarus opened an embassy in Zimbabwe and expects that a diplomatic mission of this country will soon appear in Minsk”

The Head of the Belarusian state especially focused on the agreements on training specialists in all areas of interest to the Zimbabwean side. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, they also agreed on the implementation of investment and cooperation projects in various areas — in the field of industry, trade, agriculture, energy, transport and mining, “We also agreed that these contracts and our agreements that we have reached will become the basis for the continuation of our cooperation.”

### Favourable offers for partners

Among the signed documents, there is the Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Standing Commission on Cooperation Between Belarus and Zimbabwe, as well as a number of other bilateral agreements and memorandums, there are already about 20 of them. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted on this occasion, “The potential for our cooperation is huge. And I am sure that regular direct contacts at various levels will make it possible to reveal it in the best possible way. Additionally, we agreed that we are creating separate groups of specialists for the development of agriculture and defence. If the Zimbabwean side is interested in creating joint ventures in Zimbabwe and Belarus, we are ready to go for it. Receiving raw materials from Zimbabwe, together with your specialists, we will process this raw material at enterprises in Belarus. And thus share the corresponding profit. We welcome the entry of Zimbabwean capital into the capital of our enterprises. We also did not rule out work on barter schemes with the President. And for this, a special group of specialists will be created, which will determine the appropriate products.”

The President assured that Zimbabwe can always count on the help and support of Belarus, “You should know that there, in the centre of Europe, there is such a country — Belarus, which is always ready to lend a hand to you in any situation. We will put the results of this visit on the scales of peace and progress.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also addressed the people of the country, noting that today the largest states of the planet — the powers that be — are trying to divide and redistribute this world. They are trying to subjugate such countries as Belarus and Zimbabwe, having received benefits from this. The Belarusian leader stressed that Zimbabwe is a real storehouse of minerals, without which the world cannot do without. And therefore, no one will give this country a quiet life, and this is also the reason for the sanctions, “The Americans imposed sanctions against you not because you are undemocratic. But because you decided to take control of your country and minerals.



You do not let all kinds of international crooks and swindlers in here to use your reserves. This is the reason for the sanctions. Again, as it was in past centuries, they want to put you on your knees. But the President and the authorities of Zimbabwe do not want this. That's where the sanctions come from.”

Journalists asked how Western sanctions affected the sale of mineral fertilizers.

“As for the sanctions on fertilizers: we sold as many mineral fertilizers as we wanted to sell this year. That's all for sanctions. And today we also agreed and we will bring to Zimbabwe about a million tons, if necessary, of various types of mineral fertilizers,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He stressed that the world has changed, and if, for example, the United States imposed sanctions, then there are still many states, including Western ones, that are ready to cooperate.

This summer, Zimbabwe will hold another presidential election. The period is difficult. In this regard, good advice was also sounded from Aleksandr Lukashenko, “You will be vigorously rocked to sow confusion in your society, you will be put on your knees. But you must endure. And you will endure if you are united, if you do not allow your own people to clash inside the country because of some political ambitions or illusory promises of the West and America. We must go through this difficult period in the life of our planet by all means. Take care of the world! If you fail to do this, you will again fall under colonial oppression. Be vigilant, careful. Do not believe screamers. Only through your work can you achieve your own well-being.”

It must be said that Aleksandr Lukashenko's speeches (both at the State House and later, at the ceremony of transferring Belarusian equipment) were very positively perceived by the Zimbabwean side and were repeatedly interrupted by applause.

### “Without Africa there can be no prospects in the world...”

Speaking about the importance of Africa in the world economy and politics, about cooperation with the countries of the African continent, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised the following, “Africa has long woken up. Without Africa, there can be no prospects in the world at all. The world cannot develop without



Africa. Without it there can be no planetary development. Therefore, all the powers that be are here: the United States, and China, and Russia, and Great Britain, the entire European Union, and so on. The future belongs to Africa. These are our friends. We negotiate with them in the name of our peoples. We go in peace. We are not marching as the colonialists once walked. We bring technology here and train people here, train specialists. We deeply respect and appreciate the people of Zimbabwe. We, and I want to emphasise this separately, are not going to Africa in order to carry some illusory democratic values. And go to work together with your leaders for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe.”

The Head of State noted that within the framework of the mechanization programme launched in 2020, the Belarusian side supplied more than 1.8 thousand tractors and about 80 grain harvesters to the farms of Zimbabwe. This equipment helped ensure the country’s food security.

“But this is only the beginning. We launched the third phase of this programme worth over \$66 million. It involves more than 3,700 units of tractor equipment, 60 harvesters for local farmers over the next year and a half,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

For the needs of local municipalities in Zimbabwe, deliveries of Belarusian-made fire trucks have begun. In addition, BELAZ mining equipment is already successfully operated in Zimbabwe. “We have agreed that we will supply you with more than 30 BELAZ dump trucks in the near future, which will work in Zimbabwe,” said the President, adding that service maintenance of Belarusian equipment is also provided in Zimbabwe.

The prospects for developing cooperation with Mozambique were also discussed at the talks. Aleksandr Lukashenko explained that Emmerson Mnangagwa has good relations with the leadership of Mozambique and he can assist in this matter, “At the initiative of my friend, we discussed the issue of cooperation between Zimbabwe, Belarus and Mozambique. Mozambique — the largest country — nearby, at the coast — a thousand kilometres, an agrarian country. Requires huge investments in agriculture. We already have experience. And the President says, “This is my

friend, the President of Mozambique.” And in the near future we will discuss how our experience — Zimbabwe and Belarus — can be transferred to Mozambique.”

### **President of Zimbabwe on what brings the two countries closer**

Emmerson Mnangagwa, during a conversation with reporters, stressed that due to the pandemic, the visit of the President of Belarus was postponed twice, “Finally, our dear brother was able to make a return visit.” This visit strengthens, expands and consolidates our bilateral relations.

The President of Zimbabwe expressed his deep gratitude to the Belarusian leader for cooperation and assistance in a number of areas, especially in agriculture, saying that thanks to Belarus, Zimbabwe was able to

once and for all solve the issue of the country’s food security. Emmerson Mnangagwa noted that the agricultural sector occupies a large share of the Zimbabwean economy and the country has ensured its food security, “We have a vision and a friend who shares it. And we achieved this with the support of my brother, Aleksandr Lukashenko. We are ready to be friends with Belarus and with all countries that share our approach. It cannot be that one country is a horse and another is a driver. We should all be in the same boat and look the same. From the moment of our first meeting with Aleksandr Lukashenko, we have developed some kind of ‘chemistry’. And we realised that we look at things in the same way, at the development of our countries. Since that time we have been friends and have been working together for the benefit of our peoples.”

### **Wishes of happiness, peace and kindness**

On the same day, in the second half, the leaders of the two countries attended the ceremony of handing over equipment from Belarusian manufacturers. Zimbabwe needs it to complete the second phase of the farm mechanization programme and start the third. The event was held on the basis of the Institute of Agriculture. The presidents were met by Zimbabwean girls in Belarusian national costumes with a loaf in their hands. It was baked from local grain harvested using Belarusian equipment. The heads of state were briefed on the work on the supply and maintenance of Belarusian equipment in Zimbabwe.

Aleksandr Lukashenko presented his colleague with a tractor for his personal subsidiary plot. In turn, Emmerson Mnangagwa presented the President of Belarus with a stuffed lion, the king of animals and one of the strongest animals in Africa.

In his speech at the ceremony, Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked the West for the sanctions, “I want to thank the Americans and the entire Western world for imposing sanctions against us. Otherwise, not Belarusian tractors, but American and German ones would have stood on this huge field.”

And the participants of the event supported this thesis of the Belarusian leader with thunderous applause.





Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that at one time the current leader of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa, asked for support in the development of agriculture. “The fate of the Zimbabwean people, their past was not easy. Help feed the Zimbabweans, help revive agriculture,” the President of Belarus recalled the words of his Zimbabwean colleague. “I promised.”

“Agriculture and equipment that is built here — about 1 thousand tractors — this was the first trial step. You must remember: we are separated by considerable distances, but we are always ready to help you, we are ready to accept your help. We are ready to lend a shoulder to you at any time, in any place, solving the most difficult problems and tasks,” assured Aleksandr Lukashenko, calling on the people of Zimbabwe to maintain unity and wished everyone happiness, peace and kindness, as well as bread on the tables.

### **Outcome of high-level talks**

At the end of the negotiations in Harare, the parties signed a package of documents, including:

- ♦ *Agreement on Encouragement and Mutual Protection of Investments;*
- ♦ *Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Standing Commission for Cooperation;*
- ♦ *Memorandum of Understanding Between Belarus and Zimbabwe on Mutual Recognition of Education Documents;*
- ♦ *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of Tax Evasion in Respect of Taxes on Income and Property;*
- ♦ *Agreement on the Establishment of Twinning Relations Between the Cities of Minsk and Harare;*
- ♦ *Memorandum of Cooperation in the Framework of Deliveries to Zimbabwe of Belarusian-Made Machinery and Equipment for the Timber Industry.*

In addition, contracts were signed between the company Aftrade DMCC and the government of Zimbabwe for the supply of Belarusian tractor and grain harvesting equipment,

as well as for the supply of Belarusian-made equipment for the construction and modernisation of grain storage complexes.

### **Impressions from visiting Zimbabwe**

If the second day of the state visit of the President of Belarus to Zimbabwe was full of official events, the final day of the visit included a programme, as they say, without ties. In the first half of the day, the Belarusian leader arrived at the airport in Victoria Falls, where he was personally met by the President of Zimbabwe. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Emmerson Mnangagwa looked at the most famous Victoria Falls together and visited the petting zoo. Victoria Falls, located on the Zambezi River, on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Its width is almost two kilometres, and its height is 120 meters.

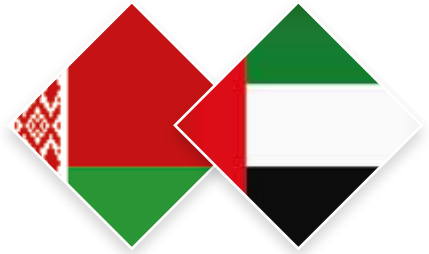
After getting acquainted with one of the main attractions of Zimbabwe, Aleksandr Lukashenko left the following memorable note, “I heartily thank President E. Mnangagwa for the opportunity to see the majestic beauty of the Mosi-oa-Tunya waterfall (Victoria). The unstoppable power of the water stream is comparable to the strength of the people of Zimbabwe, who are able to overcome any obstacles and, through creative work, turn this beautiful country into a flourishing oasis. I sincerely believe in strengthening friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between Minsk and Harare.” As for the impressions from visiting Zimbabwe, Aleksandr Lukashenko wrote, “An amazingly beautiful country!”

The heads of state then held talks without the presence of the press. The Belarusian leader was seen off just as solemnly as they were greeted on the first day of the visit, with a guard of honour, singing hymns and local colour, African dances and songs. Emmerson Mnangagwa personally came to see off the President of Belarus to the airport. As a gift from him, Aleksandr Lukashenko received a photo album with memorable moments of the visit.

In general, the state visit to Zimbabwe showed that Belarus comes to the African continent with the most serious intentions, hoping to gain a foothold here for a long time. The package of documents signed at the end of the visit takes cooperation to a higher level.

Vladimir **Velikhov**

# RECONCILIATION OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES



**Aleksandr Lukashenko held a meeting with the President of the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi, during which new areas of trade, economic and investment cooperation between the two countries were actively discussed**

**T**he scheduled negotiations at the highest level, the second in a week — this is only the chronology of that foreign tour of the President of Belarus in general terms. Yes, from Africa the Head of State flew to the Middle East again, where at the Al Shati Palace in Abu Dhabi he met with the head of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

## **The special nature of the relationship**

Actually, the visit of the President of Belarus to the UAE began even earlier. After a number of meetings in this country, Aleksandr Lukashenko made a state visit to Zimbabwe, where, as is known, high-level talks were held in narrow and expanded formats, the Belarusian-Zimbabwean business forum was held, and important bilateral documents and contracts were signed. But then the Belarusian leader was again expected in the Emirates.

Some details of the protocol ceremony at the Al Shati Palace in Abu Dhabi. The President of the United Arab Emirates met the Head of the Belarusian State near the car at the residence. A short greeting, sincere strong hugs — and the two leaders set off to negotiate. At the beginning of the conversation, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed, “Mr. President, I am too frank, so you know what I think of you. I have always had the highest opinion of you and your friends.”

“The Emirates do not change,” replied the President of the UAE.

“They are changing for the better,” retorted the Belarusian leader.

The meeting of the Presidents of Belarus and the United Arab Emirates lasted for about four hours. It is important to note the following point here: the head of the UAE invited the Belarusian colleague home, the meeting was held in an absolutely friendly atmosphere. First in an expanded composition, and then one on one. The fact that the eldest and youngest sons of the President of Belarus took part in the meeting gave special confidence to the negotiations, which also testifies to the special nature of the relationship. Really friendly.

In general, during the meeting, the Belarusian and UAE leaders agreed on cooperation in more than a dozen areas — in the field of trade, economic and investment cooperation. The emphasis was also placed on the humanitarian sphere.

## **Effective work is priority**

According to the agreements reached, a large delegation of specialists will arrive in Belarus in the near future, who will work out specific issues in the designated areas of cooperation on the spot.

“Speaking about the meeting of the heads of the two states, we can note that, firstly, it turned out to be very warm and friendly, as always. And secondly, it is very thorough,” Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to the UAE Andrei Luchenok told



reporters. “Almost all areas of bilateral cooperation were discussed — both traditional (trade, investment projects) and promising areas. In total, about ten. So we are getting ready to work. We hope that this work will be fruitful. It must be said that the UAE is one of the main partners of Belarus in the Arab world. To a large extent, this is facilitated by trusting relations between the leaders of the two countries. The complementarity of the two economies is also a favourable factor for the development of cooperation.”

By the way, back in September 2019, during an official visit to the capital of Belarus, the then Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed the absolute openness of Minsk to any constructive initiatives, “The foundation of any political relationship is, of course, the economy. Trade relations. Here we have something to work on. I am sure that your visit to Belarus will give a serious boost to trade, economy and investment. We will find directions for our cooperation. Moreover, there are no closed topics and closed areas for relations between the Emirates and Belarus.”

### Clear mutual benefit

The priority areas that Belarus is developing with the UAE include trade, investment, green technologies, logistics, education and artificial intelligence. Over the past half century, the United Arab Emirates has become an example for the whole world of how to effectively use internal opportunities for comprehensive

development, integrate harmoniously into the world economy, while maintaining unique, original traditions of culture and statehood. For us, it is also fundamentally important that in December last year, the leaders of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union at the summit in Bishkek launched the negotiation process to conclude a free trade agreement between the EAEU and the UAE. As Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Igor Petrishenko explained, this is a beneficial solution both for the entire union and for bilateral cooperation between Belarus and the United Arab Emirates, “We plan that the trade turnover (Belarus and the UAE) will increase by about 14 million dollars (export component) by 17 percent.”

In addition, the UAE can facilitate the promotion of Belarusian goods to the markets of other countries in the region.

Last September, while accepting credentials from foreign ambassadors, Aleksandr Lukashenko called the participation of Emirati investors in the implementation of large-scale projects in Minsk a vivid symbol of the fruitful bilateral cooperation between Belarus and the UAE. “The doors were always open for you,” he stressed at the time.

A truly flagship investment project was the construction of the Northern Waterfront multifunctional complex in the Belarusian capital. The construction of a smart city is estimated at more than ten billion roubles and is designed for twenty years. This truly grandiose investment project, in addition to six million square meters of housing, schools, kindergartens and other social



infrastructure facilities, also provides for the construction of the National Exhibition Centre, the Institute of Artificial Intelligence, and the Minsk World Trade Centre.

### Strategic resource

However, Aleksandr Lukashenko raised the topic of cooperation with the Emirates recently during his visit to the Intellectual Belarus exhibition. The developments in the field of artificial intelligence were of particular interest to the Head of State. It turns out that he discussed this issue earlier during meetings with foreign partners, including from the UAE, who are seriously engaged in this area. And Aleksandr Lukashenko is ready to further assist in the development of cooperation between the Emirati side and the Belarusian partners, which he stated just a few days before his visit to Abu Dhabi, "I am invited to the Emirates. They are seriously engaged in artificial intelligence there. If you need help, please, I can do it. Because, oddly enough, I stood at the origins of the Emiratis' work on artificial intelligence. Chinese scientists there. They (the Emirati side) collected them, gave money. They worked hard. And they asked me to help them work in Belarus. I say: 'Sure, come!' I will meet with the person who does this and finances it."

In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko also reminded about the project for the construction of an experimental Northern Waterfront multifunctional complex in Minsk, "Why did I fall for this? Not only because there will be five billion dollars of investments. They promised me to create this smart city. And there is a powerful educational platform on artificial intelligence. There will be a university, we will train people. If you need support or great contacts with these people (they are far advanced in this regard), please."

Now Belarus and the UAE expect to build on this success and implement joint projects in other areas, including agriculture, industry, tourism, and medicine.

### In the context of the interconnection of both visits

If we consider the issue more broadly, it is clear that both states — Zimbabwe and the United Arab Emirates — are important trade

partners of Belarus in the Middle East and Africa. Moreover, in cooperation with the Emirates, Belarus seeks to use not only the opportunities of this capacious market for the export of goods and services, but also the transport and logistics advantages for the supply of its products from the UAE to neighbouring states of the Middle East. As for Zimbabwe, this country can become a gateway for us to new markets in South Africa.

Sergei Klishevich, member of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, points to a clear and logical relationship between both visits, "The United Arab Emirates is an important financial centre through which most of the African transactions take place. This is due to the fact that many states of West, Central and South Africa are under US sanctions, which makes it difficult to conclude contracts and severely restrict their financial systems. In this regard, the UAE has become a business hub for Africa, where almost all major African companies are represented today."

That is, Dubai today is an ideal place for buyers and sellers of African raw materials, precious metals, minerals and other large transactions. In addition, almost all African states have a free trade zone with the UAE.

In fact, Belarus contributes to strengthening the national sovereignty of African countries in the political, economic, technological and educational spheres. Coming to this conclusion, the head of the EcooM Analytical Centre Sergey Musienko emphasises, "Unlike Western countries, we are in favour of creating our own capacities in the region, training local qualified specialists, not only in the extraction of energy resources, but also in the processing and further use of natural resources. And this is especially appreciated. In Zimbabwe, our Minister of Education Andrey Ivanets signed a memorandum of understanding on the mutual recognition of educational documents. This is the key to Vision 2030, which is driven by Emmerson Mnangagwa. We are coming to Africa seriously and for a long time, because Belarus is attractive for Africa with its intellectual and economic potential. At the same time, our countries are not competitors, but are confidently moving forward, gradually coming through trade to more modern and multifaceted mutually beneficial economic relations."

The visits of the President of Belarus to the Middle East and Africa are a natural outcome and a definite finalisation of Belarus' efforts to develop multi-vector mutually beneficial cooperation with those states that are ready to see us as equal partners and friends, political analyst Aleksei Belyayev emphasises, "Africa is a very promising direction for activity. Significant demographic potential (in the region of 1.5 billion constantly growing and young population), the role of a kind of pantry of the world, coupled with great needs for a variety of consumer goods, infrastructure and technologies, all this turns the countries of the African continent into both a gigantic sales market and a source of the most varied raw materials, and a centre of concentration of relatively inexpensive labour."

As for relations with the countries of the Middle East, thanks to the personal efforts of Aleksandr Lukashenko, not just partnership, but friendly relations have long been established, the expert says, "For the rich countries of the Persian Gulf (primarily for the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar), Belarus is a convenient and profitable platform for investing in various projects."

Vsevolod Yevseyev



■ Northern Waterfront multifunctional complex in Minsk

# "THE FUTURE BELONGS TO AFRICA. THAT'S WHY WE ARE HERE"



The state visit of Aleksandr Lukashenko to Zimbabwe showed that Belarus is coming to Africa in earnest and for a long time. What is the basis of cooperation with the countries of this continent and what are the prospects here.

The President of the country, Emmerson Mnangagwa, did not exaggerate at all when he said that it was thanks to Belarus that Zimbabwe was able to solve the issue of food security once and for all. Local farmers have long appreciated the quality and capabilities of Belarusian tractors and combines, so their supplies will only grow. From 2018 to 2022, the Minsk Tractor Works sent more than 1.8 thousand pieces of equipment to Zimbabwe. But in the next two years it will deliver twice as much.

"The Zimbabwean market for BELARUS equipment was opened several years ago thanks to our reliable partner — AFTRADE DMCC. And we are glad that today we are talking about a strategic partnership, which implies work on a systematic long-term basis," says Vitaly Vovk, General Director of the MTW.

## Don't miss your opportunities

Yes, given the consistently high growth of emerging economies, the importance of expanding the Belarusian presence in the African market is increasing. This is confirmed by the visits of the Belarusian leader to Egypt and Sudan. Back in the summer of 2017, at a meeting on foreign policy priorities, Aleksandr Lukashenko announced the need to develop a full-fledged long-term strategy for cooperation between Belarus and African countries, "It is necessary to get away from the practice of working in this direction in one fell swoop, from visit to visit. It is necessary to have a full-fledged long-term strategy for cooperation with African countries... One should not think that Africa is a complete poverty and there is nothing to pay with. Nothing like this! Without the resources of this

continent, the world today is not able to develop dynamically. We must not miss our opportunity to compete for African markets. There is a lot of hard work to be done here.”

In June 2017, the first Belarusian-African forum, Belarus and Africa: New Horizons, was held in Minsk. The second such event took place in May — June 2021. Officials and businessmen from 13 African states arrived in Belarus to participate in the forum.

In January 2019, during the visit of the President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwu to Minsk, the Belarusian side proposed that Zimbabwe build a strategy and a specific plan for the development of cooperation in the future. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he would pay a visit to Zimbabwe with great pleasure, but said that before that he needed to agree and implement four or five specific projects there. “Such projects that the entire Zimbabwean people would see,” stressed the President of Belarus.

### **Trade and economic cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe**

*In 2021, the trade turnover amounted to \$25 million. According to the results of January—November 2022, mutual trade in goods increased to \$38.6 million (157.4 percent compared to the same period in 2021), exports to \$29.6 million (181.3 percent), imports to \$9 million (109.6 percent).*

### **Meeting place for business people**

I must say that on the eve of the current visit of the President of Belarus to Harare, a Belarusian-Zimbabwean business forum has opened here. It was attended by dozens of heads of ministries, departments and enterprises of the two countries. For officials and business representatives, it was a great opportunity to get to know each other better, strengthen existing ties, discuss new areas of cooperation and launch new joint projects by signing agreements and contracts. Actually, business meetings and negotiations continued during the days of the visit.

Belarus brought its national delicacies to the business forum — a variety of meat and dairy products, and even Belarusian ice cream. The sweet delicacy was also tasted by the First Vice-President of Zimbabwe, Constantino Chiwenga, who was given a brief tour of the exhibition of Belarusian food products. He was satisfied and praised the manufacturers. By the way, orange juice from fruits grown in Zimbabwe was added to the ice cream, which in itself is very symbolic.

The First Vice-President noted the existing warm relations between the countries and the gradual strengthening of cooperation, which was facilitated by previous visits at the highest and high levels, “This forum is an ideal platform for the exchange of views, knowledge and information on economic development. There are many investment opportunities in Zimbabwe in a wide variety of industries such as agriculture, mining, tourism, energy, transport, education and many more. And I ask our partners from Belarus to consider

investing in our enterprises, since our priority is to facilitate the conditions for doing business. This is part of our strategy for economic and political development until 2025, when we plan to bring the country to a completely new qualitative level of development.”

President of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce Mike Kamungeremu stressed that his country has benefited greatly from bilateral relations with Belarus in a wide variety of sectors, “In economic relations, Belarus and Zimbabwe are not competitors. And we can develop mutually beneficial trade and investment. We have a lot of opportunities. Trust me, you will not regret your decision to do business with Zimbabwe and in Zimbabwe.”

### **Bridge between Eurasia and southern Africa**

Vice Prime Minister of Belarus Piotr Parkhomchik noted the fact that the trade turnover between Belarus and Zimbabwe has increased 7 times since 2018. A number of investment projects have been launched in agriculture, mining, and industrial cooperation. And this is just the beginning of a long journey. At the same time, Piotr Parkhomchik added, the Belarusian side is interested in products made in Zimbabwe, “Being a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, Belarus is ready to become a bridge between Eurasia and southern Africa. The economies of Belarus and Zimbabwe are complementary. We are confidently moving on and gradually coming through trade to more modern and multifaceted economic relations.” Keep in mind the fact that Zimbabwe is a member of the Continental Free Trade Area, which has a market of over a billion people. It is no coincidence that during the visit the creation of a hub in Africa for the trade of Belarusian products was also discussed, said Charge d’Affaires of Belarus in Zimbabwe Dmitry Sakun. Speaking about the logistics of delivering goods to such distant countries as Zimbabwe, the diplomat stated that there have always been logistical difficulties, and especially recently these costs have increased significantly. Nevertheless, many European and American manufacturers successfully supply their equipment to African countries. Dmitry Sakun is sure that Belarus can do the same, “The Zimbabwean market is quite capacious. There is a great demand for various products here. Manufacturers do not cope with the needs of the local population. Food, equipment, clothing, fertilizers — all this is not enough here. And Belarus can offer it all.”

As for the price of goods, taking into account all the costs in terms of logistics, Dmitry Sakun noted that you can always find some options, work out logistics ways, “Even the options to bring equipment or products here and then enter neighbouring markets are also one of the options for penetrating African markets. Why not?”

In addition, the expansion of supplies to far-arc countries, including Africa, is part of Belarus’ strategy to diversify trade in the face of Western sanctions pressure and opposition from EU regulators. By the way, over the past three years Belarus has exported more than 2,000 tractors, combines and other agricultural machines to Zimbabwe.



## FOCUS

“Moreover, we came here not just as equipment sellers — an enterprise has been created here that not only sells, but also services equipment. The supply of spare parts, training of local farmers in driving and maintaining these machines have been organised. Therefore, we have gone in a comprehensive manner, and in this regard, we are quite competitive here,” explained Aleksandr Sidoruk, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to South Africa and part-time to Zimbabwe. “These are tens of millions of dollars, for which we have already supplied equipment as part of the first phase of the mechanisation programme. Last year, we actually completed the second phase of this programme. There are already agreements that we will participate in the third phase. Again, tens of millions of dollars.”

The second direction of export of equipment is due to the fact that, in addition to the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe, the mining industry is also actively developing. The first BELAZ trucks were delivered more than five years ago and today they are successfully operating in open pit mines. Negotiations are underway to increase sales. Belarusian participation in joint projects in agriculture, light and food industries, construction, fertilizer production, energy, exploration, mining, transport, education and medicine is seen as promising.

“We need Africa. And not just need — these are our promising markets,” said Aleksandr Sidoruk. “All the world leaders

### BY THE WAY

*In January 2022, a Belarusian diplomatic mission was opened in Zimbabwe (Harare). In December 2022, a request was received to open a Zimbabwean embassy in Minsk. The opening is expected in the first quarter of 2023.*

are literally fighting for their presence in the South African region, starting with the USA, China, Russia. This speaks for itself. You have to come here seriously and for a long time. How we enter Zimbabwe.”

Head of the Department for Africa and the Middle East of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Yury Nikolaychik recalls that our country is gradually increasing its presence in the African region, “We started with two foreign institutions. These were embassies in Egypt and the Republic of South Africa. At present, there are five Belarusian embassies on the African continent. These reference points generally cover key regions of Africa. In West Africa, we rely on Nigeria, which is the economic leader in the region. In East Africa, our foothold is Kenya. If we take the region between South Africa and East Africa, then in this belt our reference point is Zimbabwe. We hope that this visit will become a logical continuation of the top-level contacts that we have already developed and will give a new impetus to bilateral relations. It all starts, as a rule, with export. And when the recognition of technologies comes, the understanding that a high-quality solution is offered at affordable prices, there is an interest from partners. At the moment, Belarus is implementing industrial cooperation

projects with Egypt and the Republic of South Africa. In 2021, a project was launched to assemble MTW tractors in South Africa, which will enter the market under a local brand. In addition, other African countries are also showing interest in our agricultural machinery and, in principle, in our developments in the field of agriculture and food security: Kenya, Ethiopia and, of course, Zimbabwe.”

### First results of the Belarusian-Zimbabwean business forum

Business communication between the business circles of the two countries this time resulted in the signing of a number of new cooperation agreements. Thus, from the Belarusian side, the documents were signed by the Minsk Tractor Works, the Lidselmash holding, the Minsk Motor Plant, Gomselmash, Bobruiskagromash. By the way, the main exporter of Belarusian products to the Zimbabwean market, the Minsk Tractor Works, supplied more than 1.8 thousand units of equipment to this country from 2018 to 2022.

“We are engaged with our partners not only in sales, but also in service,” Vitaly Vovk, General Director of MTW, shared the details of the further strategy. “Three service centres are open today. Three more will open soon. We expect to be firmly established here.”

Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee Vladimir Kukharev said that during the state visit of the Belarusian leader to Zimbabwe, it was planned to sign an agreement on establishing sister city relations between Minsk and Harare, “Here we have worked out many areas of activity. We plan to continue cooperation, because we see that many of our products are in great demand, both industrial and Bellegprom, everyday goods. We will negotiate for their promotion.”

Industrial cooperation with Zimbabwe has great potential. The Minister of Industry of Belarus Aleksandr Rogozhnik expressed confidence in this. Negotiations with him in Harare were held by the Minister of Industry and Trade of Zimbabwe, Sekai Nzenza, who confirmed the interest of the Zimbabwean side in continuing Belarus’ participation in the programme for the modernisation and mechanisation of agriculture, and also noted the high quality of Belarusian equipment.

Contracts were signed for the supply of Belarusian tractor and grain harvesting equipment, as well as Belarusian-made equipment for the construction and modernisation of grain storage complexes in Zimbabwe. A memorandum of understanding was signed on cooperation in the framework of the supply of Belarusian machinery and equipment for the forestry industry to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and in addition, a memorandum of intent was signed between BELAZ OJSC, SOHRA Overseas FZE and the Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company Pvt Ltd diamond mining company regarding the supply of Belarusian machinery and equipment for the mining industry in Zimbabwe.

The head of the Bellegprom concern, Tatyana Lugina, also sees opportunities for developing ties, “We became interested in leather and footwear industries there. We learned that cotton is grown here. Already one of our working delegations left



in December, there was the first landing party to study the production capacities of tanneries. In addition, the Minister of Industry of Zimbabwe turned to us in terms of technical and advisory assistance, so that we, having certain competencies, would help them, suggest in which direction to develop the leather business. The same for cotton. There is a fairly large enterprise here. Therefore, we will also discuss how much they can reserve for delivery to the Belarusian market.”

The plans of the head of the concern also included a meeting with the head of the local police, “We brought large catalogues, samples of fabrics with special properties, various dressings. We brought samples of our special-purpose footwear, which can be suitable for both paramilitary structures and special use. It is necessary to try to work in any market. And today Africa is the continent on which many economies of the world are betting. And we should not be an exception.”

According to Tatyana Lugina, the Zimbabwean business delegation is invited to pay a return visit to Belarus within two months and get to know the possibilities of the domestic light industry better.

There are also prospects for multilateral cooperation between Belarus and Zimbabwe in the field of education.

“This also applies to the training of specialists with higher education in such areas as the agro-industrial complex, mechanical engineering, and medical technologies. What is in demand in any country. Considering that today Zimbabwe is a very dynamically developing country, first of all they need personnel,” said Minister of Education Andrei Ivanets.

The issues of interuniversity cooperation were also discussed on the side-lines of the visit. An important aspect is the training of specialists for the scientific sphere and high technologies.

#### **Aleksandr Lukashenko,**

***“Zimbabwe is our important partner in the South African region, and we are striving for a gradual exit to the highest strategic level of cooperation. At present, relations between the two countries are developing dynamically. However, a significant potential for interaction has largely not yet been realised. In the coming years, we will have to do this, especially in the areas of trade and the economy.”***

At talks with President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa in Minsk, January 17th, 2019.

Separately, Andrei Ivanets spoke about the training of mid-level specialists in working specialties. For Zimbabwe, given the supply of high-tech equipment to this country from Belarus and plans to develop industrial cooperation, this is very important.

A wide range of scientific and innovative cooperation was presented in Zimbabwe by the Belarusian State University. During the visit, BSU Rector Andrei Korol met with the leadership of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialised Education, Science and Technological Development, held talks with colleagues from leading universities in Zimbabwe during round tables, meetings and visits.

“BSU presented its proposals for cooperation. They cover the fields of medicine, pharmaceuticals, water management, water purification, geology, mineral exploration, biotechnology, ecology, soil science and much more. In particular, colleagues from an African country were told about the production of medicines, ultrasonic gas meters, services for solving applied problems in the mining industry, and purification of polluted waters. In the field of agriculture, joint projects to study

## FOCUS

the impact of soil salinisation on plants and crops, and the impact of climate change on the environment can become promising. Interaction in the field of education is seen in the training of citizens of Zimbabwe at the Institute of Additional Education, teaching in English in the magistracy, postgraduate studies, adult education programmes. The development and implementation of joint educational programmes, participation in scientific conferences, organisation of guest lectures, internships for teachers and students from Zimbabwe were also proposed," informed the Belarusian State University. Meanwhile, in Harare, an agreement was signed between the governments of Belarus and Zimbabwe on the elimination of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion with respect to taxes on income and property, aimed, among other things, at promoting the development of trade and economic cooperation on mutually beneficial terms.

*Sergey Aleynik,*

### **"Not every country can afford to work in Africa"**

*Here is what Foreign Minister Sergei Aleinik said about the main results of the state visit of the President of Belarus to Zimbabwe:*

#### **On the future of Africa**

The President of Belarus quite accurately noted that without Africa 'there can be no planetary development'. This is the absolute truth. Africa is the second continent on the planet after Eurasia. Over one and a half billion people. And a number of countries in this region are developing very dynamically. Demographic growth is predicted to grow fastest in Africa. Moreover, the share of young people in the total population will reach about 60 percent by 2050. And all these young people need food, education, jobs, housing and health care. Of course, African governments will do everything to meet these basic socio-economic needs, and we have enough competence to find common ground in these areas and build cooperation.

#### **About competition and new opportunities**

The African continent today occupies a leading position in the world precisely in those commodities that have no analogues and are vital for the development of innovative technologies of the 21st century. From the 2030s, Africa is predicted to become one of the most important global reserves of sources of raw materials as part of the beginning of a new manufacturing revolution. This is a dynamically growing market for labour and technology. And, as we know, all the powers that be, the main countries are well aware of this, they are trying to occupy their niches on the African continent. The United States of America, China, India, Russia, and the countries of the European Union are not just present here, but are actively competing. And that is why they are extremely seriously watching the expansion of Belarusian cooperation with the countries of the African continent.

#### **About working with African partners**

This region is difficult. This is also true. Not every country can afford to work here. And not everything is always easy for us in Africa either. But we have been systematically building our interaction with African countries for a long time. We have established diplomatic relations with 51 states of the continent. There are five overseas agencies in Africa. These are our so-called anchor points around which we are building cooperation with African countries. Our model of working with the African continent is fundamentally different from the Western one.

They are still de facto unable to get rid of outdated neo-colonial approaches, pumping out resources, trying in every possible way to keep Africa as a kind of subsidised region. They want to prevent its transformation from an object of world geopolitics into its subject. The West is trying with all its might to preserve the unipolar model of the world. Africa, perhaps not in the near, but in the foreseeable future, may have every chance to form its pan-African pole of global significance. That is, to become one of the most important poles of the emerging multipolar world order. And we, unlike Western countries, are not interested in hindering this, but are ready to assist it in every possible way. Therefore, we initially built our interaction with the countries of the African continent on the modern paradigm of a multipolar world. We create honest, equal, mutually beneficial, mutually respectful relationships, bring technology, train people, recognise the diversity of development paths, and offer various cooperation and investment projects. And at the same time we do not put any additional conditions.

#### **Demand for bilateral contacts**

The state visit of the President of Belarus to Zimbabwe just confirmed the perspective and correctness of the strategy we have chosen. I will say more, as an insider, this visit at the beginning of 2023 opened a whole series of our planned quite significant international bilateral events with countries of the far arc. This year, the schedule in this direction is planned to be quite intensive. Many events will be held at the highest level. There is a great demand for bilateral contacts and significant prospects. So there will definitely be enough work for journalists, diplomats, and the real sector.

#### **On the total economic effect of the visit to Zimbabwe**

The state visit of the President of Belarus to Zimbabwe is a truly fundamental milestone in Belarusian African relations. It was the first visit of the Head of our state to African countries south of the equator. We all witnessed that the visit was filled to the maximum with bilateral events. The heads of state held talks on the entire spectrum of the bilateral agenda, launched the third phase of the Zimbabwe Farm Mechanisation Programme using our Belarusian equipment. This is precisely the same programme that has contributed to ensuring food security in our friendly country.

The record grain harvest, which for the first time in 50 years completely covers the domestic needs of Zimbabwe, is the best evidence of the effectiveness of our joint work in this area.

It seems to many in Belarus, especially young people, that harvesting a good harvest and eating well is a common thing. In fact, behind this is a huge amount of work, high technology and





■ In 2021, a project was launched to assemble MTZ tractors in South Africa, which will enter the market under a local brand. In addition, other African countries are also showing interest in our agricultural machinery and, in principle, in our achievements in the field of agriculture and food security: Kenya, Ethiopia and, of course, Zimbabwe.



painstaking work of our business entities. Feeding the country was one of the main tasks of the current President of Zimbabwe. And today it is pleasant to state that our state has made a significant contribution to this.

In total, as a result of the visit, contracts were signed for the supply of about 4,000 units of Belarusian equipment: tractor, agricultural, forestry, and others. The total economic effect of the visit is estimated by us at about \$200 million.

### About new directions of work

During the visit, a package of more than 15 bilateral documents was signed, which includes basic economic agreements (on the avoidance of double taxation, on the promotion and protection of investments), a number of documents in the field of education, a number of contract agreements. In general, they are designed to ensure the development of industrial cooperation and economic cooperation with Zimbabwe. To further expand cooperation, a bilateral Permanent Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation has been established. It will start working soon. In addition, an agreement was reached on the creation of a coordinating body — a task force under the auspices of the ministries of agriculture of the two countries. The talks between the heads of state also made it possible to outline new areas of joint work. The President publicly announced his colleague's proposal

to join neighbouring Mozambique to the Belarusian-Zimbabwean cooperation. Of course, we are interested in this in every possible way and in the near future we plan to discuss in more detail the prospects for joint work, including, perhaps, trilateral work in this area.

We will also be glad to continue contacts between the foreign ministries. I invited my colleague. We expect the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Zimbabwe to Belarus at the end of March. We expect that by this moment the preparatory procedures for the opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe in Belarus will be completed. Such an agreement was also reached during the visit. I am convinced that this will make it possible to more fully realise the existing potential for interaction and convert our long-standing friendly and mutually respectful relations into mutually beneficial projects with high added value. Summing up, I would like to note that all Belarusian-Zimbabwean cooperation is constructive. This can be seen from the issues discussed, the signed contracts, documents, agreements reached during the visit of the Head of State. The visit is one of many concrete steps taken by our President within the framework of the 'peace and creation' that is so necessary for everyone today, to which the current year is dedicated in Belarusian politics, both domestic and foreign.

Aleksei **Fedosov**



# A LOT HAS BEEN DONE, BUT THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

At the end of last year, the economy of Belarus showed good results. Now, new specific tasks have been set for the vertical of power: enterprises must work stably, and the population must not feel the impact of sanctions. To this end, the necessary efforts and resources have been mobilised.

## Convincing reality

Last year, Aleksandr Lukashenko signed the Decree 'On additional measures to ensure the stable functioning of the economy'. The document provided additional support to organisations in the real sector of the economy, housing construction, small and medium-sized businesses that work for export or are engaged in import substitution. The government was given additional powers in the investment, budgetary, financial and tax spheres. This facilitated rapid decision-making to keep the budget balanced. In fact, such measures made it possible not only to neutralise the negative consequences of sanctions, but also to various sectors of the economy, as well as citizens, to feel confident in the future. Thanks to the reorientation and support of exports, a record foreign trade balance was obtained — about five billion dollars in equivalent. It was possible to increase the supply of investment and consumer goods, to a large extent compensate for the loss of exports in the markets of European countries and Ukraine.

So, the reality is this: the enterprises did not stop and continued to work. Moreover, over the past year they have increased production volumes. Most importantly, manufacturers have significantly improved their financial performance. Net profit increased by almost a billion roubles compared to 2021. The profitability of sales increased. The debt burden and the number of unprofitable organisations decreased. All this was the result of the joint work of the Government, the management of enterprises, which allowed the flagships to quickly rebuild their business processes and reorient themselves to new markets. The production in the mining industry of Belarus alone has increased by two and a half percent over the past year. In general, the volume of industrial production in 2022 amounted to almost 170 billion roubles. The export of

products has also grown — this figure was 115 percent previously. Record results were achieved in the Russian market: the growth rate of deliveries in absolute terms was more than 166 percent, and Russia's share in total exports reached 75 percent. For example, in the difficult year 2022, BELAZ HOLDING sold products worth more than a billion dollars for the third time in its history. Its lion's share was sent to the Russian Federation. In BELAZ JSC alone the growth rate of production in terms of the index of physical volume amounted to 140.5 percent. At the head enterprise, among 871 units of shipped equipment, almost forty percent was the share of mining dump trucks with a payload capacity of 110 — 130 tons. Products were delivered to 21 countries, of which 14 are non-CIS countries. In total, more than 90 percent of BELAZ products were exported. The share of the Russian Federation in the total shipment amounted to 85 percent.

## Volumes increased, prices froze

Further. Despite the difficult conditions due to increased external pressure, the enterprises of the Belgospisheprom concern did not slow down the pace of work, but, on the contrary, increased it. Organisations that are part of the concern showed good results last year and made a worthy contribution to the development of the country's economy. For the first time in the history of the concern, all enterprises began to work effectively, Oleg Zhidkov, Chairman of the Belgospisheprom concern, notes, "This year we set ourselves the task of continuing to grow in export volumes, as well as gaining a foothold in our traditional markets even more confidently. These are Russia, the countries of the EAEU, the CIS, China and others. At the same time, without losing our presence in the European Union market. Today we supply products to

44 countries. One of the main sales markets for the concern's organisations is the Russian Federation."

The Russian market is also the main one for light industry enterprises. Last year, products were supplied to more than 70 regions. In 65 of them, the supply volumes increased compared to the level of 2021. And here the enterprises of the Bellegprom concern increased the shipment of goods to the Russian market — a growth rate of 130 percent. In general, according to the results of work for 2022, a positive trend was achieved in all indicators. For example, the concern has completed the export task.

The enterprises of the Bellesbumprom concern also worked with the growth. Last year they increased production volumes by five percent. During the summer months, they managed to find new sales markets and gain a foothold in traditional ones. Among the leaders are enterprises of the pulp and paper industry.

The production of agricultural products in farms of all categories last year amounted to 32 billion roubles, which is also more in comparable prices compared to 2021.

According to the National Statistical Committee, at the end of last year, the volume of GDP in current prices amounted to 191.4 billion roubles, or 95.3 percent in comparable prices compared to 2021. The GDP deflator index in 2022 compared to the previous year is 113.6 percent.

