

IN THE ISSUE



04 VICTORY DAY FOR ALL TIMES

06 THE PRESIDENT OF BELARUS IN MOSCOW, TOGETHER WITH THE LEADERS OF THE CIS COUNTRIES, TOOK PART IN THE CELEBRATIONS IN HONOUR OF THE VICTORY DAY



07 THIS MORAL HIGHT...

The solemn meeting and concert of masters of arts Vysota, dedicated to the 78th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War, took place on the eve of the holiday at the Palace of the Republic. "Peace is the greatest value of Belarusians..."



08

IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO FORGET THE TRUE STORY

A PATRIOTIC EVENT
BELARUS REMEMBERS.
WE REMEMBER EVERYONE

09

IN THE ISSUE

15 It is important not to forget the true story

A patriotic event Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone.

18 As a reminder of responsibility for the world

Victory Day has become an important element of the family traditions of the citizens of Belarus



30 Continuation of life in a new dimension

On April 26th, 1986, the largest man-made disaster in the history of mankind occurred — the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. In total, five million people suffered from the disaster and its consequences. As a result of the accident, almost a quarter of Belarus was contaminated with cesium-137. But thanks to those people who refused to leave their homeland, and the colossal support of the state, these territories today are not only returning to normal life, but are becoming an example for other regions of the country.

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IN THE ISSUE

40 "We value peace very much, not only on our land, but also on a regional and global scale"

Aleksandr Lukashenko sent a letter to António Guterres in response to an invitation to the SDG summit

44 A tangible and generally obvious prospect

Experts predict that with a high degree of probability Belarus will take a full-fledged place in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June at the summit in New Delhi

46 Growth drivers

Belarus has the potential to be a leader in high-tech import substitution. And this is not an axiom. This fact is already sufficiently confirmed by industrial reality.



82 TO THE STAGE FOLLOWING THE DREAM

94 THESE DEAR PLACES

The Vysokae Mesta Art Lounge of the Minsk City History Museum hosted a presentation of a personal exhibition of paintings by Aleksandr Matveyenko Cherikov's Landscapes took place. The exhibition is dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the master and prepared jointly with the Belarusian Union of Artists.

VICTORY DAY FOR ALL TIMES



Belarus celebrated the Victory Day widely and on a large scale. Commemorative events were held throughout the country, a festive, sincere atmosphere reigned everywhere. Tens, hundreds of thousands of people with flowers went to monuments and memorial complexes to honour the memory of the heroes who gave their lives for a peaceful future, to express warm words of gratitude to the veterans for their immortal deed. The Great Victory not only preserved the Belarusian nation, but also predetermined the path of development of sovereign Belarus, gave us the opportunity to live freely in our native land and in an independent state. By tradition, the President of Belarus also took part in the celebrations. In Minsk, Aleksandr Lukashenko together with his sons laid a wreath at the Victory Monument.

Wreaths and flowers at the majestic monument crowned with the Order of Victory were also laid by the highest officials of the country, parliamentarians, representatives of law enforcement agencies, public associations, the diplomatic corps and the clergy. Aleksandr Lukashenko and all those present at Victory Square honoured the memory of the fallen heroes with a minute of silence. On behalf of the Head of State, Defence Minister Viktor Khrenin expressed the position of the people in uniform on the enduring significance of the Great Victory and described the military-political situation around Belarus. The minister, in particular, noted that the history of mankind does not know a feat similar to that which our fathers and grandfathers accomplished almost 80 years ago. This feat today 'unites millions of people in Europe and Asia — all who have retained the gene of valour and courage of their ancestors'. According to Viktor Khrenin, Belarusians are proud of each of their warriors — from a simple soldier to a general, who, together with the fraternal peoples, withstood the blow of Nazi Germany, defeated the army, mobilised from all over Western Europe and armed to the teeth with the money of world magnates, "We are proud of our partisans, underground workers and scouts, who brought the victorious May closer behind enemy lines, not being afraid of the gallows and torture, not sparing their lives. We are proud of the mothers who accompanied their husbands and sons to the front, baked bread for the partisans under pain of death, hid Jews and wounded soldiers of the Red Army, and covered their babies with their bodies from bullets and bombs. Our hearts are still burning with the fire of Khatyn and hundreds of Belarusian villages, burned together with helpless old people, women and children. We bow our heads before the memory of our brothers from all corners of the Soviet Union, who liberated Belarus and remained forever lying in our land." Complete silence reigned in Victory Square. The participants honoured the memory of the dead and all witnesses of the terrible crimes of Nazism, who did not live to see peacetime, with a minute of silence.