But the most important result, which the President of Belarus has repeatedly drawn attention to, is that the population did not feel the pressure of the sanctions. Increased wages, added labour pensions. Store shelves are not empty. The utility bills did not become heavier: tariffs for heat and electricity remained the same. And, finally, we managed to curb inflation. As Anatoly Nasenya, a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy of the House of Representatives, notes, objectively now the economy has entered the stage of recovery. The government is implementing measures to support the real sector and maintain a balanced budget. Efforts are concentrated on the five most significant areas: support for exporters, import substitution and protection of the domestic market, building new transport and logistics chains, simplification of business conditions, stability of the labour market and social protection of workers. Timely measures helped curb inflation. In particular, the deputy emphasises that the decision taken by the President on strict price regulation was extremely necessary, because the ongoing monitoring showed that prices were growing significantly, often unreasonably. And the decision to freeze prices and moratorium on their growth is correct. The result is obvious: deflation has been observed for several months now. Although before that the annual level was 17 percent. As for the immediate steps to be taken, according to the parliamentarian, first of all, it is necessary to work with production costs, build new supply chains for cheaper goods and raw materials. For trade, it is also necessary to work out a system of markups that will be fair.

## Qualified view

**Deputy Minister of Economy Dmitry Yaroshevich**, "Despite the sanctions pressure, the Belarusian economy developed dynamically last year. GDP formed at the level of 95.3 percent. This figure has not changed over the past months. The industry has been positive for the last four, especially domestic flagships. According to our

estimates, the growth rate of industrial production amounted to 108 percent for the year.

The enterprises of the food industry and woodworking have worked stably. In general, the result could have been better, but if you look in particular, a lot of our main traditional industries have worked positively. Agriculture was a delight. In general, the economy has performed well. In 2022, the task of commissioning housing was completed. 4 million 226 thousand square meters of total area have been commissioned. The annual target was 4.2 million. We've even gone over a little. The year ended well in terms of financial performance. The return on sales in the economy is 8.9 percent. The share of unprofitable companies decreased, the debt burden on enterprises decreased. As for exports, by the end of the year we expect to supply food worth \$8 billion in equivalent. The foreign trade balance exceeded \$4.7 billion.

If we talk about plans for 2023, then all the necessary conditions have already been formed for the 3.8 percent GDP growth parameter set by the Head of State to be met."

## Expert opinion

**Aleksey Bykov, analyst, Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies**,

"Of course, the external pressure exerted has affected the economy. But thanks to the well-coordinated work of the authorities, it was possible to neutralise the negative consequences and achieve a minimal drop. It is safe to say that the economy is successfully coping with the challenges. Of the most significant points, I would like to single out the foreign trade surplus. That is, our current account balance of payments has traditionally been negative, and only in 2022 did we manage to reach a positive foreign trade balance. In the same way, we reached trade parity with Russia. Although earlier there was a trade deficit with the neighbouring country, as we imported more than we exported. Positive dynamics is observed in terms of inflation. Thanks to the decisions made, prices started to fall, and we are seeing deflation. As for the forecast for this year, I believe that there are all prerequisites for achieving the goals set."

**Valery Baynev, Doctor of Economics**, "Using the teaching terminology, I would give the Belarusian economy a credit. And from the point of view of an economist, I would put 9 on a 10-point scale. Of course, it could

## Key achievements in the economy in 2022



**Enterprises have increased production volumes:**  
net profit increased by 1 billion roubles compared to last year;  
increased profitability of sales;  
the debt burden and the number of unprofitable enterprises decreased;



**The population practically did not feel the pressure of sanctions:**



nominal salary increased by 13%;  
at the end of the year, it increased to 1,620 roubles;  
the labor pension increased by 23%, it reached 670 roubles;

**"Export maneuver" implemented in Belarus:**



It was possible to replace 85% of the dropped supplies in the western direction with other goods;  
a record positive foreign trade balance has been obtained for the entire history of observation – more than \$ 4.5 billion in equivalent;



## RESULTS INSPIRE CONFIDENCE

have worked better. But we must take into account the storm that has broken out in the global economy: this is hyperinflation, the destruction of logistics schemes, and the energy crisis. And such a storm can turn over not only small boats, but also large ships. It is enough to look at the situation in the so-called flagships of the world economy. There is a huge increase in prices, utility tariffs. All this gives rise to discontent and unrest of citizens. And the Belarusian economy is successfully coping with this storm. Western countries deliberately applied the most severe sanctions against us. According to the forecasts of the so-called experts, the fall of the Belarusian economy was predicted by 10 — 15 percent, and some even announced a possible fall of up to 20 percent. But it didn't fail. The Belarusian model can withstand any load. And, contrary to all the expectations of enemies, it performs all its social functions. The results of the year show that salaries have grown significantly and there has been no collapse in income. The key result of the measures taken by the Government to support the economy was the balanced work of the real sector. It did a decent job. Significant support for positive trends was provided by an increase in the yield of grains, rapeseed, the efficient work of grain growers and, as a result, an increase in the output of agricultural products.

The outpacing rates of fodder procurement made it possible to fully provide livestock breeding with raw materials, and the population — with meat, milk and other products. This is a significant contribution to the country's food security and new export opportunities.

As for the tasks for this year, they have already been announced. We have to ensure decent growth. The key issue is investment. They need to be increased. All this will help create new jobs, especially in the regions. It is important that the country's economy will maintain a social orientation."

### Ability to timely adjust oneself

In 2022, in the Brest Region, in order to minimise the effect of the sanctions, a serious emphasis was placed on import substitution, reorientation of commodity flows and changing the format of interaction with foreign partners. As a result, last year the volume of exports in the region is estimated at 3.8 billion US dollars with an increase of 16 percent compared to 2021. The EAEU accounted for 76 percent of exports.

2022 has become the best year for the Brest Region over the past five years in terms of net profit received — according to preliminary estimates, it will amount to more than 2 billion roubles. It should be noted that a significant increase in profits is observed in all sectors of the real sector of the region's economy.

Aleksandr Pradun, First Deputy Chairman of the Economy Committee of the Brest Region Executive Committee, commented on the achieved indicators in the following way, "In the conditions of the actual loss of the Ukrainian market and a drastic decline in trade with the European Union, the enterprises of the region had to do serious work to reorient the supply of their products to other markets, primarily the EAEU and far-arc countries. This made it possible not only to compensate for losses, but also to significantly

increase exports. Thus, in the EAEU countries, it generally increased by 32.8 percent. Looking at the countries, exports to the Russian Federation increased by 34.5 percent and amounted to more than two billion US dollars. Deliveries of products to Kazakhstan increased by 6.5 percent, to Armenia — twice, to Kyrgyzstan — by 7 percent. The process of reorientation to the countries of the far arc ensured an increase in exports to this region by 29 percent, including due to an increase in supplies to China by 132 percent."

### When products are in demand

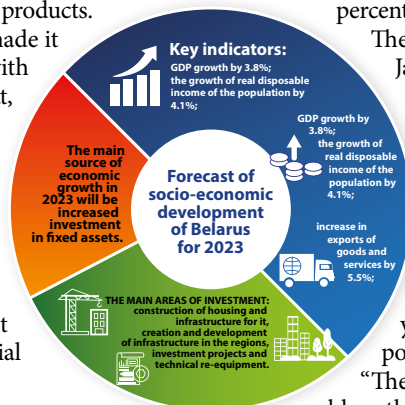
The enterprises of the Mogilev Region produce demanded products, having quickly restructured their work in the new conditions. The exact statistical layout for 2022 is yet to come, but the operational data is also eloquent — the region has something to be proud of in a number of positions. In particular, the total receipts of revenues of the consolidated budget of the region for January— December amounted to 116.9 percent with a target of 107.6. In full, the region fulfilled the task of housing construction, commissioning 330,000 square meters of housing. The rate of agricultural production in farms of all categories and agricultural organisations is 102 percent compared to 2021.

The export of goods in the region as a whole in January — November amounted to \$2.5 billion, or 106.4 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. The positive balance exceeded \$1 billion, which is \$78.6 million more than in January — December 2021. Positive dynamics is maintained in the export of services. For 11 months, it amounted to 99.6 million dollars and increased by 16.1 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. The balance of foreign trade in services was positive in the amount of \$32.3 million.

"The region was able to withstand the restrictive blow thanks to the measures taken by the state, the strengthening of interregional cooperative cooperation and, which is also very important, the efforts of the business itself," comments Vladimir Muravyov, Deputy Chairman of the Economy Committee of the Mogilev Region Executive Committee. "As a result, the vast majority of enterprises continue to produce products in demand, having managed to quickly reorganise their work in the new conditions. In January — November, organisations of the region received more than a billion roubles of net profit. The situation on the labour market remains stable. The registered unemployment rate as of January 1st, 2023 amounted to 0.2 percent of the labour force, with a forecast of no more than 1 percent."

### Explored new markets

The share of industrial production in this region is 20 percent of the republican volume. The economy of the Gomel Region has been keeping this figure for many years in a row, actively increasing output and developing new sales markets. The challenges of the time force the industrial sector to always be ready to not only meet the targets, but also be one step ahead of the competition. In 2022, the Gomel Region produced products worth 33 billion roubles in actual selling prices. The growth rate by 2021 was 103.8 percent.





■ According to the National Statistical Committee, at the end of last year, the volume of GDP in current prices amounted to 191.4 billion roubles, or 95.3 percent in comparable prices compared to 2021.

“The mining industry showed an increase in production volumes, the production of food and beverages, wood and paper products, as well as computing, electronic and optical equipment, machines, equipment, vehicles increased,” said Igor Aslyuk, Chairman of the Economy Committee of the Gomel Region Executive Committee. “The proportion of residues in the warehouses of the region’s enterprises in relation to the average monthly production volume is the lowest in the country and is about 32 percent. Despite external restrictions, the economy of the Gomel Region continues to be export-oriented. More than 55 percent of the products produced by the enterprises of the region are sent outside the country. The main export items are metal products, dairy and meat products, chemical fertilizers, agricultural machinery, wood pulp, hardware, chemical threads and fibres, plastic products, wallpaper, woodworking products.”

In 2022, export deliveries of Gomel manufacturers were carried out to the markets of 88 countries of the world. The first batches of products were sent to Algeria, Colombia, Palestine, Peru. Now the enterprises of the region are working on the reorientation of commodity flows to the East and Asia.

### New projects in the formed investment portfolio

Despite the sanctions pressure, 2022 turned out better for many enterprises of the Vitebsk Region than the previous one. The entire real sector of the economy worked quite steadily and with positive dynamics in most areas. Here is what Anzhelika Nikitina, Deputy Chairman of the Vitebsk Region Executive Committee, said about the results and plans of the region in this area. According to her, over the past year, 28 production projects with a total investment of 102.8 million roubles and 33 infrastructure projects worth 128.2 million roubles were implemented in the northern region. Among the largest are the construction of a slaughter and processing workshop at the Orsha Meat-Packing Plant, the Vitebsk Broiler Poultry Farm, the reconstruction of the production base of the KimaBel wood processing enterprise, the modernisation of the grain-drying complex at the Vitebsk Oil Extraction Plant. A new production facility for the production of high-precision parts has been launched at the Vetraz plant.

More than 400 projects are planned for this five-year period. Each of them counts, as Anzhelika Nikitina emphasised. All these

projects are going to be carried out without fail. The total amount of investments over five years is about six billion roubles. The formed investment portfolio includes projects in various fields. They are aimed at the production of import-substituting products, goods with high added value, which will increase the level of wages of the population.

As you know, the Head of State outlined the main principle of work in the economic block of the country: each region should have its own major project in the real sector of the economy. The Vitebsk Region also stakes on this. The flagships are the territories of ‘80+’ (Orsha, Polotsk districts, Novopolotsk), as well as Vitebsk and Glubokoye districts, the capacities of which allow them to be used more efficiently. Agrarian regions with an insignificant share of industrial enterprises were not left without attention: Rossony, Ushachy, Sharkovshchina, Senno, Dubrovno, Miory. In them, along with the development of the agro-industrial complex, emphasis will be placed on the development of tourism potential. According to Anzhelika Nikitina, each region needs its own breakthrough project. Therefore, they are trying to find projects for everyone here that will add value, become an incentive for the development of other areas, and provide jobs. As an example, we can take the Gorodok District, a significant part of whose residents go to work in Vitebsk. The production workshop of the Belwest holding operates in the district, where more than fifty people already work. Now the company is ready to develop production and recruit the same number of workers. There are plans to modernise and expand production at the local enterprise LanatexBel, where twenty new jobs will be created in the future. The former slaughter shop of the regional consumer cooperation enterprise bought out a private enterprise that intends to create a production facility for the production of soft cheeses, they will need more than thirty employees.

Similar examples can be given in other regions of the region. A number of promising projects are concentrated in the same Senno District. The main thing is that the implementation of these projects gives jobs, which means that a basis is being created for people to stay and work in their native lands. And here we see a positive trend over the past year. The outflow of the population for 2022 has significantly decreased compared to previous periods. But, of course, there is something to strive for further.

Aleksei Fedosov





IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES



# WIN LEADERSHIP — WITH YOUR INTELLIGENCE

# E

**Experts are firmly convinced that the national and economic security of the country currently largely depends on the ability to generate its own competitive developments in such a high-tech field as microelectronics**



*The fastest and most accurate wins the technological competition today. In other words, the country that has computing power and algorithms. They allow us to develop better products faster than others, to model the development of markets, society and even predict the behavior of people. In a word, the one who has a full cycle of competencies in microelectronics and related sciences will be on the horse. These technologies cannot be bought, they can only be produced by their own, national forces. Or in cooperation with very close partners. Leadership is not for sale. It can only be won. In this case, with his intellect.*

### So it happened historically

Sometimes people who are not deeply involved in the problems have doubts about how such a relatively small country as Belarus can compete with such powerful centers of economic power as the United States, China, and the European Union. But do not forget that our country has a long and rich history of accumulating competencies. Moreover, we are used to and know how to work offline. What is new to many in the world today is traditionally established business processes for us. Historically, such a leading Belarusian enterprise in the field of microelectronics as Integral has not bought a single license in more than half a century of its existence. All its products are based on domestic fundamental and applied developments. In general, Belarus is one of the few countries in the world that can provide a full cycle of microchip production: from scientific support, design to production and maintenance. It is also important that there is a company that makes various equipment for the microelectronic industry. As a result, our products are purchased by companies from a dozen countries. Including the USA, Singapore, South Korea. For political reasons, international cooperation has been transformed. But Belarusian technologies are still in demand.

### One of the best schools in the world

The obvious advantage of Belarus is the developed fundamental and applied science. Microelectronics covers almost all areas of knowledge in the natural and exact sciences. For example, the percentage of failure of usable microcircuits seems to be a production task. But to do this,

you need to develop a strategy and a complex for testing electronic products. Special equipment and algorithms are needed for verification.

-- We are studying the cause of failures, - says Anatoly Belous, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences, Deputy General Director for Scientific and Technical Programs and Science of Integral OJSC - the management company of Integral Holding. -- It turns out that the transitions between the crystal and the transistor are heated. We started digging deeper and got an amazing result: the energy density on the crystal is comparable to the energy density in the nozzle of a launching rocket. And then the laws of thermodynamics come into force. This is already physics, mathematical modeling... As a result, they went to scientific work on the calculation of the thermal resistance of a semiconductor device.

Or take the problem of protecting chips from the effects of various environmental factors. It turns out that Belarus has one of the best schools in the world in materials science. The country is developing protective screens that protect chips from various radiation. Including radiation, which is fundamentally important for devices operating in space. And this is a serious problem. And not everyone manages to solve it, unlike us.

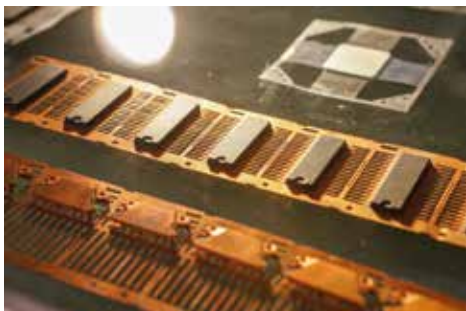
### President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko,

*"Political pressure and trade wars have turned into a hybrid confrontation. Every day we have to fight for the sovereignty and security of the country. And at the same time to increase competencies. We can only fully rely on ourselves and friendly countries such as Russia. Against this background, giving a new impetus to the development of the microelectronic industry is more relevant than ever."*

(At the meeting on the state and development of microelectronics, June 14, 2022)

Do you think why Elon Musk's famous Starlink satellites fly in low orbit? So that the Earth's magnetic field protects their equipment from cosmic radiation. According to experts, its chips do not have reliable protection. In fact, it uses a standard, non-specialized element base. But it pays quite dearly for it. In low orbits, the atmosphere is very rarefied, but it is there. And it slows down satellites, reducing their life span to a little over a year. Therefore, the American

## IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES



**Integral is the largest manufacturer of integrated circuits and semiconductor devices in Central and Eastern Europe**

entrepreneur had to put both the production of the devices and their launch on stream in order to maintain the satellite grouping in working mode.

Our chips have been working in outer space for 15-20 years, and, according to Anatoly Belous, there has not been a single case of failure. And the same Mask does not have such technologies. As well as competencies for their development. Therefore, we have to spend huge amounts of money on the permanent launch of satellites.

About this kind of various aspects and nuances, you can talk endlessly. Microelectronics is a constant intellectual challenge. And in order to answer them, it is necessary to continuously conduct research and make discoveries in various fields of knowledge.

### **Competition and even confrontation**

Even in the most dynamic years of globalization, the market for advanced technologies was not completely open. Cooperation, specialization, and technology transfer were developing, but the key states tried to leave the core competencies and know-how entirely to themselves. The aggravation of the geopolitical situation has given rise to increased competition and even confrontation in strategic industries. They were there before, but they flowed in the shadows, behind the scenes. In recent years, the struggle for technological leadership has been conducted almost openly. And each center of power is trying to monopolistically get ahead.

Starting with the programs of Donald Trump, the United States continues to revive its technological power — without fully taking into account the interests of even its closest allies, Anatoly Belous believes. According to him, the Americans are investing tens of billions of dollars in relocating the production of microchips from Southeast Asia to their territory. The projects are generously funded by the State and focused exclusively on national needs. At the beginning of last year, Washington recalled all specialists in the field of IT and microelectronics from Chinese companies.

In turn, China is also trying to minimize the presence of Western specialists, not excluding espionage and even sabotage. But Beijing has actively engaged in the struggle for qualified personnel in Taiwan. He has already lured more than 3 thousand out of 40 thousand high-class specialists from the island, Anatoly Belous cites statistics. They are offered large salaries, free education of children in the best universities and other social "parachutes" and bonuses. And if earlier they were hunting for individual geniuses and talents, now they are trying to outbid entire collectives.

Seeing the isolation of China and the United States, the Europeans also thought about the revival of the microelectronic industry. The transfer of capacities to other countries has led to the fact that there are only three large microchip manufacturing enterprises in the EU that cannot meet domestic demand. At the level of the European Economic Commission, it has already been decided to invest at least 52 billion euros in the industry.



**Planar is a scientific and technical complex, which, based on the most modern technologies and synthesis of the latest achievements of science and technology in various fields of knowledge, develops and supplies specialized technological equipment for the implementation of technologies in microelectronics.**

### Supernova directions as promising

Many specialists and scientists know Moore's law: the number of transistors on a chip doubles annually. This statistical pattern has been true for more than half a century, but today it has practically stopped working due to fundamental physical laws. When the sizes of transistors, their elements and the distances between them reached 5-7 nanometers, the so-called dimensional effects began to act — physical phenomena that disrupt the normal functioning of silicon semiconductor devices. The currents in them are getting smaller, almost imperceptible. The impact of the external environment is having an increasing impact. Speaking in everyday language, a trolleybus passed nearby — and the chip failed.

These problems can be solved, but through incredible intellectual efforts and the use of very expensive technologies. The cost of an average silicon chip factory has increased thirty-fold over the past thirty years. The element base becomes gold, reliability objectively decreases, and the advantages are not obvious. Of course, traditional silicon microelectronics will not die out. She has already firmly occupied her niche. But it is clear that innovation today will take a different path. Already more than half of the scientists in the global industry have concentrated in their research on the so-called NBIC technologies — nanobioinformational and cognitive, which lie within the framework of interdisciplinary research.

According to Anatoly Belous, corresponding member of the

National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Deputy Director General for Scientific and Technical Programs and Science of Integral OJSC - the management company of Integral Holding, work in the field of spintronics is now actively underway. It is based not on the transfer of the electron charge (electric current), but on the use of the second fundamental characteristic of the electron — its own magnetic field. Magnonics has been singled out in a separate direction: it studies the properties of quasiparticles that correspond to elementary excitation at the moment of spin interaction. Artificial intelligence will develop not on a silicon element base, but on neural calculations.

These are supernova directions. While promising, specific products and technologies have not yet been implemented. But it is precisely innovations in fundamental areas of knowledge that open up fresh prospects for the development of innovative computing systems based on fundamentally new principles, algorithms, and mathematical concepts. We are not lagging behind, domestic scientists have very strong research in this area.

That is why it is safe to believe that Belarusian science will definitely not sleep through the next technological revolution. And it is already obvious that it will lie in the field of new knowledge, technologies, products, and not the improvement of old ones, as they sometimes try to present it in the information space.

Vsevolod **Evseev**



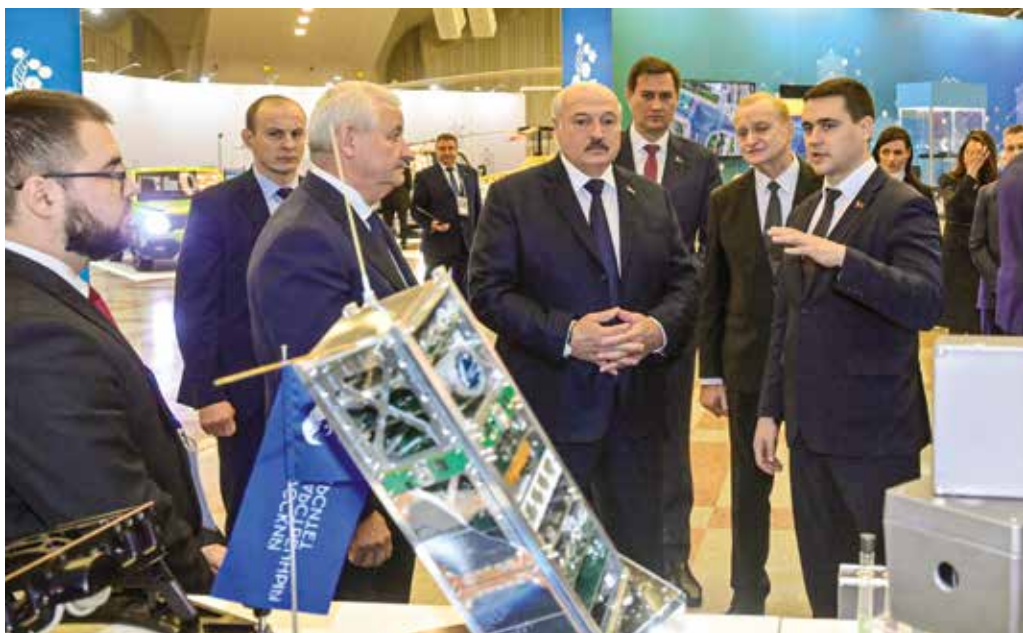
# WHEN ACHIEVEMENTS ARE DIRECTED TO THE FUTURE

The Intellectual Belarus exhibition can be considered an event of the last few years, which was shown in the capital the day before and the opening time of which was even extended due to numerous requests. Many exhibits also made a strong impression on the President who visited the exhibition.



BELARUS  
**INTELLECTUAL**  
exhibition of scientific and technical achievements

**F**rom breakthrough space technologies to Belarusian products... Several hundred promising developments of Belarusian scientists were united under one roof. Anyone could see them: at the BelExpo National Exhibition Centre. Actually, the idea to acquaint people with the achievements of Belarusian science belonged to the President. The Head of State expressed it during a meeting with the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences Vladimir Gusakov back in October. Later, directly at the stands, Aleksandr Lukashenko told what this instruction was connected with, "We have to show what we can do... There are about five hundred of the latest developments here. And that's not it. We always show a tractor, a car, how we shoot, blow up... But in fact, we have enough everything not only for defence and security, but also for a peaceful life."



### Unique technologies, without exaggeration

A conversation with scientists is not only an opportunity to assess the future of Belarusian science, but also a certain synchronisation of clocks in matters of industry, medicine, and agriculture. This is an occasion to once again raise the topic of cooperation, import substitution, localisation of production, and the implementation of union programmes. At the BelExpo National Exhibition Centre, they also talked about security at the stands of the defence industrial complex.

As reported to the Head of State, our scientists have about a thousand promising developments. More than half of them have been put into production, many of them are already successfully sold. A sensational novelty that quite recently literally blew up the electronics market is a laptop from the Horizont holding. Knowledgeable people understand that this is a serious step in the development of the enterprise, although there were many sceptical remarks. Like, there is nothing Belarusian in this computer. And you don't need a lot of mind to assemble a device from foreign components. However, not everything is as simple as it may immediately seem to amateurs. The task of breaking into the market, where the most eminent manufacturers are pushing their elbows in cramped quarters, was not only ambitious for its time, but also fantastic in many ways. However, the requirement of the Head of State is also a very serious matter. The task of creating as many innovative products as possible has been set and must be fulfilled. Yury Predko, General Director of Horizont Holding Management Company OJSC, picks up a small board with structural elements mounted on it, "This development is ours. The main thing here is the chip that controls the entire system. Next, we dealt with the production of the matrix. Here it is. It is also made in our factory. Only the outer casing remains. We also made a first-level programme, the so-called BIOS. This is

our software product, and it is difficult and even impossible to interfere with its work from the outside..."

So, the laptop is now localised by 31 percent. The requirement of the Head of State is to bring this figure to 70 percent by the end of the year. Aleksandr Lukashenko, however, praises the developers. Perhaps the best advertisement for the manufacturer: the domestic computer from Horizont is now, the President admits, in his office, "Well done. You have shown that we can do everything. And we did. As difficult as it was, we did it. I think that even in the West they are beginning to understand that there is nothing to do with foolishness, it is necessary to cooperate with the Belarusians. I don't think that we will knock head-on and look like an enemy all our lives. Everything will be back to normal."

No sooner had Horizont presented the novelty than it was ready to present the next version of the product.

"Let's just say — for government agencies," clarifies Yury Predko. "And in total we will have up to 80 modifications. It all depends on what requests the consumer will present. I want to draw attention to another unique technology — a transparent TV. It is not even tomorrow, already the day after tomorrow. And here already 80 percent of components are made in Belarus."

### Project of tomorrow

The developments in the field of artificial intelligence were of particular interest to the Head of State. Scientists insist: Belarus has already reached the world level in this area. In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko recalls cooperation with the United Arab Emirates, which are seriously engaged in this area, and the project being implemented by representatives of this country to build the experimental Northern Waterfront multifunctional complex in Minsk, which opens up a number of new opportunities for Belarus.

“There will be a university, we will train people. If you need support or great contacts with these people (they are far advanced in this regard), please. You can rely on me. I will support and help if necessary,” noted the President. “If we want to be great in terms of intelligence, a civilised state, this is the basis, the future. There can be no artificial intelligence without you.”

The President talked about achievements in the field of microelectronics in the context of import substitution, cooperation and the implementation of union programmes.

“At the end of last year, thanks to your close attention to the development of domestic microelectronics, we developed and agreed with the Russian Federation a roadmap for the development of Integral. It has already been signed and approved by the Russian Ministry of Industry. We are needed there,” Aleksandr Lukashenko was reported. “The average export of Integral five years ago was in the range of 70 — 75 million. Last year, the enterprise made exports of 137 — 140 million dollars. It’s been the best year ever.”

“Money, I talked with Putin, we will give any money for this,” assures the Head of State. “Then it was about \$300 million. I say: let’s create a joint cluster — Belarusian and Russian — and we will work. With funding, he promised, there would be no issues.”

### And a robot vacuum cleaner... for the fields

Aleksandr Lukashenko also stopped at the stand with drones. The combat capabilities of drones were discussed by the President and the developers in a ‘not for the press’ format. They spoke, however, about their civilian use. The Head of State, in particular, was shown a ‘robot vacuum cleaner for the fields’.

“This is a plant protection complex based on an agrodrome. The new development is designed to apply herbicides, fungicides, pesticides to agricultural crops, mainly vegetables. This is an element of precision farming. It is given the boundaries of the field, shown where the towers and trees are, it automatically calculates the flight route and goes to work. It can process two hectares at a time, up to one hundred hectares per shift. The application is carried out by the method of ultra-low volume spraying. It showed a fairly high efficiency. This is completely our development,” the Head of State was told.

“Do we use it here?” asked the President.

“More than a thousand hectares have already been processed.”

### Practical prospects are a big deal

During the exhibition, it was always crowded at the stand of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences. Its General Director Sergey Poddubko points out to journalists the exhibits, “We are exhibiting three electric vehicles, which are made using the frame-and-panel construction technology.”

The bottom line is that plastic body elements are mounted on a metal frame. This design is much cheaper than all-welded metal. “We made all these bodies ourselves, we have mastered this technology,” Sergey Poddubko continued to bring up to date. All cars are electric. Design, calculations, design, testing, certification are done on the basis of our institute. We have mastered all competencies.”



What are the practical prospects of the models? At the institute, they initially thought about different directions, from fashion to commercial. The elegant two-seater racing roadster, made in retro style, attracted attention above all. The General Director explained, “Roadster — testing electric drives at high speeds. This is first. And secondly, every year in September we hold an electric rally, where everyone can participate. We also made a model for participation. That is, it is a good tool for popularising electric transport in general.” “But this is already a real workhorse,” Sergey Poddubko moved on to a compact truck. “The vehicle is promising for urban transportation. The good thing is that from night charging it confidently works all day long in the transportation of goods. The body is universal, the model range is diverse. There may be options with a single cabin, with a double and various superstructures. From a simple body for six euro pallets to closed boxes.”

A compact truck on city streets will clearly be in demand. But how soon can such equipment be seen not only at exhibitions, but also in mass operation?

“Before mass production, it is still necessary to carry out a full cycle of tests,” explains the head of the institute. “It’s really not easy. Leading automotive companies test their equipment in action for up to three years before putting it on the conveyor, so that later it will not be finalised. But I hope we have this period will be shorter. Now the testing phase has begun.”

The General Director willingly answered the question why such a design was chosen for the development of domestic electric vehicles, “We are studying the global market. It is this direction in the construction of frame-panel cars that is now intensively developing in Europe and America. All-metal bodies justify themselves with production volumes of 100 thousand and above, since very expensive equipment is needed. And these machines justify themselves already with a production volume of 10 thousand units per year. We are



still studying the capacity of the Belarusian market. And in Germany, for example, a special company produces them for postal transportation. We see this as a perspective for us as well.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko was told about all the new products in no less detail.

“Will you give me a ride in the spring and summer?” the President wants to test electric cars.

“In September, we have an electric marathon, please.”

### High-performance drugs

The President was also shown some developments in the field of medicine. For example, an artificial heart valve, which is not inferior to foreign counterparts. There were also modern materials for prosthetics, preparations for the treatment of oncological diseases at the exhibition. Sergey Krasny, Deputy Director of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N. N. Aleksandrov, will tell about them separately to journalists, “The first is the Elenagen cancer vaccine. It has completed its clinical trials in metastatic platinum-resistant ovarian cancer. The best results in the world have been obtained to date. No one even comes close to anything like it.”

This is only the first stage of mastering and introducing the drug into practice. It has great potential, “Currently, laboratory production of the vaccine has begun. Now about 40 bottles a week are produced. This, of course, is not enough. Soon we plan to start scaling up production and hope to reach about a thousand a week. This will be enough for everything, including large-scale studies of use in other types of malignant tumours.”

The second product is a new type of medical nutrition. According to Sergey Krasny, it has simply unique properties, “It was developed jointly with the Kobrin Butter and Cheese Factory and the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Oncology. This product solves important problems,” the Deputy Director of the RSPC begins to list. “It allows us to opt out of purchasing relevant imported products. In clinical practice, it restores protein metabolism in patients. In the production and economic sphere, we have solved the problem of using a huge amount of whey, which is formed during the production of butter and cheese. Previously, it was sold for a penny, but now it is used for the production of such complex nutrition, which helps our patients very well.”

However, this product is valuable not only for cancer patients. It, the specialist notes, will be useful for any chronic disease that is accompanied by protein deficiency:

“Surprisingly, such nutrition can significantly increase the five-year survival rate of cancer patients, by almost 30 percent. No other drug has such an effect. It turns out that the tolerability of treatment, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, is significantly improved. And after it there are fewer complications after operations. This is also suitable for people who are lactose intolerant. For the first time in Belarus, a new technology for the hydrolysis of lactose to glucose was used, so there is no lactose here at all. We have conducted clinical trials on 420 very severe cancer patients, and not a single one was intolerant.”

### There is something to be surprised

It's expensive, but pays off. This is how Vladimir Gusakov, Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences, described the essence of scientific activity in a conversation with journalists, “Science is an expensive business, but science has never been unprofitable. Science always pays off and pays off highly. There are already orders for all our developments, and they are paid.”

The Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences gave specific examples, “Today I demonstrated a small microelectronic sensor, the order (the contract was signed yesterday) is a million dollars. Before the new year, we sold a multi-purpose laser, also a million dollars. We have programmes that have a payback of more than 100 dollars per rouble of costs, but there are no developments below 5 — 7 per rouble of costs.” Vladimir Gusakov assured that the exhibition featured the latest developments. The head of the National Academy of Sciences noted some of them, “We presented to the Head of State a number of world-class developments, and there are even samples with which we are ahead of the whole world. We have mastered chips and whole circuits. Our Belarusian helicopters were shown to the Head of State, we call them ‘gyroplanes’. The exhibition featured biotechnological products, the latest home heating systems. One could spend a whole day here.”

What else could be seen at the exhibition? Belarusian emeralds. Our scientists have managed to grow really large gems the size of a walnut. Emeralds of an unusual red colour are also made. They are more expensive than traditional green ones. Jewellery with artificial emeralds is sold in jewellery stores and is in demand. Also supplied for export.

*The role of science is to make discoveries, to achieve the best, to surprise, not to yield, but to get ahead, and its role in Belarus is great. Indeed, without scientists, breakthrough discoveries and the introduction of new products in practice, any state will inevitably take a step back.*

Belarusian lithium-free batteries were also presented here.

“We promised the President to create our domestic lithium-free battery and we did it. We have reached approximately the same parameters as lithium batteries. Our developers have estimated that it is theoretically possible to provide power, capacity and other necessary parameters 2.5—3 times higher with sodium compared to lithium. I think when we debug the technology, it will work out that way. And at the next exhibition we will show a more advanced battery,” said Valery Fedosyuk, Director General of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Materials Science of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. “The price of a new drive is an order of magnitude lower than that of lithium batteries. Lithium is expensive, there are few deposits, there is not enough for everyone. And sodium is in Belarus. It is important for us to use domestic raw materials. In addition to sodium, the battery contains ammonia, which we also produce, as well as graphene, a modification that we obtain from cheap graphite purchased in Russia. So far, the new

energy storage device has been tested on small electric vehicles. Further, scientists plan to make a larger battery, already for electric vehicles. The technology will be repeatedly verified and tested on batteries of different capacities, on different equipment.”

### The great power of innovation

So, at the request of the President, the Intellectual Belarus exhibition of achievements of national science was extended and pleasantly surprised visitors with originality of thought, depth of knowledge and research persistence. In fact, the exhibition was capable of overturning the conventional wisdom about modern science. Not even in terms of development, but its image. Their innovations were presented by venerable designers, wise with grey hair, doctors of sciences, experienced and honoured people. And young people (in the good sense of the word) breathed down their backs: cheerful, perky, with fearless concepts and original ideas, but with scientific justification. And they manage to make developments that their colleagues around the world can envy. Of course, our electric vehicles differ from Tesla in terms of comfort and design. Although tastes differ, as they say... Restyling a car is an original task, but technically very simple. But in terms of reliability, our electric vehicles can compete with the works of Elon Musk. He has an external gloss, we have a fundamental stuffing.

One of the most serious problems of modern technology, both ground and air, is the influence of electromagnetic radiation on the operation of on-board equipment. There are also external factors: the power lines create a powerful background. However, our everyday life is crammed with sources of various electromagnetic waves. But no less destructive is the internal conflict that can arise in the product. Cars, planes are stuffed with electronics, power units, energy storage devices, cables... And these elements begin to conflict with each other. At one time, the European Airbus was too clever, underdeveloped, and internal interference knocked down navigation equipment from the correct operation. Three liners crashed because of this.

Oleg Kanafiyev, a junior researcher at the Laboratory of Magnetic Film Physics of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Materials Science, is studying this problem in depth. Now he is writing a thesis on the problem of the influence of constant and low-frequency radiation on electronic equipment. By the way, they are typical for electric vehicles. For example, trolleybuses give just such radiation. Oleg Kanafiyev knows how to create protection against destructive influence. The box in his hands seems inconspicuous. But its walls are covered with a thin layer of nanomaterials. Such a housing protects the electronic components from electromagnetic radiation. And in terms of armour, it is up to a thousand times superior to similar materials that are offered on the world market.

Now the young scientist and his colleagues are closely engaged in the MAZ electric traction vehicle from the point of view of electromagnetic radiation, conflicts. By the way, in terms of the level of protection, our units are ahead of the famous Tesla, which uses simpler, but less reliable solutions. And here is the question of principle: safety. And our young scientists are guided by the most indestructible solutions.

### New line of effective fertilizers

And the development of a junior researcher at the Research Institute of Physical and Chemical Problems of the Belarusian State University Dmitry Kudryavsky does not have bad weather. Its polymer-containing liquid mono-microfertilizers are not afraid of rain or heavy rain. The climate is now unstable: the sun can be replaced by a crushing downpour. And even every farmer knows: this is a disaster. Streams of water wash away useful substances from the earth, driving them into the depths of the soil. As a result, plants get little useful substances, and the deeper layers of the earth are filled with unnecessary chemical elements. The polymer additive produced by the Belarusian enterprise Lesohimik JSC retains nutrients in the zone of the root system of plants and is not washed off by storm flows. A line of effective fertilizers for cereals, corn, rapeseed, sugar beet has been developed. Farming is becoming more sustainable, fertilizer consumption can be halved. Both the cost savings and the pressure on the ecological system are reduced.

Belarusian farms have tried the new product. More than 55 tons of fertilizers with a polymer additive have already been produced and sold. Relatively little, but this is just the beginning.

### Consumer tastes are also taken into account

Marine fish are more natural (at least in theory), but in aquaculture you can get a predictable result. It is from the ocean that you pull out whatever is in the net. And at the Institute of Fisheries, they work according to the wishes of consumers.

Anastasia Kruk, a researcher at the institute's selection and breeding laboratory, said that scientists are now working on creating a new breed of carp. The process is at the final stage, the new species is undergoing the necessary registration, therefore, apparently, it will soon appear on our table. For culinary specialists, carp should become handsome. Breeders were able to reduce the number of scales, reduce the head and tail, increase the meatiness... By the way, more than ten species of carp are cultivated in Belarus, combining them into various hybrids.

They are engaged in the institute and the adaptation of foreign breeds to our area of management. They increase the resistance of fish to various diseases, develop growing technologies, create new feed formulations... But the main goal, as Anastasia Kruk explains, is to work according to the tastes of the consumer. Once upon a time, people wanted to see fatter trout on their table. Now many buyers are guided by more lean fish. And breeders work, starting from marketing. And they make Belarusian fish the most dear and close to our culinary specialists.

### One step ahead of the competition

Among the projects presented by young Belarusian scientists, there are those that until recently many could see only in the cinema. Irina Kaltovich, Head of the Complex Research Sector for Meat Products at the Institute of the Meat and Dairy Industry of the National Academy of Sciences, is one of the developers of 3D food printing technology. She is confident that in the next 5 to 10 years, approaches to cooking will change dramatically, “For the first time in the country, we have created a direction in the food industry and developed 3D printing of products for personalised nutrition. It



■ The same trolleybuses give just such radiation. Oleg Kanafyev knows how to create protection from destructive influence. It seems that the box in his hands seems inconspicuous. But its walls are covered with a thin layer of nanomaterials. Such a housing protects electronic components from electromagnetic radiation. And the level of armor is up to a thousand times higher than similar materials that are offered on the world market.



takes into account the individual and physiological characteristics of a person. Thanks to our development, depending on the needs of the body, it is possible to model the composition of the product and its unique shape.”

The printer equipment was created by colleagues from Russia, but here is what makes this development truly unique — the creation of printing technology and fillers for the printer, “Similar foreign technologies provide non-natural additives in such mixtures. We have a natural healthy product, with the right combination of additives of animal origin. In this regard, we are one step ahead of our competitors.”

Already, scientists can make, for example, special meat pies for birthdays, “We know how difficult it is to feed children when they do not always want to eat healthy food. Our printer allows you to mix all the necessary ingredients for the development of the child and give them an interesting shape that will appeal to the little consumer. We have been developing the project since 2018. There is a huge interest in this technology. According to experts, such a process, when you only need to press a button to cook, will become widely available in 5 to 10 years. This will create new trends in nutrition.”

### From the point of view of visitors

And how did visitors react to new products from Belarusian scientists? Belarusian State University student Aleksandr Pervyshev came to the exhibition to once again get acquainted with the capabilities of the Belarusian laptop, “This is a real treasure of the exhibition. Each of our generation will tell you that young people are interested in new technologies that would improve our lives. Therefore, when I saw a domestic laptop, I was pleasantly surprised.”

Yes, our laptop is localised to a small percentage. But that’s for now. These are the first steps of our country in this area. There is probably no such laptop in the world that would be assembled from parts produced in one country.

Speaking about how impressed he was with the exhibition, Aleksandr noted that there really was something to see, “As a future historian, I found a lot of interesting things here in terms of literature. Books on historical subjects were shown here. I was able to see a number of interesting archival specimens. Speaking from the point of view of the visitor, I really liked the exhibits of unmanned technologies.”



## HIGH-LEVEL EXHIBITION

BSEU fourth-year student Viktor Gelokhov said that he was most impressed by the exhibits of the defense industry and mechanical engineering, “When you look at such developments, you can immediately understand from them that the industry of our country, its scientific sphere, and the economy as a whole, are developing successfully. I feel great pride as a citizen of the country. I really liked electric cars. Looked at their characteristics, and it’s really impressive. It can be seen that even in such a complex sector, the republic is succeeding.”

According to the interlocutor, the Intellectual Belarus exhibition is a great impetus for young people and their development, “Many of the presented developments were created by young scientists. Due to the fact that young people have ideas and they are supported by the state, unique projects appear. Here you can learn a lot of interesting things for yourself that can help the development of your own projects.”

Student Aleksandra Kotikova also studied the exhibition items with interest, “I study at a sports university, so for me the projects related to healthy eating were of the greatest interest. In sports, this is of great importance. Healthy nutrition contributes to better development of the body, increases endurance and affects the quality of the athlete’s work. From the point of view of my hobbies, the exhibits at the booth of the Ministry of Emergency Situations also aroused great interest.”

### Developments have reached... Mercury

Belarus has long and reliably registered in space. Our students are also rushing into interplanetary space. The first training nanosatellite has been successfully flying in orbit since 2018. At the Intellectual Belarus exhibition, Belarusian State University presented a new satellite model. It is one and a half times the size of his first child.

“The device was completely made by students, undergraduates and graduate students,” said Aleksey Nikolayev, junior researcher at the BSU Information and Measurement Systems Service.

Novice and young scientists completed the full cycle of work: from concept development to the creation of hardware solutions and software. Despite its miniature size, the satellite is very functional. There are cameras, a module for receiving aviation navigation information, a module for checking changes in various functional coatings in space, fixing the flight history of alloys and other materials... The satellite can read and send telemetry information from aircraft to Earth.

In a word, the apparatus provides rich food for thought. And these data will be used by students, undergraduates and graduate students for their term papers, laboratory, research and scientific work. The satellite gives them the opportunity to touch the space ‘live’, to try to understand the depth and unexploredness of interplanetary space. Space is a truly limitless space for scientific research. Some of the domestic developments have recently reached even... Mercury. The station sent to a distant planet is a joint project of the EU and Japan. But it used Belarusian protective screens. In terms of developing materials for protection against various radiations, including radiation, which is rich in interplanetary space, the Belarusian school is one of the best in the world.

“Composite, multilayer screens,” explains Anastasia Rutkovich, junior researcher at the Scientific and Practical Centre for Materials



Management of the National Academy of Sciences. “Each layer performs its own function: it reflects, absorbs, refracts radiation that can adversely affect the operation of electronic devices.”

The internal structure of the screen is a very complex product, the result of numerous fundamental and applied research and development. And our competence in this area is one of the most advanced in the world. Therefore, Belarusian products for ‘space protection’ are in steady demand on the world market, even among competitors.

By the way, these and hundreds of other developments and know-how of domestic science will soon be able to see and admire them in all regions of Belarus.

### Work ahead of the curve

According to the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Vladimir Gusakov, Belarusian science today is at a level no worse than any developed country, and sometimes even better, “We can achieve outstanding results in various areas of scientific activity. We demonstrated all this at the Intellectual Belarus exhibition, the work of which, due to the significant public interest, was extended for a week.”

Estimated measurements showed that over 30,000 people visited the exhibition in the first three days. On weekends, Minsk residents came with their families with children, in addition, people from other regions came. More than a thousand of the latest scientific developments over the past two years were presented at the exhibition.

According to Vladimir Gusakov, not all science is concentrated in the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, “Here we do fundamental science. This is the pinnacle. Everything else should be concentrated in industries, regions — at enterprises, in organisations.”



■ The screens are composite, multi-layered, - explains Anastasia Rutkovich, a junior researcher at the Materials Science Research Center of the NAS

Among the key tasks of the Academy of Sciences is work in the areas of space activities, biotechnology, IT technologies, and microelectronics. As Vladimir Gusakov emphasised, now special attention is paid to the last of these areas, "We started with a concept, on the basis of which a program for the development of microelectronics in the country was developed. The programme consists of scientific and industrial components. It has been adopted by the Council of Ministers. Within its framework, a microelectronics cluster has been created, which includes a number of enterprises and organizations in the sphere."

Vladimir Gusakov is confident that Belarusian developments in the field of microelectronics are already on par with the best world analogues. This is confirmed by the fact that quite recently the Minsk Research Institute of Radio Materials signed a contract for the supply of unique devices worth a million dollars, "Scientists have learned to earn money, although it is not easy. Science is not cheap. To achieve breakthrough developments, science needs appropriate investments. At the same time, science is the most highly paid off of all industries."

### Enough bright examples

The head of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus recalled the breakthrough scientific development of the country in the field of microelectronics — the creation of the Horizont laptop. According to him, it was a logical continuation of the development of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus — an office supercomputer with a capacity of 20 trillion operations per second.

Now the Belarusian science, integrated with the university, industry, can solve any problems, Vladimir Gusakov is convinced.

Including in the field of space, "Today we are working on a new spacecraft with a resolution of 0.35 m jointly with Russia. At the same time, a new 100% Belarusian spacecraft is being created. By the way, Belarusian can even be made earlier. If we launch a joint one with Russia, I think, in 2028, then the Belarusian one can be launched in 2025. There is one hundred percent domestic equipment — shooting equipment, electronics."

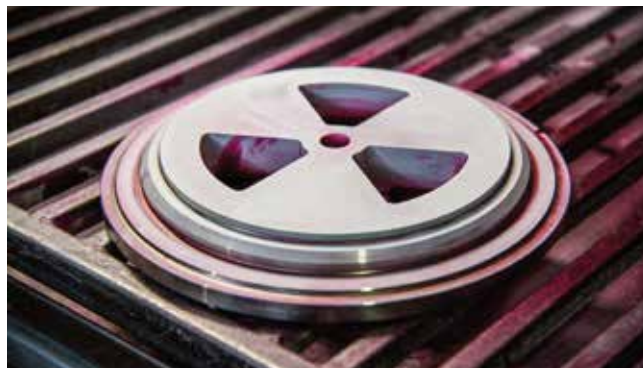
Another bright space project is in the field of manned astronautics. Vladimir Gusakov recalled that a large tender was held, the number of bidders was about two thousand. Today, six applicants are undergoing further testing, selection, "If nothing changes, then the flight to the ISS is planned in the fall. It is very prestigious and authoritative. This confirms the image of Belarus as a space power with a high level of science development."

The work of Belarusian scientists in the field of medicine is no less important. In particular, we are talking about the Academpharm enterprise, which provides the country with breakthrough drugs. The creation of the newest Belarusian-made drug against coronavirus infection not only provided the consumer with affordable medicines, but also reduced the price of foreign analogues by an order of magnitude. A number of developments in the field of cancer control have been created in the country. One of them, presented at the Intellectual Belarus exhibition, is not inferior to the best world analogues. There are many such examples. One of them is that, together with the Ministry of Health, scientists from the Academy of Sciences are creating a virology centre, which is estimated to be one of the best in the world, where drugs and vaccines against any infections will be produced.

Aleksandr **Pimenov**

# IT IS IMPORTANT TO MOVE FORWARD

**The past year will be remembered as a qualitatively new stage of Belarusian-Russian integration. What has been done to strengthen it and what remains to be done.**



## **Leveling conditions for years to come**

As you know, at the last meeting in Minsk, the presidents of Belarus and Russia cut several Gordian knots that hindered the interaction of the economies of the two countries. The main thing is that we managed to solve the issue of prices for Russian energy resources for Belarus. No matter what they say about high and digital technologies, but oil and gas play a crucial role and are included in the production costs of almost every product that we consume, be it mechanical engineering, chemical or any other industry. Recently, the President of Belarus once again exposed the root of the problem: it does not matter how much energy resources will cost, it is important that they have the same prices as Russia. Because, in principle, our industry is similar in many ways, produces similar products. And if there is cheap energy in Russia, then the products of Russian enterprises are cheaper and, accordingly, more competitive in price. In this case, Belarus will have to cover the difference at the expense of employees' salaries and other important items of expenditure. The agreement reached in this area guarantees the alignment of conditions for years to come. Moreover, the commercial price of energy carriers, as Alexander Lukashenko said, was formed on the basis of proposals from the Belarusian side.

In addition to natural gas and oil, nuclear energy is also implied. At the beginning of the year, the second power unit of the Belarusian NPP was launched, which will release 4.5 billion cubic meters of gas per year. But this is only a small part of the 21 billion cubic meters of this raw material consumed by the country. The President of

Belarus has already raised the issue of building another nuclear power plant. Russia will help to do this on preferential terms, being a world leader in nuclear energy.

## **In conjunction with related enterprises**

There have also been cardinal advances in the adoption of a unified industrial policy. This is confirmed by the allocation of a \$1.7 billion loan to Belarus for the implementation of a number of innovative import-substituting projects.

— If they are trying to influence our countries with sanctions, then it is necessary to have such an economic structure that would survive in these conditions, - says Doctor of Economics, Professor Irina Novikova. -- And here it is especially important that Belarus has largely preserved and developed its industry.

According to Professor Novikova, in cooperation with related Russian enterprises, Belarusian enterprises will jointly produce import-substituting products, which the West has denied them. Of course, the products of Belarusian enterprises will be delivered to the Russian capacious market without obstacles. The same "Bearing", based on this, is already creating new high-tech jobs with a very attractive salary. And this is just the beginning, Doctor of Economics Irina Novikova is sure:

-- The economy as a whole will develop. Look, last year Belarus and Russia reached, according to preliminary data, a mutual trade turnover of about \$ 40 billion, but the task has been set to increase it by another \$ 10 billion. This is how many new jobs will be needed to implement such plans!





### Reorientation of export vectors

The program of socio-economic development of Belarus for 2023 provides for a significant increase in foreign investment. Their main source is Russia, which, even in sanctions conditions, by selling gas and oil on the world market, earns good money. And it shares it with Belarus so that it can develop and create new jobs. However, these are not donations. We will have to pay, but with high-tech products that the two countries have jointly produced. And this is beneficial to both sides.

The reorientation of export vectors is also important for Belarus. And here, from the point of view of logistics, Russia is very important. In order to reorient millions of tons of products, it is necessary to have a good infrastructure: roads, ports, terminals. To bring goods to China, for example, we need free railway tracks, but there are not enough of them. Iran, Pakistan, India — you can deliver goods there through the Caspian Sea, but there are no good ports. Perhaps Belarus needs to participate in the construction of such facilities, simultaneously providing work for its builders. Further easing of sanctions against Russian potash fertilizers is planned.

And why not go to a kind of mutual settlement — to supply Belarusian potassium, if the transport shoulder is shorter, to Russia, suggests Professor Irina Novikova. And to China, India — Russian potassium instead of Belarusian. In short, it is necessary to spin, because the configuration of the world economy is changing.

### Combine competition and cooperation

Speaking about the tasks of the coming year, we cannot ignore the growing export of Belarusian food, for which Russia has become the main foreign market. But also a competitor, notes Irina Novikova, Doctor of Economics. Russia has been raising its agriculture and processing for 10 years, so that people are provided with food in any situation. For this purpose, enterprises, technologies, farms were purchased. And today the country itself has become an exporter of a number of important types of food. What's to be done here? Combine competition and cooperation. Sunflower, rapeseed, it turns out, are grown largely from imported seeds. This means that Belarusian and Russian seed-growing centers should cooperate, especially since now it is quite easy to do this with the help of digital platforms. This applies in other areas as well.

Most of the issues raised were reflected in the 28 union programs signed by the Presidents of Belarus and Russia in November 2021. They are already almost 70 percent fulfilled. What's next? According to Irina Novikova, a program is needed to create a unified innovation space, including a common system for financing joint developments. The Russian Federation is already financing its economic entities through digital cluster platforms. Belarus is also coming to this. These platforms should be interconnected. Otherwise, by creating a single economy, we will only restore what was under the USSR. And we need to move forward.

Vladimir **Velikhov**



# THEIR FEAT WILL FOREVER INSPIRE

In the House of Moscow, in Minsk, on that day, February 2, it was crowded. A historical and poetic evening dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the defeat of the Nazi troops in the Battle of Stalingrad was held in the cinema and concert hall. One of the largest battles of the Great Patriotic War, which began on July 17, 1942, lasted 200 days and nights.



The organiser of the joint project of the House of Moscow (Moscow Centre for International Cooperation in Belarus) and the Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War was the Department of Foreign Economic and International Relations of Moscow. The guests of the evening were employees of the Representation of Russian Cooperation in Belarus, high school students of schools and gymnasiums in Minsk, students of the Minsk Suvorov Military School, cadets of the Military Academy and the Institute of the Border Guard Service of Belarus, as well as the Chairman of the Memory Minsk City Organisation of Veterans of the War in Afghanistan of the Belarusian Union of Veterans of the War in Afghanistan Public Association internationalist soldier Colonel Vladimir Shokov.

## Unforgettable pages of history

The script of the eventful evening of memory was prepared by the employees of the Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War Yekaterina Pochtalionova and Yelizaveta Adamushko. The action unfolded accordingly. At the beginning, the head of the House of Moscow, Oleg Chernous, took the floor. The so-called official part did not sound official, but warm and heartfelt. Every word of the presenters and speakers was imbued with excitement, which is understandable. After all, the Victory in the Battle of Stalingrad, which predetermined the course of the entire Second World War and, in fact, gave many of us the opportunity to be born into this world, significantly influenced the future world order.

According to Yekaterina Pochtalionova, the participants of the event were so impressed by the warm atmosphere that reigned in the hall that many had tears in their eyes. Everything contributed to this, both poems about the war, which were read by Larisa Bulynenok and Igor Petrov, and excerpts from front-line newsreel, as well as fragments of the feature films *They Fought for the Motherland*, *Hot Snow*. The host's words, backed up by the video, also sounded sublime and emotional. The silence in

the hall was, as they say, ringing. The atmosphere was created by the music. It seemed that the participants of the event were not breathing, listening to how the battle for Stalingrad began, unfolded and continued, where the battles went on for every block, lane, for every house, for every meter of land.

Most of the young people who made up the bulk of the public were imbued with the greatness of the feat accomplished by the fighters of the Pavlov House, who held it for 58 days during the Battle of Stalingrad. This fact could

of the presenter and speakers. The enemy, she said with trepidation, was attacking this house with air strikes, artillery and mortar fire, but the defenders of the house did not retreat a single step...

For the information of readers: the composition of the Red Army fighters, who repelled the merciless attacks of the enemy from Pavlov's House for almost two months, was multinational. It was defended by representatives of different nationalities: Russians — Pavlov, Aleksandrov and Afanasiev, Ukrainians — Sobgayda and Glushchenko, Georgians

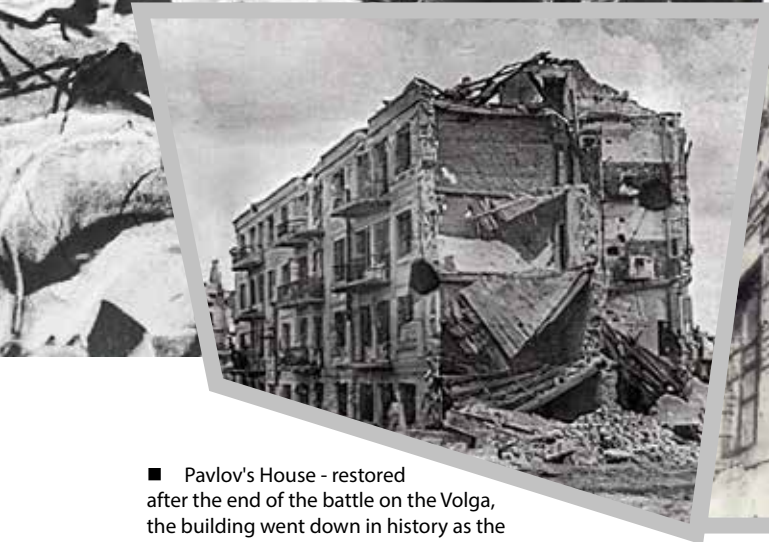


■ The Chairman of the Memory Minsk City Organisation of Veterans of the War in Afghanistan of the Belarusian Union of Veterans of the War in Afghanistan Public Association, internationalist soldier Colonel Vladimir Shokov talks with the participants of the event, telling his personal story related to Stalingrad.

not leave anyone indifferent. But it is one thing to learn about this and about the turning point in the Great Patriotic War by reading it in a history textbook, and another thing is to delve into those days, to feel them through photographs, feature films, newsreels, as well as the narration

— Mosiashvili and Stepanoshvili, Uzbek Turganov, Kazakh Murzaev, Abkhaz Sukhba, Tajik Turdyev, Tatar Romazanov... According to official data, 24 fighters held the defence at this strong point, but in reality up to 30 people. The commander of the 62nd Army, Vasily Chuikov, wrote





■ Pavlov's House - restored after the end of the battle on the Volga, the building went down in history as the House of Soldier's Glory or the House of Sergeant Pavlov. On May 4th, 1985, there, on the end wall of the house from the side of Sovetskaya Street, a memorial wall-monument was also opened.

after the war, "This small group, defending one house, destroyed more enemy soldiers than the Nazis lost during the capture of Paris."

Perhaps there were also Belarusians who fought in different troops in the Battle of Stalingrad, among them there were Heroes of the Soviet Union. Materials about many of them are presented in the collection of the Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War.

The climax of the evening was documentary footage of surviving fighters visiting Pavlov's House after the war. It turns out that only three people died in that battle. Those present learned that

after the hospital, both Lieutenant Ivan Afanasiev and Senior Sergeant Yakov Pavlov survived, although they were wounded at different times. Afanasiev subsequently reached Berlin. He was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War of the 2nd degree, three orders of the Red Star, the medal For the Defence of Stalingrad, For the Liberation of Prague, the medal For the Capture of Berlin, the medal For the Victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War of 1941 — 1945. Pavlov was a gunner and commander of the reconnaissance section in the artillery units of the 3rd Ukrainian and 2nd Belarusian fronts. With them, he reached Stettin (formerly the German, and now the Polish city of Szczecin), was awarded two orders of the Red Star and many medals.

When the lights came on in the hall,

Yekaterina Pochtalionova said, one could see how tears flowed down many faces of young people: they took so deeply the footage of the meeting of veterans who fought in the Pavlov's House. "It's so great that we now know about it, we will remember it and tell our future children," my interlocutor said excitedly.

Every resident of Volgograd knows Pavlov's House (by the way, and I visited there once during a business trip). This four-story building is located on Sovetskaya Street, next to the Stalingrad Battle Panorama Museum. Restored after the end of the battle on the Volga, the building went down in history as the House of Soldiers' Glory or the House of Sergeant Pavlov. On May 4th, 1985, there, on the end wall of the house from the side of Sovetskaya Street, a memorial wall-monument was

also opened.

Distracting from the evening, I will give interesting facts related to the victory of the Battle of Stalingrad, which can be gleaned from the Internet. Here is how the Russian Doctor of Historical Sciences Mikhail Myagkov writes about this, "The catastrophe of the German army near Stalingrad had gigantic consequences. The war was a turning point. The world realised that the aggressors had failed and victory would be for the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. The enemy was dealt a mortal blow on the front where 3/4 of the Wehrmacht formations were concentrated. The potential of Germany was undermined..." Myagkov also tells that US President Franklin Roosevelt called the Battle of Stalingrad epic. On February 22nd, 1943, Roosevelt wrote to Stalin, "On behalf of the people of the United States, I want to express to the Red Army on the occasion of its 25th anniversary our deep admiration for its magnificent victories unsurpassed in history. For many months, despite huge losses of materials, vehicles and territory, the Red Army did not allow the most powerful enemy to achieve victory. It stopped the enemy near Leningrad, near Moscow, near Voronezh, in the Caucasus, and, finally, in the immortal battle of Stalingrad, the Red Army not only defeated the enemy, but also launched a great offensive, which is still successfully developing along the entire front from the Baltic to Black Sea." Roosevelt also sent the following letter to the Kremlin, "On behalf of the people of the United States of America, I present this letter to the city of Stalingrad to mark our admiration for its valiant defenders, whose courage, fortitude and selflessness will forever inspire the hearts of all free people. Their glorious victory stopped the wave of invasion and became a turning point in the war of the allied nations against the forces of aggression."

The day before Roosevelt's congratulatory message to Stalin, King George VI of Great Britain informed Kalinin that he had ordered a special sword to be made as a gift to Stalingrad: 'a symbol of admiration for the Red Army not only of the British Empire, but of the whole world'. On the blade of the gift sword to Stalingrad, the inscription is



■ Member of the Battle of Stalingrad Yakov Pavlov, "Honorary Citizen of the Hero City of Volgograd", lived in Veliky Novgorod, died in 1981.

■ On June 27th, 1945, he, a junior lieutenant, was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. I visited Volgograd several times. Guard Lieutenant Ivan Afanasyev (later Guard Captain) during the Battle of Stalingrad led the defense of Pavlov's House. After the war he lived in Volgograd. Died in 1975. In 2013, he was reburied at Mamaev Kurgan.

engraved in Russian and English: 'To the citizens of Stalingrad, strong as steel, from King George VI as a token of the deep admiration of the British people'.

The whole world knows today: after the Battle of Stalingrad, this city became a symbol of the struggle of the peoples of the world against fascism.

And in the House of Moscow on that memorable day when the programme, ended in the cinema and concert hall, one could still see the exhibition from the funds of the Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War. By the way, a collection of awards and distinctions from the period of the Great Patriotic War was collected by Vladimir Shokov, from whom the guests of the House of Moscow learned his personal history connected with Stalingrad.

"Stalingrad," he said with excitement, "is not just a word for me. This city is part of the life of more than one generation of my family. My grandfather went from Stalingrad as a soldier to Berlin. My



father's older brother, being a sergeant in the border troops, wrote a report about being sent to the active army. His request was granted. And three months later, on December 9th, 1942, Nikolai Afanasyevich Shokov died near Stalingrad."

## Stalingrad lines in my family tree

It's hard for us to even imagine what happened in the brutal meat grinder of the Battle of Stalingrad. From the Internet we know: the average life expectancy of a soldier in Stalingrad, whether Russian or German, was about 15 minutes. This means that the fighting was so fierce that any person being suddenly thrown into the city hardly had a chance of surviving until the next day. But my father, Mikhail Cherkashin, survived that terrible war and the battle for Stalingrad, he was not even wounded there, only shell-shocked on January 23rd, 1943.

Dad is no longer alive. He died on



January 16th, 1993: just a little before the 50th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Stalingrad. It still hurts from the fact that my today's questions to him, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, will remain unanswered. Did he dream of his war, the battles on the Kursk Bulge and in Stalingrad, his dead and surviving friends? How long could he not forget it, and did he forget? And why was he silent about it all the time? Did he remember the moments when he wrote letters from the front to his wife and son, who, together with his mother Yekaterina, older sister Olga and his two little nephews Valentina and Oleg, though for a short time, were in the occupation.

My father did not like to talk about the war aloud. It seems that today I could, by doing it carefully, get him to talk. At the time when he was alive, we, already Minskians, rarely visited our parents' house in the city of Volchansk, in the Kharkiv Region in Ukraine. When meeting, we talked more about life. I can only outline the territory of his war without delving into the terrible reality in which he lived 24 hours a day for three and a half years: more than 1,300 days and nights... About this he, as already said, was always silent.

"...On the night of January 26th, 1943, the commander of the Don Front, Konstantin Rokossovsky, gave the order to break through to Mamayev Kurgan and complete the dismemberment of the remnants of the encircled German troops. On the morning of that day, to the music of the orchestra, the soldiers of the 51st division went on the attack and, together with units of the 121st tank brigade and the 52nd division, on the slopes of the mound, connected with units of the 13th Guards and 284th rifle divisions of the 62nd army — military, and with it the historical task has been accomplished."

Yes, this 51st is his native division. The events of the same period also include the memoirs of Ossetian sergeant Azamat Kaitukov. He fought in the 158th Guards Rifle Regiment of the 51st Guards Rifle Division. He was a participant in the battles of Stalingrad and Kursk, Operation Bagration in Belarus. The most



■ Veteran of the Great Patriotic War Mikhail Cherkashin, former guard private, musician of the divisional platoon of the 51st Guards Rifle Division, survivor of the Battle of Stalingrad.

memorable battle for Azamat was during the Battle of Stalingrad. One evening, a company commander came to Kaitukov's department and said that our offensive would begin at dawn. And he added, "Let's go with music, comrade sergeant!" At dawn, a company of submachine gunners took their starting positions for the attack. The musicians led by bandmaster V.Ye. Filatov pulled up there. A rocket exploded in the sky. And then the Internationale broke out. Artillery hit. 'Cheers cheers!' was heard over the trenches, and the guards division moved forward...

My father, a divisional musician, was also there. And then, together with his bandmates, he put down his baritone and rushed to the battlefield: to save the wounded. This I can now say, thanks to invaluable data from the Internet, which indicates that my father, in addition to performing his duties as a musician, had to do during the war. This information is available in the electronic databank, The

Feat of the People in the Great Patriotic War of 1941—1945. To my great joy, while studying archival documents, I saw a surname — Filatov. Yes, this is the same person that Kaitukov mentions! It turns out that the Kapellmeister, Guards Senior Lieutenant V.Ye. Filatov, introducing Mikhail Cherkashin for the award of the medal For Military Merit, in the award sheet dated December 10, 1943, after the Battle of Stalingrad, in the column 'feat' wrote, "...Comrade Cherkashin, working in the medical sanitary battalion as a porter-orderly, treated his work conscientiously. During the combat operation from November 8, 1943 to November 13, 1943, he systematically uninterruptedly delivered the wounded to the receiving and sorting and operational platoon. Cherkashin, knowing neither fatigue nor rest, contributes to the speedy rendering of assistance to wounded soldiers and officers and their evacuation to the field mobile hospital."



And on December 27th, 1943, an order was already issued to reward my father. Even earlier, he received the medal For the Defence of Stalingrad. And in his Red Army book there is such an entry. I quote verbatim, "For participation in the successful defeat of the Stalingrad grouping of the enemy, 2 commendation notes were announced by Comrade Stalin. Awarded the medal For the Defence of Stalingrad in 1943 (order of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of December 22, 1943)."

From history, I repeat, we know that the Battle of Stalingrad lasted from July 17th, 1942 to February 2nd, 1943.

In the same year, commendation was announced to my father: for active military operations to eliminate the July German offensive in the Belgorod Region. In history, these battles are known as the battles near Prokhorovka and on the Kursk Bulge, which lasted from July 5th to August 23rd, 1943. And on July 22nd, 1944, my father was awarded the second medal For Military Merit. Why not For Courage, as requested by the commander of the medical sanitary battalion, Guards Senior Lieutenant Ivashchenko, is now difficult to judge. Here is how the presentation for the medal For Courage sounds in the award list:

"During the period of deployment, the MSB was constantly in the front group. He worked day and night, not knowing sleep and rest, to help the sick and wounded as soon as possible. Only during the period of the combat operation from June 20th, 1944, Comrade Cherkashin brought 450 wounded to the sorting platoon. During the period of work in the MSB, as well as during loading in the MSB, he takes an active part in the evacuation of wounded soldiers and officers. Enjoys authority among the

wounded. Comrade Cherkashin is worthy of the Government award with the medal For Courage..."

My father also liberated the cities of Belarus. I have heard of Operation Bagration, Polotsk, and Vitebsk... By the way, he was seriously wounded already in the victorious 45th: on January 16th.

Unfortunately, I do not know under what circumstances he was awarded the Order of the Great Patriotic War of the 2nd degree. Maybe it happened in the hospital... However, I don't know how the medal For the Defence of Stalingrad was awarded either...

By the way, the question may arise why my father was both a musician, and an

military-patriotic and folk music, popular song melodies and marches in front of the soldiers. Often, musical teams played music during offensive combat operations, raising the morale of the soldiers, inspiring the units for a decisive assault, raising the soldiers to attack. During the fighting, the fighters of the musician platoons had to be orderlies, trophy and funeral brigades, shell carriers... Their combat life as ordinary soldiers was full of danger and death, and, of course, there was a place for heroism in it." In this regard, I also think that in the days of the Battle of Stalingrad before the shell shock, and on the Kursk Bulge, and in the battle of Königsberg, dad saved the wounded. After all, if only for the period

of one military operation in June 1944 he carried out 450 of them, then how many lives did Mikhail Cherkashin, a Ukrainian from Volchansk, saved in total... And how many dead did he see during the entire war... such a horrendous statistic.

Over the years, more and more often I think that my dad near Stalingrad was miraculously lucky to survive. And born again.

So I'm trying to

figure out how many direct heirs he, a guard ordinary musician of a divisional platoon of the 51st Guards Rifle Division, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, Mikhail Cherkashin, has. Turns out it's 11! And there will be more. We all were born, we live thanks to the fact that my father did not die in that terrible war. While I myself live, I will not get tired of repeating: thank you, dad, that you returned alive! I am very, very proud of you today.

Valentina Zhdanovich



orderly, and a linear cart, and a sorter of the dead in the funeral brigade... Once, in my teens, I asked him a naive question, "What, did you play the baritone all the war?"; father, sparing my childhood feelings, replied, "I had to do a lot of things ...". Years later, I read the following lines on the forum of musicians, "The music platoon, which, according to the old Russian tradition, was part of many military units, in between battles, under the leadership of the bandmaster, turned into a regimental orchestra. The musicians performed



# LAND GIVES THEM STRENGTH

If you visit ancient Turov, which is in the Gomel Region of the Zhitkovichi District, at least once, you will understand why this small town is spoken of as the heart of Pripyat Polissya, a unique region with its swamps and forests. Because of their abundance, Polissya, stretching in the south of Belarus, is called

the lungs of the European continent. Therefore, the air even in modern Turov is saturated with oxygen so much that it is easy and free to breathe there. Once we were convinced of this ourselves when we rested on the picturesque bank of the Pripyat.

Leaving the city, they talked about how good it would be to return here. Years later, an opportunity presented itself.



We also went to Turov for the sake of the famous crosses growing directly from the ground at the ancient Borisoglebskoye cemetery, in order to see for ourselves this mystical phenomenon, which people's rumor has long called an inexplicable miracle. In addition, we, like many sightseers, wanted to visit Castle Hill, where a seven-meter sculpture of the educator and preacher Cyril of Turov rises. (The most revered Belarusian saint lived and worked in the 12th century). Of course, they remembered the splendor of the primordial Polissya nature, which, as they say, was admired at all times on the way to Turov. But the main purpose of the trip this time was people. And nature in the picture of life, it is, figuratively speaking, something like a setting for precious stones, the indigenous inhabitants of Polissya, who work on this land. Nature provided them with everything that is necessary for life. First of all, the most important resource is fertile land. The Shrub peasant dynasty continues to work on it, which gradually, in accordance with the spirit of the times, is reborn into a farming dynasty. And it is headed by Mikhail Shrub, one of the most famous pioneer farmers in Belarus.

Mikhail Grigoryevich is just one of those hardworking Poleshuks whom the President called 'the core of our nation', a successful graduate of the Belarusian State University. We talked with this creator of a modern, high-tech enterprise, one of the largest and most profitable agricultural enterprises in the country, as well as with his daughter Aleksandra, as a result of which these notes were born.

Mikhail Shrub was born in the village of Khilchitsy, Zhitkovichi District, into a simple, as they say, peasant family: both grandfathers and great-grandfathers, and his father worked on the land. Today, our interlocutor is already known not only in his native places, in Belarus, but also far beyond its borders. Numerous awards are eloquent evidence of the successful business of this descendant of farmers. He became the winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year national competition four times, was awarded the For Labour Merit medal. He is a laureate of the prestigious Man of Action 2019 annual republican business competition in the For Active Assistance



■ Mikhail Shrub, one of the most famous pioneer farmers in Belarus: "Competition is a natural environment. If there is competition, you also develop. And if you try to hide knowledge, experience, eliminate competitors, then you are not developing, and your collapse is inevitable. I tell my specialists: we teach what we already know. We have mastered it and at the same time we are working to be one step ahead of others. We succeed in this, and therefore, without any reservations, exceptions, we share our experience with others, with our colleagues. With what we know. After all, we learned this in different places, including abroad."

to the Development of the Agricultural Sector of Belarus category. And in 2018, fellow countrymen appreciated the talents and diligence of the farmer: apparently, on the 25th anniversary of the successful farm, they awarded its founder and permanent leader the title of the 'Honorary Resident of the Zhitkovichi District'.

***Hard labour is not where they work with a pickaxe. It's not terrible because it's hard work. Hard labour where the blows of a pickaxe are meaningless, where labour does not unite a person with people (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)***

Work in the agricultural sector, as Mikhail Grigoryevich put it, constantly nourishes and inspires him, it is a constant adrenaline rush, drive, and creativity. Moreover, next to people. The head

of one of the most successful farms in Belarus is proud that his wife, Yekaterina Fedorovna, and children, daughter Aleksandra and son Grigory, work with him in agribusiness.

Our interlocutor recalls that he began establishing the farm with his wife and parents, as well as other indigenous fellow villagers from his native Khilchitsy. Then they were allocated 20 hectares of land, which was cultivated with choppers. The furrows were broken up by a horse from morning to evening in order to plant potatoes. Of course, the first tractor, and not a new one, was bought three years after they had a good potato harvest. And three years later they bought the first MAZ vehicle. When the local collective farm was attached to the farm in 2002, it was already a fairly large, wealthy farm, provided with specialists and good equipment. And salaries were high and



stable. Actually, that's why the collective farmers decided on such a rather unusual thing: joining a collective farm mired in debt to a successful, dynamically developing 'farm locomotive'.

In the 90s, many Belarusians tasted hard-earned farm bread. Peasant labor, not someone else's, is honoured here. However, only a few of those who, at the dawn of Belarus's independence, took the risk of independently managing the field 'without collective farms' managed to 'hold on to their land'. Mikhail Grigoryevich is from this cohort. The Farm of Mikhail Shrub, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, has more than 5,000 hectares of farmland. About 200 employees, almost half of whom are women. As the owner noted, there are many 'patches' in the structure of the fields: they took the land where it was possible to take it at the time. Sometimes 60-80 kilometres from Khilchitsy, the native village of Shrub, in which the administration of the economy still operates.

The scale of production is impressive: up to 20,000 tons of fresh vegetables are harvested from the fields of the farm annually (moreover, the amount of onions is the largest in the country!) and potatoes, 1,200-1,300 tons of meat are supplied to consumers (specialisation is in bacon pork), tens of thousands of tons of milk. And, as the owner emphasised more than once in the conversation, special attention is paid to the quality of products, their environmental safety. Thanks to large retail chains and manufacturers, with whom Mikhail Shrub cooperates, products from the Turov land are also consumed far beyond the borders of Belarus. Including in China. In addition, the farm has a network of its own stores 'Budzmo!' (Turov, Mozyr, Zhitkovichi), mobile shop, Budzmo! ethnocafe in Turov and the Turov Legends cosy agro-estate nearby in the same place, on the banks of the Pripyat: it is a stone's throw from the bio-reserve Turov Meadow, famous among ornithologists of the world. By the way, before the pandemic, hundreds of ornithologists from different countries visited it every year. Here one could see foreigners walking around with spyglasses, binoculars and equipment for



■ Aleksandra Shrub, a reliable assistant to her father in agribusiness. The mother of three children, she still manages to manage the cafe "Budmo!". As well as help her mother with the farm estate.

photography, the so-called birdwatchers. They came to Turov, the Belarusian Mecca of birdwatchers hundreds and thousands of kilometres away, just to watch birds, see their rare species and take unique pictures. And one more thing: 'Delivery from Shrub' is gaining momentum, it is a convenient modern service that allows the freshest products made on the farm today to be delivered to the table of consumers tomorrow.

Our sincere, friendly conversation with Mikhail Grigoryevich and his daughter Aleksandra lasted more than four hours. First, the owner received us in his office in Khilchitsy, then invited us to a dinner table in Turov: to the Budzmo! branded ethnocafe. By the way, in its design, he showed himself as a creative person, with a fine artistic taste. And a special Poleshutsky view of the world. And how passionately he talked about



relatives! He said about his grandfathers, "First of all, they were peasants, people, as they say, working on the land, who were not afraid of any work. And yes, both are artisans: one is a blacksmith, the second is a carpenter." The father of Mikhail Shrub also succeeded in carpentry, besides he was an accordion player with a gift from God: a jack of all trades. Mother is the daughter of a blacksmith, she is a skilled embroiderer herself: the embroidered towels she embroidered are presented in a cafe. That's where Mikhail Grigoryevich inherited so many talents. He also plays the harmonica, however, only 'for his people'.

*There will never be a fair  
wind for him who does not  
know in which harbor he sails.  
(Seneca)*



The attraction of cities is, whatever one may say, the reality of our life. Even the 4,000 Turov is more preferable than Khilchitsy: the Turovites go to work 'to Shrub' in the morning on a special bus. And just like a fish is looking for in Pripyat, where it's deeper, so are we, where it's better: we want everyday comfort, work 'cleaner' and not from dawn to dusk, a decent salary, well, more 'opportunities for self-realisation', as they say now... Although, Mikhail Shrub is sure that there are hidden forces in our nature that irresistibly return everyone to their ancestral roots, to the land of their ancestors. Therefore, it so happened that he ended up where he works today. Apparently, the peasant sourdough turned out to be very potent. Even Minsk did not retain Mikhail Shrub for a long time, the owner of a diploma 'with honours': a strong guy, a former sailor of the Baltic Fleet, a graduate of the

Faculty of Economics of the Belarusian State University (1982). Although he found a good place in a technical school (teacher of political economy), and a year was enough for the Poleshuk to become irresistibly drawn to his native places. He worked as an economist on a collective farm in the Zhitkovichi District (closer to his parents), then he went for a promotion. He went through, as they said then, a good school of party and Soviet work. By the way, it was during the tenure of Mikhail Shrub as chairman of the Turov village council in the early 90s that the tradition of religious processions was born there to this day (May 11th is the day of memory of the educator Cyril of Turov), work began on the installation of a monument to the Christian saint (opened in 1993). Mikhail's career was simply brilliant, and he, one might say, abandoned it himself. And, having taken 30 hectares of land

for rent near Khilchitsy, closer to his father's house, together with his wife, also a former party worker and Komsomol activist, he began to cultivate the fields by hand! Also, his father, Grigory Yakovlevich, already by that time with his horse, helped the enthusiasts to the best of his ability, although he grumbled, it happened, not really believing in the success of the adventurous, as he believed, agrarian undertaking of the 'unlucky' son.

Vivid childhood memories of daughter Aleksandra, "My brother and I had a wonderful, happy childhood despite the fact that mom and dad worked a lot. I remember that in the first farming year, 1993 or 1994, when my father didn't have any equipment, they took us into the field. We, the children, were not forced to weed the crops, although in Polissya children are taught to work from early childhood. And they took pity on us: mom and dad worked all day, and we played on the edge of the field with my brother and other children of those who helped remove the weed. Some kind of huts were built. I was 6-7 years old. In the first years in the fall, we already went to school, our parents themselves constantly went to sell everything at seasonal fairs: in Gomel, Minsk. I didn't see them much at home, and Aunt Lyuba, the godmother, looked at us. They sold cabbage, potatoes, onions, beets, and carrots. So they earned the initial capital, as economists say. In the first years, everything was grown, the fields were cultivated by hand: without machines."

Mikhail Shrub speaks very warmly about his wife, Yekaterina Fedorovna, "She is from the neighbouring, Petrikov District, also from the Gomel Region. Everything we've done here, we've done with her. Now she has moved away a little, but not from all the business affairs: the farmstead is on her, and the cafe is still in her hands. She helped Sasha look after the children: we already have three grandchildren. If it weren't for her constant support and willingness to go with me to the ends of the world, I don't know what I would have done. Not every woman is ready to leave for the countryside from comfortable Minsk, or Gomel, as we were leaving. She went, and has always been



and is my support. And the formation of the enterprise was not easy, there is a lot of work behind it. I was always at work and so was she. I think the wife now does not regret how her fate turned out. We live by the same values: what is valuable for me is interesting for her too.”

***Constant labour is the law of both art and life. Glory is in the of labour***  
(Leonardo da Vinci)

If you start to write a book about the enterprise of Mikhail Shrub, a very bright chapter in it will be occupied by the story of how local Poleshuks, as they say, asked the whole world to work for a fellow countryman whom they themselves knew well. It happened 20 years ago, in 2003: Shrub's farm had already got on its feet by that time, and Mikhail Grigoryevich himself even managed to help set things right as a manager in one now well-known agricultural complex in the country. But the owner had to return to Khilchitsy, he could not quit his job. “In short, we were developing, we were already cultivating 200 hectares, and we needed more land,” recalls the owner. “And the local collective farm ‘The Way to Communism’ then, in the early 2000s, was in poverty, like many other agricultural enterprises. We had conflicts with the collective farm: either they gave us land, then they took it away ... And the local authorities did not particularly favor us: a private trader... Then one person told them: ‘We need to negotiate in our own way, like a human being. You call Shrub to the meeting, talk, maybe you will find mutual understanding.’ They invited me. I went. And the collective farmers who went to work with us before that, voted ... Oh, it's a pity that there was no video recording of the meeting. That would be such a movie! So, they made the first decision: to release the chairman of the collective farm from his post. And the second: to join... my farm!”



■ Turov Meadow is a biological reserve founded in 2008 to preserve the unique ecosystem of vast water meadows along the banks of the Pripjat River. The territory of this natural complex occupies about 140 hectares. Turov Meadow has the international status of "Territory important for birds".

■ You will never get tired of admiring the expanses along the Pripjat, one of the most picturesque rivers in Belarus.

■ Aleksandra Shrub likes to admire the Pripjat



***Labour is the only title of true nobility***  
(Romain Rolland)

No one expected such a turn of events at that meeting. Mikhail Shrub knew well what was happening on the collective farm, and that he would have to pay off the huge ‘trailer’ of its debts. But he showed himself nobly, saying, “If you are serious, then for you, for the sake of my countrymen, I will do it.” A year later, no one undertook to register such economic relations. Everything was resolved logically, as Mikhail Grigoryevich says, when the President himself got into the situation and once said at a meeting in Zhlobin, “Well, since people want it, let's try it.” It should be noted that later, in 2010, Aleksandr Lukashenko himself came to Mikhail Shrub and was satisfied with the way he was doing business. The President's words that ‘a good farmer is better than a bad collective farm’ were quoted by many media outlets.

We would like to give a special place in the story about the workers of the land of Turov to Aleksandra Shrub, the daughter of the owner, his reliable assistant. From childhood, she saw how her parents work. We believe that there will be another reason and opportunity to write about her in more detail. In the process of communication, they noticed how from a half-word, from a half-look Shura, as her father called her, understands him. Aleksandra only smiled when they asked Mikhail Grigoryevich, “Did your Sasha have a happy childhood or did she grow up on a farmer's field, with a chopper?” The father offered to get an answer from her herself, which we have already given it above. And he answered, “I did not force my children to go to university (both studied at the Faculty of





Economics, like me), or to work for me. I gave them a choice. Yes, in some way I helped both of them get a higher education, just like my parents helped me in their time. So it is accepted by all my Poleshuk fellow countrymen. And then I said: 'That's it, look for your own place in life.' But you asked whether my daughter had a happy childhood... Do you yourself know what happiness is? After all, each of us has his own. So I told you about the happiness of my father, who ordered and received a brand new accordion from masters from the village of Neglyubki. That was real happiness for him! But an accordion cost a lot of money at that time, like a good cow! By the way, the accordion is now one of the most valuable things in my house. So, when you put your strength, soul into something and get a good result — this is also happiness!"

And what happy moments adorn the life of Mikhail Grigoryevich himself?

There were many. When they gradually acquired equipment for the enterprise: the first tractor, the second, the third. It was a great happiness for him to move into his house! Then the older Shrub helped their daughter and son-in-law to build their house, then their son, "Happiness is that the children returned to me, they work next to me. Aleksandra's family has three children, our granddaughters, and we live nearby: there are three houses in the same yard. You come tired from work, and then your grandchild asks for something, spins around you (smiles). Fatigue is gone!"

In children, Aleksandra and Grigory, the father likes, above all, modesty. Watching how his daughter is holding herself, how she speaks, we would also talk about her dignity and nobility. But let's listen to the head of the farming dynasty, "They behave in the same way as everyone who works for me. Nothing really stood out. And the fact that they came to work

for me is pleasing. They could sit in Minsk. Having solid connections, I could set them there, they could be working in a bank, for example, or a good office. I like that they are here and doing business (thinks), maybe not the most, let's say, prestigious, but very necessary. And they are next to me, and are a great help to me. Although this, you see, is a little old-fashioned: when the father and children are nearby, and in such a business. And this, of course, has its own difficulties."