Keep the truth about that war

By evening, Victory Square was literally buried in flowers. People walked to the Victory Monument all day. At the call of the heart. They went with families, with children, grandchildren. This is the least we can do, paying tribute to the heroes who saved our native people, stopped the genocide and cleansed Europe of the fascist regime that left the bloodiest mark in history, Viktor Khrenin noted, "And as long as the Eternal Flame burns, we will remember. Let's keep the truth about that war. We will gratefully remember the veterans, wounded and exhausted, who returned and restored the towns and villages scorched by fire in record time. We will always follow their example of a true desire for peace and creation. This is our strength and the meaning of the historical path of the Belarusians, who know how to win, create and protect peace in their native land."

No one dares to tell the Belarusians what to do

Viktor Khrenin drew attention to the fact that today a global military confrontation between Western and Eastern Slavic civilizations has been unleashed, "The fight is deployed on all fronts, there is a large-scale proxy war, where the West, through the hands of Ukrainians, is fighting for its interests, for the opportunity to continue to establish its own order in the world. Ukraine is being pumped with weapons. The states neighbouring us openly trade in Russophobia and are ready to throw the people into the meat grinder of war in the second echelon. We see how the militarization of Poland and the Baltics is gaining momentum." Literally on the eve of the celebration of Victory Day, the large multinational exercises Defender of Europe started with an unprecedented number of participants. The goals of these exercises, according to the Minister of Defence, are obvious, "With



such actions, individual Western politicians are only pushing the planet into the abyss, trying to fan the fire of the third world war in Europe. Our army is ready to repulse anyone who tries to violate the sacred borders of the Belarusian state. We will do everything so that no one dares to tell Belarusians how to live on our land." Viktor Khrenin once again congratulated everyone on Victory Day and wished peace, happiness, kindness and clear skies over his native Belarus.

The ceremony ended with the performance of the National Anthem of Belarus and a solemn march of the combined company and the orchestra of the guard of honour of the Minsk military commandant's office.

Aleksey **Fedosov**
Photo by BELTA



THE PRESIDENT OF BELARUS IN MOSCOW, TOGETHER WITH THE LEADERS OF THE CIS COUNTRIES, TOOK PART IN THE CELEBRATIONS IN HONOUR OF THE VICTORY DAY

A military parade in honour of the 78th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War was held on May 9th on Red Square in Moscow. The leaders of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States were invited as guests. Aleksandr Lukashenko arrived in the Russian capital with a working visit on the evening of May 8th. The presidents of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Prime Minister of Armenia also arrived in Moscow to participate in the celebrations on the occasion of Victory Day. And this is very symbolic, because for almost 80 years the peoples of the former USSR fought side by side on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War and contributed to our common Victory over fascism.

Before the start of the parade, Vladimir Putin greeted Aleksandr Lukashenko and other heads of state in the Kremlin. The President of Belarus watched the parade from the podium together with the leaders of the CIS countries and veterans. As part of the foot column, 30 ceremonial calculations, 125 units of weapons and military equipment passed through Red Square. Belarusian cadets, winners of the Cadet of the Year 2022 contest, also became guests of honour at the Victory Parade in Moscow.

A moment of silence was declared in memory of the fallen during the Great Patriotic War.

At the end of the parade, the leaders of the countries together laid a wreath and flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Aleksandrovsky Garden near the Kremlin walls.



IN MEMORY OF HEROES

T This moral height...

The solemn meeting and concert of masters of arts Vysota, dedicated to the 78th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War, took place on the eve of the holiday at the Palace of the Republic. “Peace is the greatest value of Belarusians, which cannot be the subject of bargaining,” said Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, opening the festive evening.

According to Roman Golovchenko, Belarus has special relations with Russia: the regional grouping of troops is a reliable guarantor of the security of the Union State. “The Soviet writer Mikhail Sholokhov said: ‘Peace cannot be taken away from those whose hands held weapons and inflamed lips dried the tears on the cheeks of orphaned children, whose eyes saw and forever imprinted in their memory the horrors of the last war’. Our people, having suffered through the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, will never threaten anyone. But they will always protect their freedom and independence,” stressed the Prime Minister.