The first important business of Aleksandra in the household was a cafe. "She also invested a lot of effort here: she just lived here around the clock — there are residential rooms on the second floor — so that everything would work," said the father, telling about the story of Budzmo!. In 2009, as she received her university degree, Aleksandra, without leaving home, enrolled in courses for bartenders-waiters, "In July, graduation, and in August we scheduled the opening of a cafe. I thought: I will come home — and what will I do there? How to select staff, how does this system work in general? Communicating with people is one thing, but how to debug everything from the inside? We don't even imagine what is happening in the kitchen, how the products get into the cafe, we don't know many subtleties. That's when I finished the course. Very timely!" Later, Aleksandra also finished cooking courses.

Now Aleksandra Shrub oversees not only the work of cafes, shops, mobile shops, but also the Turov Legends estate. She is also in charge of all issues related to the processing of products. And active on social media. Sasha is also responsible for the development of the Delivery from Shrub service. A young, energetic woman from Turov, besides, a mother of three children, work is good. And she does not regret at all that, like her father at one time, she left the capital for home, her native places.

Saying goodbye to the father and daughter, we asked: where did they get so much strength to keep such a large household. Surely, from the land, they answered.

Valentina and Ivan **Zhdanovich**  
Photo by Ivan **Zhdanovich**

# 被命运相连接的

## ЗВЯЗАНЫЯ ЛЁСАМ



“Шиповник” -- кніжнае выдавецтва, якое мае сваю славу, пакінула істотны след у гісторыі расійскага кнігавыдання. Заснаваў яго наш зямляк – ураджэнец вядомых шчучынскіх Васілішкаў на Гародзеншчыне Саламон Юльевіч Капельман (1881 – 1944). У гісторыі кніжнага мастацтва захаваліся два варыянты лагатыпа выдавецтва... Першы намаляваў мастак Сяргей Чахонін: марка адлюстроўвала адну кветку на сцябліне з вострымі шыпамі. Другі лагатып прыдумаў Яўген Лансэрэ: тры сцябліны пад адной кветкай...

“野蔷薇” 是一家有着光荣名誉的图书出版社，在俄罗斯图书出版史上留下了浓墨重彩的一笔。它由我们的同胞所罗门·尤利耶维奇·卡佩里曼(1881 – 1944) 创立，他是格罗德诺州著名的舒钦瓦西利什基的本地人。书籍艺术史上有出版社标志的两个版本……第一个版本由艺术家谢尔盖·查霍宁绘制：标志上描绘了一朵单花，茎上有尖刺。第二个标志是由尤金·兰瑟雷设计的：一朵花下有三根茎……

...У хуткім часе пасля нараджэння хлопчыка сям'я Капельманаў пераехала ў Ліду, а затым у Мінск. У пачатку 1890-х яны – ужо ў Санкт-Пецярбургу. Бацька, Юдэль Эльевіч (1841 – 1893), які

таксама нарадзіўся ў Васілішках, працаваў у гандлёвым прадпрыемстве свайго бацькі – “Э. Н. Капельман і сыны”. Галоўным клопам сямейнай фірмы быў продаж ячменя і алею. Юдэль Эльевіч памёр, калі сыну было ўсяго дванаццаць гадоў. Маці выходзіла дзяцей адна. У сям'і, акрамя Саламона, -- яшчэ два браты і чатыры сястры. Жылі Капельманы на Крукавым канале ў доме нумар 24.

Саламон закончыў гандлёвае вучылішча Пецярбургскага таварыства купцоў. Быў слухачом юрыдычнага факультэта Пецярбургскага ўніверсітэта. У 1902 годзе маладога чалавека арыштавалі за захоўванне нелегальнай літаратуры. У астрозе хлопец правёў тры месяцы. Быў выпушчаны пад задаток у 1000 рублёў. 31 снежня 1903 года Саламона Капельмана асудзілі да

трох гадоў высылкі ва Усходнюю Сібір пад нагляд паліцыі. У гэты час эміграваў. Жыў у Германіі і Францыі. Наведваў лекцыі ва ўніверсітэце ў Сарбо-не. Пасля амністыі ў кастрычніку 1905 года вярнуўся Санкт-Пецярбург.

Праз год ураджэнец Васілішкаў разам з Гржэбіным заснаваў выдавецтва “Шиповник”. Саламон Капельман становіцца рэдактарам альманахаў, якія выпускаў “Шиповник”. Выдавецтва таксама займалася «Севернымі зборнікамі», мастацкай літаратурай, сацыяльнай публіцыстыкай. Акрамя таго Саламон супрацоўнічаў з часопісамі «Современный мир», «Журнал для всех». Вага выдавецтва была высокай.

У 1918 годзе выдавецтва спыніла сваё існаванне. Гэта было звязана і з тымі палітычнымі працэсамі, якія справакавала Кастрычніцкая рэвалюцыя, змена ўлады. А яшчэ і ад'езд з Расіі папличніка Саламона -- Зіновія Ісаевіча Гржэбіна (1877 -- 1929). Старэйшы на некалькі гадоў за свайго таварыша, Гржэбін быў вядомы як таленавіты карыкатурыст-графік. Першы яго праект – часопіс палітыч-

най сатыры “Жупел”. За выпуск гэтага выдання Зіновія Ісаевіча асудзілі на год астрага. У заключэнні Гржэбін здолеў выпусціць часопіс пад іншай назвай – “Адская почта”. Выданне неўзабаве было зачынена Цэнзурным камітэтам. Хаця і пабачыла свет усяго тры нумары ілюстраванага літаратурна-мастацкага часопіса (падрыхтаваны да друку чввёрты нумар канфіскавала паліцыя прама ў друкарні), выданне прынесла надзвычайную славу Гржэбіну. Па-пер-



■ Зіновій Ісаевіч Гржэбін

■ 季诺维·伊萨耶维奇·格热宾



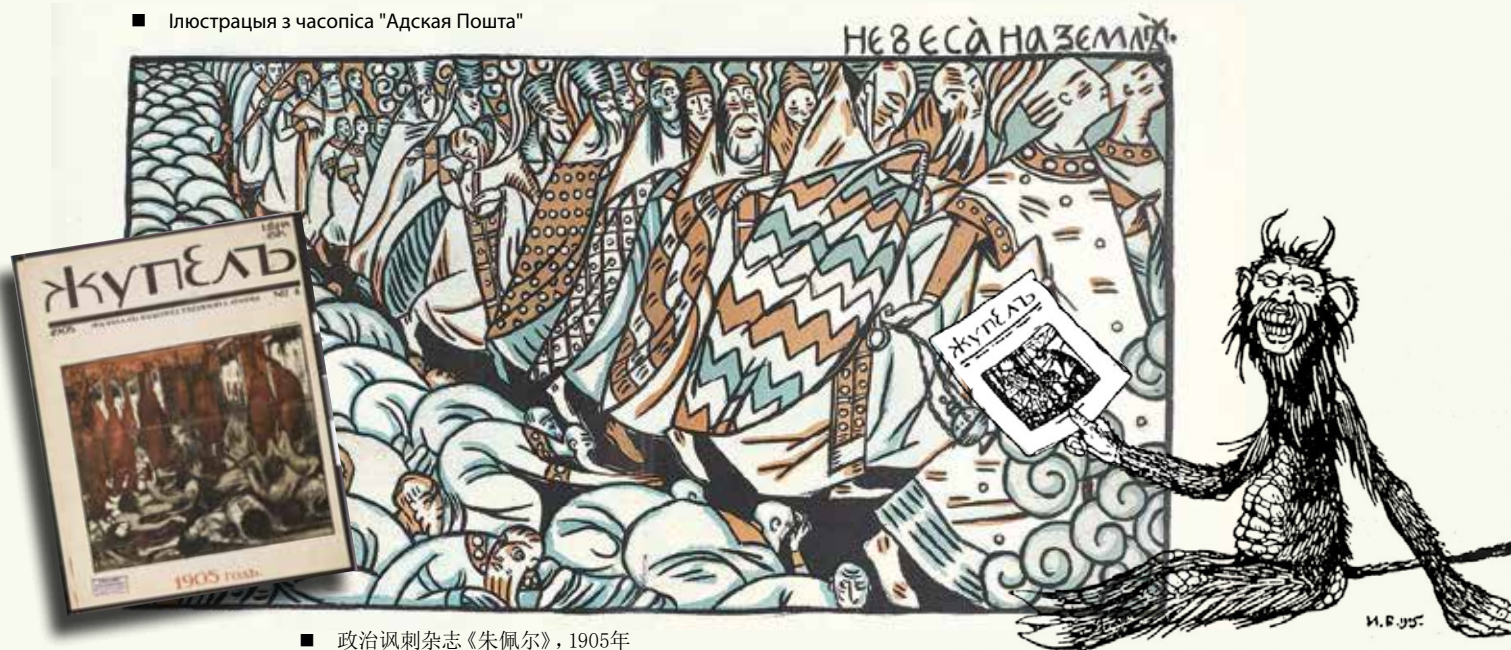
……男孩出生后不久，卡佩里曼一家搬到了利达，然后又搬到了明斯克。1890年代初期，他们已经生活在圣彼得堡。父亲尤德尔·埃列维奇(1841 - 1893)也出生在瓦西利什基，他工作在他父亲的贸易公司《叶那·卡佩里曼父子》。这个家族企业的主要业务是销售大麦和油。尤德尔·埃列维奇在儿子年仅12岁时就去世了。母亲独自抚养孩子。家里除了所罗门之外，还有两个兄弟，四个姐妹。卡佩里曼住在克鲁科夫运河的24号房子里。所罗门毕业于彼得堡商人协会贸易学校。他是圣彼得堡大学法学院的学生。1902年，一名年轻人因持有非法文学作品而被捕。这家伙在监狱呆了三

个月。他以一千卢布的保释金获释。1903年12月31日，所罗门·卡佩里曼在警方的监督下被判处流放东西伯利亚三年。那时他移民了。旅居德国和法国。曾在索邦大学讲学。1905年10月大赦后，回到圣彼得堡。一年后，出生在瓦西利什基的人与格热宾一起创办了《野蔷薇》出版社。所罗门·卡佩里曼成为《野蔷薇》出版社的小说年鉴编辑。出版社还从事《北洋文集》、小说、社会新闻等业务。此外，所罗门还与《现代世界》、《给大家的杂志》杂志合作，出版社的地位很高。

1918年，出版社不复存在。此与十月革命引发的政治进程、权力更迭有关。

除此之外，所罗门的同事 - 季诺维·伊萨耶维奇·格热宾(1877 - 1929)离开俄罗斯。格热宾比他的同伴大几岁，是一位才华横溢的漫画家兼平面艺术家。他的第一个项目是政治讽刺杂志《朱佩尔》。季诺维·伊萨耶维奇因出版该出版物而被判处一年徒刑。最后，他设法以不同的名称出版了一本杂志 - 《地狱的邮局》。该出版物很快被审查委员会查封。虽然这本有插画的文艺杂志只出版了三期(第四期准备印刷，刚在印刷厂就被警察没收了)，但这本刊物却为格热宾带来了巨大的名气。首先，该杂志的名称是由俄罗斯作家、翻译家和记者赫维达尔·艾敏(1735-1770)于1769年出版的同名月

- Часопіс палітычнай сатыры “Жупель”, 1905 год
- Ілюстрацыя з часопіса “Адская Пошта”



- 政治讽刺杂志《朱佩尔》，1905年
- 《地狱的邮局》杂志的插图

шае, назву часопісу даў аднайменны штормесячнік, які ў 1769 годзе выпускаў Хведар Эмін (1735 - 1770), рускі пісьменнік, перакладчык, журналіст. Легендарная асоба, аўтар трох тамоў “Расійскай гісторыі”, знаўца некалькіх моў (чатырох ці нават дзевяці!)... Па-другое, з часопісам сцпрацоўнічалі Канстанцін Бальмант, Леанід Андрэеў, Вячаслаў Іваноў, Аляксандр Купрын...

Выдавецтва “Шиповник” у хуткім часе пасля пачатку дзейнасці пераўтварылася ці не ў самае вядомае выдавецтва Расійскай імперыі. Было надрукавана 26 выпускаў аднайменнага альманаха мастацкай літаратуры. Выходзіла прыкметная “Гумарыстычная бібліятэка”, дзіцячыя кнігі, публіцыстычныя творы і шмат што яшчэ. У “Гумарыстычнай бібліятэ-

цы” выйшлі кнігі Аркадзя Аверчанкі, Сашы Чорнага, Джэрома К. Джэрома. Зацікаўленні чытача і пакупніка займае праект “Гісторыя жывапісу ўсіх часін і народаў” Аляксандра Бенуа. Addзел палітычнай літаратуры выдавецтва выпускаў працы італьянскага марксіста Антонія Лабрыёлы, “Дакрытыкі палітычнай эканоміі” Карла Маркса, працы Веры Фігнер, Георгія





时间机器》，《紫色蘑菇》、《莫洛博士岛》等。1920年代，大卫·韦斯担任《小苏维埃百科全书》的主编助理。

《野蔷薇》将各种文学流派的作家——象征主义者，现实主义者 and 现代主义者聚集在一起。与出版社同名的年鉴出版了当时最好的作品，以及翻译、文学和评论文章。作者包括米哈伊尔·普里什温、亚历山大·布洛克、瓦列里·布鲁索夫、安德烈·别雷、尤里·维尔霍夫斯基、拉丽莎·赖斯纳、沃西普·戴莫夫等。20世纪初的主要书籍设计师与年鉴合作——伊万·比比里宾、姆斯蒂斯لاف·达布任斯基、尼古拉斯·罗里奇、亚历山大·伯努瓦、里昂·巴克斯特...

在《野蔷薇》工作并不容易。卡佩里曼和格热宾间歇地会受到逮捕威胁。有一段时间，创始人出国了。由于1910年与卡佩里曼的矛盾，亚历山大·布洛克拒绝与《野蔷薇》合作。1912年，作者开始与《斯琳》出版社合作。赫韦达·萨拉古布和 阿列克谢·雷米扎夫与卡佩里曼发生争执并离开了《野蔷薇》。而卡佩里曼和格泽宾自己也逐渐进入矛盾阶段，在1914年达到顶峰。格热宾离开了出版社，卡佩里曼被征召服役……第一次世界大战期间，出版社实际上由所罗门·卡佩里曼的妻子维拉·别克莱米什娃管理。她是一位剧作家、小说家、翻译家和回忆录作家。她的作品包括小说《边境》、话剧《王子与贫民》（根据马克·吐温）、《伟大的夜晚》、《困难的日子》、马克西姆·高尔基、亚历山大·布洛克的回忆录……维拉·别克莱米什娃和所罗门·卡佩里曼于1917年离婚。……自1917年以来，卡佩里曼一直

住在莫斯科。他曾在全俄图书出版商协会工作。从1922年11月1日到1920年代末从事石油工业委员会科学出版局副局长、局长（1927年，该出版社名称改成全联盟国民经济委员会石油出版社）。出版社出版了《石油经济》杂志，关于石油问题专业技术文献。

1944年7月21日，我们来自瓦西利什基的同胞在苏联首都去世。葬于新圣女公墓。

……来自瓦西利什基的图书出版商命运的另一个有趣事实……当卡佩里曼和别克莱米什娃离婚后，他们的年幼的儿子尤里跟着别克莱米什娃，他还不到十岁。在未来，尤里·所罗门诺维奇·克里姆夫（1908-1941）是一位作家，是中篇小说《油轮《杰宾特》》的作者。起初，他和他的母亲住在弗拉基米尔州的姆斯蒂耶里。他在帕蒂利欣寄宿学校学习，对物理和数学充满热情，小学生还乘着云盖船出海，他曾在一家钓鱼公司当过司机。在学校，他遇到了未来的火箭发动机工程师兼设计师阿列克谢·伊萨耶夫。每年夏天，他都会和伊萨耶夫一家一起在克里米亚的《阿尔捷克》少先队夏令营度过。因此，当他开始写小说时，就用了笔名克里姆斯基。毕业于莫斯科大学物理与数学系。他的职业生涯始于一名电气工程师，然后在建设一家广播电台时担任工头。1934年，他在里海的一家造船厂成为一名工程师。在那里，他熟悉了海上运输、港口和油田的特点。后来，他在莫斯科克拉辛工厂的装配车间工作。1935年，他在莫斯科石油学院找到了一份工作。研究了油的脱水问题。他成为脱水设备发明的合著者。

1935年，他写下了中篇小说《壮举》，献给一位死去的运动员。将作品发送给杂志《红色诺夫》，被拒绝了。克里姆夫收集有关在里海的一艘船上斯达汉诺夫式的运动的资料。1936年，他向各种杂志发送了一个新作品——《油轮《杰宾特》》。《十月》、《青年卫士》、《新世界》都被拒绝。但是《红色诺夫》，多亏了尤里·利比津斯基仔细阅读了这部作品，他将这个中篇小说打印了出来。1938年，克里姆夫被苏联作家协会接纳。1939年，这位年轻作家被授予劳动红旗勋章。这个故事被翻译成英文、德文和法文。这部作品被放映，这本书有了大约20个版本，被翻译成世界各国人民的各种语言。尤里·克里姆夫构思了一系列以共同名称“社会主义工业人士”为名的短篇小说。中篇小说《工程师》于1941年战前出版。这部作品的核心人物是一个普通人变成一个沉迷于名利和其他恶习的官僚。作家继续创作新的中篇小说——《女朋友》，在《真理报》上发表文章。在伟大卫国战争的第一天，他和他的作家朋友亚历山大·别济门斯基、杰克·阿尔陶森等人一起志愿上前线。尤里·克里姆夫被分配到西南战线第26军《苏联爱国者》报社的工作人员。军事记者还为中央媒体撰稿，特别是为《真理报》撰稿。1941年9月中旬，克里姆夫被包围。并于9月20日晚上去世……

起源、来源、祖先——所有这些都是瓦西利什基、舒钦地区、白俄罗斯格罗德诺地区……

米科拉·伯莱日（作者）  
韦兰妮·张萌萌（译者）

У 1935 годзе ўладкаваўся ў Маскоўскі нафтавы інстытут. Даследаваў праблемы дэгідрацыі нафты. Стаў суаўтарам вынаходніцтва дэгідрацыйнай устаноўкі.

У 1935 годзе малады чалавек напісаў апавесць “Подзвіг”, прысвечаную спартсмену-аўтамабілісту, які загінуў. Адправіў твор у часопіс “Красная новь”. У публікацыі адмовілі. Крымаў збірае матэрыял пра стаханавскі рух на караблі на Каспіі. І ў 1936 годзе ў розныя часопісы высылае новую апавесць – “Танкер “Дэрбент”. Адмаўляючы “Октябрь”, “Молодая гвардия”, “Новый мир”. А вось “Красная новь”, дзякуючы таму, што твор уважліва прачытаў Юрый Лібядзінскі, друкуе апавесць. У 1938

годзе Крымава прымаюць у Саюз пісьменнікаў СССР. У 1939-м маладога літаратара адзначылі ордэнам Працоўнага Чырвонага Сцяга. Апавесць перакладаюць на англійскую, нямецкую і французскую мовы. Твор быў экранізаваны, апавесць вытрымала каля 20 выданняў, перакладзена на розныя мовы народаў свету. Юрый Крымаў задумаў цыкл апавесцяў пад агульнай назвай “Людзі сацыялістычнай індустрыі”. Апавесць “Інжынер” пабачыла свет перад самай вайною ў 1941 годзе. У цэнтры твора – перараджэнне звычайнага чалавека ў бюракрата, які патанае ў кар’ерызме і іншых заганях. Пісьменнік працуе над новай апавесцю – “Сяброўка”, друкуе нарысы ў газеце “Правда”.

У першы ядні вялікай Айчынай вайны разам з сябрамі-пісьменнікамі Аляксандрам Безыменскім, Джэкам Алтаўзенам і іншымі адпраўляецца добраахвотнікам на фронт. Юрыя Крымава прызначаюць супрацоўнікам газеты 26-й арміі “Советский патриот” – на Паўднёва-Заходнім фронце. Ваенны журналіст піша і для цэнтральнага друку, у прыватнасці, для газеты “Правда”. У сярэдзіне верасня 1941-га Крымаў патрапіў у акружэнне. І загінуў у ноч на 20 верасня...

А пачатак, вытокі, прашчур – усё гэта Васілішкі, Шчучынскі край, беларуская Гродзеншчына...

Мікола Берлеж

# Максім Танк і Гаа Ман

Пра ўлюбёнага ў Кітай паэта  
і яго кітайскага перакладчыка

马克西姆·唐克  
和高莽

热爱中国的  
诗人和其作  
品的翻译家



Гэ Баоцюань у артыкуле 1958 года “Апяваюць новы Кітай – абраныя пераклады з паэтаў брацкіх краін” так напісаў пра беларускага аўтара: “За апошнія гады нямала паэтаў з брацкіх краін наведалі нашу дзяржаву. У сваіх вершах яны апелі новы Кітай... Максім Танк – гэта паэт з Беларускай Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Рэспублікі. Ён нарадзіўся ў 1912 годзе ў Заходняй Беларусі ў сялянскай сям’і, яшчэ школьнікам удзельнічаў у рэвалюцыйным руху. Пачынаючы з 1931 года стаў друкавацца ў падпольных выданнях; у 1936

г. выйшаў яго першы вершаваны зборнік. І да аб’яднання Заходніх абласцей з Савецкай Беларуссю ў 1939 годзе яго талент дасягнуў поўнага раскрыцця. Максім Танк – дэпутат Вярхоўнага Савета БССР, член Савецкага камітэта абароны міру... У верасні-кастрычніку 1957 года Максім Танк у складзе савецкай дэлегацыі знаходзіўся з візітам у Кітаі. Ён прысутнічаў на ўрачыстасцях, прысвечаных восьмай гадавіне ўтварэння Кітайскай Народнай Рэспублікі, на плошчы

Цяньаньмынь у Пекіне, прымаў удзел у цэрымоніі адкрыцця руху па мосце праз раку Янцзы ў горадзе Ухань і іншых мерапрыемствах па ўшанаванні падзей Кастрычніцкай рэвалюцыі. “Ля варт Цяньаньмынь” ... напісана якраз у Кітаі”.



У Кітаі Максім Танк правёў амаль цэлы месяц, і ў паездцы яго суправаджаў малады перакладчык Гаа Ман. Максім Танк і Гаа Ман ведалі адзін аднаго яшчэ да візіта паэта ў Кітай. Перакладчык успамінаў, што ўпершыню пачуў пра беларускага паэта ад савецкай калгасніцы, якая наведвала Кітай. Яна прадэкламавала верш на беларускай мове, вельмі мілагучны і хваляючы лірычны верш услаўляў радасную працу калгасніка. Затым жанчына сказала: “Я люблю яго паэзію, гэта наш паэт — Максім Танк!” Больш за ўсё Гаа Мана ўразіла яе адзнака — “наш паэт”. “Наш” — не толькі беларускі, але і ўсяго працоўнага народа. З таго чагу Гаа Ман стаў цікавіцца паэзіяй Максіма Танка. Ён некалькі разоў з ім сустрэўся, перакладаў для яго. “Я глыбока адчуў, як добрасумленна выконваў ён свой абавязак рабочага паэта. У адным з вершаў ён гаворыць, што паэт не можа адлюстроўваць свет холадна і пасіўна, як крынічная вада, а павінен мець пэўную любоў да ўсяго”, — так характарызаваў Максіма Танка Гаа Ман.

Акрамя запланаваных афіцыйных мерапрыемстваў і сустрэч, Танк хацеў пабачыцца з вялікім кітайскім мастаком Ці Байшы, але Ці Байшы пайшоў з жыцця за два тыдні да прыезду беларускага паэта, таму Максім Танк наведаў толькі яго магілу. Пасля вяртання ў Беларусь Танк і Гаа Ман ліставаліся, але лісты Максіма Танка да перакладчыка прапалі ў гады Культурнай рэвалюцыі. У 1980-я гг., калі адносіны паміж Савецкім Саюзам і Кітаем нармалізаваліся, ў дзённіках Максіма Танка ёсць некалькі згадак пра Гаа Мана і Гэ Баацзюаня. У снежні 1983 года Максім Танк запісаў, што “К.Шэрман, які толькі што вярнуўся з маскоўскай нарады перакладчыкаў, перадаў прывітанне ад Гаа Мана. Я ўжо думаў, што ён загінуў падчас культурнай рэвалюцыі ў Кітаі...” А запіс ад студзеня 1987 года распавядае: “... Прыязжае да нас мой стары знаёмы Гаа Ман. Як шкада, што я не магу з ім сустрэцца, падзя-

中国读者了解马克西姆·唐克的作品，这得益于最早的翻译家和诗人乌兰汗和戈宝权的卓有成效的工作，还有马克西姆·唐克对中国和中国人民命运的真诚关切，以及他对中国文化和社会活动的热情。

戈宝权在其1958年的文章《歌唱新中国——兄弟国家诗人的作品选译》中这样评价白俄罗斯作家：“近年来，不少兄弟国家的诗人到访我国。他们在诗歌中歌唱新中国……马克西姆·唐克 是来自白俄罗斯苏维埃社



Максім Танк

- Гаа Ман "Партрэт Максіма Танка"
- 《马克西姆·唐克肖像》高莽绘

会主义共和国的诗人。他于 1912 年出生在白俄罗斯西部的一个农民家庭，还在上学时就参加了革命运动。1931 年，开始在地下刊物发表文章；

1936 年出版第一部诗集。在 1939 年白俄罗斯西部与苏联白俄罗斯统一之前，他的才华得到了充分的展现。马克西姆·唐克是苏维埃社会主义共和国最高委员会代表，苏联保卫和平委员会委员…… 1957 年 9 至 10 月，马克西姆·唐克随苏联代表团访华。出席北京天安门广场庆祝中华人民共和国成立八周年，参加武汉长江大桥通车仪式等十月革命纪念活动。《我站在天安门前》……正是在中国写成的。”

马克西姆·唐克在中国度过了将近一个月的时间，同行的还有年轻的翻译家高莽。马克西姆·唐克和高莽早在诗人来华之前就认识了。翻译家回忆说，他最初是从一位来华访问的苏联集体农庄女工人那里听说了这位白俄罗斯诗人。她用白俄罗斯语朗诵了一首诗。然后她解释道，这是一首赞美集体农庄的愉快劳动的抒情诗，非常优美动人。她说：“我爱他的诗，他是我们的诗人 — 马克西姆·唐克！”高莽印象最深的是她的评价——“我们的诗人”。“我们的”指的不仅是来自白俄罗斯的，而是属于劳动人民的。从此，高莽对马克西姆·唐克的诗歌产生了兴趣。他见过诗人几次，为他做翻译。“我深切地感觉到，他是多么忠贞地执行着作为工人阶级的诗人的义务。在一首诗里，他说诗人不能像泉水那样冷淡地、消极地反映世界，而应该对一切事务由明确的爱情。”——高莽这样描写唐克。

除了计划中的官方活动和会议，唐克想拜访中国伟大的艺术家齐白石先生，但齐白石先生在这位白俄罗斯诗人到来前两周就去世了，所以马克西姆·唐克只去了他的墓地。回到白俄罗斯后，唐克与高莽通信，但马克西姆·唐克给翻译家的信件在文革中丢失了。在 20 世纪 80 年代，当苏联和中国关系正常化时，马克西姆·唐克的日记中多次提到高莽和戈宝权。1983 年 12 月，马克西姆·唐克写道：“刚刚从莫斯科参加翻译会议回来的卡·谢尔曼转达了高莽的问候。我以为他在中国文化大革命时期已去世了……”1987 年 1 月的日记写道：“……我的老朋友高莽要来找我们了。很遗憾我不能见到他，感谢他将我的作品翻译成中文出

каваць яму за пераклады і выданне майго зборніка на кітайскай мове. Гаа Ман, напэўна, спыніў сваё падарожжа ў Маскве, бо праз чатыры дні, 9 студзеня, Максім Танк напісаў: “Прыехаў Гэ Баацюань. Эх, як не ў час падкасіла мяне гэтая хвароба!”

Відавочна, што падарожжа ў Паднябесную ў 1957 годзе натхніла паэта на стварэнне вершаў на кітайскую тэму: “Ван - суй”, “Лунмынскія пячоры”, “Міска для рысу”, “Мост вечнага спакою”, “Лаян”, “Засуха ў правінцыі Хэнань”, “Цень помніка ў люстры возера Дынху”, “Ці Бай-шы” і інш. А Гаа Мана (пад псеўданімам У Ланьхань) і Гэ Баацюаня асабістае знаёмства з паэтам падштурхнула да перакладу яго вершаў на кітайскую мову. Спачатку вершы Максіма Танка ў іх перакладзе з’явіліся ў кітайскай перыёдыцы ў 1957 годзе. А ў 1958 годзе ў выдавецтве “Жэньмінь вэньсюэ чубаньшэ” (Пекін) на кітайскай мове надрукаваны асобны зборнік “Выбраныя вершы” Максіма Танка.

Выданне адкрывае алоўкавы партрэт Танка ў выкананні Гаа Мана і зварот самога паэта – Максіма Танка, пад назвай “Да кітайскіх сяброў і чытачоў”. Ёсць подпіс, што зварот напісаны ў Мінску 29 сакавіка 1958 года. Тэкст, ў першую чаргу, выяўляе пазіцыю Максіма Танка як грамадскага дзеяча, прадстаўніка беларускай савецкай краіны: “У цяжкія гады барацьбы беларускага народа мы з хваляваннем назіралі за вызваленчай барацьбой кітайскага народа. У беларускай літаратуры, як і ў цэлым у савецкай, можна прачытаць шмат вершаў, прысвечаных ваярам у Шанхаі, камунам у Гуанчжоу, героям Вялікага паходу... Гэта сведчыць аб нашай глыбокай любові да братняга кітайскага народа, пра месца, якое ён займае ў нашых сэрцах, – у мінулым і зараз. ... Я пабачыў гэтую краіну на свае вочы, яе чароўны твар заўсёды застанецца ў маім сэрцы. Я пабачыў людзей гэтай краіны, якія глыбока перажываюць за савецкі народ і нашу краіну, я пабачыў вялікі кітайскі народ у працы і святкаванні

слаўнай восьмай гадавіны ўтварэння Кітайскай Народнай Рэспублікі. ... Глыбока ўдзячны Таварыству савецка-кітайскай дружбы, таварышам, якія працуюць у Таварыстве дружбы, за добры клопат, і сябрам-кітайцам, бо яны зрабілі магчымым, каб мае простыя вершы, народжаныя на берагах возера Нарач і ракі Нёман, змаглі чытаць сярод сяброў і братоў на заходнім беразе рэк Янцзы і Хуанхэ.”

Максім Танк сачыў за падзеямі ў Кітаі, ён быў неабыхавы да лёсу кітайскага народа. Так, у дзённымі паэтам за 1937 год ёсць запіс: “У вітрыне камісійнага сярод рознага выгляду аленевых рог і дапапопных гадзіннікаў выстаўлены дзіўны, вытканы шоўкам кітайскі краявід. Цана – сто дваццаць злотых! ... Успомніліся радкі верша Эмі Ся...” Дарэчы, Эмі Ся наведваў Беларусь у 1932 годзе для ўдзелу ў Кангрэсе Міжнароднага з’яднання рэвалюцыйных пісьменнікаў. На старонках газеты “Чырвоная Беларусь” (1932) надрукаваны яго нарыс “Літаратура паўстаўшых”. У ім аўтар раскрывае ролю Лігі левых пісьменнікаў Кітая ў развіцці і фармаванні мастацкай літаратуры для народных мас. Яшчэ адзін цікавы ўспамін Гаа Мана, які яскрава ілюструе цёплыя пачуцці Максіма Танка да Кітая. Гаа Ман і Максім Танк разам ехалі ў так званым “цягніку дружбы” ў 1954 г. “Пакуль ішла мірная канферэнцыя, прыйшла хваляючая навіна:

Народна-вызваленчая армія Кітая імкліва пераправілася праз раку Янцзы! Танк сказаў, што ў гэты час ён думаў пра раку Янцзы ў Кітаі, якую вывучаў на ўроку геаграфіі ў пачатковай школе. Ён уяўляў, як да вызвалення прыгнечаныя працоўныя людзі жылі па абодва бакі ракі Янцзы тысячы гадоў, як вялася рэвалюцыйная барацьба, і як ад гэтага часу ўсё зменіцца, людзі заживуць шчасліва! Таму ён напісаў хваляючы верш “Сіняя рака”. Я ніколі не забуду, як ён чытаў гэты верш ў цягніку з Варшавы ў Маскву летняй ноччу 1954 года. Паэт з багатымі братэрскімі пачуццямі усхваляў гераічную барацьбу нашага

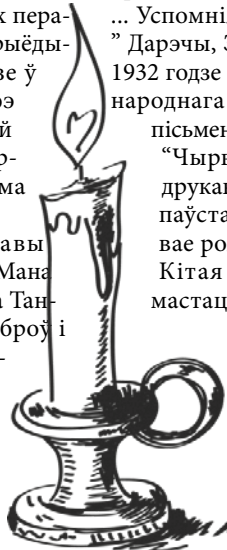
верш.”

Гэты верш можа быць перакладзены на беларускую мову. Гэты верш можа быць перакладзены на беларускую мову. Гэты верш можа быць перакладзены на беларускую мову.

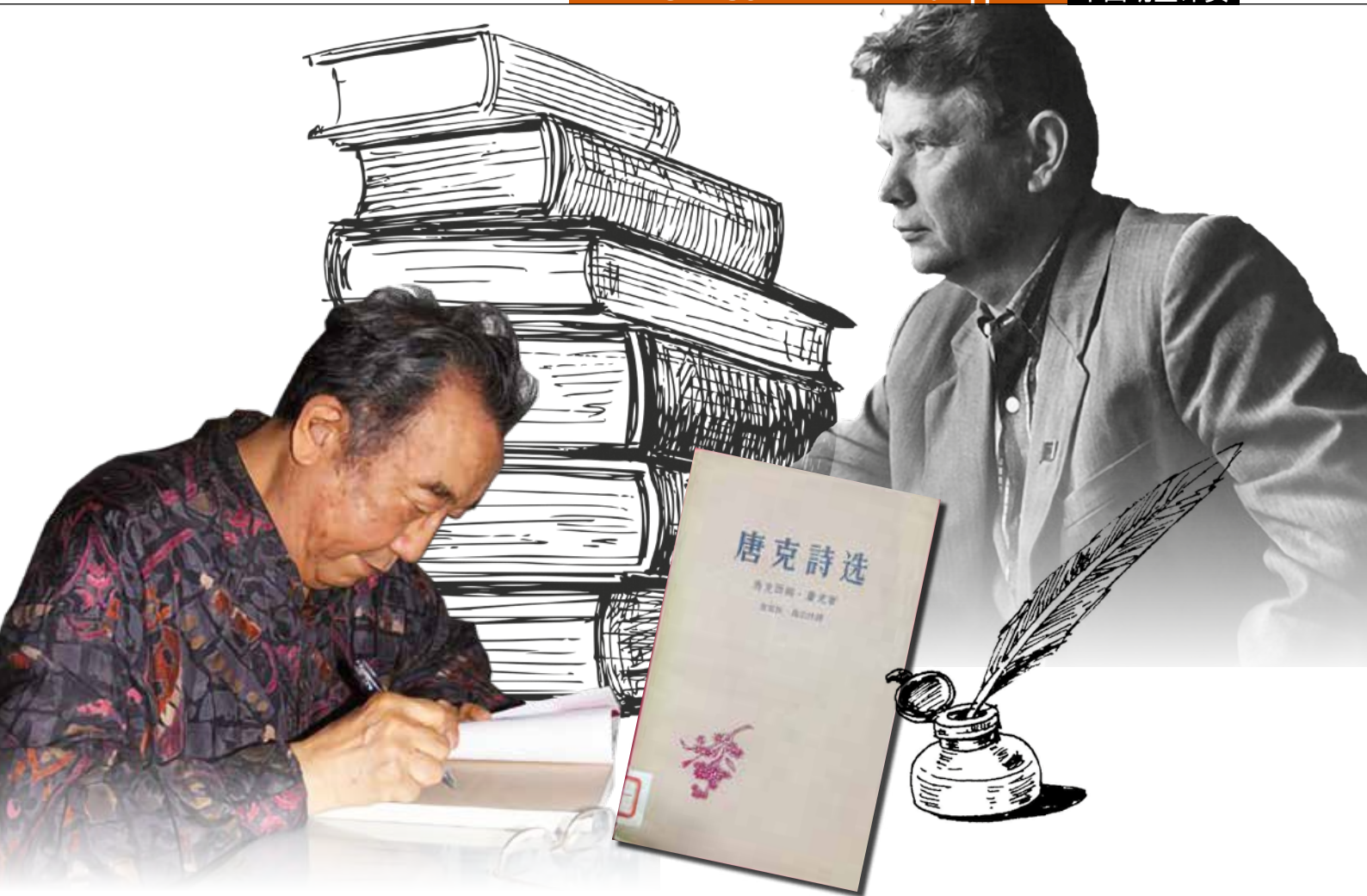
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义者的文学》。在其中，作者揭示了中国左派作家联盟在大众文学的发展和形成中的作用。高莽的另一段有趣回忆，生动地说明了马克西姆·唐克对中国的热情。1954年，高莽和马克西姆·唐克一起乘坐所谓的“友谊列车”。“和平大会正在进行时，传来了一个振奋人心的喜讯：中国人民解放军浩浩荡荡跨过长江南下了！唐克说，那时我想起小学时代在地理课上学过的中国的长江，想象到解放以前，几千年来，在长江两岸居住着的受尽压迫的劳动人民，想象到在它的两岸进行的革命斗争，更想象到从今以后那儿将日益繁荣起来的幸福生活！因而，他写成了动人的诗篇：《蓝色的大江》。我永远不会忘掉1954年夏天的夜晚，在从华沙开往莫斯科的火车上，他朗诵这篇诗的情景。诗人用充沛的兄弟感情歌颂了我国人民

在共产党领导下的英勇斗争。他那低沉的、圆润的、动人的声音，一直到现在还萦绕在我的耳边。”

《唐克诗选》诗集的译者之一是乌兰汗。他的原名高莽广为人知。高莽（1926-2017），著名的俄（苏）文学翻译家、编辑、学者，生于哈尔滨。1943年毕业于哈尔滨市基督教青年会。1943年在哈尔滨《大北新报》上发表第一篇译文——图格涅夫的诗《多么美艳，多么鲜亮的玫瑰……》。1945年后历任哈尔滨市市中苏友好协会翻译、编辑，东北中苏友好协会翻译科长、编辑，中苏友好协会总会联络部干事。1947年翻译苏联作家班达连柯根据奥斯特洛夫斯基的名作《钢铁是怎样炼成的》改编的剧本《保尔·柯察金》，曾在全国各大城市上演。1949年调到沈阳市东北中苏友好协会，在《东北画报》上发表译作冈

察尔短篇小说《永不掉队》，曾收入中国中学语文教科书。1954年调中苏友好协会总会（北京），加入中国作家协会，先后在联络部及《友好报》工作。其间曾多次随中国作家、美术家等赴苏联及东欧国家访问或出席会议。1962年调到中国作家协会《世界文学》杂志编辑部。1964年转入中国社会科学院外国文学研究所。1983年与1987年应苏联作家协会邀请，前往莫斯科出席第六次与第七次苏联文学翻译家国际会议。1989年，高莽辞去《世界文学》杂志主编一职。苏联作家协会因其多年有效地从事文学翻译活动，授予奖状。1996年俄罗斯作协选他为名誉会员。1997年，俄罗斯总统因其对中苏中俄文学艺术交流的贡献而授予“友谊”勋章。1999年，俄罗斯科学院远东学院科学委员会选举高莽为名誉博士，以表彰他在加强俄



中两国人民了解和友谊方面的巨大功绩，以及他杰出的个人为俄中文化合作的发展和俄罗斯文学的普及做出贡献。2006年，以在艺术上的巨大成就和对俄中文化合作的巨大贡献，俄罗斯艺术学院选举高莽为首批中国艺术家中的俄罗斯艺术学院荣誉院士。俄罗斯作家联盟“以对俄罗斯文学的研究、翻译和普及的贡献”授予他高尔基勋章。2007年10月，俄中友好协会授予高莽“为俄中关系发展做出的贡献”荣誉勋章。高莽还获得了“为祖国作出特殊贡献”勋章三等奖（乌克

兰）、高尔基、奥斯特洛夫斯基、普希金等俄罗斯文学奖章等。在他去世前不久，白俄罗斯驻华大使馆起草了关于授予高莽弗朗西斯克·斯卡里纳勋章的文件（并得到了白俄罗斯外交部和白俄罗斯政府的批准），但他们没有来得及颁发奖项——高莽于2017年去世。

作为《世界文学》杂志的主编，高莽身边聚集了最好的俄语翻译家。他还积极从事翻译工作，他翻译过的作家包括亚历山大·普希金、米哈伊尔·莱蒙托夫、伊万·蒲宁、列夫·托尔斯

泰、伊万·屠格涅夫、马克西姆·高尔基、弗拉基米尔·马雅可夫斯基、安娜·阿赫玛托娃、鲍里斯·帕斯捷尔纳克、玛琳娜·茨维塔耶娃、奥西普·曼德尔施塔姆、贝拉·阿赫玛杜琳娜等。他是第一个向中国读者介绍维索茨基作品的人，首位在中国翻译马雅可夫斯基的戏剧《臭虫》和《澡堂》，和阿赫玛托娃的诗《安魂曲》的人。高莽的原创作品有《俄罗斯美术随笔》等。高莽在中国媒体发表了关于白俄罗斯人民艺术家乔治·波普拉夫斯基的文章，他是杨卡·库帕拉、雅库布·科

народа пад кіраўніцтвам Камуністычнай партыі. Яго глыбокі, мяккі і крапальны голас дагэтуль гучыць у мяне ў вушах.”

Адзін з перакладчыкаў зборніка – У Ланьхань. Ён больш вядомы пад іншым сваім псеўданімам Гаа Ман. Гаа Ман (1926 – 2017) – знакаміты перакладчык, рэдактар і даследчык рускай (савецкай) літаратуры. Ён нарадзіўся ў Харбіне, дзе ў 1943 годзе скончыў школу прв Хрысціянскай асацыяцыі маладых людзей. У 1943 г. у харбінскай газеце “Дабэй сінбаа” апублікаваў свой першы пераклад — верш І.Тургенева “Якія прыгожыя, якія свежыя былі ружы...”. Пасля 1945 года ён паслядоўна працаваў перакладчыкам і рэдактарам Таварыства савецка-кітайскай дружбы ў Харбіне, кіраўніком секцыі перакладаў і рэдактарам Таварыства савецка-кітайскай дружбы ў Паўночна-Усходнім Кітаі і дырэктарам аддзела сувязі ў цэнтральным аддзяленні Таварыства савецка-кітайскай дружбы. У 1947 годзе Гаа Ман пераклаў п’есу “Павел Карчагін” у апрацоўцы савецкага пісьменніка Ф.Бандарэнкі паводле рамана М.Астроўскага “Як гартавалася сталь”, спектаклі па гэтай п’есе ладзіліся ў буйных гарадах Кітая. У 1949 годзе Гаа Ман пераведзены на працу ў Таварыства савецка-кітайскай дружбы горада Шэньяна ў Паўночна-Усходнім Кітаі. У газеце “Дунбэй хуабэа” апублікавана перакладзенае ім апавяданне А.Ганчара “Заўсёды ў шыхту”, якое было ўключана ў падручнікі кітайскай мовы для



■ Гаа Ман з дачкой

■ 高莽与女儿

сярэдніх школ. У 1954 годзе накіраваны на працу ў цэнтральнае аддзяленне Таварыства савецка-кітайскай дружбы ў Пекіне, уступіў у Саюз пісьменнікаў Кітая і паслядоўна працаваў у аддзеле сувязі ў газеце “Юхаа баа”. У гэты перыяд Гаа Ман неаднаразова суправаджаў кітайскіх пісьменнікаў і мастакоў у паездках у Савецкі Саюз і краіны Усходняй Еўропы для наведвання або ўдзелу ў канферэнцыях. У 1962 г. быў перавед-

зены ў аддзел рэдагавання часопіса “Сусветная літаратура” пры Саюзе пісьменнікаў Кітая. У 1964 годзе пачаў працаваць у Інстытуце замежнай літаратуры Акадэміі грамадскіх навук Кітая. У 1983 і 1987 гг. па запрашэнні Саюза пісьменнікаў СССР ездзіў у Маскву для ўдзелу ў Шостай і Сёмай міжнародных канферэнцыях перакладчыкаў савецкай літаратуры. У 1989 г. Гаа Ман пакінуў пост галоўнага рэдактара часопіса “Сусветная літаратура”. За шматгадовую літаратурную перакладчыцкую дзейнасць узнагароджаны ганаровай граматай Саюза пісьменнікаў СССР. У 1996 годзе Саюз пісьменнікаў Расіі прыняў яго ў ганаровыя члены, у 1997 годзе Прэзідэнт РФ ўзнагародзіў Гаа Мана ордэнам Дружбы за ўклад у развіццё кітайска-савецкіх і кітайска-расійскіх літаратурных і мастацкіх стасункаў. У 1999 г. “За вялікія заслугі ва ўмацаванні паразумення і сяброўства паміж народамі Расіі і Кітая, а таксама за выбітны асабісты ўклад у развіццё расійска-кітайскай культурнай супрацы, папулярызацыю рускай літаратуры” Навуковая рада ІДУ РАН абрала Гаа Мана ганаровым доктарам інстытута. У 2006 г. Расійская акадэмія мастацтваў “за вялікія поспехі ў мастацтве і вялікі ўклад у расійска-кітайскую культурную супрацу” у ліку першых кітайскіх мастакоў абрала Гаа Мана ганаровым

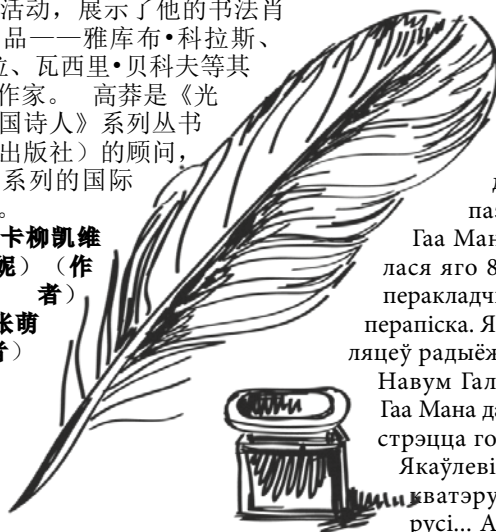
拉斯、瓦西里·贝科夫和阿列斯·阿达莫维奇书籍插图的画家。

在白俄罗斯，白俄罗斯-中国文学关系的推广者、《星星》出版社的主任兼总编辑阿列西·卡尔柳科维奇广泛地介绍了高莽。他这样回忆与高莽的相识：“2011 年在《白俄罗斯杜姆卡》杂志上读到维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇的一篇文章，专门回顾当时已知的有关将白俄罗斯文学翻译成中文的信息，我决定找找高莽老师。网上找到了中文杂志《俄罗斯文艺》的主编、语言学博士夏忠宪女士的联系方式。她建议可以通过翻译家、诗人、文学评论家高莽的女儿的电子邮件联系高莽老师。那时，他的85岁生日临近，我写了一份邮件，他回信了，我们开始了通信。正是在这个时候，电台记者兼作家纳乌姆·哈尔皮亚罗维奇飞往中国。我问高莽老师，来自白俄罗斯的客人是否可以拜访他。于是在他北京的公寓里纳乌姆·哈尔皮亚罗维奇顺利地拜访了这位白俄罗斯的好朋友高莽先生，之后我和高莽老师继续通信。与这样的人建立书信关系本身就是一项有趣的活动。高莽手写，他的女儿

扫描了这封信——所以现在，我有一个中国朋友的大量电子和手写档案。并且在 2015 - 2016 年我也去了北京三次。在每次旅行中，我都拜访了高莽老师。在这些年里，在充满回忆的热烈会面之后，我写了几篇关于翻译家的文章、散文和笔记，以及关于他对白俄罗斯的兴趣。”除此之外，在明斯克《图书沙龙》书店举办了一个纪念高莽的活动，展示了他的书法肖像画的复制品——雅库布·科拉斯、杨卡·库帕拉、瓦西里·贝科夫等其他白俄罗斯作家。高莽是《光明迹象：中国诗人》系列丛书（《星星》出版社）的顾问，他被列入该系列的国际编辑委员会。

维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇 (韦兰妮) (作者)

韦兰妮、张萌 (译者)



ларуская думка” ў 2011 годзе артыкул Веранікі Карлюкевіч, прысвечаны разгляду вядомых на той час звестак пра пераклады беларускай літаратуры на кітайскую мову, я вырашыў пашукаць перакладчыка Гаа Мана. Праз інтэрнэт-рэсурсы выйшаў на кітайскі часопіс “Руская літаратура і мастацтва” і яго галоўнага рэдактара – доктара філалагічных навук спадарыню Ся Чжунсянь. Яна і падказала адрас электроннай пошты, дачкі перакладчыка, паэта, літаратуразнаўца Гаа Мана. У той час набліжалася яго 85-годдзе. Я напісаў – перакладчык адказаў. Завязалася перапіска. Якраз у гэты час у Кітаі ляцеў радыёжурналіст і пісьменнік Навум Гальпяровіч. Папрасіў у Гаа Мана дазволу, ці можа з ім сустрэцца госьць з Беларусі. Навум Якаўлевіч завітаў у пекінскую кватэру добрага сябра Беларусі... А мы з Гаа Манам працягвалі ліставацца. Эпістальныя стасункі з такой асобай – ужо само па сабе цікавае дзейства. Гаа Ман пісаў ад рукі, а яго дачка сканіравала ліст – і ў выніку ў мяне сабраўся вялікі электронна-рукапісны архіў кітайскага сябра. А ў 2015 - 2016 гг. мне давялося тройчы пабываць у Пекіне. І ў кожную з паездак я наведваўся да Гаа Мана. За гады завочнага знаёмства і пасля жывых, багатых на ўражанні сустрэч, напісаў некалькі артыкулаў, карэспандэнцый, заматак пра перакладчыка, яго беларускія зацікаўленні.” У Мінску, дарэчы, быў арганізаваны ў кнігарні “Кніжны салон” невялікі вечар у гонар Гаа Мана, дзе былі прадстаўлены і рэпрадукцыі яго каліграфічных партрэтаў – Якуба Коласа, Янкі Купалы, Васіля Быкава, іншых беларускіх пісьменнікаў. Гаа Ман быў дарадцам у збіранні серыі “Светлыя знакі: паэты Кітая” (выд. “Звязда”). Кітайскі перакладчык быў ўключаны ў Міжнародны рэдакцыйны савет серыі.

Вераніка Карлюкевіч

членам Акадэміі мастацтваў Расіі, а Саюз пісьменнікаў Расіі “За ўклад у вывучэнне, пераклад і папулярызаванне рускай літаратуры” ўзнагародзіў яго медалём Горкага. У кастрычніку 2007 г. Таварыства расійска-кітайскай дружбы ўзнагародзіла Гаа Мана ганаровым медалём “За ўклад у развіццё расійска-кітайскіх адносін”. Гаа Ман таксама ўзнагароджаны ордэнам “За асаблівыя заслугі перад Айчынай” III ступені (Украіна), расійскімі літаратурнымі медалямі М. Горкага, А. Астроўскага, А. Пушкіна і іншымі адзнакамі. Беларускае пасольства ў Кітаі незадоўга да яго смерці аформіла дакументы (і яны прайшлі ўзгадненне ў Міністэрстве замежных спраў, беларускім урадзе) адносна ўзнагароджвання Гаа Мана медалём Францыска Скарыны, але ўручыць узнагароду не паспелі – Гаа Ман пайшоў з жыцця ў 2017 г.

Займаючы пасаду галоўнага рэдактара часопіса “Сусветная літаратура”, Гаа Ман здолеў сабраць вакол сябе лепшых перакладчыкаў з рускай мовы.

Сам таксама актыўна займаўся перакладамі. У яго спісе ёсць А.Пушкін, М.Лермантаў, І.Бунін, Л. Талсты, І. Тургенеў, М. Горкі, У. Маякоўскі, А.Ахматава, Б.Пастэрнак, М. Цвятаева, В. Мандэльштам, Б. Ахмадуліна і інш. Ён першым пазнаёміў кітайскага чытача з творчасцю У. Высоцкага, ім першым у Кітаі былі перакладзены п’есы У. Маякоўскага “Клоп” і “Лазня”, паэма А. Ахматавай “Рэквіем”. Сярод арыгінальных твораў Гаа Мана – “Нататкі пра рускае выяўленчае мастацтва” і інш. Дарэчы, Гаа Ман некалькі разоў выступав у кітайскім друку з артыкуламі пра народнага мастака Беларусі Георгія Паплаўскага, аўтара ілюстрацый да кніг Янкі Купалы, Якуба Коласа, Васіля Быкава і Алеся Адамовіча.

У Беларусі пра Гаа Мана шырока распавёў Алесь Карлюкевіч, папулярны татар беларуска-кітайскіх літаратурных стасункаў, дырэктар — галоўны рэдактар выдавецкага дома “Звязда”. Ён так успамінае пра знаёмства з Гаа Манам: “Прачытаўшы ў часопісе “Бе-



# ЗАГОР'Е. ЦАРКВА. СВЕТЛАСЦЬ...

## 扎戈耶。教堂。明亮

З гэтымі мясцінамі звязаны імёны многіх дзечаў культуры, мастацтва, літаратуры... Калі гаварыць пра прыгожае пісьменства, то дарога з Міра да Карэліч, прыпынак у вёсках Загор'е, Турэц, а яшчэ – магчымасць збочыць у Ярэмічы – падстава згадаць імёны многіх беларускіх пісьменнікаў.

许多文化、艺术和文学人物的名字都与这些地方有关.....如果我们谈论文学，那么就要说到从米尔到科雷利奇的道路，扎戈耶、图里齐的村庄，还有亚列米奇。提到的这些地方与许多白俄罗斯作家的名字有关系。

Найперш — славу тага пражаніка Янку Брыля. Яго паплетнікі па ваеннай, партызанскай біяграфіі — Уладзіміра Калесніка. Дарога гэтая вядомая пісьменнікам і акцёрам Анатолю Жуку, Пятру Ламану... У вёсцы Пагарэлка Ярэміцкага сельсавета нарадзіўся паэт, дзіцячы пісьменнік Мікола Бусько, аўтар кніг паэзіі “У Нёмна на плячах” (1986), “Ад галінкі да сучка – тэлефон у павучка” (1993), “Сюзор’е Шаляў” (1995), “Шасцікрылец Хмарагон” (1997). Зараз жыве ў Баранавічах. Ярэміцкую сярэднюю школу закончыў літаратуразнавец, крытык Уладзімір Навумовіч. Працаваў настаўнікам беларускай мовы і літаратуры Беражаноўскай васьмігадовай школы Карэліцкага раёна. Аўтар апошесці “Узаранае поле”, надрукаванай у “Малодосці” у 1968 годзе, пражанічнай кнігі “Такое бывае аднойчы” (1982),



манаграфіі “Шляхамі арлянят: Проза “Маладняка” (1984), дапаможнікаў “Беларусазнаўства” (1989), “Беларуская літаратура ХХ стагоддзя: Гісторыя і сучаснасць” (2005). Доўгі час адпрацаваў выкладчыкам Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта... Добра вядомыя гэтыя мясціны і пісьменніку Яўгену Крамко, аўтару кніг “Звяры таксама плачуць” (1985), “Нёманскія замалёўкі” (1989)...

Шмат разоў, збочыўшы з брэскай трасы, праязджаючы ад Міра да Карэліч, і добра ведаючы гэты адрас, царкву на могілках каля вёскі Загор’е выходзілае літаральна на лічаныя секунды. І такое ж уражанне, такая сустрэча вокаімгненнага характару складваецца і на зваротнай дарозе – калі вяртаешся з Карэліч... Тут трэба спыніцца, каб як след аглядзець гэтую мясціну і паспрабаваць пачуць подых часін, дакрануцца да далучанасці розных стагоддзяў, задумацца пра чалавека ў прасторы і вечнасці, паразважаць пра трылогіі і сумненні хуткаплыннага жыцця, якое для кожнага з нас было і застаецца ў выпрабаваннях і веры...

Мяне прывёў сюды мясцовы карэліцкі будаўнік Сяргей Дунец. Яму і яго памагатым-паплечнікам давялося займацца рэканструкцыяй, лічы – будаўніцтвам новага памяшкання праваслаўнага храма...

Яшчэ ў 1861 годзе на ахвяраванні мясцовых жыхароў тут, на могілках, каля Загор’я, была пабудавана драўляная царква... Зруб пад двухсхільным дахам, у цэнтры – макаўка. Фасад быў вырашаны чатырохступовай тэрасай пад трохвугольным франтонам. Вертыкальна ашалаваныя фасады расчлянёны прамавугольнымі аконнымі праёмамі. Так апісалі навукоўцы Храм праведнай Ганны... Колькі падзей з ім звязана – і нараджэнне, і смерці, радасць і гора, колькі людзей пранікліва, углядаючыся ў глыбіні абразоў, адкрывалі ў сценах царквы нешта сутнаснае, вартае таго, каб прайсці з ім па жыцці ці паглыбіцца з нечым галоўным, сапраўдным, шукаючы сваё месца ў вечнасці... За многія дзесяцігоддзі прайшла і драўляная царква свой выпакутаваны лёс. Мяняліся ўлады. Розныя ідэалогіі накладвалі сваю пя-

首先是著名小说家杨卡·布雷里和他在军事、游击队传记小说方面的伙伴弗拉基米尔·科列斯尼克。这条路为作家和演员阿纳托利·朱克、彼得·拉曼所熟知.....在亚列米奇村委会的帕加雷尔卡村,诗人和儿童作家米科拉·布斯科出生,他是诗集《在尼曼河的肩上》(1986)、《从树枝到结——蜘蛛的手机》(1993)、《天秤座》(1995)、《六翼云》(1997)的作者。现在住在巴拉诺维奇。文学学者和评论家弗拉基米尔·科列斯尼克毕业于亚列米奇中学。他曾在科雷利奇区的别列日诺夫八年制学校担任白俄罗斯语言和文学教师。他是1968年发表于《青年》杂志的短篇小说《犁过的田野》、文集《这发生一次》(1982)、专著《小鹰之路:《玛拉达尼克》的散文》(1984)、课本《白俄罗斯学》(1989年)、《白俄罗斯20世纪文学:历史与现代性》(2005年)的作者。他曾长期在白俄罗斯国立大学任教.....这些地方是作家叶夫亨·克拉姆科所熟知的,他是《动物也会哭泣》(1985年)、《尼曼素描》(1989年)等书的作者。

很多时候,在离开布列斯特的高速公路上,从米尔开车到科雷利奇,并且很熟悉这个地方后,您几乎可以在几秒钟内看到扎戈耶耶村附近墓地的教堂。同样的,在回来的路上也有一种奇妙的感觉——当您从科雷利奇返回时.....在这里您需要停下来,真正感受这个地方,并尝试听到时间的呼吸,接触不同的世纪,思考永恒的空间和人,思考快速变化的生活中的焦虑和疑惑,对我们每个人来说,这曾经并将继续存在于考验和信念中.....

我被当地的科雷利奇建筑商谢尔盖·杜内茨带到这里。他和他的助手们参与过重建,具体说是建造东正教堂新楼的工作.....

чатку на канкрэтныя храмы, забараняючы вернікам падтрымліваць іх годны выгляд. Ды і час рабіў сваю справу. Наспела патрэба ўзнаўлення старога будынка.

— Так склалася, што да нашых мясцін спрычыніўся вядомы ў Беларусі прадпрымальнік Генадзь Леанардавіч Сабалеўскі, — расказвае Сяргей Дунец. — А ўжо ён як фундатар, клапатлівы арганізатар усіх матэрыяльных выдаткаў і вы-

早在 1861 年,在当地居民的捐赠下,在扎戈耶附近的墓地里建造了一座木制教堂.....山墙屋顶下的小木屋,在房顶中心有一个圆顶的建筑。墙面有垂直板子的装饰,墙上面的窗户是矩形。垂直包覆的外墙被矩形窗户开口分开。科学家们就是这样描述正义的安娜教堂的.....有多少事件与之相关——生与死,欢乐与悲伤,有多少人敏锐地凝视着圣像的深处,在教堂里发现了人生中必不可少的东西,值得与它一起度过一生,或者更深入、更真切地体会其意义,寻找它在永恒中的位置.....几十年来,木制教堂也经历了命运的波折。政局发生变化,不同的意识形态在有些的教堂上打上了烙印,禁止信徒保持尊严的外表。时间终于到了,重建旧建筑的机会来了。

——碰巧白俄罗斯的一位著名商人根纳季·列奥纳多维奇·索博列夫斯基为我们的发展做出了贡献。——谢尔盖·杜内茨说。于是前段时间新建了一座教堂,已经用红砖“打扮”好了.....马赛克、雕塑、彩色玻璃窗,看着就让人印象深刻。屋顶上安装了太阳能电池板,照亮了教堂和周围地区,即使在晚上也吸引着游客前来此地。令人欣喜的是,在教堂诞生 160 周年的前夕,经历了重生、新生.....人们,这也是年轻人,新一代的当地居民,来到一个他们的曾祖父、祖父和他们的祖辈都知道的地方,在我看来,感觉很好,触摸过去并将他们的心情传达给非常年轻的人,我希望扎戈耶的教堂也能变得熟悉和亲近.....



браў нас на ролю будаўнікоў. Так некаторы час назад і вырасла новая царква, ужо “апанутая” у чырвоную цэглу... Уражлівымі падаюцца мазаіка, скульп-

随着教堂的翻新，这个地方的气氛发生了变化。我们谈到了这样一个事实，即正义的安娜教堂吸引了人们，并成为扎戈耶墓地的一种教育场所。我们与各种感兴趣的人、与建筑商谢尔盖·杜内茨，以及与教区负责人沟通了……就是她给我们看教堂里的牌匾，上面写着上次战争的牺牲了生命的同胞名字……伟大的卫国战争时期这里与许多悲剧性事件有关。白俄罗斯人民作家杨卡·布雷里的小说和报告文学作品值得一读，他的才华就在这里，在扎戈耶及其周边地区得到发展。著名的游击文学评论家弗拉基米尔·科列斯尼克的作品广泛描述白俄罗斯游击运动，那些年的记忆将在您眼前呈现。但是每个当地居民都知道自己的家族历史，白俄罗斯国家科学院院士、生物科学博士米卡莱·拉曼将所有

没有归来的同胞的名字收集在牌匾上，为保存历史记忆做了一项崇高的工作。当一些私人的事情被发现时，我们总是会感知到重大事件……

— 还有尼古拉·阿法纳西耶维奇，— 村长说，— 他在墓地周围种植了从苗圃买来的松树。现在它们已经很高！看着它们一排排的，人们由衷地鞠躬……我们的村庄扎戈耶和附近的图里齐有丰富的历史。图里齐里也有一座大型的东正教教堂，也是十九世纪的。在我看来，今天重建的正义安娜教堂将载入我们地方的史册。来自扎戈耶的忠实信徒，来到我们这里的客人，将继续记住 8 月 7 日的节日，让大家聚在一起……

其特殊的艺术装饰，让我们无法快速离开教堂。著名的白俄罗斯艺术家维克塔·巴拉班采夫为教堂制作了彩色玻

璃窗和马赛克。他的创作成果在我国受到高度评价。这位艺术家被授予弗朗西斯克·斯卡里纳勋章，并且是“精神复兴”奖的获得者。

— 尽管我出生在戈梅利地区，— 维克塔·巴拉班采夫说，— 我对这些纳瓦格魯达克和科雷利奇小山很着迷……我经常来这里做画。这个地方的教堂吸引了我，这些地方的历史性和独特性赋予了某种崇高的创作意境……

《米尔的春天》、《米尔。卡拉索维齐的早晨》、《在纳瓦格魯达克会见》、《在米尔度假。作家奥尔加·伊帕托娃的肖像》、《时代的气息》、《纳瓦格魯达克的土地。三联画》等绘画、其他维克塔·巴拉班采夫的肖像都充满了明亮的色彩。如果米尔的其他周围环境，扎戈耶、图里齐、亚列米奇等定居点，通过他

птура, вітражы. На даху ўсталяваны сонечныя батарэі, які асвятляюць храм і блізкую тэрыторыю, прыцягваюць да гэтай мясціны вандроўнікаў і ў вячэрні час. Прыемна, што ўзнаўленне, новае нараджэнне адбылося ў прэададзень 160-годдзя з дня першага нараджэння храма... Людзі, а жыццё паказвае, што гэта — і моладзь, новыя пакаленні мясцовых жыхароў, прыходзяць на відмае іх прадзядам, дзядам, іх далёкім прашчурам месца, і, як мне падаецца, адчуваюць светласць, судакранаюцца з мінулым і перадаюць свой настрой ужо зусім юным, для каго, спадзяюся, царква ў Загор'і таксама стане роднай і блізкай...

З абнаўленнем храма змянілася і сама атмасфера гэтай мясціны. Пра тое, што царква праведнай Ганны прыцягвае людзей, становіцца своеасаблівым выхаваўчым асяроддзем і з размаўлялі на могілках у Загор'і з рознымі нераўнадушнымі людзь-

мі. І з будаўніком Сяргеем дунцом, і са старастай прыходай... Якраз яна і звярнула ўвагу ў храме на пліту з прозвішчамі землякоў, якія не прыйшлі з мінулай вайны... Вялікая Айчынная ў гэтых мясцінах звязана з многімі драматычнымі падзеямі. Варта зазірнуць у мастацкія і дакументальныя творы народнага пісьменніка Беларусі Янкі Брыля, чый талент якраз тут, у Загор'і і яго ваколіцах і выпаставаны, у творы легендарнага партызана літаратуразнаўца Уладзіміра Калесніка, — і перад вачыма адкрываецца шырокая карціна партызанскай памяці. Але кожны з мясцовых жыхароў ведае сваю ўласную сямейную гісторыю. І сабраўшы на пліце прозвішчы ўсіх землякоў, хто не вярнуўся, акадэмік Нацыянальнай Акадэміі навук Беларусі доктар біялагічных навук Мікалай Ламан, зрабіў высакародную справу захавання гістарычнай памяці. Вялікі падзеі заўжды

ўспрымаюцца намі, калі адкрываецца нешта асабістае...

— А яшчэ Мікалай Афанасьевіч, — расказвае стараста, — высадзіў па перыметру могілак хвой, якія сам і закупаў у пітомніку. Зараз вунь як вымахалі! І ўглядаючыся ў іх роўны радочки, нельга не пакланіцца добрай справе... Нашы вёскі Загор'е, Турэц, які зусім побач, дзе, дарэчы, ёсць вялікі, таксама з дзевятнацатага стагоддзя праваслаўны храм, — з багатай гісторыяй. І мне здаецца, што ў летапіс нашых мясцін увойдзе і сённяшняе ўзнаўленне царквы праведнай Ганны. А вернікі з Загор'я, госці, якія да нас прыязджаюць, будуць і надалей памятаваць, што ўсіх збірае святы 7 жніўня...

З храмам не дазваляе хутка развітацца і адмысловае яго мастацкае аздабленне. Над вітражамі, мазаікамі для царквы працаваў вядомы беларускі мастак Віктар Барабанцаў. Яго творчыя здабыткі высока ацэнены ў нашай







的作品被纳入对现实的艺术理解, 以及该地区的壮丽美景。就像这里一些有名的当地人一样……维克塔尔·巴拉班采夫的作品将白雪、明亮的空间、晴朗的天空映射到观众的视线……同样, 在扎戈耶墓地保护正义安娜教堂的马赛克中, 闪闪发光的光线反射着阳光和亮度, 似乎在任何天气下。艺术家为这座教堂的装饰带来的情节和图像是维克塔尔·巴拉班采夫以前丰富的此类工作经验的结果。艺术家以前的作品包括的莫洛德奇诺区列别捷夫村教堂墙壁的圣经主题的彩色壁画、位于《所有悲伤的欢乐》教堂入口上方马赛克面板《波洛茨克女修道院院长的圣欧弗洛绪涅》、装饰着明斯克抹大拉的玛利亚教堂的马赛克。画家、现实主义艺术家的高超天赋帮助维克塔尔·巴拉班采夫获得了新的教堂艺术秘密。大师还竭尽全力装饰扎戈耶教堂的作品, 设法找到将永恒与当地、脚踏实地的特征结合为一个和谐整体。这就是位于扎戈耶村附近墓地的正义安娜东正教教堂, 看起来如此迷人、熟悉、出奇地接近且又独特的原因吗? 如果您在经过科雷利奇或纳瓦格鲁达克时, 千万不要错过它, 这是一座小村庄的教堂, 一座真正的有灵性的纪念碑。停下来看看我们同时代人的所作所为, 仔细看看——您一定会感受到永恒的盟约, 感受到我们祖先的精神。

**阿列西·卡尔柳科维奇 (作者)**

**卡斯图斯·德罗巴夫 (摄影)**

**韦兰妮、张萌萌 (译者)**

дзяржаве. Мастак ўзнагароджаны медалём Францыска Скарыны, з’яўляецца лаўрэатам Прэміі “За духоўнае адраджэнне”.

— І хаця нарадзіўся я на Гомельшчыне, -- расказвае Віктар Барабанцаў, — прыкіпеў менавіта да гэтых навагрудскіх, карэліцкіх узгоркаў... Часта ездзіў сюды на пленэры. Мяне і храмы ў гэтай пратсору прыцягваюць, і пэўны ўзвышаны творчы настрой надае сама гістарычнасць, унікальнасць гэтых мясцін...

“Вясна ў Міры”, “Мір. Карасавіцкая раніца”, “Сустрэча ў Навагрудку”, “Свята ў Міры. Партрэт пісьменніцы Вольгі Іпатавай”, “Подых вякоў. Зямля Навагрудская. Трыпціх” – гэтыя і іншыя карціны, партрэты Віктара Барабанцава напоўнены святлом, светлымі краскамі. Вельмі хацелася б, каб і астатнія ваколіцы Міра, паселішчы Загор’е, Турэц, Ярэмчы ўвайшлі ў мастацкае асэнсаванне рэчаіснасці, велічнай прыгажосці

края праз яго творчасць. Як і слаўныя ўраджэнцы края — таксама...

Насустрэч позірку глядача ў працах Віктара Барабанцава выпраменьваюцца снег, светлыя прасторы, чыстае неба... Так і ў мазаіках, якія аберагаюць сваімі зіхоткімі праменьчыкамі царкву праведнай Ганны на могілках у Загор’і, — сонца, светласць адбіваюцца, здаецца, пры любым надвор’і. Сюжэты, вобразы, якія прыўнёс мастак менавіта ў аздабленне гэтага храма, — гэта і вынік багатага папярэдняга вопыту такой працы Віктара Барабанцава. За плячыма ў творцы – і шматколерныя фрэскі на сюжэты Свяшчэннага пісання, якія аздабляюць сцены ў царкве ў вёсцы Лебедзева Маладзечанскага раёна, мазаічнае пано “Прападобная Ефрасіння ігумення Полацкая”, якое размешчана над уваходам у храм “Усіх тужлівых Радасць”, мазаікі, якія ўпрыгожваюць царкву Марыі Магдалены ў Мінску. Высокі талент жывапісца,

мастака-рэаліста дапамог Віктара Барабанцаву сягнуць і ў новыя калісы для яго таямніцы царкоўнага мастацтва. Майстар і ў працах, якія аздабляюць святыню ў Загор’і, выклаўся напоўніцу, здолеўшы знайсці тую інтанацыю, якая і вечнасць, і мясцовую, уласціваю гэтай старонцы прыземленасць злучыць у адно цэлае. Мо таму і такой прыцягальнай, роднай, надзіва блізкай і па сваім зразумелай падаецца праваслаўная царква праведнай Ганны на могілках каля вёскі Загор’е? Будзеце ехаць у Карэлічы ці ў Навагрудак праз Карэлічы пры любой нагодзе — не мінайце яе, маленькую вясковую царкву, сапраўдны помнік духоўнасці. Спыніцеся. Угледзьцеся ў зробленае сучаснікамі нашымі, угледзьцеся ўважліва — і вы, упэўнены, адчуеце і вечнасці запар, адчуеце дух нашых прашчурай.

Алесь **Карлюкевіч**  
Фота Кастуся **Дробава**



# IT'S ALWAYS HEALTH SEASON

Subjective notes from the life of vacationers

Many people know about the sanatoriums that stretch along the shores of Lake Naroch, which is titled as the 'pearl of Belarus' and the 'Belarusian Sea', and which has no equal in the country in terms of its geographical location, water properties and diversity of coastal landscapes. And the zone in the Narochansky National Park is unique, environmentally friendly, and the sights of the Naroch region are attractive for tourists. Some people visited the places

sung by the national poet Maksim Tank, who was born in the Myadel District, and some read about it in high school. But, of course, not everyone directs their steps to Naroch, especially in late autumn.

We, who prefer summer vacations in distant lands, this time took a chance, tempted by the admiring reviews of friends about an unforgettable vacation in one of the best resorts in Belarus — Priozerny, which has the official status of a resort designed for 450 people. They told

us more than once that this sanatorium is like a panacea for the tense rhythm of everyday life. I booked a trip there for the end of November. Yes, of course, we took risks, because the prospect of walking in bad weather, typical for this month, was not very encouraging. But we were unspeakably lucky: last year winter came to our latitudes early — just in November.

We drove from Minsk to the sanatorium along the Myadel highway P28. Roadside forests with their coniferous trees strewn

with snow were pleasing to the eye. The frost was minus five to seven degrees — the weather is comfortable for walking. I wanted to stop and wander through the forest.

“I wish I could go skiing in Silichi, or in Raubichy,” our friend grumbled a little, “why do we need treatment, all sorts of baths, salt rooms and aromatherapy...”

“You should have told this earlier, offer something else and organise,” that was my answer to him.

The road from Minsk took two and a half hours. We slowly covered a distance of about 160 km, put the car in a paid (with a minimum payment per day) parking lot.

### **Panacea for the tense rhythm of everyday life**

We head to the main building with the same name as the sanatorium, we have time to feel how fresh the air is. We are discussing that it will be necessary to walk more among the tall pines and firs, and, of course, along the shores of the Naroch. True, the shore of the lake is not visible from the two buildings of the sanatorium. Only later do we find out that it is five hundred meters from the territory of the Priozerny. We notice: the buildings of the sanatorium are like an oasis in the middle of the forest. And here we are at the reception. We are met sincerely and friendly by the administrator Liudmila. This is so characteristic of Belarusians. We ask her how full the sanatorium is, assuming that there are entirely Russians here, as we heard from acquaintances and friends. But, as our new friend reports, there are enough Belarusians in Priozerny. Many, she says, are not coming for the first time. And she adds that one guest from Russia has been there 12 times.

We comply with the necessary formalities, receive the keys and head to the Lazurny building to settle in a two-room suite. The entrance hall, two separate rooms and a bathroom impress with a pleasant interior dominated by natural pastel colours, as well as cleanliness and freshness. Outside the window, there are white pines covered with snow. It is

more like Christmas than the month of November, on which we all agree. Our friend no longer grumbles, it was clear that he liked everything. Especially the opportunity to drink a cup of coffee without waiting for dinner. As an avid coffee lover, he immediately turns on the kettle. The room has bottled water, tea, sugar, coffee, as well as dazzling white dishes to match the bathrobes and towels in the shower. Gels, shampoos, soaps and even slippers, in a word, this is almost like Turkish ‘five stars’, my husband concludes. I suggest not to rush to assign stars to the sanatorium. Let’s wait, as they say, and see.



We get acquainted with Marina, that is the name of our housekeeping cleaner. We ask how to get to the dining room. She explains that for newcomers to the sanatorium, the route is not an easy one. Once again, I note some special friendliness in relation to us, people completely

unfamiliar to Marina, guests, as they say about vacationers in the Priozerny. You can, of course, say that friendliness is part of the duties of the technical staff, they say, as they are also the face of the sanatorium. But still, this primordial Belarusian friendliness of ours differs from that with which we met in distant countries. Here it is not just external courtesy, it is something more. We agree that this is warmth coming from within, what we call sincerity. It has an interest in people, at the moment of communication with which, as psychologists say, a healthy exchange of energies takes place.

So, about the route. I describe for those who will go to this sanatorium. On the elevator from our fourth floor (and there are seven floors in the sanatorium) you need to go down to the first, go through the foyer of the Lazurny. By the way, there is a souvenir shop, a pharmacy, and the entrance to the bar, as well as to the dance hall. (We will use their services later: we will buy a couple of souvenirs, taste coffee and even dance). There is a separate entrance to the SPA centre directly from the lobby. There are offices of doctors making prescriptions.

The way to the dining room is indeed, at first glance, difficult. From the foyer, you need to climb the stairs to the second floor, from where you will get to the area of massage rooms and the medical building, but for lunch, following the sign, you need to head along the long corridor connecting the Lazurny building with Priozerny.

There is also the entrance to the dining room, and on the opposite side there are entrances to the cinema and concert hall. Nearby you may go down the stairs to the gym, also to the pump rooms with mineral water and to the pool. Pointers are everywhere. With due care, you will be where you need to be. But

for a couple of days we got confused and ended up in the wrong place. It was a good reason to joke with each other, which is now remembered with pleasure. As well as the fact that even on the first day in the sanatorium, I felt that our stay here would be full of positive emotions and relaxation. We, newcomers to the sanatorium, did not yet know about the upcoming procedures.

### After a good meal, you can forgive anyone

Paraphrasing the statement of Oscar Wilde, an English poet, writer and playwright of Irish origin, known as a great aesthete and master of paradoxical maxims, I would say: you can forgive not just anyone after dinner in a sanatorium, since there was not anyone to forgive, but anything. I mean pandemic. If it had not happened in the world, we would hardly have chosen a vacation on Naroch, and even in November, since, I repeat, we prefer summer vacations on the coasts of different countries. After all, rest, for example, in India, Greece, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Turkey and other places, acquaintance with the local cultures enriches us, travel lovers. Knowing that we could choose a trip to Belarusian sanatoriums, at, let's say, home, at any moment, we, of course, chose far abroad. And, until the pandemic, we had been saving vacations in Belarus, as they say, for 'later'. But, as the well-known proverb says, there would be no happiness, but misfortune helped. Lockdowns, masks, molecular genetic diagnostics (PCR) tests and other problems complicated long-distance travel.

However, back to the dining room. It is of impressive size. Meals here are organised on the basis of a buffet, moreover, taking into account food recommendations for diets. Of course, you will not surprise modern Belarusians with a buffet. Our friend, when I ask him to pay attention

to the fact that there are also knives here that can be used, likening the Behemoth cat, a charming and funny character from Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, says, "I would ask you not to teach me, I have been at the table, don't worry, I have..." Of course, we laugh, remembering the buffets — Turkish, Cypriot, Greek, Bulgarian... — before the pandemic. Interestingly, we notice during lunch that the local table is somehow different. But we cannot immediately understand what is characteristic of it. There are a lot of various salads, cheeses, herbs, sauces,



■ The dining room in Priozerny really has a homely feel to it. This is the taste of food, and the smell of baking, and, again, the friendliness of the staff. Of course, also smiling faces of guests. In a word, atmospheric.



vegetables and fruits — enough, meat delicacies, fish, side dishes, juices — one couldn't taste it all... The question, of course, is not philosophical, but interesting.

As you know, you can spoil digestion only if you want it too much, forgetting that the path to the problems of the gastrointestinal tract runs through intemperance, even if you prefer a healthy diet. The stumbling block, which is also well known to all of us, is in the volume

of food. With this, on the first day of our stay, it is difficult.

We are not limited to creamy broccoli soup, borscht, one second course. I would like to try everything. Although we take this and that piece by piece, the plates are filled to the brim. And we should also try tea with honey and pastries. The buns here are simply magical: warm, fragrant, no more than four centimetres in diameter. In the end, of course, we eat. But we forgive ourselves. And we forgive the chefs for cooking so deliciously. We even take a second cup of tea so that the food subsides, as is customary in the East. We are not in a hurry to leave, examining the interior, we observe waitresses dressed in aesthetic uniforms. She is refreshed by the blouse that is whitening from under a brown vest. They work fast. One has only to raise one's eyes to one of them, and they smile charmingly, ask: do you need something... But we don't need anything anymore, except to catch our breath after a hearty meal, and also to understand what is typical for the Priozerny buffet. One of the red-haired girls with a huge plait attracts attention, which I manage to photograph, though not from the front, but from the back. The husband says that the braid is important, not the face hidden under the mask. (By the way, the mask regime for the attendants in the sanatorium has not yet been cancelled). The waitress notices, smiles and comes over to our table. I ask her, "What do you think is the peculiarity of your buffet?" "Didn't you notice? True, today for lunch there are pancakes with meat, and there will also be potato pancakes, and fluffy pancakes, and sausages... Belarusian cuisine is widely represented here. Here are your men eating borscht. And ours borscht is just like home-made. You should try it too. Moreover," the girl says with pride, "our chefs prepare all dishes exclusively from farm products." We thank her for the useful information. And then it dawns on me! Buffet with a taste of dishes 'like at home'! The dining room really has a homely feel to it. This is the taste of food, and the smell of baking, and, again, the friendliness of the staff. Of course, also smiling faces of guests. In a word, atmospheric.



### Plus 'star' for sincerity, warmth, friendliness

The corridors of the buildings are decorated with reproductions of paintings by famous artists. It will be necessary, we discuss on the way to the therapist for appointments, to admire them, slowly. In the foyer of the SPA centre, where we are waiting for a doctor's appointment, we learn (as it is typical of journalists): Priozerny was one of the first in Belarus to create a SPA space with dozens of unique services. We, first of all, were interested in the pool, which, as declared by fans of spa treatment and relaxation, is amazing. What we later saw for ourselves.

More than a hundred medical procedures, including tests and appointments of narrow specialists, are provided. And how can we cover all this, we joke, we should have come for a month. We took into account the advice of friends who said: treatment in the Priozerny even for a period of a week turns into a pleasure. And it was true.

We did not have any special recommendations, since there are no serious diseases either. Therapist Irina Khvedevich advises everyone on aromatherapy, a salt room, pearl baths, a hammam pool, mineral water, herbal teas and manual massage. She also informs that we can visit narrow-field specialists at will. We also learn from her that the sanatorium also specialises in rehabilitation after a coronavirus infection: two hyperbaric chambers have recently been installed, which 'allow us to maintain a person's vital activity, significantly increasing the delivery of oxygen to tissues and organs'. The procedure normalises blood pressure, restores efficiency, immunity, rejuvenates the body. Especially useful for people who have had COVID pneumonia. But, fortunately, we didn't have it, even though we had the coronavirus.

After the therapist, we hurry to the specialists who distribute the time of the procedures. Having studied the tight schedule for all subsequent days, we come to the conclusion: there won't be enough time for long walks, except perhaps after dinner.

Before dinner, we have time to go for a massage. Sergei Kashpar, to whom I give the definition of magic hands, is working on my back. Along the way, I ask where he is from. It turns out that from the village of Narochanka. He lives there with his parents. Manages the housework, helping them. Works two days, and then stays at home for two days. He says, "Guests come here for the treatment and prevention of diseases of the circulatory system, digestive organs, nervous, musculoskeletal and genitourinary systems. Some, as soon as they appear, ask for me..." There are also many vacationers in his village, but only in summer. Both of my companions praise their masseurs, however, they didn't ask anything from them, they just relaxed.

The short November day passes quickly. Dinner is



approaching, for which guests at Priozerny change clothes, leaving tracksuits, T-shirts, and shorts in the rooms. Nice music sounds everywhere. We choose dishes for dinner, sitting at the same table as for breakfast. And enjoy the taste. In the doorway of the dining room we see how the diners are heading to the concert hall: at 20.00 a cultural programme will begin there. But we will not go there yet, I want to go for a walk. Later, we will attend a concert organised by the vacationers who will sing, read poetry and confess their love for Belarus. One of the guests, the Hero of Russia, who came to Priozerny for the 12th time, will touch

us all to tears with his speech, speaking in general about Belarusians, as well as about the people working in the sanatorium: about their cordiality, spiritual beauty, friendliness and, what is surprising, about the warm homely atmosphere. So, I think at that moment, not only we realised that the main thing for the Priozerny is to feel like home. And here's what I'll tell my companions, "If stars were assigned to sanatoriums like hotels, then I would have



■ Print on a cup with a reproduction of a painting by Gustav Klimt, *The Kiss* (1908-1909), this is one of the most popular works of the artist, a representative of Austrian Art Nouveau painting.

■ Reproduction of the painting "Seasons" by Giacomo Arcimboldo, 16th century Italian painter, who worked in the genre of allegorical painting, in the style of mannerism, the so-called new manner.

assigned one star just for this." After all, it is at home that we feel best!

By the way, for dinner there were potato pancakes, pancakes and sausages in Belarusian style, promised by the girl with a red plait. But we, who know our cuisine well, put them off for later. We

## RESERVED PLACES

limited ourselves to salads and fish, which was on the menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and more than one type.

This is how our next days will pass. In the morning, sometimes before breakfast — an hour and a half of the pool with a hammam, then — before and after lunch — running through the procedures. It is no coincidence that I say ‘running’: some procedures ‘run into’ one another, you have to adjust. Sometimes you can agree with specialists: move the time of the procedure to an earlier or later. The human factor works flawlessly here. After a couple of days, we get used to this rhythm. We like everything about Priozerny: the people, the procedures, and the cuisine. The large swimming pool deserves special admiration. The water there is very warm — 29 degrees. There are cascades, and ‘guns’, and waterfalls. Sometimes my husband and I went to the pool twice a day, sacrificing a walk in the fresh air. Hammam is equipped at a decent level, but it differs from the Turkish one. The main thing: the temperature is maintained at 50-60 degrees and the humidity is pleasant. And the differences are as follows: in the center there is no opportunity to lie down on the so-called hararet stone. There are no taps with cold and hot water, as well as special bowls into which water is collected for pouring. There are other nuances, but this is not the point. As we said to each other: we will fly to Istanbul,

where we have not been, and there we will visit a real hammam.

Not burdened by diseases, we perceive the procedures, as they say, effortlessly. Of course, both for educational purposes and as prevention. However, talking with people, involuntarily hearing their conversations, we learn: many, especially from Russia, come here to be treated by specialists all the time. Become regulars of the sanatorium. One wealthy business woman told how, in search of her sanatorium, she travelled with her husband to many places: both in Belarus and abroad. But she chose Priozerny. Here for the 10th time. The sanatorium became popular with workers from the famous ‘cucumber’ capital of Olshany, in the Stolin District. The villagers from Polesie came here in a whole team of eight people. As they said, having completed work in the fields and in greenhouses, they arrived here to improve their health. We also met a farmer from the Rostov Region. He has 2,000 hectares of land, is engaged in animal husbandry, and also grows watermelons and wheat. He said that as a wealthy person, he can afford treatment in any country. But, what was nice, he really loves Belarus and Priozerny, where he visited five times. People come here from Siberia, Dagestan, Estonia and other parts of the world.