The Head of Government is convinced that as soon as we stop honouring the memory of the fallen, caring for the obelisks, visiting veterans, we will not have time to come to our senses, when those who enthusiastically denigrated the feat of the Soviet soldier, poured dirt on the marshals of Victory, turned traitors and collaborators into figures of the national awakening.

The festive concert that took place in an unusual format of dialogue, a conversation about the moral height of each person, duty to the Motherland, memory of history and the great heroes of the war. So, for example, the artists Ruslan Chernetsky and Vladimir Gromov, performing *Evening Drinking Song*, seemed to be thinking aloud about what they could tell their relatives-front-line soldiers now. About how some people are now trying to rewrite history, demolishing monuments to the Soviet soldier in Western countries. Or about our sacred duty to protect the memory of our heroes and say: ‘Belarus remembers!’

The Honoured Artist of Belarus Irina Dorofeeva, while performing the song *Kid, Little Kid*, looked at photographs of war heroes together with the audience: ‘We were tall, fair-haired, you will read in books, like a myth, about people who left, not knowing love enough, not smoking their last cigarette...’ Theatre and film actor Andrei Dushechkin read



out an appeal to the modern generation from those who burned alive in Khatyn, “Our request to everyone: let sorrow and sadness turn into your courage and strength, so that you can forever establish peace and tranquillity on Earth.”

The hall got up several times, many of those present could not hold back the tears. It was a worthy concert and the memory of our ancestors, and the very essence of the great holiday — Victory Day, as evidenced by the responses of the audience. Those who were lucky enough to visit the Palace of the Republic that day and those who watched the concert in the recording. Viewers from neighbouring countries leave heartfelt comments under the video on the Internet, thank the Belarusians for the ‘moral height’, for the memory, love for the Motherland, patriotism and invariably wish us to keep the peace.

Aleksandr **Pimenov**

Photo by BELTA

A FEAT NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN



Belarusian diplomats around the world paid tribute to memory and respect on the occasion of Victory Day. The heads of diplomatic missions visited memorable places and laid flowers at the memorials.



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Germany Denis Sidorenko and embassy staff took part in a commemorative event at the Soviet memorial Schönholzer Heide in Berlin, they also laid wreaths at the memorials in the Tiergarten and in Treptower Park.

In Lithuania, Belarusian diplomats honoured the memory of the fallen soldiers at the Antakalnis cemetery, in the place where there used to be a memorial complex dedicated to the liberators of Lithuania. In Daugavpils, together with the leadership of the City Council and the activists of our diaspora, wreaths were laid at the Eternal Flame and the burial places of Soviet soldiers and victims of the war. In the Austrian town of Ried in der Riedmark, flowers from Belarusian diplomatic representatives also appeared near the monument to the victims of the inhuman Mühlviertel Hunt. Belarusian diplomats also visited the burial place of a native of Mogilev, Hero of the Soviet Union Lev Manevich in Linz.

Belarusian representatives also laid flowers in Tallinn at the monument to the Fallen During World War II, in Switzerland — at the monument on the mass grave of Soviet soldiers at the Hörnli cemetery in Basel. In Warsaw, the Chargé d'Affaires of Belarus in Poland laid wreaths at the monument located at the

Soviet military cemetery, as well as at the monument to the soldiers who died in the battles for the liberation of the capital of this country.

Ambassador of Belarus to Finland Aleksey Samosuev laid a wreath and flowers at the war memorial — a mass grave on the Hango peninsula, where in 1941 a small garrison of the Soviet naval base provided a selfless defence in fierce battles, and employees of the Belarusian embassy in Italy laid flowers at the graves of the Belarusians who died during the liberation of Italy. In the Czech Republic — at the monument to those tortured in the Terezin concentration camp and at the monument to the dead Soviet soldiers.

On the occasion of the 78th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with Belarusian foreign agencies, also launched a commemorative campaign on social media. Under the single hashtag #WeRemember, Belarusian diplomats talk about the exploits of outstanding compatriots, their relatives and friends during the Great Patriotic War.

Vladimir **Mikhailov**
Photo by BELTA



FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE IN THE REGIONS

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THE HIGH PRICE OF PEACE



Rallies, exhibitions, concerts, demonstration performances and much more... On May 9th, Belarusians were presented with an extensive program. Part of the events started on the eve of the holiday during the republican patriotic event Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone when flowers and wreaths were laid at memorials, people visited the burial places of war victims and museum, historical and cultural complexes associated with the Great Victory.