Thanks to the reviews of many guests about narrow-field specialists, we decided to use some of the services. Their prices are quite reasonable for us. Our friend, after

a visit to Dr. Natalya Komandirchik, told how he first saw the work of his ‘motor’ on the monitor screen. Moreover, the sonographer noticed some problems with his heart, which he successfully solved upon his return to Minsk. The friend was amazed by the detailed comments of the doctor, attentiveness, responsiveness, interest. Which I can also confirm. In the process of examining my internal organs, Natalya Pavlovna explained how they work, what deviations there are, and she spoke in an understandable language, not replete with medical terms. For that, I sincerely thank her. We are also grateful to the nursing staff: both for their professionalism and for their non-formal attitude towards us.

### Entertainment and walks

One evening after dinner, we make a tour of the corridors: we look at reproductions of paintings. We note that the artistic taste of those who were engaged in the interior of the premises is excellent. We stop in the lobby on the fourth floor of the Lazurny at the reproductions of paintings by Gustav Klimt. I linger at The Kiss (1908-1909), knowing that this is one of the most popular works of the artist, a representative of Austrian Art Nouveau painting. The picture is printed even on cups. By the way, I have such a cup. It was inherited from the owner of a hundred-year-old house in Braslav, which we purchased a few years ago. I drink coffee





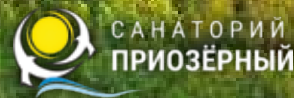
from it and every time I admire the image. There is something magical, sublime in a picture painted in gold. I will quote the well-known description of this work by Klimt (<https://artifex.ru/gustav-klimt/>), "On the edge of a flowery meadow, in a golden aura, lovers stand completely immersed in each other and fenced off from the whole world. Due to the uncertainty of the place of what is happening, it seems that the couple depicted in the picture is moving into a cosmic state that is not subject to time and space, beyond all historical and social stereotypes and cataclysms."

We follow further along the corridor leading to our room, get acquainted with the painter Giacomo Arcimboldo. We assume offhand that he is an Italian, our contemporary, a surrealist. But under the reproduction is a signature that sends the artist back to the 16th century. Google and find out: he worked in the genre of allegorical painting, in the style of mannerism, the so-called new manner. He had the title of imperial artist. Emperor Rudolf II portrayed in the form of God Vertumnus, the Roman patron of plants. The name of Giacomo Arcimboldo is rarely remembered, although the surrealists of the nineteenth century admired his vegetable and fruit portraits. There is something in this, our friend says and offers to take a picture at the painting The Four Seasons. True, we do not have fruits to emphasise the still life function used by Arcimboldo.

What is nice, everything is fine with the cultural programme in the sanatorium. There is so much entertainment. In the afternoon, excursions for those who wish to get acquainted with the history of the Naroch region and other sights of the Myadel region, trips to Minsk, relaxation in the lounge area, where you can admire indoor plants and paintings by Belarusian artists. When we were there, we admired the works of Gergiy Skripnichenko, who is called the Belarusian Salvador Dali. In the evening, movies, concerts, a dance floor and other entertainments are offered. After lunch, you can go skiing, sledding, and walk with Scandinavian sticks... We preferred a daily walk to Naroch during the day. The lake was not frozen at that time. I remember the forest road to it, a lone goose that swam along the shore. Another family of fallow deer grazing under an apple tree not far from a residential cottage, on which, by the way, there was an announcement: for sale...

Eight days later, at the very beginning of winter, we returned home rested, filled with freshness. And also with pride and joy of realising how beautiful our native Belarus is and how hospitable the people of Priozerny are. Even in this cold season!

Valentina **Zhdanovich**  
Photo of Ivan **Zhdanovich**



## WELCOME TO THE SANATORIUM "PRIOZERNY"!



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# Come to Dostoevsky!

## Prince Myshkin, superhero of the Slavic civilization and others

The premiere of the performance based on the cult novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky *The Idiot* at the National Academic Drama Theatre named after Maxim Gorky was visited by the descendants of the great Russian writer, who is widely known throughout the world theatrical space, as well as in the world of cinema. In memory of his father, Serbian director and actor Stevo Žigon, the performance of the same name was staged in Belarus by his daughter: an actress, director and public figure from Belgrade, Ivana Žigon. She also managed to invite the descendants of Dostoevsky to the premiere, and then take them to Dostoevo, a Polissya village in the Ivanovo District in the Brest Region, where representatives of the Dostoevsky family, according to historians, lived for about 200 years until the end of the 17th century.

Иду́том

PREMIERES

Евгений Миронов (Евгений)  
Анна Ковальчук (Анна)  
Анна Ковальчук (Анна)



So, the day before the premiere. General run of the performance, the first show to the audience. There were representatives of the media in the foyer. TV journalists attack the stage director Ivana Žigon. And we are among them. Everyone wants to ask her a couple of questions about the play, which is about to begin. Ivana answers emotionally, excitedly: a dream has come true — to transfer the version of her famous father's performance, which was staged at the National Theatre of Belgrade, to the stage of the Russian Theatre.

By the way, Stevo Žigon (1926-2005) was the winner of the highest award of the first Golden Knight International Theatre Forum — the gold medal named



after N.I. Mordvinov 'For Outstanding Contribution to the Theatre Art', and his play *The Idiot* was awarded the main theatrical prize — Golden Knight. Ivana's father was also one of the first Serbs to join the International Association of Cinematographers of Slavic and Orthodox Peoples.

■ In an interview with TV reporters, Ivana Žigon said, "Your actors are a treasure. They are brilliant! Both young and old. This is such a soul, such unity between people."

■ "The theatre is a temple in which we learn to live together," my father Stevo Žigon used to say. So in the performance I tried to talk about the problem of adaptability of a person to a person, to build these adaptations. This is what we miss so much in our lives!

■ "If there is an apotheosis of acting skills and human achievements, then this is Stevo Žigon."

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The transfer of the performance to the Belarusian stage, adapted to the new acting troupe, was conceived by Ivana long ago. And this international project was discussed with the Minister of Culture of Belarus Anatoly Markevich in 2021.

"I am sure," the minister admitted at a meeting with Dostoevsky's descendants, "the performance, which will take place on the stage of the Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre, will leave an indelible mark on the soul of every spectator."

The idea for the production, he says, was born when they first met Serbian actress Ivana Žigon during the sixth All-Belarusian National Assembly. After there was a conversation at the Ministry of Culture. Thus, the foundation was laid for joint projects to be implemented on the scale of Belarus. Then they decided that the play *The Idiot* should be.

In May 2022, according to the minister, concrete work was already carried out: very serious detailing, the search for a theatre, a cast. Ivana Žigon chose the Gorky Theatre for staging, which we, out of good old habit, call Russian.

Here is how Anatoly Markevich recalled it, "A professional's eye fell on the Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre. Ivana Žigon was simply delighted with that magnificent, I would even say, not a performance, but life on stage,





■ Veronika Plyashkevich, leading stage master as Nastasya Filippovna

which our wonderful actors show. And I am deeply sure that every viewer will see something very important for themselves." The Minister also added, "Are we doing everything right? Do we always comply with those high moral principles that were laid down by Fyodor Mikhailovich? I am sure that after the performance everyone will be able to think and draw certain conclusions for themselves."

However, back to the lobby where the interview continues.

Ivana is really delighted with the acting troupe and all the services of this oldest theatre, which recently turned 90 years old.

"Your actors are a treasure. They are brilliant! Both young and old. This is such a soul, such a unity between people," she speaks about this in front of television cameras with a breath.

The guest from Serbia expressed her deep gratitude to the Minister of Culture for helping her dream come true.

By the way, in the Belgrade performance, Ivana (the premiere took place on November 22nd, 1995) herself had the part of Nastasya Filippovna. This is how critics wrote about her, "She is constantly on the move, full of inner passions. Her reactions are impossible to predict, they have a lot of stubbornness, the need for self-humiliation, restrained suffering... The actress deeply lives all this..., while the contradictions are reconciled, and until the fatal end, the character is formed. Sometimes it is enough for an actress to lower her tone or make a sudden movement to destroy or change everything around her. It gives the game a maturity, and expression, the sophistication of modern values!"

Surprisingly (we feel and observe closely), Ivana's artistic passion also manifests itself in a dialogue with journalists. Our colleagues are interested: what new did she bring to her father's play as a stage director?

"The theatre is a temple in which we learn to live together, as my father put it. So in the performance I tried to talk about the problem of adaptability of a person to a person, to build these adaptations. This is what we miss so much in our lives!

Prince Myshkin in the performance of

the Russian Theatre is just the person who is capable of this. There is nobility, and kindness, and humility in him. He 'ignites' all the best in us, this is the super-hero of the Slavic civilization, the Russian Christ. Tiny, small, but with the heart of a lion. A king who is ready to forgive and understand everyone. In world literature there is no other male character more sincere, open and honest than Myshkin. Next to him, we start laughing like children. He cannot lie and with his 'idiotic' sincerity removes all barriers, tears off all masks."

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After the interview, we head to the auditorium. It is full. On the day of the dress rehearsal, the audience in the auditorium is predominantly sophisticated, these are teachers and students of the Acting Department of the Academy of Arts, the University of Culture and Art, the Academy of Music, theatre critics and journalists, artists of Minsk theatres. We also see here the Gorky people who are not involved in the performance, as well as the venerable artistic council of the Russian Theatre in full force. It's all pro. They will certainly watch the performance with great passion. After all, there is already 'one Dostoevsky' in the theatre. This is *The Brothers Karamazov* directed by the People's Artist of Belarus Olga Klebanovich, which won the hearts of the audience and is sold out. But *The Idiot* has not been staged even once on the stage of the famous theatre for 90 years. How the fate of this performance will turn out, time will tell, but all tickets for March have already been sold. However, as for *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Before the start of the performance, I have time to read Ivana Žigon's appeal to the audience, published in the theatre program. This is, in a condensed form, what she spoke about in front of the cameras. And about the protagonist of the play, Prince Myshkin, played by Andrey Senkin, as well as about the Belarusian ancestral home of Dostoevsky, and about her feeling of love for Belarus and the Russian theatre.

Here is how Ivana writes about it, "With the performance *The Idiot*, Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky returns to the land of Belarus, to his Ancestral Homeland! His ancestor was, as they said then 'Dostoin'.



■ Prince Myshkin (Andrey Senkin) with the Yepanchin sisters - Aglaya (Olga Zdyarskaya), Adelaide (Elena Stetsenko) and Alexandra (Inna Savenkova)

Apparently, it is no coincidence that the great writer leads his worthy name Dostoevsky precisely from the village of Dostoevo in Polissya. He has always been relevant, but today, more than ever, we need the spiritual sciences of his Prince Myshkin, the superhero of the Slavic civilization. Unlike the Superman of the West, who offers us his muscles, Dostoevsky's Superman, and also the prince, gives us his heart. Instead of the will of the Superman, Dostoevsky brings us the universal feeling of Love and Compassion. Even in the deepest spiritual crises of people, he finds a way out for us. And today the great writer gives us the opportunity to heal with the feelings of Prince Myshkin."

The performance, which is designated in the program as 'both drama and comedy', lasts about three and a half hours. The first thought that comes to mind is about our actors. They are really good! The professionalism of most, if not all, is evident. The texts included in the outline of the performance are not easy, with subtexts, and besides, there are a lot of dialogues and monologues, but the actors, primarily the main performers, cope by conveying meanings. They also cope with the open emotions and feelings of the characters, what is called 'over the board'. Not every time they easily manage to convey the life of the human spirit that is going on inside a person. In my opinion, there is too much screaming on stage, anguish, increased tonality. But I think they will get used to the style proposed by the director.

On the site [www.russkoekino.ru](http://www.russkoekino.ru) in one of the articles we read about Stevo Žigon's play *The Idiot*. "Many directors staged this great Dostoevsky novel, but probably no one had so much perseverance, passion, subjectivism, perseverance and faith, as shown in the early and in this new



production by Stevo Žigon! In any case, this performance was made ambitiously, on the rise, somewhere on the border of classical and modern style, from the standpoint of subjective self-awareness..."

Ivana Žigon continued the traditions of her father.

But I leave the 'debriefing' of the performance to the critics. I myself will think about its merits later, when I look again after a while: let it run in. I like the long-established opinion of professional theatre critics: do not rush to pass a verdict on a performance that, like a child, takes its first steps on stage. I note that both the scenery (Boris Maksimovich — Serbia, Alla Sorkina) and the costumes (Alla Sorokina, Bozhana Jovanovic — Serbia) in the performance are 'consonant' with those that were about 30 years ago at the National Theatre of Belgrade. Everything is aesthetic, in the spirit of the Dostoevsky era. The atmosphere is created by hairstyles and clothes of that time, great attention is paid to the play of light and choral chants. The scenography is top notch. *The Idiot* is one of the technically difficult performances. Two-story houses in the course of action are replaced by open space with green meadows and hills. There are about fifty artists on the stage,

besides, the scenery rotates on a circular axis.

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"Your village Dostoevo conquered the whole world!" Ivana Žigon said in an interview with TV journalists. By the way, not everyone knows that Fyodor Dostoevsky owes his last name to this particular Belarusian village in Polissya (nowadays a modern agro-town). The family nest of Fyodor Dostoevsky's ancestors, says Valentina Putsykovich, curator of the collections of the local history museum of the Dostoevsky School, before the pandemic was often visited by Germans, British, Russians... Of the direct descendants, the great-grandson of the writer Dmitry Dostoevsky came from St. Petersburg several years ago. And already the great-great-grandson Aleksei with his wife Natalia and children Anna, Maria, Vera and Fyodor visited the premiere. By the way, for many viewers who found themselves at the premiere not far from Fyodor Mitkhaylovich's relatives, this was a revelation. It is not so often possible to see the relatives of the great writer. In addition, the great-great-grandson is so similar to his famous great-great-grandfather with a beard! Aleksei Dostoevsky's education is



■ Aleksei Dostoevsky with family members during a visit to the National Library

philological, but he has been working as a captain-mechanic of a small vessel for 20 years. When asked why he did not take up philology, Aleksei Dostoevsky answered BelTA journalists, “Now I am catching up, like an independent researcher rummaging through the archives. In the shadow of Fyodor Mikhailovich, there are many forgotten most interesting Dostoevskys.” Also on the day of the premiere, he told our colleagues that he had come to Minsk at the invitation of family friend Ivana Žigon, who, they say, is having a big holiday. “Her father staged *The Idiot*, she played Nastasya Filippovna, now she acts as a director. It was her idea: to invite us to the premiere. Through the mediation of the Ministry of Culture and thanks to the personal care of the Minister of Culture of Belarus, we have the opportunity to come with the whole family and also visit our ancestral home, finally visit Dostoevo, where the family of writers originated.”

So it was. The next day after the premiere of the play, Dostoevsky’s

relatives were leaving with Ivana Žigon for Dostoevo. Acquaintance with the agrotown, as reported by the media (sputnik.by), began from the place where the estate of their family used to be. Unfortunately, the building has not been preserved. Brest archaeologists carried out excavations there in 2012-2013, found the foundation of the manor house. Its remnants were seen by the Dostoevskys.

On a small hill there is a memorial sign that at least somehow designates a historical place. An oak alley was planted here, which was laid in 2006 in honour of the 500th anniversary of the Dostoevsky family.

By the way, there were talks about the restoration of the estate. According to Valentina Putsykovich, custodian of the funds of the local history museum of the Dostoevsky School, it was assumed that the project would be financed from the budget of the Union State. So far, there is no final decision on this issue. Great-great-grandson Aleksei Dostoevsky is not against restoration

work, but admitted that he himself does not have the funds necessary for this project. Guests were greeted with a loaf and songs at the local school, which bears the name of Fyodor Dostoevsky. There, the relatives of the classic were given a tour of the halls of the museum, one of which is dedicated to the work of their ancestor. Saying goodbye to the hospitable hosts, the Dostoevsky family thanked the Belarusians for the warm welcome and presented the host with a touching gift — socks of their own making.

With gratitude, the descendants of the famous writer left Belarus. By the way, they stayed here for three days, visiting not only the Russian premiere and Dostoevo, but also the National Library. We also managed to see how beautiful Minsk is, this clean, and, as Aleksei Dostoevsky called it, kind city.

## Instead of an afterword

It would seem, well, why do we today, fans of clip information, clip texts,



need longreads so much, which are Dostoevsky's novels? Why is it believed that all educated people should at least read them? Admirers of his work answer this question something like this: the story of Prince Myshkin reminds us that bright people are vital to this world. Without them, there will be no one to point out the vices that are dragging humanity to the bottom.

As you know, the contemporaries of Fyodor Dostoevsky saw in *The Idiot* only the confusion and unevenness of the narrative. The following generations of readers regarded Myshkin's story as

and made him a prisoner, and the Polish director Andrzej Zulawski created the gangster film *Crazy Love* based on the book.

But still the works of Fyodor Dostoevsky remain attractive to many creative personalities. As in the theater, so in the cinema, and among scientists. Today Dostoevsky is one of the most quoted and one of the most translated Russian writers in the world ([kulturologia.ru](http://kulturologia.ru)). Many Hollywood actors try to understand the nature of the Slavic soul through Dostoevsky. They read Franz Kafka, Sigmund

So, quite unexpectedly, Dostoevsky — a prophetic writer, the most insightful psychologist of the human soul, one of the most profound and serious philosophers, thanks to Prince Myshkin becomes light, giving us from scene to scene Hope, Love and enlightened Joy.”

And here is what Andrey Dushechkin, Honoured Artist of Belarus, actor of the Russian Theater (plays Lebedev in the production) said after the premiere of the play *The Idiot*, “The ability for such self-sacrifice, for such love, for such kindness or hatred, behind which both love and murder... Sorry, but a person can also sacrifice his



■ Descendants of Fyodor Dostoevsky and Natalia, Alexei's wife, on the site of the former estate of the Dostoevsky family in the village of Dostoevo

an ideal depiction of vices and sins that are important and need to be brought to light. Entire schools of modernists, led by Friedrich Nietzsche, built their work on the ideas of the Russian classic's novel. *The Idiot* book has become the basis of many theatrical and screen adaptations, including the most unexpected ones. For example, the Japanese Akira Kurosawa, retaining the original title of the novel, transferred Myshkin to post-war Japan

Freud, Albert Einstein and many other celebrities.

“And for me, Dostoevsky is an exciting and exciting author,” Ivana Žigon admitted. “He is not afraid to look into the most hidden corners of the human soul, but in his novels there is always light and hope, where the spiritual principle always wins. But thanks to Prince Myshkin, not a single work causes so many smiles and positive emotions in the audience.

whole life for love. This is, probably, after all, the so-called phenomenon of the Russian soul, Russianness, Slavicity, this is very clearly drawn in the performance, the performance is built on this. Dostoevsky is loved by the whole world, including the Western civilized one, because the West is also interested in him, because they take these passions from him.”

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo courtesy of Gorky NADT





# NOTES ON A MAN OF RARE PROFESSION

**Aleksandr Kostyuchenko** passed away on August 26, 2019. On the birthday of the main artist of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, the opera by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov *The Tsar's Bride* was performed in the theatre, the set for the performance was his work. And the next day, we watched the last work of the master — the ballet *Anna Karenina*, on which Aleksandr Kostyuchenko worked together with the choreographer Olga Kostel. This outstanding set designer, who staged 15 ballet and opera performances in the theatre, could have turned 65 years old, the age, as they say, of creative flowering for the artist is the age.

Immediately, when a person passes away, for a long time you cannot understand that he really is not. But over time, you get used to the thought: you can't get back a person close to you anymore. The pain of loss goes away with time. Sadness becomes light and clear... Aleksandr Pushkin has this in his poem *Night Darkness Lies on the Hills of Georgia*... I quote, "I am sad and light. My sadness is light ..." Here is my sadness.

Why is that? What works? Perhaps because there is no death, I dare say. There are just different forms of life. And it continues in another dimension. In any case, many of us like to think about it. One has only to remember about loved ones who have gone to another world, or friends, as they appear in the memory so clearly that you seem to hear their voices, intonations.

All this is not forgotten, as Sasha said more than once, "I am an artist. And only then everything else... Painting is like

music and poetry, the highest point of the artist's inner state... The artist is a happy person, he constantly fantasizes, draws and invents something... This is a rare, but extremely interesting profession..."

I allow myself to call Aleksandr Kostyuchenko Sasha, because we were well acquainted from a young age. And then we communicated on a friendship level. And our mature friendship began with an interview on the days of his 55th birthday (Belarus, issue No. 2-2013). I remember how I then asked Sasha, "Will the theatre celebrate your birthday? It is 55." "Why," he answered. "We are not planning any special festivities. Retirement is a long way off." Then he added in a serious tone, "I'm still young." And it was true. Sasha was young. Of course, not in the sense of the absence of wrinkles, which only decorate a man, if he is a creative person. Kostyuchenko was light, cheerful and energetic in those days. And full of plans, which he asked not to talk about. It was evident how he

was not at all bored in the profession of set designer. Because he was convinced that this line of work is interesting to those who are able, when generating ideas, to embody them without repeating themselves. Which he successfully did. On the day when we were talking, in the studio of the main artist, there was a small lonely white figure of a ballerina. Is this not a symbol of the lostness of a person in a vast world, I asked him. Sasha smiled, carefully took the ballerina in his hands, and said that this was just a detail for the future layout of the *Seven Beauties* ballet. At that moment, he was like Gulliver: he held her so carefully in his hands. It seemed that the ballerina was made not of plastic, but of fragile glass...

In our youth, we saw each other not only at premieres. I confess: once my relative, she was friends with Sasha's wife Natalya (currently Natalya Kostyuchenko is an animator at the Belarusfilm film studio) suggested: let's go to Kostyuchenko, see the house, see how private owners live in Minsk. And the fact is that I grew up in a private house. Therefore, any reason to visit people who also do not live in an apartment building warmed me. What can I say, nostalgia for a small homeland,

■ The exhibition presents paintings by the Master: still lifes, landscapes, works of a philosophical orientation, posters of iconic performances on which Aleksandr Kostyuchenko worked, as well as a model of the stage of *The Tsar's Bride*.



■ Oksana Volkova as Martha against the backdrop of a fragment of the scenery of *The Tsar's Bride*







your yard, garden, childhood in general is nostalgia. It's forever.

I remember well how we drank tea with jam with Natasha, and how their sons ran around the yard with Sasha. (Kostya, now he is a well-known sculptor, and the namesake of the father who is the youngest. Although he graduated from the conservatory in the flute class, he became a blacksmith). And we met Sasha himself in the yard when we were leaving... He was in a checkered shirt and he was folding fresh boards in the yard. I remember how even their smell was felt... And I will not forget Sasha's charming smile.

He was born into a family of teachers on February 9th, 1958 in a village with the beautiful name of Vishnevo, in the Volozhin District, Minsk Region. But it was Minsk that became Aleksandr's hometown. Here he graduated from art school, then — Glebovka (Minsk Art College named after Aleksei Glebov). By the way, Aleksandr was proud of the Glebovka diploma — this mark of the highest professional quality, the opinion prevailing among artists. As he himself admitted more than once, college was the start for him in the profession. The desire to create, work in him was awakened by his Teachers — Yevgeny Chemodurov, Mai Danzig, Pyotr Krokhaliev ...

Aleksandr Kostyuchenko is one of those exceptional people that people talk about: a person with charisma. People like him tend to achieve everything for which there is a desire. He told me how, once having got to the Swan Lake at the Bolshoi Theatre with his wife Natalya, he said to himself, "I will work here..."

"I think this theatre is like love and destiny for me. The first art school where I started to study was located on the fourth floor of the Opera House. And, of course, I absorbed something: the atmosphere itself influenced. When, after the army, I was educated at an art school, I went here to the ballet with my future underage wife, with whom I fell in love completely and irrevocably, She was 17, and I was 21. And during the Swan Lake, an incredible thing happened to me, some breakthrough into





opera *The Tsar's Bride*, the set design for which was developed by the artist. And for it he was also awarded a special prize of the President of Belarus to the art luminaries. For high creative achievements, professional skills and merits in the development of national culture and art, he was also awarded the Francysk Skaryna medal. In 2017, he was awarded the State Prize of the Republic of Belarus for creative achievements in the development of musical art, promotion of spiritual values and a significant personal contribution to the staging of the opera performance to the music of Smolsky *The Gray Legend* based on the work of Vladimir Karatkevich. The Bolshoi Theatre continues to display models for performances created by the master... And today you can see an exhibition of his works.

I confess, I could not for a long time to remove his contact from Viber. He was last online on August 18th, 2019. And on the 26th Sasha died. As I later found out: before the holidays, he came to the theatre. Felt worse, but was all the same, they say, cheerful and optimistic. The last time I congratulated him on the Victory Day was May 9th. Sasha immediately answered. As always, he sincerely thanked me for my congratulations. And when my husband and I visited the Bolshoi, we jokingly talked, waiting in the lobby for the first call: well, Sasha will be out soon... Definitely with a black bow tie and in a dazzling white shirt. For all the years, no matter how much he worked in this theatre, we never saw him at the premieres in other clothes. The dress code was strictly observed by him. And there was no such thing as not coming to us. When he saw us, he would approach us, greet sincerely, smiling charmingly. The he will tell a joke. Something like this: well, here is a married couple of journalists, came here... well, watch... And after the performances, he never

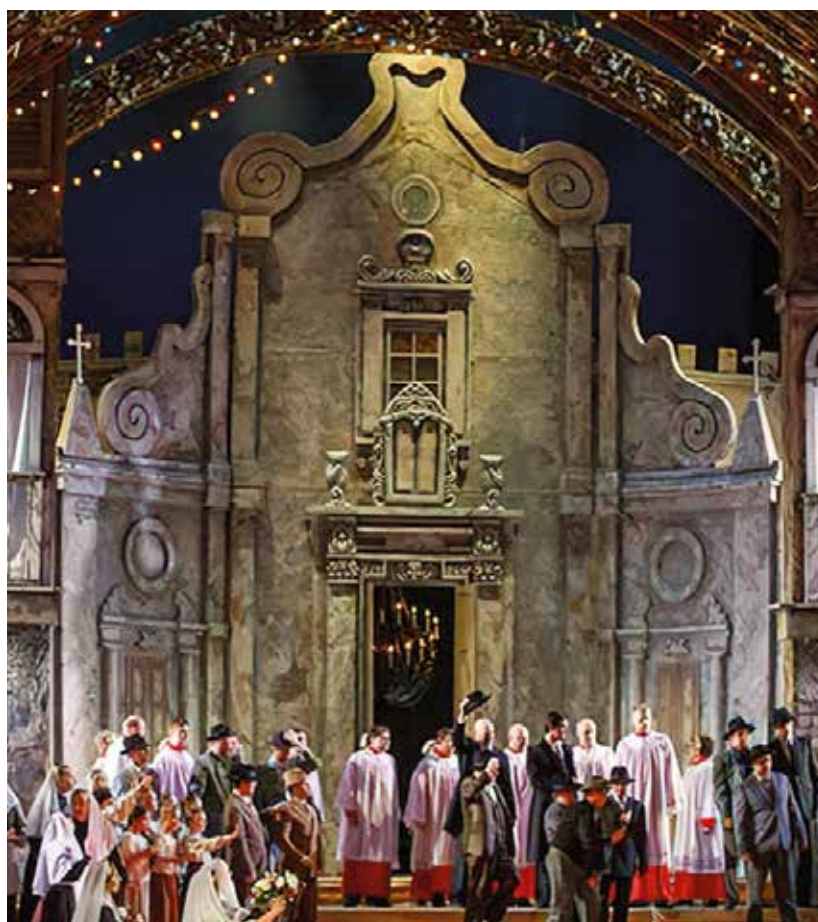
the future happened: I acutely felt — here it is, my theatre... The theatre is my life, my second home... I served in several theatres, and in each of them I managed to dissolve... I am the happiest person — I go to work with undisguised pleasure!"

After graduating from the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute (now the Academy of Arts), he worked at the Musical Theatre, held the position of chief artist at the Maxim Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre. At the same time, he collaborated with the Youth and Kupalovsky theatres in Minsk and the Yakub Kolas Theatre in Vitebsk. He was called to the Sofia Opera and many theatres in Russia. Aleksandr's talent to visualise the artistic meaning of works for opera and ballet, to inspire objects with his energy, feeling the space of the stage, was also in demand in drama theatres.

He came to the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus as the main artist in 2009... Kostyuchenko's set designs could be seen in the ballets *Cinderella* by Sergei Prokofiev, *Anastasia* by Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, *Seven Beauties* by Kara Karaev, the operas *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini, *The Grey Legend* Dmitry Smolsky, *The Queen of Spades* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, *Macbeth* by Giuseppe Verdi, *Rural Honour* by Pietro Mascagni and others. Most of them are still in the theatre's repertoire today.

It was Kostyuchenko who, in 2011, carried out the reconstruction of the set design of the outstanding Belarusian artist Yevgeny Chemodurov in the new production of the opera *Aida*, which is successfully staged at the Bolshoi Theatre.

And in 2015, the best opera performance, according to critics of the National Theatre Award, was the



■ Scenes from performances in which the author of the set design was Alexander Kostyuchenko: "Anna Karenina" (1), "The Gray-haired Legend" (2), "Tosca" (3), "Country Honor" (4)



- Natalya, Aleksandr's wife, director-animator of the film studio "Belarusfilm", "Sasha will forever be in my memory"
- The interior of the workshop at the time when Aleksandr Kostyuchenko was the main artist



asked us if we liked the set. His modesty, shyness was natural. His older brother Sergei Kostyuchenko spoke about this at a civil memorial service, which was held at the Bolshoi Theatre on August 28th. And he explained: Sasha hid his shyness with humour and jokes. As for the opinions from the outside, other people about his scenography, it seems to me that he himself knew how he did it — good or not. It came not from self-conceit, but from confidence in their professionalism.

He passed away at the age of 62 in his creative prime. The last work of Aleksandr Kostyuchenko, I repeat, was the set design for Olga Kostel's ballet Anna Karenina. And he prepared the layout for The Queen of Spades for the National Opera in Sofia, Bulgaria already at home. I was told about this by Kostyuchenko's junior assistants, the so-called team of the chief set designer. San Sanych had five of them. Young, talented... They treated him so warmly — San Sanych, Sanych. Everyone already had their own story in communication with the Master. They loved and respected San Sanych very much. He always protected them, supported, helped and spoke only in a benevolent tone. If he reproached for miscalculations, they were not offended,

realising: he was the Teacher, a kind-hearted person. And with what inimitable enthusiasm Sasha spoke about his model-maker — about Mikhail Loginov, saying 'all artists envy me'. I saw Kostyuchenko's desk, where there was a mock-up — a magical structure that exactly repeats the stage on a scale of one to twenty, as well as all the technical bells and whistles that are available at the Bolshoi Theatre. Here, as they say, in the holy of holies, future performances are modelled.

As a theatre set designer, he perfectly felt the stage space. Here is how he explained why it is so important for a set designer to learn to listen to it, "If there is no sense of inner space, the artist is doomed to failure. Stage space is insidious. I start working on a performance by getting to know the stage, I can stand on it for fifteen or twenty minutes facing the auditorium. I have to feel the volume of the hall. So it was once in Ufa. I stand and feel nothing. At some point, something clicks in me: just about, I grabbed the space!"

By the way, during the farewell to Aleksandr Kostyuchenko, when people were walking and walking, there were more than a hundred, I thought about the fact that most of them also have their own stories of creative and personal contacts, small and large in time, in depth of relationships, according to spiritual fulfilment.

And today I remember how people spoke about him at the funeral meeting. Then I was impressed by the words of Nikolai Kolyadko, Honoured Art Worker of Belarus, conductor of the Bolshoi Theatre, "Musicians have such an instrument — a tuning fork. Aleksandr Kostyuchenko was and remains such a tuning fork for us. The way he treated his work, the way he loved this theatre, I rarely met such people. Here he left part of his heart, part of his soul. And his soul



is like a pure source, to which many have touched and drew courage, strength and optimism there.”

And here is how Aleksandr Boris Lutsenko, People's Artist of Belarus, recalled (he passed away a year later). He was the artistic director at the National Academic Drama Theatre named after Maxim Gorky and at the time when Kostyuchenko, gaining a foothold in the profession of set designer, worked there as the chief artist. They worked together with Lutsenko for five years in a row.

“We, of course, were jealous of the fact that he was moving to the opera house, but we blessed him. In the opera house, he revealed himself with even greater strength and talent. When I watched *The Grey Legend*, there were not only

music, not only actors, there was a quick rearrangement of scenery. Sasha got it all. That's why he told me: ‘Let's go, I'll show you how it all moves!’ And this movement against the background of the music was amazing. In general, I consider him a stage composer!”

I remember how Aleksandr told me that it was in this theatre, the so-called ‘Russky’ one, that he seemed to have grown wings... In addition to Lutsenko, he collaborated with many well-known Belarusian directors, in particular with Modest Abramov, Vitaly Borkovsky, Aleksandr Gartsuev, Valentina Yerenkova, Vitas Grigaliunas, Mikhail Krasnobaev. In total, he staged more than 50 dramatic performances in Belarus and neighbouring countries. He made the

best opera performances with the chief director of the Bolshoi Theater Mikhail Pandzhavidze.

“Until the last minute, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich held plasticine in his hands and sculpted, because he could not tear himself away from his beloved profession,” Vladimir Rylatko, then the first deputy general director of the Bolshoi Theatre, said with tears in his eyes at the memorial service. “Aleksandr Kostyuchenko was very principled in his work. Some directors, perhaps even now, will say that it was difficult to cooperate with Kostyuchenko, but absolutely incredibly interesting. His work combined both the author of a large architectural form, and a subtle painter, and an excellent inventor with an exceptionally rich artistic imagination. He loved Belarus and his native Minsk. He was a wonderful comrade and colleague, both in joy and in sorrow. Infinitely loved life and was an incredible optimist. And most importantly, he really loved the theatre and was devoted to it...”

I remember well how Sasha explained to me why he loves pastels in paints, “I go to work — dawn, home — dusk...” Probably, this was both true and a joke, since not only pastel colours ‘sound’ in his works. There was enough saturation, and brightness. But the main thing that is even in muted colours is clarity

An amazing thing: a person is gone, and you still think of him as if he were alive. Moreover, as before, we, while waiting for the beginning of the *Anna Karenina* ballet, remembered how often we looked at the door of the service entrance. And on that evening, in memory of a great artist, it seemed: they would open, and our Sasha would come out of there, in the same black suit, white shirt and bow tie... He didn't come out. He is in a different space now. What does it feel? No one knows. I would like to believe: Aleksandr Kostyuchenko is where there is a lot of purity and light. And the art he loved so much.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo courtesy of the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus



■ Nina Sharubina, Honored Artist of Belarus, like many of us, has her own memories of Alexander Kostyuchenko



“I knew Aleksandr Aleksandrovich very well, but when a person leaves, you begin to look at him and his work, remember all those meetings that were, with a special feeling,” Natalya Sharangovich, the art critic, the first deputy chairman of the Belarusian Union of Artists, shared her memories. “I love the performances he worked on at the Opera, and I think that the scale that he had as a set designer will not be able to be repeated soon. Because it was the thinking — spatial and colour — of a great artist who created works of art that amaze with their scale, fantasy, and significance. This is a great gift — a person, an artist, a professional. Happiness that I visited him in the workshop at the Bolshoi Theater; I remember his stories. Yes, he was a man of few words, but his every word was worth its weight in gold. The main thing is that he knew what he was doing... Seeing Aleksandr Kostyuchenko, a painter, will undoubtedly be a revelation. And a startling discovery. Even in still lifes, seemingly in such a simple, uncomplicated form, it is clear that he thinks globally and spatially. And in his philosophical works, he seems to fly over the topic, thinks, anticipates, gives a serious message and at the same time remains a painter — he thinks in colour. He has such bold colours! These stunningly talented works are mesmerising. It is difficult to say ‘was’ about Aleksandr Kostyuchenko, because he is. These paintings, his performances at the Bolshoi, live on. This exhibition is an opportunity to ‘hear’ the artist, the ‘voice’ of his works, the ‘sound’ of his philosophy...”

Oleg Shepel,

# “The World Paralympic Movement has lost a lot from our isolation”

The history of Paralympic sports is an indicator of the development of the country, its progress and the openness of society. Inclusive education, barrier-free environment, social adaptation of disabled people are the most obvious issues related to the development of the Paralympic movement. Leading the Paralympic movement means being responsible for everything and everyone. Oleg Shepel, the man who stood at the origins of the development of Paralympic sports in Belarus, has been coping with this task for more than 20 years.

At the 1988 Paralympic Games in athletics, he won three gold medals, the first Paralympic awards in the history of Belarusian sports. During his sports career, Oleg Shepel became a five-time champion and three-time bronze medallist of the Paralympic Games, four-time world champion, six-time European champion, set world records 13 times. Oleg Shepel is also the youngest Honoured Master of Sports of the USSR in athletics. In 2001, the champion ended his sports career and headed the National Paralympic Committee.

It is impossible to accurately calculate the number of medals won by Belarusian Paralympic athletes in major competitions over the past 20 years. Igor Boki, Anna Kanyuk, Yadviga Skorobagataya, Vasily Shapteboy, Svetlana Sakhonenko and many other Belarusian athletes have written their names in the history of

national Paralympic sports. They were admired, millions of people around the world were rooting for them. But there were also those who decided to take away the work of a lifetime from the Paralympians. In November 2022, at the Extraordinary General Assembly in Berlin, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) decided to suspend the membership of the Paralympic Committees of Russia and Belarus. The reason for the rejection of the IPC was given as ‘failure to fulfil the obligations of membership in accordance with the Statutes of the IPC’. Behind these dry words is the fate of 98 members of national and national teams in Paralympic sports, of which there are 14 in Belarus (this is an eloquent figure for our small country). But it is not for Paralympic athletes to give up and surrender to the will of fate. They never did and never will. Oleg Shepel, who

was re-elected to the post of Chairman of the National Paralympic Committee in early January, told what they would do and how Paralympic sport would develop in Belarus in the future.

**“Oleg Aleksandrovich, the most topical issue. How is the problem with the suspension of the membership of our Paralympic Committee in the International Committee being solved?”**

“Together with lawyers, specialists from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we prepared a document in which we substantiated in 27 points that we did not violate a single point of the Charter of the International Paralympic Committee, did not violate the Olympic Charter, ethical standards. Unfortunately, the double standards that are so much talked about today have also affected Paralympic sports. I have already said many times that if earlier sport was





just with elements of politics, now sport has completely become politics, which is not at all encouraging. Sport should not separate, but unite people, especially people with disabilities. The Extraordinary Assembly of the International Paralympic Committee, where our membership was suspended, was attended by only 117 delegations from 184 countries. Of these, 54 voted against us, 45 in favour. And another 16 abstained, mostly Latin American countries that had been promised financial support. And the most interesting thing is that the Assembly was not attended by the countries of the post-Soviet space, whose delegations did not receive visas. I think that the post-Soviet countries would support us, and the truth would be on our side.

Today, a proposal is under discussion that the Executive Board of the International Paralympic Committee may take any decision to disqualify athletes, coaches and National Paralympic Committees without giving reasons. This is lawlessness! They understand that they have violated all the rules and now they need a document that substantiates this. We have applied to the Tribunal of the International Paralympic Committee. Within three months, they must create a commission that will consider our appeal. But we un-

derstand that with this they will pull to the last. Now we are seeing with our own eyes a split in the world Paralympic movement. We are supported by some countries: the Asian Paralympic Committee, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, even Latvia. Everyone understands that without Russian and Belarusian Paralympic athletes, the level of the European and World Championships, the Paralympic Games will decrease. And this affects the number of viewers, advertising cooperation, on which financial income depends. Of course, it's not good for them.

But, I think, if they made such a decision, then the financial income is coming. For information: the headquarters of the International Paralympic Committee is located in Bonn on the territory of the US Embassy.

In the meantime, we are waiting for what our appeal to the IPC tribunal will give. Then, perhaps, we will decide to file a claim with the German court at the location of the IPC. German sports arbitration lawyers say we have a high chance of winning."

**"How do athletes feel in these conditions?"**

"They train, no one gave up. Sport is the meaning of their life. Through sports, they prove that they are full members of society, in demand, and successful. Therefore, they have enough motivation. We have strong, promising young people. Therefore, now we can safely go through a generational change in the national teams, strengthen them. We compare the results that our athletes are now showing with the results of international competitions. At the Open Swimming Championship of Belarus, our athletes set six world records. This is clear evidence that the world Paralympic movement has really lost a lot from our isolation."

**"But in winter sports, the season goes on without international starts for the second time. For athletes, this is significant..."**

"I met with the Minister of Sports of Russia Oleg Matytsyn, the President of the Russian Paralympic Committee Pavel Rozhkov. We have developed directions in which we will work now. The calendar of joint competitions between Belarus and Russia is already being drawn up. Perhaps the motivation of athletes will not be the same as, for example, at the World Championships. But this period must be experienced. In the end, every war ends in peace."

**"Tournaments require a barrier-free environment. In what condition is it in Belarusian sports complexes?"**

"For example, in Raubichy, conditions are not bad. I won't say that everything is perfect, but the Paralympians are comfortable there. We cooperate with the management of Raubichy, and they try to do everything to make our athletes feel comfortable. Brest has a wonderful swimming pool with a hotel complex and a cafe. The only small drawback is that there is not enough elevator so that the athlete can get from the cafe to the sports complex. But the governor of the Brest Region, Yury Vitoldovich Shuleiko, assured me that this year this problem would be solved. When Russian athletes came, especially from small towns, they admired the level of universal environment that Belarus has, starting from the airport and train station."

**"What role does the National Paralympic Committee play in creating a barrier-free environment?"**

"Active participation in this issue is taken by the public association of the disabled. An interdepartmental council on the rights of disabled people has been created under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko. Once a quarter, we gather in a certain region and discuss the most pressing issues, including a barrier-free environment."

One of the most important achievements is the inclusion in the building legislation of norms requiring that only built or reconstructed facilities have a universal environment. The project of not a single residential building, not a single sports, medical, cultural and other facility will be approved if a 100% universal environment is not created there. The last such positive example is a new polyclinic in Gomel, where excellent conditions have been created for everyone to feel comfortable."

**"Despite everything, the Paralympic sport needs a reserve. Are there enough groups for children with disabilities working effectively in the country?"**

"We pay the closest attention to this work. Our athletes regularly hold master classes so that children understand the nuances of Paralympic sports. The Museum of Paralympic Glory has been opened in Minsk school No. 12. In the Gomel and Mogilev regions, coaches are already looking for disabled children to work with. Parents do not always understand how important this is for a child, some are afraid that sports can harm. But after the performance of our Paralympic athletes at the big starts, the number of children and teenagers with disabilities in the sports sections is increasing. There is a swimming group in Bobruisk, and the Spartak Trade Union Sports School in Mogilev has a skiing group for Paralympic athletes. In Gomel there is the Centre for Paralympic and Defolimpic sports with its own good base. Our athlete Anna Kanyuk trains children in Grodno, Igor Fortunov in Molodechno. In Vitebsk, coach Oleg Kirilov organised a mini-football group for the blind. We strive to ensure that there are integrated groups in



the schools of the Olympic reserve, where Paralympic athletes would study together with healthy ones. This will give them more room to grow. So far, legislation does not allow such an opportunity. But this is a matter of the desire of leaders. For this, it is not necessary to change the legislation, it is enough to amend the Charter. The leaders refer to the lack of a barrier-free environment, but we plan to send athletes there who need it less. So far this issue has not been resolved. And this is really very important. I know for myself that this approach always gives results. Firstly, a Paralympic athlete watches athletes who are stronger in some way and thereby improves his sportsmanship. And

secondly, if at first there is some wariness towards the Paralympic athletes, then later they become friends. This is the integration of a disabled person into society."