Motor rallies to the places of battles, laying flowers at memorials, congratulations to veterans — events timed to coincide with the 78th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War were held throughout the country. On May 9th, Belarusians took to the streets to take part in the celebration of the Great Victory Day and pay tribute to the memory of their heroic ancestors. The May morning in **Brest** began with the Victory Parade with

the participation of military equipment, servicemen of the Brest garrison and border guards. The rally, the laying of flowers and wreaths at the Eternal Flame in the Brest Fortress are attributes of the main holiday of the country, Alla Starikovich, director of Brest School No. 6, believes, “Those who forget the war 40s have no future. Rebuilding after a war that brings only disaster, hunger and poverty is very difficult. Belarusians know this like no one else. Look how the people rallied! Our children are walking alongside us — they



FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE IN THE REGIONS



Brest



Gomel



Vitebsk



Mogilev

understand: it is important to honour the feat of the heroes of the Great Patriotic War, to know the history of your country and remember at what cost peace was won.”

In **Ivatsevichi**, a park renovated after reconstruction was opened on Sovetskaya Street, where 64 people are buried in a mass grave, including the pioneer hero Kolya Goyshik. Now the park has acquired a name — Victory Park. The eternal flame, which was lit on solemn occasions, will now burn constantly. A particle of the Eternal Flame from Victory Square in Minsk was brought by students of educational institutions of the district and Director of the Ivatsevichi Museum of Local Lore Raisa Gorbach.

Gomel met the Victory Day, drowning in flowers and flags. The traditional large-scale event on Sovetskaya Street became a symbol of gratitude from descendants to the heroes-liberators, more than 25 thousand people took part in it. The most honoured guests are veterans. For military nurse Aelita Samsonova, May 9th is more important than all holidays, “I am glad that on this holiday, whole families go to monuments and memorials, adults tell children what a feat is behind their ability to live. I went to Berlin with the hospital. I remember how the train was moving through Belarus: there were only black pipes around instead of huts. Hungry kids are asking for food, but we ourselves really have nothing... Here, every meter is watered with the blood of our grandfathers, mothers, children. And it is scary that in some countries monuments are being demolished, the memory of the Victory is being erased.”

Aleksandr Peregud came to the solemn rally in **Vitebsk** with his five-year-old daughter Dasha. The young father did not hide his emotions, “Do you hear? The favorite song of my grandfather-front-line soldier Vladimir Timofeyevich sounds — ‘Victory Day, how far it was from us...’ Each line in it is experienced by him personally. He suffered severe injuries, but reached Berlin. Two years since he is not with us, we carefully keep his orders and medals. An ordinary person, a peasant, after the war worked as a groom in an agricultural enterprise in the Beshenkovichi region. His courage and civic devotion are a model for all of us, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.”

For 20 years now, Victoria Maleyeva has been coming to the **Mound of Glory** in the Smolevichi District with her family from near Minsk. Her grandfather was a military pilot. This year, she celebrated Victory Day with her youngest son, daughter Anastasia and son-in-law, grandchildren Pavel and Mikhail, “It’s a tradition for our family. After all, here, probably, like nowhere else, you feel the greatness of the people’s feat. My husband, who did not manage to join today, and I have always instilled in children respect for their history, roots. And now we also introduce grandchildren from the cradle to a good family tradition. It is important! If the memory of our liberators, those who forged the Great Victory at the fronts and in the rear, is passed on from generation to generation, those terrible events will never be repeated.”

More than 60 thousand residents of **Mogilev** took part in the Victory parade and the republican event Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone. Families have been walking to Lenina Square since the very morning, many of them holding portraits of grandfathers and great-grandfathers who went through the

FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE IN THE REGIONS



war. Mother of many children Natalya Polovikova came with her eldest son Maksim. The guy is convinced that young people should honour the feat of those who fought for the Motherland, "My great-grandfather Terenty Akimovich Selivanov gave his life for us to live today under a peaceful sky. He went to the front, leaving five small children at home. He died near Königsberg in March 1945 — shortly before the Victory. He was a little over 30 years old. His photo is on my phone. They say we are similar. I am proud that he fought for the Motherland."

The celebration in Grodno was massive as never before. A wide column of people with portraits in their hands, flags and flowers stretched for several kilometres on Sovetskaya Street. Grodno resident Natalya Grul admitted that an impulse of her soul brought her here, "My grandfather Aleksei Demyanovich Voroshenko was the brigade commander of the partisan detachment Groza. He fought in the Tolochin District of the Vitebsk Region, where he met my grandmother, who served as a radio operator there. Together they went through the whole war, started a family and raised three children. Grandfather, while he was alive, took me with him to parades. To be here with his portrait is very important for me, it's like an inner need!"

In **Minsk**, mass festivities were organised on the site near the capital's Sports Palace. Trade rows, catering facilities were set up there, songs of the war years were sung. The programme ended at 23:00 with colourful fireworks. It was given from six firing positions. These are parks named after Yanka Kupala, named after Pavlov, named after Hugo Chavez, on the embankment in the Drozdy microdistrict, on the site near the cultural and sports complex Chizhovka-Arena and near the National Library.



Solemn events dedicated to the Victory Day in the Great Patriotic War were held on the Stalin Line on May 8th and 9th. A large programme awaited the guests, including a festive concert, demonstration performances by dog handlers and a reconstruction of the battle of the Great Patriotic War — Berlin Operation.

In the foyer of the second floor of the Palace of the Republic, guests were invited by the exhibition The Way to Victory, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from Nazi invaders. Its organiser is the State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War. It presented several pavilions dedicated to significant milestones on the path to Victory: the heroes of the border, the defence of the Brest Fortress, the defence of Mogilev, the battle on the Buinichskoye field, the activities of the Minsk underground and others.

Vladislav **Yemeluanov**

Photo by BELTA and author



As long as we remember, they are alive



In the very heart of Minsk, late in the evening on May 9th, a festive concert Songs of Peace at War took place as part of the republican event Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone. One of the main concert locations for the first time unfolded on Oktybrskaya Square in order to accommodate as many people as possible who wanted to perform songs of the war years together with the artists.

THEME OF THE FESTIVE EVENING



“Who said that you have to give up the song in the war? After the battle, the heart asks for music doubly,” said the poet. And on this festive evening, thousands of people in the centre of our capital began to sing along with their favourite artists, as soon as the first chords of the famous poignant compositions *Blue Handkerchief*, *Fog*, *I Met a Girl*, *For That Guy* sounded ...

The concert was a gift not only to Belarusians, but also to our friends around the world. To everyone who, despite official cancellations and bans, fines and threats, celebrates the Great Victory Day. And Minskians from year to year come to the festive concert at the call of the soul. Love for the Motherland, respect for the victorious soldiers and tears in the eyes of joy are the main theme of the festive evening.

It is gratifying that modern Belarusian authors continue the traditions of the great Soviet composers and write new patriotic works. Thus, the musician Yevgeny Oleinik and the director of the concert Aleksandr Vavilov presented the composition *Grandfathers-Great-Grandfathers* that evening. It was performed by the young soloist Sofia Shcherbakova, accompanied by pupils

of the Khvilinka creative workshop of variety art. The audience enthusiastically accepted the song of the creative tandem Oleinik-Vavilov, “Friends have a daughter Sonya, Aleksandr Dmitrievich Vavilov has a granddaughter Sonya. He wrote the lyrics, and I wrote the music,” tells the story of the creation of the song Yevgeny Oleinik. “Then I asked his audience on social media to upload photos of young relatives, those who fought in the war. Friends responded quickly. And we made a touching video of real people and stories from photos.”

And the culmination of the concert was an absolutely new work by the composer and singer Anna Blagova and the poet

Anna Seluk — *Victory Suite*. The audience listened with deep feeling to each of the four parts of the suite performed by four famous artists: Irina Dorofeeva, Daria Gorozhanko, Anna Blagova and Victoria Aleshko.

“Each part of the suite tells about important historical stages in the life of our country,” explains the concept author Anna Blagova. “I think, by the names of the songs, our viewers guessed what

events they were talking about: *Knowing no Sorrow*, *Path of Grief*, *Great Victory*, *Peace and Creation*.”

Each song-confession inevitably led to one important thought: as long as we remember, they are alive. And this simple and clear call did not leave anyone indifferent.