**"With children, it's understandable, but in today's conditions, how to maintain the motivation and potential of young athletes who have time to show high results?"**

"I think young athletes have even more motivation than experienced and eminent ones. Now they have the opportunity to travel to competitions more often.

If earlier funding was directed mainly to top athletes, now we can afford to take more young people to competitions. We support young athletes financially. Last year, the Paralympic athletes received 22 scholarships from the Minsk City Executive Committee and five scholarships from the leadership of other regions. This year, our athletes received 24 scholarships from the regions, not counting Minsk. That is, our athletes are increasingly supported by the regions. We have excellent relations with the Presidential Sports Club. All our requests are supported. This year, 11 of our athletes have become scholarship holders of the Presidential Sports Club.





One shouldn't complain. At one time, the best motivation for me was an extra 200 grams of sour cream, and today there are scholarships, equipment, fees, and competitions."

**"If a person with a disability does not want to build a sports career, where else can he find recognition?"**

"At the enterprises of the Belarusian Society of the Visually Impaired. We have 18 enterprises with branches: in all regional cities, as well as in Polotsk, Orsha, Bobruisk, Mozyr, Pinsk, Novogrudok, Slutsk, Molodechno, Cherven, Borisov. The company employs about six thousand people. Belarus is the only country in the post-Soviet space that has retained enterprises where visually impaired people can work. Today we can hire any visually impaired person, and if he is lonely and in need, we can provide him with a place in a hostel. Of course, the latest events have also affected us, we have lost almost 30 percent of the market (Ukraine, the Baltic States, Poland, Moldova, Romania). This is noticeable because we export 60 percent of our production. But it is not customary for us to give up, so we are looking for new markets, releasing new products. In total, our enterprises produce more than four and a half thousand types of products. The stands of Dynamo, Minsk-Arena, Borisov-Arena and other large sports grounds are

the most recognisable. We provide street lighting in many cities, we cooperate with leading industrial enterprises. Enough work for everyone.

The main task of our enterprises is not only the production of products, but also the social adaptation of the visually impaired. And a lot is being done for this. The company employs rehabilitation specialists, sports instructors, and more than 150 hobby groups. We have 14 independent creative teams with the title of folk. This, of course, is expensive - costumes, rehearsals, trips and so on. But we are well aware that we are created so that a person can work and develop in different directions."

**"Oleg Aleksandrovich, there are many interesting pages in your biography. But perhaps the most interesting thing is that you graduated from the Institute of Culture. Why did you choose it?"**

"When it came time to go to college, I was already a master of sports and could enter the Institute of Physical Education without exams. In my time there was a saying: 'if you don't have a mind, go to a pedagogical institute, if you don't have culture - to medical university, and if you don't have a mind or culture - to the Institute of Physical Education'. And I just took the reference book and where

I pointed with my finger, I decided to apply there, and that's how I ended up at the Institute of Culture. And I don't regret a bit, the teachers were from God. What is a director? This is a person who knows how to manage people, organise their work. This is an important skill in any field of activity. The main thing is to write a script, assemble a team, fill it with ideas and not interfere with your team's work. And it helps me a lot in life."

**"You are a person who saw the formation of the Paralympic movement in our country. It is clear that things have changed dramatically in 30 years. How did it all start?"**

"In my time, the conditions for Paralympic athletes were much worse than now. Athletes worked at the expense of enthusiasm and patriotism, it was a very important concept. Then the sport began to bring in some money. And what to hide, we earned them ourselves. Many Soviet athletes exported Soviet products abroad, and from there they brought foreign equipment, they sold it here and made good money on it. My biggest 'catch': in Japan I exchanged an electric samovar for a tape recorder, which I then sold for 1,200 roubles, with this money I could buy three bedroom sets. Today it may seem wild, but then the support of the athlete was far from the same as it is now, so you had to spin on your own."

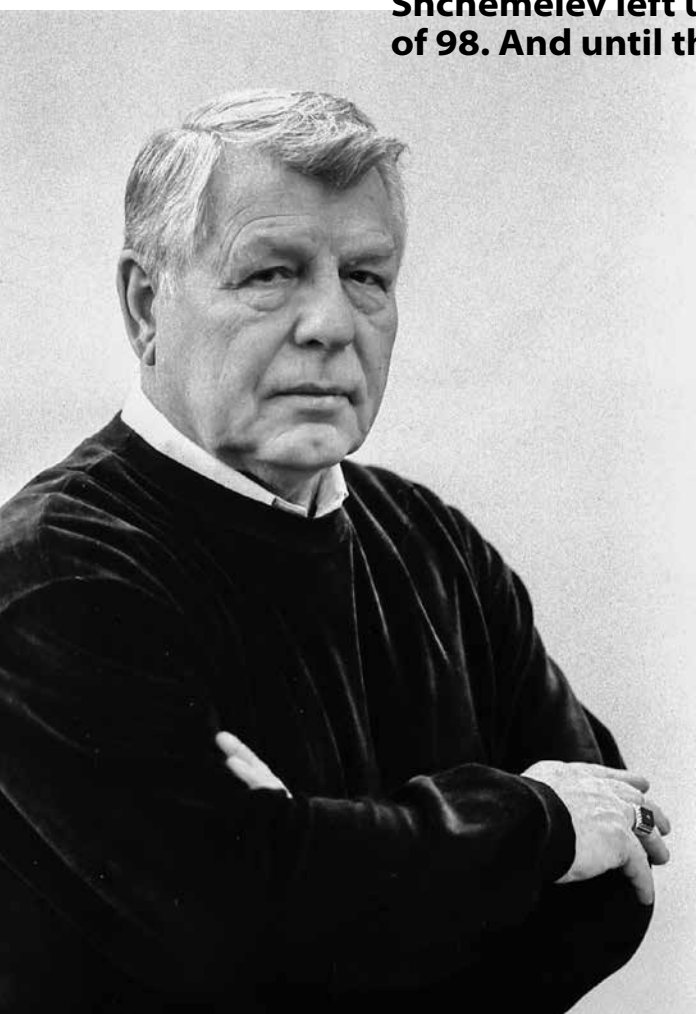
**"At the beginning of the year, you were re-elected to the post of chairman of the National Paralympic Committee. Oleg Aleksandrovich, what are your goals for the next four years?"**

"Our goals remain unchanged and they are always important, to work on improving the legislation governing the Paralympic movement, to improve the conditions for our athletes. And, of course, to achieve a return to the international arena, where, I am sure, our athletes will show even better results."

Valery **Stetsko**

# "I AM A MODERN PERSON, I AM MORE CONCERNED ABOUT TODAY."

**The 100th anniversary of the People's Artist of Belarus Leonid Shchemelev is a significant event not only among lovers and admirers of the national fine arts. After all, the Master is a person known throughout the country. He became a legend during his lifetime. And life, including creative, turned out to be long and fruitful. Leonid Shchemelev left us two years ago, almost reaching the age of 98. And until the last days he was immersed in work...**



## **Genuine pride in the Master**

And he planned to open the exposition in honour of his centenary himself. Significant date fell on the beginning of February. But exhibitions, promotions and other solemn events in honour of the anniversary of the outstanding artist of our time will be held throughout the year. Gleb Otchik, Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Artists, said that the 100th anniversary of the People's Artist of Belarus Leonid Shchemelev will be marked by a number of major exhibition projects, "Leonid Shchemelev is truly a man-epoch, he is a patriarch, a famous artist who made a significant contribution to the development of Belarusian art. We are all proud of him. I mean not only the union of artists, but also our entire creative community, our entire Belarusian people. The life of his creations continues, and, of course, we will celebrate this date."

The start of the celebrations was given by the opening of the exhibition of works by the people's artist *Leonid Shchemelev as a Mirror of the Era* in the Art Gallery of Leonid Shchemelev on the eve of the anniversary date. For the first time, about 150 paintings by the master were presented in one space.

"This year we have not one anniversary, but two, because Leonid Shchemelev's Gallery is also celebrating its 20th anniversary," said Anna Yasyuk, head of the institution. "The entire gallery is now used for this exhibition: nine halls, which we have divided into themes. The first and probably the most important are the portraits of relatives and friends of Leonid Dmitrievich. Military theme, still lifes, landscapes... The artist was born in Vitebsk, lived in Minsk, he was a city man, but he loved his Motherland, his Belarus very much and travelled around it, probably visiting all corners. This is reflected in art. Each story is passed through the soul. As Leonid Dmitrievich himself said, these are diary paintings. Not just a photographic transmission, everything is meaningful and passed through the heart."



This exhibition is only the first in a series of projects dedicated to the master. This was followed by an exhibition project at the National Museum of Art. And also on a grand scale.

“Next, the plein air will start, which will take place in the artist’s homeland, in the Vitebsk Region. Honoured artists of Belarus will also take part in it,” said Gleb Otchik. “Then we open a republican exhibition dedicated to Shchemelev in the Minsk Palace of Arts, for which artists from all over the country are now preparing. There we will also present works from the plein air.”

### **He could not imagine life without a canvas and a brush**

Often his work is called the chronicle of the era. In his works, Leonid Shchemelev glorified Belarus, creating sublime, poetic images of his native land. Yes, he had everything, they say in such cases: recognition, fame. He wasn’t deprived of the attention of the state. The title of people’s artist as the highest degree of merit. Shchemelev’s Gallery remained in Minsk.

We were familiar with him. Often he asked for a meeting with Leonid Dmitrievich in the workshop, we wanted to see something new from the works, as well as once again admire what we had already seen, but never got tired of. And there was something to see: all the walls in the spacious studio were occupied by his paintings, different in plot, in colour, often in the manner of writing, but all so pretentious... They talked a lot, and not only about art. About life. And, of course, about the place of culture in it.

And in February I always congratulated Leonid Dmitrievich on his birthday. And then, two years ago, the fourth day of the month was circled in red in advance on the calendar so that nothing would interfere with the established rule. I imagined how in response to the question ‘How are you?’ I would hear the usual ‘Ok’. But it didn’t happen. A little over two weeks before that, the sad news spread around the country that the legendary Belarusian artist Leonid Shchemelev passed away at the age of 98.

### **He did not strive for popularity, it overtook him**

He was born in Vitebsk, where he spent his childhood. He started drawing at school. Attended exhibitions. He admired the work of

Yuri Pan, who lived at that time in the city on the Dvina. I knew him personally.

With the outbreak of war, Shchemelev was mobilised. In 1943, he was wounded in action. He met the victory in the south of Ukraine. The war shook the artist. He often said in interviews that it is difficult for any creator to reveal the military theme: in a movie, in a book or on canvas. Because tragic things are more shocking in reality. Nevertheless, Leonid Dmitrievich often painted canvases on military subjects.

At one time he graduated from the Minsk Art College and the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute. He was a student of the national artist Vitaly Tsvirka. Then he himself taught at the Minsk Art School, at the Republican Boarding School named after Akhremchik and the Belarusian Polytechnic Institute. In an interview, he often noted that he could not imagine life without a canvas and a brush. “Everything that I embody in canvases is my life. These are the people I love so much. And nature, without which I can’t imagine my existence,” said the master.

In 1982 he became a laureate of the State Prize of the BSSR, and in 1983 he was awarded the title of People’s Artist. Honorary citizen of the city of Minsk. In 2003, the Art Gallery of Leonid Shchemelev was opened in the capital, which today presents the largest collection of his paintings and drawings. However, the master’s works are kept in many museums, including the National Art Museum and regional museums. There are his paintings in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

However, Leonid Shchemelev did not strive for popularity. It chased him. And everything was based on the creative talent of the master, which he widely shared with the audience with the help of bright and meaningful works. His painting is accepted by a wide variety of people. Therefore, he really was and will forever remain a people’s artist.

### **Express yourself in art**

Each of his works is a new world of images and heroes. At the same time, it is also a look into history, his hopes for the future. Shchemelev, as a master, was able to skilfully convey his impression





■ During the opening of the anniversary exhibition at the National Art Museum

of what he saw and thought through. In other words, his world of art went beyond the picture, he helped and helps the viewer to comprehend the palette of life more deeply.

I judge by my meetings with him: Leonid Shchemelev was an interesting interlocutor. Always direct in judgments and frank in views. Often, in frank conversations, officials from culture got it: for the fact that they still pay little attention to a creative person, sometimes they do not reach his needs. He always had something to say, both about creativity, and about the place of the artist, as well as about the national component of art. Here are just some of the master's answers to questions that he once had a chance to ask at meetings, in conversation. Their retrospective, in my opinion, is very eloquent.

"How do you manage to convey personal feelings in your work?"

"To express yourself in art, you need to have an inner flair. Yes, not always what the artist feels can be just as unequivocally perceived by society. But time passes, and the author's penetrating gaze, moreover, talented, becomes a value. This is the personal feeling of the artist. It is important to be able to see how he thinks. And he can think in a completely different way than the majority thinks in painting and in art in general. But taciturnity is not mediocrity. Because to see the world in the way you want and strive to convey it — for this you need to have experience, albeit subjective. It defines what you want. But even here, the real work is still very far away. It happens that many things that you saw subconsciously are completely uncharacteristic of society. And you liked it. It happens the other way around. It is this side that makes the artist original. That is why concepts, judgments about art must be very careful before giving a categorical answer: this one is good, but this one... Art is not just painted and that's it. Skill by itself is not

enough. Sometimes, at first, many do not see what a talented artist presents."

"Do you consider yourself a Belarusian artist? Or is art, including fine art, international?"

"I just don't know international art. Let it be, but it's such a mess! This is a misunderstanding of where the artist lives, what his social environment is and how he relates to it. Above all for me is the national interest. We, thank God, have a vision of national culture, a national idea of art. Personally, I've always wanted this to be in my work. And I strove for the national idea to be connected not only with today, but also with the past — this is my attitude to art. After all, if I write about the war, it is also connected with our life. Peacetime, where people and landscape are represented, must be national. And this is my opinion. The viewer who buys the work should know that this is the culture of Belarus. Then it will be easier for him to understand its place in European civilization."

"If you compare it with world or European art, what is the peculiarity of Belarusian artists? What is the difference?"

"Our artist is distinguished not only by his colour system of vision, but also by the theme of what he expresses: man and life, man and nature. This means that he does not copy. To express is the task of the artist. He must look to the future, think about how his art will be understood. It is very important. It is not for nothing that our older generation sees that many young artists grasp the moments of modernity too superficially. This worries me a lot too."

"Does time leave an imprint on creativity?"

"Colossal. Artists have always paid special attention to society and time. The change of power, the collapse of the Soviet Union — all this has affected us. But the national culture and its vision do not disintegrate. Here, on the contrary, there is a union of some



**“Everything that I embodied in canvases is my life. This is the history of my country. This is memory, as one of the most cherished concepts. These are the people I love endlessly. And nature, without which I cannot imagine my existence.”**

thoughts, views. I look at Belarusian art and notice with optimism that many artists identify themselves with the national culture. They link their work with the vision, the representation of certain emotions that excite in life. Not all, of course. Everyone still sees life in their own way. But since I am a Belarusian, I have a keen eye on this development.”

“How much, in your opinion, is the work of Belarusian artists interesting for foreign viewers?”

“The feeling of our national culture in painting and interest in it, so to speak from the outside, in my opinion, is noticeable. Personally, the French and Italians came to my workshop. Sometimes they bought works and talked about how they understand what they saw in the pictures. These were interesting people. Their view of our art is very peculiar. Although it is outdated: it was like the Soviet Union was here, everyone was forced to do it according to orders. But they see another, free art: the space itself, the culture itself — all this is connected with Belarus.”

“In what way should the recognition of the artist be expressed? In how they buy paintings or in what they write about the artist...”

“Recognition is a tricky thing. They can buy paintings, but the artist must develop himself. With the modern understanding of art, recognition is of great importance. Firstly, the work must be accepted by the state, subsidised, presented to people so that they know what kind of person it is. I am sure that an important aspect of the development of an artist is the concern of the state. To create, you need funds. There should be rooms where contemporary artists could exhibit. There must be a place where art would be presented.”

“What is the general image of your work?”

“Most of my paintings are modern portraits, landscapes. But I’m also interested in what happened before. I often delve into historical

moments. In my works there are stories related to Napoleon, Pushkin, stories related to the last war. But what attracts me more is the modern look and modern reality. After all, if you saturate everything with a military theme, it will not be very good. Yes, you need to know history, but what is interesting is how a person lives now, how he relates to the world. In a word, I want to emphasise that the time factor plays a very important role in art.”

“Do you think the picture should be beautiful or is it far-fetched?”

“No, the beautiful is not far-fetched. The beautiful is brought up. Beauty needs to be tested by time, environment, people. Art is a very subtle and complex understanding. No wonder they say: judgment is development. When there is little judgment, there is little development.”

“Are you concerned about the preservation of the traditions of Belarusian artists? So that the line that distinguishes them does not blur, does not disappear?”

“Yes, Belarusian artists should be interesting in America as well, but with national colour, national understanding, national spirit. It is important that artists learn as much as possible about Belarus with the help of artists: when there is a pronounced national culture, it is interesting. We need to grow our own national personnel, as they said earlier. Including cultural officials. For example, what I used to do for exhibitions in Moscow was sometimes not approved, but then even high officials perceived it as normal. In order to express the spirit of the moods that exist, one must be able to do this. Not just to draw, but to express the essence of, for example, Belarusian nature.”

“What is typical for the fine arts in our country today? Is it experiencing a sharp rise or is it a progressive process?”

“More like the second one. There has probably never been a rapid development of art. Moreover, our society has changed. Now artists



## PERSONALITY IN ART

see understanding their tasks more difficult than before. There are a lot of issues here.”

“Is today’s time favourable for creativity?”

“Yes, I think so. But I’m already at an age when you can say more than do.”

“What principles of the Belarusian art school would you say first of all?”

“The school should have national foundations; this is the first thing. You need to feel the national culture.”

“What is the philosophy of the artist Shchemelev?”

“I have people around me. And there is a world that interests me. Our world is Belarusian. I have been to many countries, I also painted there. But when I came home, I always worked with great inspiration! This is the baggage that should be in a person who has a homeland.”

“Do you know the feeling of creative failure?”

“Certainly. There were often creative failures. For me to travel lightly through this world, there was no such thing. Failure also shapes a person. It strengthens his will.”

“Would you like the viewer to think more about your work or just admire?”

“Just reflection. Admiration is the moment. Reflection should be: why this, and not another. Every artist is a philosophical person to some extent.”

“Rural themes are close to you?”

“I was born in the city. Although then Vitebsk was a big village for me. I saw a simple man, nature. And that was enough for me to feel close to the ground.”

“You went through the war, but the theme did not become a cross-cutting, main one for you...”

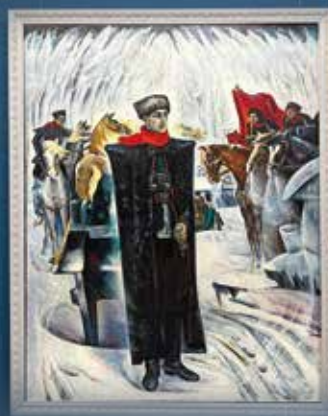
“In 1943, I was seriously wounded. And I didn’t think whether I would be an artist or not. But I drew. And the very denial of war is in every person. The military theme did not immediately interest me. Moreover, after the war, a new life opened up.”

Life was not easy for Leonid Shchemelev, as well as for many other artists of the older generation. His creative biography can be considered a reflection of the history of the country. The artist is a participant in the Great Patriotic War. Of course, these dramatic events influenced creativity, determined the semantic fullness of his painting.

“Everything that I embodied in canvases is my life. This is the history of my country. This is memory, as one of the most cherished concepts. These are the people I love endlessly. And nature, without which I cannot imagine my existence,” said the master.

### The teacher is a person of high culture

When you have professional and life experience behind you, it is important to catch it and be able to convey it. Even in such a very thin, delicate sphere as art. Of course, many people know this famous master primarily by his meaningful paintings, in which the author realised himself passionately. Meanwhile, I would like Leonid Shchemelev to be presented in this publication as an artist who gave all his professional experience to the development of Belarusian fine arts, as a master whose influence on the work of many contemporary Belarusian painters is multifaceted and fruitful. Actually, one of our



last conversations with the master was on this very topic.

“To what extent does the professional and creative growth of a young artist depend on the teacher?”

“The attitude towards the young artist should be the most sincere. A teacher in my understanding is a person of high culture. He doesn’t have to be a great artist himself. But he should understand what art is without a doubt. And if the teacher has it, then the student will also progress. Because art is the essence of a knowing person.”

“Are you talking about this based on your own experience?”

“Certainly. I’m not talking about this, I understood it a long time ago. I really wanted to teach. It’s too late now, because this work requires a lot of strength. I taught at a school for gifted children, then at an art school. I liked it. But at some point I left and worked creatively.”

“Surely, not every artist can be a teacher? Does much depend on his cultural and intellectual baggage, the ability to convey his knowledge?”

“This is the only way to approach pedagogical activity in art. In the place of a teacher, there should be not just an artist, but a person who endlessly loves teaching. That’s the problem. Pedagogical activity is a connection with the country, with its culture. This is a serious conversation. After all, a teacher is like a creator: he always discovers something.”

“The break in the relationship between a teacher and a student is like a gap between the past and the present. This, it seems to me, why the fine arts of France have lost...”

“You noticed correctly. But before, French artists showed that there is a spirit, there is love for the Motherland, for the country, for what surrounds the French in life. And now there is no such thing in their art.”

“To what extent is there modernity in your works and how much did you bring something from the past into them?”

“Art has a relationship to the world: to everything that was, that is.



Leonid Shchemelev has been a participant of art exhibitions since 1958. His paintings were exhibited in Canada, USA, France, Italy, Israel, Finland, Germany, Austria, Spain, they were acquired by famous galleries and museums.

I painted, for example, about the war of 1812, and I perceived those events in a modern way. Historical moments need to be explained in the way you understand. This is the point. I am a modern person; I am more concerned about today. Through modernity, one can understand both history and tomorrow."

### The unrivalled attraction of the homeland

"You once said that during your trips you got the opportunity to compare and contrast what you saw with your homeland. What, in your opinion, distinguishes Belarus from other countries? How can it appear to a person who first came here?"

"The first thing that should strike is nature. Belarus is covered with a whole system of clean spring lakes, a network of large and small rivers that cross its territory along and across the rivers. All this provides the local nature with such freshness and richness of colours that cannot but catch the eye. Our nature practically does not fade, it only changes colours depending on the seasons, remaining bright and fresh. Juicy greenery of spring and summer flowering can be replaced by amazing tones and halftones of autumn. But they only complement and complicate the overall colour sound of nature, make it solemnly major. And how it transforms in winter, this purity and whiteness of snow, these laces of frost-covered trees make the nature of Belarus irresistible and unique. It is not tired, exhausted by the sun or numb from severe frosts, it is always alive and fresh. Probably, this is what can explain why there have always been many excellent landscape painters among Belarusian artists."

**From the autobiography of the national artist of Belarus Leonid Shchemelev,**

"I was lucky. I lived in Vitebsk, the city of artists. Childhood was spent surrounded by art lovers. Let it be mostly amateur artists, but still paints, canvases, smells of freshly painted paintings, I recognized early. Nearby is the Dvina, a river that is still sacred to me. Childhood impressions, such as the delights of winter skiing, summer joys on the

banks of the Dvina, trips to the village to my grandmother, and of course, cinema. All this was broken by the war. In 1941, like the others, I left to fight. In 1943, during the liberation of Belarus, I was seriously wounded. After the hospital I fought again. In a word, I passed the hard way of the terrible war of the century. Fate saved me. And the life of an artist for me is the best thing created by God. The admiration of the surrounding world, the reflection of amazing paradoxes, the joy of creativity make me happy."

"What is your attitude to those times when socialist realism dominated the fine arts?"

"I want to say that talented masters have always found ways to realise their creative abilities, sometimes creating genuine masterpieces of painting. One of the biggest vices of social realism was the imposition of conditions for all kinds of flirting with the system that created it, as a way of acquiring all kinds of privileges, titles, positions, etc. Of course, the personality of the artist, his life position were of great importance here. Some were infected with this disease, others were not, but there was a danger of temptation. As for my attitude to this terminology and how many paintings I have on the 'historical-revolutionary theme', it is difficult to answer unambiguously, but in another way — for a long time. The theme of revolutions and wars is not necessarily an image of shooting people. Sometimes it is enough to show the face of one person to judge the fate of a whole generation."

"Judging by your biography, you travelled a lot around the then vast country, visited both Europe and Asia. What did these trips give you as an artist, what were you looking for, what did you want to understand?"

"I really traveled a lot and, above all, around the country: then still the Soviet Union. All fifteen union republics were 'mastered' in all directions, only the Far East remained. He has also been abroad a lot. The result of each trip has always been an extensive artistic material. But the most important and valuable meaning of all these



trips was the opportunity to compare. I wanted to understand what feeds the creativity of every famous artist in the republics of the USSR and abroad, what brought them fame at home and outside their countries. And you know what I understood? What I always knew: any professional art flourishes only on the basis of native — folk art, its culture, its traditions. An artist can reach amazing heights, be known in his own country and even rise to the level of world recognition, become, so to speak, a ‘supranational’ artist, only on one condition: if in his work he is able to select, process, professionally polish what is unique and inimitable in art.”

“Your portrait works include many portraits of people close to you.”

“Like any artist, I choose what I like and what appeals to me. I love people close to me, and I paint them with pleasure. But with no less pleasure I paint portraits of those who are close to me in spirit and convictions. And, in my opinion, they are good as they are.”

“At art exhibitions of different years I have seen your still lifes, they are just as bright, emotional, beautiful as most of your works. You are not confused by the provocative word ‘beautiful’? After all, quite recently this word was put by critics on a par with the words ‘beautifleness’, ‘picturesque’, ‘salonness’?”

“It seems to me, and I have emphasised this more than once, that being beautiful is one of the qualities and functions of art. No wonder the classic writer unequivocally declared that it was ‘beauty that would save the world’. Why should this be viewed negatively? Any work of art must first of all be beautiful, because it is created by the artist. And painting is even more so, it has been given paints. Nature is good and beautiful because it is multi-coloured. Remove the paint from it, and you will see the desert. And as one good artist said: learn from nature, and you will create real art. Folk art is also permeated with a reverent attitude towards beauty, and this is a criterion that can never be false or erroneous.”

*Margarita Shchemeleva, the eldest daughter of the master,*

“Dad was born under a lucky star. Since childhood, he came across good people, he received good advice in life... At the age of nine, a doctor came to him who treated his throat, and saw one work — a copy of a reproduction from the *Ogonyok* magazine. The old doctor stroked his head and said, “Yes, this boy will be an artist. Take care of that head!” Dad was lucky for the people who guided him in life. He had such energy that he did not understand how you can get tired when you have creativity and you can work. He himself lived like that and energised everyone around him. He

loved people very much, he always found the best features in a person.

The focus of his life was only in creativity, life as such did not interest him — only creativity, only students. It was impossible to touch his palette or brushes, paints. He always said, “This is my military weapon, do not touch it.” And then — discipline: this, I think, from his youth, he was a cavalryman, there in the morning you have to get up, water the horse, put it in order... And he himself was always well combed, in a white shirt, before meeting with journalists it was necessary to cut his hair — he was always in an elevated state, did not want people to perceive him as an old man, as some kind of decrepit person. And we, his children, family, if we went to visit him or to an exhibition, we always had to be at our best, in the best shape, impeccable in every respect. This is how I remember my dad. I miss him very much. I often look at his works and understand that even today they give such a charge of life!”

**P.S.** Events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the People’s Artist of Belarus will be held throughout the year both in the Leonid Shchemelev’s Gallery and in other exhibition spaces of the country. “These will be very large, serious, large projects,” Anna Yasyuk, head of the gallery, announced. “We will have an exhibition of Leonid Dmitrievich’s students, an exhibition of works from the collection of the painter’s family, an exhibition of front-line artists by May 9th, as well as an exhibition of students of Children’s Art School No. 3 in Minsk, which will bear the name of Shchemelev, and this is also a very important step in the days of the festival.”

Also, together with the Belarusian Union of Artists, the gallery is preparing an exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculptures by folk artists of Belarus *Anthology*. In addition, there is an idea to separately present the graphic works of Leonid Shchemelev, this event is planned for autumn.

Meanwhile, for the anniversary, the Belarus Publishing House published a book by the famous Belarusian art critic Boris Krepak, dedicated to Leonid Shchemelev in the series *Glorious Masters from Belarus*.

“I was friends with this man for 55 years,” said the art historian. “And I calculated that over the years I have prepared ten publications about Leonid Dmitrievich, including three catalogues (one of them is in Moscow) and books, albums that were printed in the Belarus Publishing Houses, Mastatskaya Litaratura.. Shchemelev nourished and taught me a lot. From beginning to end, I saw how his works were created, how they were born and left the workshop, starting from a white blank canvas and ending with an exhibition hall.”

A documentary film about Leonid Shchemelev is currently being prepared in the studio of Vladimir Bokun. The project is at the editing stage.

“The film we are shooting is created by order of the ONT TV channel with the active participation of the Shchemelev Gallery and the National Art Museum,” said Vladimir Bokun. “It will be released in the *From the First Person* series: before that, projects about Maksim Tank and Yakub Kolas had already been published in it. These are films based on personal memories. The picture about Shchemelev was conceived last year. The work is very difficult, the editing is coming to an end, the name has just appeared, we thought about it for a long time: *Leonid Shchemelev. All Shades of White*.”

Veniamin **Mikheyev**



# ПАМЯЦЬ АБУДЖАЕ ПАЧУЦЦІ

2023 год – Год міру і стваральнай працы



ГОЛАС РАДЗІМЫ | Весткі з Беларусі



Кожная новая тэма дапамагае звярнуць увагу грамадства на духоўныя і культурныя каштоўнасці. За ёй стаіць і стваральная праца, якая аб'ядноўвае людзей ідэямі, учынкамі, справамі. Напрыклад, у гады малой Радзімы (іх у Беларусі было тры) добраўпарадкаваліся населеныя пункты, ствараліся выданні, прысвечаныя гісторыі гарадоў і мястэчак, адраджаліся рамёствы, пракладліся новыя турыстычныя маршруты, расла цікавасць да народнай культуры. З пытаннем, пра што варта ўзгадаць у Год міру і стваральнай працы, мы звярнуліся да загадчыка аддзела старажытнабеларускай культуры, мовы і літаратуры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук, кандыдата мастацтвазнаўства Барыса Лазукі.

— У нас ужо склалася добрая традыцыя абвяшчаць гады, звязаныя з пэўнымі тэмамі. Я перакананы, яны кансалідуяць нацыю ў культурным кантэксце, ствараюць натуральную неабходнасць задумацца над каштоўнасцямі. Напрыклад, чым з'яўляецца для кожнага з нас малая радзіма? Гэта вёска, вуліца, двор, дзе мы раслі? Гэта людзі, якія былі побач? Гэта падзеі, што адбываліся ў маленстве? Для многіх – гэта ўспаміны. Абвяшчэнне тэмы фактычна фарміруе аўру, абуджае пачуцці. Задаецца своеасаблівая праграма не толькі ў культурнай, але і грамадска-палітычнай сферы. Мінулы Год гістарычнай памяці падвёў нас да таго, каб мы звярнулі ўвагу на падзеі не толькі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, але і на старажытнасць, і на савецкія часы. Вельмі шмат за апошнія гады было зроблена для вяртання памяці. Я меў дачыненне да Дзяржаўнай праграмы адраджэння тэхналогій і традыцый вытворчасці слупкіх паясоў і

развіцця вытворчасці нацыянальнай сувенірай прадукцыі. Тканыя паясы, што вырабляліся на Слуцкай мануфактуры, – прызнае дасягненне нацыянальнай культуры. Яны былі абавязковай часткай мужчынскага строю, сведчылі пра прыналежнасць гаспадара да прывілеяванага саслоўя, яго заможнасць і ў той жа час паказвалі талент майстроў, якія іх стваралі. Безумоўна, трэба трансліраваць такія нацыянальныя здабыткі, а таксама думаць, як уключаць іх у паўсядзённае жыццё. Так, сёння немагчыма вярнуць кантушовыя строі, якія насіла шляхта ў XVII – XVIII стагоддзях. Але мастацкія вобразы, арнаменты можна падаваць на самых розных сучасных прадметах. Напрыклад, матывы слупкіх паясоў можна выкарыстоўваць пры вырабе ўпакоўкі, сучасных тканін, вопраткі, прыгожых шалёў, сталовай бялізны, абрусаў, у аздабленні керамікі, посуду. Мала толькі ўзяць са старажытных вырабаў узоры, лісты ці кветкі, важна, каб у людзей, калі яны іх бачаць, узніклі асацыяцыі са слупкімі паясамі. Напрыклад, сёння для ўпрыгажэння побытавых рэчаў шырока выкарыстоўваюцца арнаменты. Калі мы іх сустракаем, адразу ўзгадваем традыцыйныя строі, рушнікі...

— У мяне склалася ўражанне, што кожны новы год, незалежна ад таго, пад якой тэмай ён праходзіць, пры-





Мы часам губляем гэтую вастрывно эмацыянальнага ўвасаблення нашага свету, нашага асяродзя. Памяць, продкі, іх рэчы, абуджаюць пачуцці, робяць нас крышачку іншымі. І слова, і добрыя справы, і адносіны вылучаюць людзей, сусвет. Для мяне гэта ісціна. Таму ў Год міру і стваральнай працы мы павінны думаць пра мір ва ўсім, у тым ліку, у нашых думках і эмоцыях.



■ Музей старажытнабеларускай культуры



мушае падыходзіць да яго вывучэння і асэнсавання з розных бакоў.

— Галоўным ва ўсіх гэтых тэматычных гадах з'яўляецца памяць пра мінулае, зварот да жыцця продкаў, каштоўнасцяў, якімі яны жылі. А што для іх было важным? Мір і згода ў сям'і, на роднай зямлі. Успомніце ўрокі ў школе ці ВНУ: вы не знойдзеце прыкладаў у гісторыі, каб беларусы праяўлялі варожасць да сваіх суседзяў, на некага нападалі, — яны толькі абараняліся. І ў нашай культуры — ў касцюмах, тканінах, арнаменты, побытавых рэчах — я не ведаю прыкладаў вобразаў, ці сімвалаў адмоўнага. Гэтыя прынцыпы

перадаваліся праз пакаленні. Паглядзіце на нашы традыцыі этыкету. Мы думаем, што пра нас скажуць людзі, калі ў нас будзе непрыбраны падворак, ці калі мы зрабілі дрэнны ўчынак. Мы ўсчуваем сваякоў: “Бачылі б вас дзяды”, — калі яны нешта не тое робяць. Мы кажам малым дзецям, што нельга паказваць пальцам. Гэта ўваходзіць у нормы прыстойна-непрыстойна. Этыкет — таксама частка нашай памяці. У народным строі — і жаночым, і мужчынскім — пояс быў абавязковым элементам. Акрамя таго, што ён меў утылітарнае значэнне, з'яўляўся таксама знакам прыстойнасці мужчыны. Яшчэ і сёння

празмерна эмацыянальным дзецям, якія шумяць, ці дзецюку, які дрэнна сябе паводзіць, мы можам сказаць, што яны распаясаліся.

— Ці можна сказаць, што продкі нам пакінулі падказкі, як жыць у міры з блізкімі, з суседзямі, з самімі сабой, з прыродай?

— Кажуць, што мужчына павінен пабудаваць дом, вырасціць сына, пасадзіць дрэва. Гэта закладвае трывалы падмурак, гэта клопат пра будучыню. Мы сапраўды часта губляем адчуванне глыбокай маральнасці ўсяго таго, што нас акружае. Нават у музейных экспанатах можна знайсці адказы на

многія пытанні. Часам я вяду экскурсію па Музеі старажытнабеларускай культуры пры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук. Знаёмлю моладзь з археалогіяй, народнай культурай, музычнымі інструментамі, а пасля падводжу ў залу, дзе размешчаны беларускія абразы. Асобныя з іх вельмі старажытныя, з багатай гісторыяй. Сярод іх тыя, пра якія ў народзе кажуць, што і яны цудадзейныя. Напрыклад, абраз Маці Боскай Бялыніцкай XVII стагоддзя. Я падводжу маладых людзей да гэтага абраза і кажу: “Паспрабуйце ўявіць, колькі тысяч людзей стаялі перад гэтымі выявамі. Маліліся, прасілі, спадзяваліся, дзякавалі. І вы падумайце аб добрым для сябе, сваіх родных, блізкіх, для ўсіх людзей. Пажадайце ім добра, міру”. Наступае цішыня. Маладыя людзі заміраюць... Мы часам губляем гэтую вастрыню эмацыянальнага ўвасаблення нашага свету, нашага асяроддзя. Памяць, продкі, іх рэчы, абуджаюць пачуцці, робяць нас крышачку іншымі. І слова, і добрыя справы, і адносіны вылучаюць людзей, сусвет. Для мяне гэта ісціна. Таму ў Год міру і стваральнай працы мы павінны думаць пра мір ва ўсім, у тым ліку ў нашых думках і эмоцыях.

#### — Традыцыйная культура дапамагае фарміраваць асобу?

#### Як яе данесці сучасным пакаленням?

— Немагчыма ўсё тое, што было ў XVIII, XIX, нават у першай палове XX стагоддзя, проста рэаніміраваць, змясціць у сучасным жыцці. Нельга прымусіць людзей пераапрацуць у нацыянальныя строі, у паўсядзённым жыцці гэта будзе выглядаць не натуральна. Я вельмі станоўча ацэньваю тую палітыку, што праводзіцца ў нашай дзяржаве ў кірунку захавання і трансляцыі гэтых каштоўнасцяў. У краіне на рэспубліканскім, абласным і рэгіянальных узроўнях праводзіцца вельмі шмат фестываляў, народных свят, адраджаюцца абрады. Можна ўгадаць тое ж святкаванне Каляд, ці такі абрад, як “Пахаванне стралы”. Яны збіраюць вялікую колькасць

людзей. Сюды прыязджаюць і тыя, хто ўпершыню змог пабачыць такія дзействы, уразіцца, натхніцца. Гэта фарміруе пэўнае ачацэнне, аўру памяці.

— **Калі я бачу традыцыйны танец ці мастацкія вырабы іншых народаў, гэта абуджае цікавасць. Можна сказаць, што адрозненні – таксама шлях да міру? Таму нам важна захаваць усё адметнае, што ёсць у культуры беларусаў.**

— Безумоўна. Мір і талерантнасць – гэта вельмі важныя паняцці. У нас не было тых крывавых падзей, якія зведалі краіны той жа Заходняй Еўропы, калі за веру, нацыянальнасць, знешнія адроз-



ненні людзей маглі зневажаць і знішчаць. Як, напрыклад, пры фашысцкай філасофіі. Для беларусаў паняцце міру – гэта не супраціўленне злу насілле. Не трэба забываць і пра духоўнасць. Біблейскія запаведзі выпрацаваны тысячагадовым развіццём.

Вельмі добра, калі дзяржава займаецца не толькі нашым дабрабытам, спакоем, але і абуджае наша сумленне, стварае абставіны, у якіх мы пачынаем задумвацца, шукаць адказы. На беларускім тэлебачанні ёсць ролік, дзе чалавек, які пасталеў, вяртаецца ў дом бацькоў. Сам факт з’яўлення роліка сведчыць, што наша нацыя здаровая ў маральным сэнсе. І нават культурная памяць з’яўляецца вялікім фактарам яе развіцця.

## Спадчына

Сёння вельмі важна не згубіць інфармацыю, якую пакінулі нашы продкі. Тым больш, калі па волі лёсу яны аказаліся за межамі Беларусі. Магчыма, пры пераездзе яны бралі з сабой рэчы, дзякуючы якім некалькім пакаленням нашчадкаў ужо ў іншай краіне ўдаецца адчуваць сувязь з беларускай зямлёй. Часам майстры, якія трапілі на чужбіну, не забываліся на сваё рамяство, якому навучыліся яшчэ ў Беларусі. Старыя, аўтэнтчныя рэчы могуць захоўвацца ў сем’ях, некаторыя з іх трапілі ў музейныя экспазіцыі, прысвечаныя побыту беларусаў. Гэта могуць быць абразы, якім маліліся вашы продкі, рушнікі, вышытыя бабуляй, вырабы з дрэва ці керамікі, якія засталіся ад прадзеда, строі.

Важна збіраць і гісторыі, звязаныя з гэтымі прадметамі. Магчыма, вы можаце раскажаць, як і адкуль яны трапілі ў ваш дом (музей), якія традыцыі продкаў вядомыя за межамі Беларусі. Так можна захаваць памяць пра канкрэтныя сем’і, пра асоб, якія вырабілі ці збераглі сямейныя рэліквіі. Цудоўна, калі засталіся дзённікі вашых родных ці ёсць магчымасць запісаць успаміны ад людзей сталага веку. Дзякуючы вывучэнню можна больш даведацца пра традыцыі, рамёствы, светаўспрыманне беларусаў. Добра, калі інфармацыя пра спадчыну будзе збірацца і выкарыстоўвацца вучонымі. Музей старабеларускай культуры Цэнтра даследаванняў культуры, мовы і літаратуры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі гатовы прыняць прадметы на захаванне і даследаванне. Таксама можна дасылаць фатаздымкі, апісанні і гісторыі, звязаныя з жыццём і побытам беларусаў.

Інфармацыю можна дасылаць на адрас рэдакцыі. Паштковы адрас: 220013, Мінск, вул. Б. Хмяльніцкага, 10а. Выдавецкі дом “Звязда”. Часопіс “Беларусь”.

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Алена Дзядзюля



# "Расправіць бы крылы і злётаць на сваю зямлю..."

Калі чуеш навіны, што за тысячы кіламетраў ад Беларусі, у Сібіры, гучаць беларускія "Калядкі", што людзі за ўласныя грошы ствараюць музейныя экспазіцыі, шыюць народныя касцюмы і вучаць дзетак беларускім словам, адчуваеш гонар за беларускую дыяспару.

Асабліва ўражае, калі народныя традыцыі працягваюць маладыя людзі, якія самі нарадзіліся і выраслі ў Расіі, а пра Беларусь ведаюць ад старэйшых пакаленняў. Гэта колькі любові і цеплыні было ў сэрцах іх бацькоў і дзядоў, што іх эмоцыі, іх туга па зямлі "пад белымі крыламі" перадалася нашчадкам!

## Бабульчын заповіт

Мне пашчасціла пазнаёміцца з прадстаўнікамі беларускай дыяспары падчас апошняй творчай стажыроўкі беларусаў замежжа, якая летась праходзіла ў Мінску. Алена Аўчарэнка прадстаўляла Рэгіянальную нацыянальную культурную аўтаномію беларусаў Омскай вобласці "Буслы". Яе дзядулі і бабулі паходзілі з Магілёўшчыны, а яна сама нарадзілася ў Бурціі.

Некалькі гадоў таму жанчына на ўласным аўто выправілася ў падарожжа па вобласці, наведвала розныя населеныя пункты, адлегласць паміж некаторымі з іх – у сотні кіламетраў. Яна завітала ў навучальныя ўстановы, сустракалася з прадстаўнікамі беларускай дыяспары.

Паводле перапісу, у Омскай вобласці пражывае больш за шэсць

тысяч беларусаў, хоць насамрэч многія тутэйшыя жыхары, у якіх сёння ў пашпарце пазначана "рускі", маюць беларускія карані. Сустрэчы далі плён: у Омскай вобласці з'явіліся яшчэ тры мясцовыя аўтаноміі беларусаў. У кожнай з іх ёсць свае музейныя пакоі, дзе зберагаецца памяць пра спадчыну бацькоў і дзядоў. Экспанаты – сямейныя рэліквіі, сярод іх – кufры, якім ужо за сотню гадоў, прасы, каромыслы. У планах – стварыць паўнаўважаны беларускі музей у Тэўрызе. Тут ёсць што паказаць і пра што распавесці. Старшыня мясцовай беларускай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі Тэўрызскага муніцыпальнага раёна Омскай вобласці Аляксандр Кандраценка больш за дваццаць гадоў збірае інфармацыю пра перасяленцаў, складае спісы жыхароў беларускіх вёсак Тэўрызскага раёна і ўжо адшукаў паўтары тысячы фатаздымкаў. Пад музей знойдзена памяшканне ў двухпавярховым будынку, які некалі ўзвёў беларускі купец.

Беларусы Омскай вобласці робяць вельмі шмат для таго, каб традыцыі і мова іх бацькоў перадавалася наступным пакаленням. Актывісты распрацоўваюць розныя практы, бясплатна выкладаюць мову, праводзяць дні беларускай кухні, за ўласныя грошы шыюць



нацыянальныя касцюмы. Беларускія строі яны перадаюць у тым ліку навучанцам абласнога каледжа культуры і мастацтваў, дзе створаны творчы калектывы “Славянскі вянок”. Ёсць тут і свае родазнаўцы, якія працягваюць шукаць сваякоў, якія зніклі ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны.

Алена Аўчарэнка стварыла і валанцёрскую арганізацыю, якая дапамагае людзям з абмежаванымі магчымасцямі, ветэранам, сіротам. Жанчына прызнаецца, што жыве па запавеце, які

перасяленцаў прыбыла сюды ў часы Сталыпінскай рэформы. Паводле архіўных дакументаў, за 1906 – 1912 гады ў Сібір пераехала 300 тысяч беларусаў. У той час гэта яшчэ неабжытыя тэрыторыі, ўлады лічылі, што захаваць іх за Расійскай імперыяй атрымаецца, калі яны будуць заселеныя людзьмі.

Перасяленцам абяцалі бясплатныя вялікія надзелы, на што яны не маглі разлічваць у сябе на радзіме. Пераязджалі цэлымі вёскамі. З сабой людзі везлі ткацкія станкі, побытавыя

якіх не палыхала цяжкая праца”, – заўважае старшыня праўлення нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі і глава пасялення Тургенеўка ў Іркуцкай вобласці Віктар Сінкевіч. Яго прадзед быў адным з тых, хто заснаваў гэтую вёску ў 1909 годзе.

Калі больш за стагоддзе таму сюды ехалі людзі, іх сустракаў чыноўнік, так званы інжынер, ён жа пазначаў на паперах назвы. Відаць, у гэтай мясцовасці, чалавек, які вырашаў зямельныя пытанні, любіў літаратуру, бо новыя вёскі атрымалі назвы Тургенеўка, Талстоўка, Лермантаўка.

Забудова вёсак вялася як у Беларусі, з роўнымі вуліцамі, перпендыкулярна ішлі завулкі. Хаты будаваліся так, як было прынята на радзіме. Перасяленцы працягвалі традыцыйныя заняткі. Калі бураты былі скатаводамі, дык беларусы любілі працаваць на зямлі. Разбівалі грады, вучылі мясцовых жыхароў агародніцтву. Яны ж завезлі ў Сібір лён. А бульба і сёння застаецца адным з брэндаў у беларускіх вёсках. Так, у Тургенеўцы праходзіць чэмпіят “Бульбалэнд”. Гэта своеасаблівае агароднае траебор’е: бульбу капаюць, перацягваюць і кідаюць.

Некалькі гадоў таму Тургенеўка атрымала званне лепшай у галіне вясковага турызму ў Іркуцкай вобласці. Госці фатаграфаваліся ў шылд з арнаментам, разглядалі млын, пякарню, этнаграфічны музей, у якім створаны пакой перасяленца пачатку ХХ стагоддзя...

Тут частуюць нацыянальнымі стравамі (сярод іх – дранікі, бабка, калдуны, “пальцам пханая” кілбаса, шмат настоек на сабраных у лесе ягадах, гарбата на духмяных зёлках). Працягваюць гучаць народныя песні. У гуртках вучацца працаваць з саломкай. Ёсць тут сталяры і людзі, якія вырабляюць скуры і робяць з іх прыгожыя вырабы.

Віктар Сінкевіч плануе развіваць інтэрактыўныя праграмы і наладжваць больш шчыльныя сувязі з іншымі беларускімі вёскамі ў Сібіры.

Алена Дзядзюля



ёй перадала бабуля. Яна заўсёды паўтарала: “Калі ты жывеш для людзей – ты жывеш, калі для сябе – проста існуеш”.

Алена Мікалаеўна прызналася, што калі прыязджае ў Беларусь, ёй тут вельмі камфортна, перастае балець галава, уздымаецца настрой і хочацца “лятаць”. Адрасу ўзнікае ўпэўненасць, што назву “Буслы” для аўтаноміі падабралі правільна. А яшчэ яна падзялілася марамі перасяленцаў залатога ўзросту, якія ўжо шмат гадоў жывуць у Расіі, але нарадзіліся ў Беларусі. Часам такія бабулі і дзядулі, якім ужо пад 70–90 гадоў, кажуць: “Расправіць бы крылы і злётаць на сваю зямлю...”

## Пакарыцелі тайгі

У Сібіры да гэтага часу захаваўся багата вёсак, дзе кампактна пражываюць беларусы. Асабліва многа

рэчы, насенне, павозкі ў разабраным выглядзе. Апошнія немагчыма было набыць на месцы, бо адначасова пакараць Сібір прыбывалі тысячы людзей. А васьмь коней куплялі ў буратаў, якія іх разводзілі. Спачатку маглі прыязджаць “на разведку” так званыя “хадакі”. Яны высвятлялі, ці не падмануць улады абяцаннямі, вывучалі ўмовы, у якіх давядзецца абжывацца, прыглядалі куткі для будучай забудовы. Зямлю трэба было ачышчаць ад лесу, карчаваць вялізныя пні, да таго як будуць узведзены хаты, туліцца ў выкапаных зямлянках. Суровы клімат, дзікая тайга, машкара, якая загрызае... Не ўсё былі гатовыя жыць у такіх умовах. Тыя, хто не вытрымліваў, з’язджалі, але большасць заставалася. “Гэта сведчыць пра якасць чалавечага матэрыялу. Заставаліся вынослівыя, моцныя, валявыя людзі,





Штогод напрыканцы лютага ў Беларусі адзначаецца Тызень роднай мовы. У рамках яго праходзяць сустрэчы навукоўцаў з вучнёўскай моладдзю, круглыя сталы, прэзентацыі слоўнікаў і падручнікаў, выстаўкі, усе ахвотныя могуць паўдзельнічаць у рэспубліканскай дыктоўцы. Чаму б у гэты час не паспрабаваць высветліць, якія сакрэты можна адкрываць, вывучаючы родную мову. Адною з тых крыніц, што дапаможа знайсці багата цікавых падка-зак, – Гістарычны слоўнік беларускай мовы.

Праца над ім вялася на працягу 57 гадоў! Распачалася яна пад кіраўніцтвам загадчыка аддзела сектара гісторыі беларускай мовы Інстытута мовазнаўства Акадэміі навук Беларусі Аркадзя Жураўскага.

Менавіта беларускія вучоныя першымі ва ўсходнеславянскім мовазнаўстве рэалізавалі такі маштабны праект. Ён зацікавіў калег з іншых краін свету, бо, дзякуючы гістарычным слоўнікам, можна вывучаць не толькі развіццё пэўнай мовы, але і бачыць як розныя народы ўзаемадзейнічалі паміж сабой, як засвойваліся замежныя словы, як траплялі з адной мовы ў іншыя.

## Паляванне на словы

Некалькі пакаленняў айчынных лінгвістаў вывучалі розныя гістарычныя крыніцы: летапісы, статуты, хронікі, мемуары, публіцыстычныя творы XIV–XVIII стагоддзяў і нават рыцарскія раманы. Вучоным даводзілася высвятляць месца знаходжання старажытных і рукапісных крыніц, весці пошукі ў архівах і бібліятэках, вывучаць фотакопіі і мікрафільмы старабела-

слоў, граматычныя характарыстыкі, прыводзіліся прыклады з помнікаў пісьменнасці. Пазначаліся мнагазначныя словы, амонімы, устойлівыя выразы. Мовазнаўцы імкнуліся паказаць, як слова ўжывалася ў розныя гістарычныя перыяды, у разнастайных па жанравай прыналежнасці тэкстах. Такая карпатлівая праца заняла каля 35 гадоў.

Усяго выйшла 37 тамоў Гістарычнага слоўніка беларускай мовы, дзе змешчана звыш 75 тысяч слоў. Гэта выдатнае сведчанне таго, наколькі багатай была старажытнабеларуская мова, якая цікавая гісторыя ў народа, што ёй карыстаўся. Беларуская мова стала чацвёртай у Еўропе (пасля чэшскай, нямецкай і італьянскай), на якой была надрукавана Біблія. На ёй быў створаны статут Вялікага Княства Літоўскага 1588 года – найдаканальнейшы звод законаў у тагачаснай Еўропе, які называюць “першай Канстытуцыяй”.

Практычнае прымяненне

## Практычнае прымяненне

У слоўніку можна знайсці словы, якімі карысталіся Францыск Скарына, Васіль Цяпінскі, Сымон Будны, Іпацый Пацей, Фёдар

# КРЫНІЦА НАТХНЕННЯ

рускіх помнікаў. Так, крыніц захавалася багата. Напрыклад, толькі Метрыка Вялікага Княства Літоўскага налічвае больш за 600 тамоў. Але, на жаль, многія старадаўнія кнігі і дакументы знаходзяцца не ў Беларусі. Навукоўцы ездзілі ў Санкт-Пецярбург, Маскву, Вільню, Кіеў, Львоў, Кракаў, Варшаву.

Яны знаходзілі ў старажытных тэкстах словы, апрацоўвалі і выпісвалі на спецыяльныя карткі. Стваралася своеасаблівае “дасье” на кожнае слова. Такіх картак было зроблена звыш мільёна!

Пасля вучоных пісалі слоўнікавыя артыкулы, у якіх падаваліся значэнні





■ Праца над Гістарычным слоўнікам беларускай мовы вялася 57 гадоў. На кожнае слова, знойдзенае ў гістарычных крыніцах, стваралася сваеасаблівае дасье.

Еўлашоўскі, Мацей Стрыкоўскі і іншыя асветнікі.

Даследчыкі звяртаюцца да шматомніка, каб даведацца, якія словы і найменні ўжываліся ў стара-беларускай мове, і высветліць самую раннюю фіксацыю пэўнага слова. Слоўнік служыць пісьменнікам, якія пішуць гістарычныя раманы, напрыклад, ім карыстаўся Уладзімір Караткевіч.

У гэтых кнігах сучасныя аўтары шукаюць падказкі, якія словы лепш ужываць у літаратурнай мове. Напрыклад, назвай апошняга вясенняга месяца “май” карыстаўся Францыск Скарына, таксама гэта слова ўжывалася ў Метрыках Вялікага Княства Літоўскага. А вось слова “травень” вучоныя знайшлі ў гістарычных крыніцах, “маладзейшых” на цэлае стагоддзе.

У слоўніку пазначаны ў тым ліку словы, што ўжо зніклі з ужытку, альбо абазначалі заняткі, якіх няма ў наш час. Калі раскрыць іх значэнне, можна здагадацца пра тое, што зашыфравана ў назвах населеных пунктаў і прозвішч.

Дзякуючы гэтай працы вучоных можна даведацца не толькі пра значэнне слова, яго паходжанне, пра тое, як яно змянілася за стагоддзі, якія значэнні магло атрымліваць. Гістарычны слоўнік – выдатная крыніца пра жыццё народа на працягу 500 гадоў. У ім знойдзецца інфармацыя пра заняткі і прафесіі нашых продкаў, матэрыяльную і духоўную культуру, традыцыі і звычаі, пра стасункі з суседзямі і пра гандлёвыя і палітычныя сувязі з іншымі народамі.

Яўген Кручкой





Хочаце выпіць кавы ў французскай кавярні, паглядзець на касцюмы акцёраў, якія выступалі на сцэне опернага тэатра Варшавы, альбо прымераць шалі, пра якія марылі еўрапейскія модніцы? Трэба ад'ехаць усяго 27 кіламетраў ад Мінска – і ў гарадскім пасёлку Смілавічы вы даведаецеся пра знакамітых урадженцаў былога беларускага мястэчка, якім удалося пакарыць свет.

## 1. Разгадаць загадкі

Афіцыйная дата, ад якой жыхары гарадскога пасёлка адлічваюць сваю гісторыю, – 1592 год, хоць некаторыя гісторыкі лічаць, што населены пункт старэйшы амаль на стагоддзе. Некалькі версій маецца ў паходжанні назвы. Па адной з іх, яна звязана з асобай нейкага Смелкі, які першым пасяліўся на беразе ракі Волмы. Па другой версіі, назва пайшла ад выразу “смелыя лаўцы” – так звалі людзей, якія лавілі баброў. У старых крыніцах можна сустрэць надпіс “Смылавічы”. Гэта прыводзіць некаторых даследчыкаў да думкі, што ранейшае пасяленне змыла падчас паводкі, а пазней людзі пасяліліся на больш высокім месцы. “Смілгай” звалі лугавы мятлік, якога багата расце па берагах ракі. Дарэчы, мясцовыя жыха-

# ГЛОБУС ДЛЯ СМІЛАВІЧ

## Пяць заданняў для цікаўных вандроўнікаў

ры часта свой населены пункт завуць у скарачаным варыянце “Смілкамі”.

Нарэшце, нельга пакінуць версію, згодна з якой у аснове назвы мястэчка ляжыць татарскае слова. Татары на гэтых землях сяліцца пачалі з XIV–XV стагоддзяў. І калі вы прыгледзецеся ўважліва да мясцовых жыхароў, яшчэ і сёння заўважыце пэўныя рысы нашчадкаў беларускіх татар. Так, на вуліцах Смілавіч вы часта сустрэнеце чорнавалосых і чарнабровых прыгажунь.

Мясцічкам валодалі прадстаўнікі знакамітых радоў: Кезгайлы, Сапегі, Завішы, Агінскія, Манюшкі, Ваньковічы.

## 2. Пагуляць па пасёлку

На адным з будынкаў у цэнтры гарадскога пасёлка можна пабачыць так званы “Глобус Смілавіч” – карту-графію, на якой пазначаны месцы, што падарожнікі могуць агледзець. Уявіце: на пасёлак, дзе сёння пражывае каля пяці тысяч чалавек, прыпадае 22 турыстычныя аб'екты.

Неспрактыкаваныя турысты найперш выпраўляюцца да палацава-паркавага комплексу Ваньковічаў-Манюшак. Але там пакуль вядуцца





рэстаўрацыйныя работы. На сёння адноўлены так званы Новы замак – частка, якую дабудаваў апошні ўладальнікі.

У парку знаходзіцца батанічны помнік рэспубліканскага значэння – чорныя смілавіцкія сосны. Ім ужо каля 200 гадоў. Пасадзіў іх Казімір Манюшка, які быў таленавітым батанікам.

Смілавічы, як і многія іншыя куткі Беларусі, моцна пацярпелі ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Тут было знішчана каля дзвюх тысяч чалавек, пераважная большасць з іх – яўрэі. Ва ўрочышчы побач з былой вуліцай Саламянка, на месцы расстрэла, знаходзіцца мемарыял. Побач са стэлай размешчаны помнікі дзвюм сем'ям, якія паставілі іх нашчадкі. Памяць пра ахвяр не згасе, людзі нясуць на магілу кветкі і каменьчыкі, як прынята ў яўрэйскай традыцыі.



### 3. Прымерыць валёнкi

Можна завітаць на валюшна – лямцавую фабрыку, якая працуе з 1928 года. Гэта адзінае ў Беларусі прадпрыемства, дзе вырабляюць валёнкi. Дарэчы, каб выпусціць адну пару, людзям і машынам трэба здзейсніць 36 аперацый. У

дзень прадпрыемства выпускае каля тысячы пар. Такі абутак са Смілавіч “разлітаецца” па ўсім свеце. Валёнкi запатрабаваны ў Паўночнай Амерыцы, Малдове, Казахстане. Па яго прыезджаюць расіяне з розных гарадоў ад Калінінграда да Хабарска.

Валёнкi ўжо сталі адным з сімвалаў Смілавіч. Тут нават ёсць павер’е, што можна над дзвярыма павесіць маленькія сувенірныя валёнкi-шаптуны, у якія зранку жыхары дома могуць нашэптваць свае таемныя жаданні. Пра гэту традыцыю распавялі юныя экскурсаводы са Смілавіцкай школы №2. У ёй

створаны адзіны ў Беларусі музей “Гісторыя мануфактуры Беларусі”. Дзеці з настаўнікамі збіраюць матэрыялы пра развіццё промыслаў і рамёстваў і гатовыя прымаць групы турыстаў. Яны могуць раска-заць, дзе ў XVII стагоддзі на беларускіх землях з’явілася першая мануфактура, на якой выраблялася шкло, хто займаўся вытворчасцю ды-ваноў, шпалер, карэт, шаўко-вых паясоў, паперы, якімі рэчамі карысталіся сяляне і як іх стваралі. У гэтай школе працуе творчае аб’яднанне

“Вытокі”, дзе пад кіраўніцтвам педагога дзеці ствараюць дызайнерскія калекцыі адзення, што прадстаўляюць на шматлікіх конкурсах, абласных і нацыянальных выстаўках. Адна з іх калекцый – “Валёнкi” – дапамагае рэкламаваць смілавіцкі брэнд. Прыдуманая імі строі выдатна спалучаюцца з зімовым абуткам з бавоўны...

Я. Пясецкі



## 4. Паслухаць арыі

У 2017 годзе ў рамках праекта “Садзейнічанне развіццю на мясцовым узроўні ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь”, які фінансавалася Еўрапейскім саюзам і рэалізавалася Праграмай развіцця ААН, у Смілавічах адкрылася Музычная гасцёўня Станіслава Манюшкі. Госці тут могуць пачуць музычныя творы знакамітага кампазітара ў выкананні выхаванцаў і педагогаў Чэрвеньскай школы мастацтваў.

Дарэчы, сам кампазітар нарадзіўся непадалёк – у фальварку Убель (сёння гэта тэрыторыя пасёлка Азёрны). І калі ў Беларусі назвы многіх вёсак, утвораныя ад заняткаў і геаграфічных асаблівасцяў рэгіёна, паўтараюцца, то мясцовасці з такой назвай больш нідзе няма. Дарэчы, словы “Убель” і “Беларусь” маюць падобныя карані, абодва звязаныя з белым колерам. Некалі тут, як і ў многіх іншых кутках нашай краіны, жанчыны за зіму паспявалі наткаць багата ляннага палатна. Увесну яны выходзілі на бераг



■ Музычная гасцёўня Станіслава Манюшкі

Волмы, вымочвалі шэрыя тканіны ў сцюдзёнай вадзе, а пасля расціралі на лузе. Пад уздзеяннем вады і сонца палотны святлелі, і луг, пакрыты імі, здаваўся белым.

Будучы кампазітар рос на ўлонні прыроды. Гуляў з сялянскімі дзецьмі, захапляўся мясцовым фальклорам, які пазней выкарыстае ў сваіх операх. На жаль, сядзібны дом згарэў у 1944 годзе. Пры мясцовай школе ў пасёлку Азёрны пачалі збірацца экспанаты для адзінага ў свеце музея, прысвечанага знакамітаму кампазітару. Пасля закрыцця навучальнай установы прадметы перавезены ў Смілавічы – мястэчка, у

якім Станіслава хрысцілі, дзе жывілі яго сваякі.

Пры музычнай гасцёўні створаны дзве экспазіцыйныя залы, якія з’яўляюцца філіялам раённага краязнаўчага музея.

“Менавіта са Смілавічамі звязаны род Манюшак. Пэўны час дзед кампазітара, таксама Станіслаў, быў тут арандатарам, а пасля яму ўдалося выкупіць гэтыя землі. У Смілавічах ён бабудаваў палац і стаў шукаць сабе маладую жонку. Калі вырашыў ажаніцца, яму быў ужо 51 год. Яго абранніцай стала 19-гадовая Ева Вайніловіч. У пары нарадзілася 16 дзяцей, апошняя дзяўчынка з’явілася на свет, калі Станіславу было 72 гады”, – пачынае свой расповед навуковы супрацоўнік Чэрвеньскага раённага краязнаўчага музея Ірына Серада. Паступова яна адкрывае старонкі біяграфіі прадстаўнікоў роду Манюшак.

Бацька будучага кампазітара – Чэслаў – быў вайскоўцам, а маці Эльжбета паходзіла з роду Маджарскіх, якія ў Слуцку загінулі пераможцамі – фэ-

брыкай, дзе вырабляліся знакамітыя слукія паясы. 5 мая 1819 года ў іх нарадзіўся хлопчык, між іншым, адзіны па дзеду нашчадак мужчынскага роду. Некаторыя з яго сваякоў не абзаваліся сем’ямі. Дзядзькі, якія не мелі ўласных дзяцей, займаліся са Станіславам. Ён быў таленавітым у розных галінах, ведаў сем моў і даследчыкі мяркуюць, што калі б хлопчык не захапіўся музыкай, то мог бы стаць пісьменнікам.

Першыя музычныя ўрокі Станіславу дала маці. Падчас вучобы ў Мінскай гімназіі Манюшка займаўся ў дырыжора мінскага губернскага аркестра Дамініка Стэфановіча. І, як



прызнаваўся кампазітар, менавіта апошні разглядзеў у сваім вучні талент і паўплываў на яго выбар на карысць музыкі. Натхнёны словамі свайго педагога, яшчэ ў падлеткавым узросце Станіслаў напісаў свой першы твор – вадэвіль “Канторшчыкі”...

У экспазіцыі музея ў Смілавічах можна пабачыць архіўныя фатаздымкі, малюнкi Чэслава Манюшкі, сцэнічныя касцюмы. На адной з замалёвак, пакінутых бацькам кампазітара, размешчаны незвычайны прадмет для захоўвання люлек для курэння. Спецыяльна для музея быў створаны такі экспанат, падобнага больш нідзе ў Беларусі вы не сустрэнеце...

Васямнаццаць гадоў Станіслаў Манюшка пражыў у Вільні, шаснаццаць – у Варшаве. Да канца дзён ён працаваў галоўным дырыжорам у Варшаўскім оперным тэатры. Яго творы гучалі па ўсёй Еўропе. Таксама ён з’яўляўся прафесарам музычнага інстытута. Калі Манюшкі не стала, на яго пахаванне ў Варшаве прыйшло каля ста тысяч жыхароў.

## 5. Адпачыць у кавярні

У 2008 годзе на базе Цэнтра творчасці дзяцей і моладзі ў Смілавічах адкрыўся музей “Прастора Хаіма Суціна”, прысвечаны аднаму з самых вядомых мастакоў Парыжскай школы, чые карціны сёння прадаюцца за вялікія грошы. Так, яго работа “Бычыная туша” ў 2015 годзе была прададзена за 28 мільёнаў долараў, “Маленькі кандытар” у 2014-м – за 18 мільёнаў, “Мужчына ў чырвоным шаліку” – за 17 мільёнаў. З дзясятка гарадоў Францыі маюць вуліцы, якія носяць імя Суціна.

“Каля 80 мастакоў Парыжскай школы былі ўрадженцамі Беларусі. Так, вядомымі яны сталі там, але дзяцінства і юнацтва, час, калі фарміруецца асоба, прайшлі на нашай зямлі”, – заўважае кіраўнік музея “Прастора Хаіма Суціна” Святлана Хасеневіч, распачынаючы экскурсію ў першай зале музея, прысвечанай беларускаму перыяду ў біяграфіі Суціна. Яна прызнаецца, што спачатку ідэя

па стварэнні музея падавалася фантастычнай. Нічога не захавалася: на вуліцы, дзе жыў мастак, у гады вайны было створана гета, дом яго бацькоў быў разбураны. Тым не менш, паступова ўдалося сабраць багата матэрыялаў. У музеі прадстаўлены дакументы, архіўныя фатаздымкі, прадметы побыту канца XIX стагоддзя. Сярод іх швейная машынка – Суцін паходзіў з небагатай яўрэйскай сям’і, яго бацька працаваў краўцом і спадзяваўся, што дзеці (а іх было адзінаццаць, Хаім нарадзіўся дзясятым) пойдучы па яго шляху. Вось толькі малодшы сын увесь час маляваў – часам проста вуглём на плоце. На яго бясконца скардзіліся суседзі, бо хлопчык ствараў партрэты людзей, што ў яўрэйскай традыцыі забаронена. Баючыся сваркі з бацькам, малы збягаў з дома, калі ўсе спалі, і галодны вяртаўся, калі ўсе ўжо спалі...

Бацькоўскі кут ён пакінуў у 15 гадоў. Па адной з версій, бацька яго завёз у Мінск пад нагляд ужо жанатай старэйшай дачкі. Па іншай, і гэтую версію музейшчыкам пацвердзіла





■ У музеі "Прастора Хаіма Суціна"

пляменніца Суціна, юнака выгналі з дому, пасля таго як старэйшыя дзеці паскардзіліся, што Хаім намаляваў бацьку ў труне.

Спачатку Суцін вучыўся ў малявальнай школе Якава Кругера ў Мінску, а пасля – ў Вільні ў мастака Івана Трутнева. Ён марыў пра Парыж, куды ўжо паехалі яго сябры – мастакі, аднак не меў сродкаў. Дапамагло яму непадзеленае каханне. Хлопцу падабалася дачка аднаго з багатых юрэяў, які паяздзелях даваў дабрачынныя абеда для бедных студэнтаў. Распавесці дзяўчыне пра свае пачуцці юнак не рашаўся, але звярнуўся да яе бацькі. Гаспадар дома паабяцаў, што спытаецца ў дачкі, ці гатовая яна выйсці замуж. Калі бацька паведаміў, што да дзяўчыны прыйшоў жаніх, тая без усялякіх пытанняў дала згоду. Яна палічыла, што яе рукі просіць каханы – лётчык, пра пачуцці маладога мастака дзяўчына нават не здагадалася. Бацька перадаў Хаіму словы пра згоду нявесты. Пазней, калі ўсё высветлілася, каб выправіць такую

недарэчнасць, Хаіму прапанавалі ўзяць "кампенсцыю" грашыма. Так няшчаснае каханне дапамагло Хаіму трапіць у горад, пра які ён марыў. Засталіся ўспаміны сябра Міхаіла Кікоіна, што Суціна ён сустрэкаў на парызскім вакзале з адной катомкай за плячыма і без усялякіх сродкаў да існавання. Першыя дзесяць гадоў у Парыжы былі часам выжывання для Суціна. Ён пастаянна галадаў, вымушаны быў падпрацоўваць грузчыкам, рабочым.

Аднак лёс яго зводзіць з цікавымі асобамі. Малюнкі Суціна прыводзяць у захапленне Амадэа Мадзільяні. Мастакі становяцца сябрамі. Менавіта Мадзільяні даручыў свайму арт-дылеру Леапольду Збароўскаму ўзяць пад апеку маладога "генія" – Суціна. Праўда, жыццё галадаючага мастака рэзка зменіцца дзякуючы зусім іншаму бізнесмену – калекцыянеру Барну, які, прыехаўшы з Амерыкі, адразу выкупіць 52 карціны Суціна. З гэтага часу імя незвычайнага мастака будзе ва ўсіх на слыху, кошт на яго карціны стане расці. Хаім

стане сапраўдным парызскім "дэндзі", абзавядзецца ўласным аўтамабілем...

Святлана Хасеневіч можа больш за гадзіну раскажаць толькі біяграфію сусветнавядомага мастака. Але ў музеі можна пазнаёміцца і з яго творчасцю. Выявы карцін размешчаны ў другой зале, стылізаванай пад французскую кавярню "Ратонда". Пад рамантычную музыку і водар свежазробленай кавы можна паспрабаваць перанесціся ў той час, калі жыў мастак.

Наступная зала ў музеі прысвечана яшчэ аднаму мастаку Парызскай школы – ураджэнцу Смілавіч Шраге Царфіну. Карціны, размешчаныя ў экспазіцыі, – арыгіналы. У Парыжы Царфін таксама супрацоўнічаў з куцюр'е, ствараў малюнкі для тканін. Штосьці падобнае спрабуюць рабіць і юныя выхаванцы ўстановы дадатковай адукацыі. Тут маецца свой "Вулей" – дзіцячы арт-цэнтр "пазычыў" назву ў французскага прыстанку мастакоў Парызскай школы.

Ганна Трошына



## Сустрэчы ў Егіпце

З нагоды завяршэння 30-годдзя ўстанаўлення дыпламатычных адносін паміж Беларуссю і Егіптам прайшлі ўрачыстыя і дзелавыя сустрэчы.

Так, Пасольства Беларусі ў Егіпце сумесна з мясцовай Асацыяцыяй выпускнікоў савецкіх ВНУ правялі ўрачыстае мерапрыемства.

Надзвычайны і Паўнамоцны Пасол Беларусі ў Арабскай рэспубліцы Егіпет Сяргей Цярэнцьеў звярнуўся да ўдзельнікаў з прывітальным словам. Ён адзначыў вялікія поспехі, дасягнутыя абедзвюма краінамі ў развіцці двухбаковых адносін у розных галінах. Заўважыў, што выпускнікі беларускіх і савецкіх навучальных устаноў спрыяюць наладжванню кантактаў паміж Беларуссю і Егіптам. Удзельнікі мерапрыемства атрымалі інфармацыйныя матэрыялы і прагледзелі кароткаметражны фільм пра слаўтасці Рэспублікі Беларусь, яе дасягненні, патэнцыял, азнаёміліся з выстаўкай карцін беларускай мастачкі Ірыны Саса.

Таксама Сяргей Цярэнцьеў сустрэўся з намеснікам міністра замежных спраў Егіпта па справах Еўропы Іхабам Насрам. Падчас сустрэчы яны абмеркавалі пытанні, якія датычацца супрацоўніцтва ў галіне турызму, прамысловасці і навукова-тэхнічных сувязяў.

З дзелавым візітам у Егіпет прыбылі прадстаўнікі Адкрытага акцыянернага таварыства “Амкадор”, якое займаецца вытворчасцю будаўнічай і сельскагаспадарчай тэхнікі. Сёння гэта холдынг, якія аб’ядноўвае 29 прадпрыемстваў, у тым ліку 22 заводы.

Прадстаўнікі холдынга наведалі Міністэрства забеспячэння і ўнутранага гандлю Егіпта, мясцовыя арганізацыі і кампаніі. Падчас перамоў былі абмеркаваны пытанні пастаўкі беларускай дарожна-будаўнічай і сельскагаспадарчай тэхнікі ў Арабскую рэспубліку.



## Наперадзе – шмат працы

1 лютага пастановай Савета міністраў зацверджаны рэспубліканскі план мерапрыемстваў, якія будуць праводзіцца ў краіне ў Год міру і стваральнай працы.

Шэраг з іх прымеркаваны да знакавых падзей у гісторыі краіны, мае патрыятычную накіраванасць. Сярод іх – грамадзянска-патрыятычны праект “Цягнік Памяці”, адкрыццё музея на базе мемарыяльнага комплексу “Хатынь”, правядзенне мітыngu-рэквіема, прысвечанага 80-годдзю трагедыі Хатыні.

Ужо добра сябе зарэкамендала рэспубліканская акцыя “Архівы – школе”, у рамках якой летась некалькі тысяч падлеткаў наведалі архіўныя ўстановы краіны. Сёлета яна будзе працягнута. Пройдуць экскурсійныя праграмы па гістарычных мясцінах Беларусі, месцах баявой і партызанскай славы. Свае праграмы, звязаныя з ушанаваннем памяці герояў і ахвяр, рыхтуюць музеі краіны. Вядзецца работа па стварэнні інтэрнэт-праекта “Дакументальны летапіс сучаснай беларускай дзяржавы”, матэрыялы для якога падбіраюць беларускія вучоныя і супрацоўнікі архіўных устаноў краіны.

Сярод мерапрыемстваў, накіраваных на кансалідацыю беларускага грамадства на аснове ідэй міру і стварэння, – адзіныя дні інфармавання, усебеларуская патрыятычная акцыя “Мы – грамадзяне Беларусі”, інфармацыйна-адукацыйны праект “Школа актыўнага грамадзяніна”, мерапрыемствы па папулярызацыі вытворчых і працоўных дасягненняў.

Аktуальныя пытанні будуць уздымацца падчас круглых сталоў і дыялогавых пляцовак для навучэнскай моладзі, плануецца рэалізаваць праект “Лідарская платформа “Каманда Будучыні”.

У плане – мерапрыемствы, якія павінны садзейнічаць міжканфесійнаму і міжнацыянальнаму дыялогу: усебеларуская малітва “За мір і згоду” ў межах святкавання Дня Незалежнасці, навукова-асветніцкая экспедыцыя “Дарога да святыхняў”, IV Фестываль мастацтваў беларусаў свету.

У Год міру і стваральнай працы будуць узводзіцца і адкрывацца спартыўныя і фізкультурна-аздараўленчыя аб’екты, а таксама будынкі для устаноў культуры, аховы здароўя і адукацыі.

Запланаваны прафарыентацыйныя мерапрыемствы і экалагічныя акцыі. У краіне павінны быць высаджаны алеі “Міру і стваральнай працы”, праведзены суботнікі па добраўпарадкаванні тэрыторый населеных пунктаў, гістарычных і памятных мясцін.

## Імя на абеліску

У Магілёве вядзецца работа па пошуку і выпраўленню інфармацыі аб войнах Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. У пасляваенныя гады на беларускай зямлі масава ўзводзіліся помнікі і мемарыялы ў гонар абаронцаў і вызваліцеляў. Не заўсёды хапала часу і рэсурсаў на праверку даных байцоў Чырвонай Арміі. На памятных шыльдах часам прозвішчы падаваліся з памылкамі. Ініцыятарам новага праекта, накіраванага на ўвекавечанне памяці ўдзельнікаў Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, выступіў Магілёўскі абласны гісторыка-патрыятычны пошукавы клуб “Вікру”, які летась за сваю дзейнасць быў адзначаны прэміяй “За духоўнае адраджэнне” за ўклад у патрыятычнае выхаванне моладзі, правядзенне пошукавых работ. Клуб працуе ўжо 29 гадоў. За гэты час дзякуючы пошукам у архівах і базах даных Расіі і Беларусі яго членамі ўстаноўлены імёны 27 тысяч чырвонаармейцаў.

Праект “Навучыся помніць” накіраваны на тое, каб не проста выправіць памылкі на абелісках, але і дапамагчы сем’ям, якія і сёння працягваюць пошукі мясцін, дзе пахаваны іх сваякі. Запыты на такую інфармацыю паступаюць ад людзей з розных краін, бо ў баях на тэрыторыі Беларусі прымалі ўдзел прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў. Часта такія людзі звяртаюцца па дапамогу да кіраўнікоў пошукавага клуба. Бывае, што на помніку не супадаюць ініцыялы, прозвішча байца запісана з памылкай (часта даныя тых, хто загінуў, запісаліся са слоў). Таксама трэба весці пошукі імёнаў ахвяр вайны з ліку мірнага насельніцтва. Не



заўсёды на абелісках у месцах іх знішчэння пазначаліся прозвішчы. Але сёння даныя можна знайсці ў кнігах “Памяць”, у архівах, на інтэрнет-рэсурсах.

Да праекта “Навучыся помніць” актыўна далучаюцца дзеці. У Беларусі за многімі школамі замацаваныя пэўныя помнікі, падлеткі прыбіраюць тэрыторыю каля іх і ў памятных даты ўскладаюць кветкі. Усе ўстановы адукацыі вобласці, у тым ліку ліцэі і каледжы, атрымалі заданне вывучыць гісторыю баявых дзеянняў на тэрыторыях іх населенага пункта, даведацца, калі ўзводзіўся помнік, сабраць інфармацыю ў музеях, бібліятэках і інтэрнэце. Па спецыяльнай метадыцы, распрацаванай аўтарамі праекта, вышукваюцца канкрэтныя імёны і параўноўваюцца з тымі, што размешчаны на помніках.

## Палацы прымуць гасцей

У Год міру і стваральнай працы адкрываюцца пасля рэстаўрацыі гістарычныя аб’екты. Так, па даручэнні Прэзідэнта Беларусі, быў адноўлены палац у Жылічах (Кіраўска раён). У свой час палацава-паркавы комплекс Булгакаў з’яўляўся цэнтрам культурнага і эканамічнага жыцця мястэчка. Сам гаспадар, які пачаў узводзіць палац у 1823 годзе, быў бабруйскім павятовым маршалкам, ганаровым наглядальнікам вучылішч павета, займаўся мецэнацтвам і нават ахвяраваў свой стары дом для перабудовы пад Бабруйскае павятовае вучылішча.

Яго палац сёння называюць “беларускім Версалем”, што не дзіўна: ідэі аб выглядзе свайго дома ён сапраўды мог падгледзіць падчас падарожжаў у Францыю.

Сёння тут створаны музейны комплекс, аднаўляецца ляпініна і багата аздобленыя кесонныя столі, кладзецца паркет, захаваўся стары роспіс на сцэнах, “пазычаныя” ў старажытнай Грэцыі, сценам вяртаецца ранейшы залацісты бляск.

Аднаўляецца і аранжарэя (у XIX стагоддзі пры палацы вырошчвалі персікі і ананасы, экзатычныя расліны). Будзе прыведзены ў парадак стары парк.

Плануецца, што ўжо вясной комплекс-музей прыме турыстаў.

А вось Косаўскі палац ужо сёння паўстае ва ўсё сваёй велічнай прыгажосці. Звонку з вежамі і байніцамі ён падобны на замак. Дарэчы, кожная вялікая вежа сімвалізуе сезон, а 365 маленькіх вежачак адпавядаюць колькасці дзён у годзе.

Унутры – гэта раскошны палац з прасторнымі заламі, з залачэннем, вінтажнай мэбляй, ажурнымі жырандолямі.

Рэстаўрацыя доўжылася 17 гадоў і вялася ў некалькі этапаў. Калі частка памяшканняў на першым паверсе была здадзена ў эксплуатацыю, там размясцілася музейная экспазіцыя, і да раскошнага будынку ў неагатычным стылі з элементамі класіцызму пачалі прыежджаць на фотасесіі жаніхі з нявестамі.

Сёння пры палацы працуе гатэль, даюцца балы і праводзяцца музычныя вечары.





## Тэмы для супрацоўніцтва

Полацк наведала дэлегацыя з расійскага горада-пабраціма Вялікія Лукі на чале з Таццянай Лазніцкай, якая выконвае абавязкі намесніка Гавы Адміністрацыі. Беларускія ўстановы культуры і адукацыі знаёмілі гасцей са сваімі праектамі на базе Музея старажытнага кнігадрукавання. Удзельнікі мерапрыемства дзяліліся вопытам і прапаноўвалі ідэі для сумесных праграм у розных галінах: адукацыйнай, выставачай, культурна-пазнавальнай, турыстычнай. Гасцей запрасілі далучацца да разнастайных міжнародных фестываляў, конкурсаў і выставак, якія праводзяцца ў Полацку.

Так, традыцыйна ў самым старажытным горадзе Беларусі праводзіцца міжнародны літаратурны форум “Цэнтр Еўропы”.

Ужо добра вядомы расіянам Адкрыты конкурс аматараў фільмаў імя Юрыя Тарыча. У канцы мінулага года ён прайшоў у дзявяты раз. На ім было прадстаўлена 140 работ з Расіі і Беларусі. Сярод аўтараў гульнявога і негульнявога кіно, анімацыйных работ, сацыяльных ролікаў і тэлевізійных праграм былі прадстаўнікі 40 расійскіх гарадоў.

Палачане прадставілі турыстычны патэнцыял свайго горада, выказалі пажаданні аб супрацоўніцтве ў музейнай галіне. Бібліятэкары гарадоў-пабрацімаў гатовы праводзіць тэлемасты. Сумесныя праграмы можна наладжваць паміж клубнымі ўстановамі, грамадскімі арганізацыямі. У Беларусі вялікая ўвага ўдзяляецца патрыятычнаму выхаванню падрастаючага пакалення. Гасцей зацікавілі праграмы, звязаныя з працай дзіцячых пошукавых атрадаў.





## Другая ракетка свету

24-гадовая беларуская тэністка Арына Сабаленка перамагла ў адкрытым чэмпіянаце Аўстраліі. Да гэтай гульні спартсменка займала пятае месца ў рэйтынгу Жаночай тэніснай асацыяцыі (WTA). У выніку паспяховага выступлення на чэмпіянаце ў Мельбурне тэністка займае другую пазіцыю. Гэта першая ў яе кар’еры перамога ў турніры “Вялікага шлема” Australian Open. Раней такіх высокіх вынікаў дасягала беларуска Вікторыя Азаранка, якая выйграла адзіночны разрад Australian Open у 2012 і 2013 гадах.

Прэзідэнт Беларусі Аляксандр Лукашэнка павіншаваў спартсменку з перамогай.



## “Вянок” Багдановіча

У 1913 годзе ў Вільні выйшаў у свет адзіны прыжыццёвы зборнік вершаў Максіма Багдановіча “Вянок”. Кніга маладога аўтара застаецца ў цэнтры ўвагі чытачоў і даследчыкаў, мастакоў і кампазітараў, як і сто гадоў таму.

Супрацоўнікі Літаратурнага музея Максіма Багдановіча беражліва захоўваюць кнігі з аўтаграфам паэта, збіраюць інфармацыю пра арыгінальныя зборнікі і прэзентуюць свае матэрыялы і рарытэты падчас імпрэз і выстаў. З нагоды юбілейнай даты яны падрыхтавалі мастацка-дакументальны праект “Вянок “Вяноку””. Гэта выстаўка, уключаная ў асноўную экспазіцыю музея, будзе доўжыцца на працягу года (да студзеня 2024-га). Штомесяц на ёй будуць прэзентавацца новыя экспанаты. Галоўныя сярод іх – кнігі “Вянок” 1913 года, якія захоўваюцца не толькі ў Літаратурным музеі Максіма Багдановіча, але і ў фондах розных устаноў навукі і культуры. Першым у выставачным праекце прадстаўлены зборнік “Вянок”, які 22 сакавіка 1914 года Максім Багдановіч падарыў сваёй любімай цётцы Марыі Галаван. Экспануюцца каштоўныя матэрыялы з фондаў музея, архіўныя фотаздымкі і дакументы.