The national holiday traditionally ended with fireworks. When the sky over Minsk was filled with festive fireworks, the lights suddenly turned on again on the big television screen, all the artists participating in the performance came on stage and sang Tukhmanov-Kharitonov’s immortal hit *Victory Day*. Under his chords, the audience looked into the sky for a long time and, probably, everyone remembered their departed relatives, infinitely distant, but also very close in such moments of spiritual unity.

For more than 9 million Belarusians, Victory Day is a great holiday. So it was and so it will always be. The Belarusian people will never change this memory.



Vsevolod **Yevseyev**

Photo by BELTA



HIGHEST VALUE

The Great Patriotic War swept across the Belarusian land like a heavy skating rink. About three million people died, more than two hundred cities, urban settlements and district centres were destroyed, about ten thousand villages and villages, almost four hundred thousand Belarusians were driven into slavery in Germany. During the years of occupation on the territory of Belarus, the Nazis created more than two hundred death camps, hundreds of prisons and ghettos, where hundreds of thousands of old people, women and children died. It is impossible to forget this. And it is not surprising that it was on Belarusian soil that an unprecedented resistance movement in world history unfolded. The people's avengers did not give the enemy peace day or night. More than one and a half million natives of Belarus fought on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War. Belarusians fought to the death near Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad and Kiev, participated in the liberation of the villages and cities of their homeland, as well as the states of Eastern and Central Europe. About four hundred immigrants from Belarus became generals and admirals, commanded army and navy formations during the war. For the heroism and valour shown in defending the Motherland during the war, 448 Belarusians were awarded the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union, four of them twice.

During the war, every third inhabitant of Belarus died. This is the price of freedom. We remember this. But let others know. By the way, after World War II Belarus became one of the founders of the United Nations. Not every state gets such a right. In favour of Belarus — then one of the republics of the Soviet Union — such a choice was made just for the great contribution to the defeat of fascism.

Yes, May is a special month. This is the month of victory over Nazism in World War II. In Belarus, the feat of a soldier is revered with reverence. There are fewer and fewer former front-line soldiers and partisans, participants in the Great Patriotic War. But veterans are still surrounded by the attention and care of the state. This must be said without fail against the background of the overthrow of the victorious symbols in individual countries. Our Victory Day is sacred, because the Great Patriotic War left its deep, often very tragic, mark in every family.

Actually, how many modern teenagers saw the heroes of that war? What do they think of it? Many examples could be given

when very young guys selflessly searched for soldiers who died in the war, restored the names of unknown people, took patronage over veterans. They remember and know about the war. They honour the winners.

Time passes and the world, or its configuration, as politicians say, is changing. But real values are not subject to revision. Belarus builds its relations with other countries on the principles of good neighbourliness. This is its modern political creed.

And it's better to win competitions. A worthy way to bring out the strongest. As in sports, where they compete for the right to be the first. After all, here the competition — with all the sharpest competitiveness — is still the most peaceful.

We need more partnership: between people, between countries. This is the strategic essence of international cooperation: the only true and relevant one. Belarus is also guided by it in its foreign policy. The partnership format is taken as a basis in relations with other states, and political priorities are disclosed in the annual message of the President to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly.

What else would I like to say regarding the symbolic theme of the Victory. Usually a week or two before May 9th, TV channels begin to actively show films about the war. There are many films, they are interesting. The plots are about the courage of soldiers, about the fate of ordinary people who found themselves in circumstances of hard times, about the strengths and weaknesses of the human character, about cruelty and kindness, about self-sacrifice... Yes, war is an aggravated behaviour of people, it is upholding human dignity. Personally, real films about the war give a good mental nourishment: you better understand the value of life.

Is seventy-eight years a lot or a little? It depends. By the way, this is the age of more than one generation. But even seventy-eight-year-olds, thank God, did not experience the horrors of that very terrible war, which we remember today through the prism of the Great Victory.

There are events that time does not devalue. These, without a doubt, include May 9th Victory Day. Whatever happens in the modern world, the significance of this date is not subject to any devaluation. The memory of the unparalleled feat of the Soviet soldier is still stable and strong.

Viktor **Kharkov**



It is important not to forget the true story

A patriotic event Belarus Remembers.
We Remember Everyone

This event has become truly popular. Labour collectives, social activists, caring citizens, representatives of state bodies, parliamentarians bring flowers to monuments and memorials, visit veterans and communicate with young people. Everyone understands that it is necessary to talk about the tragic pages of the history of the Great Patriotic War in order to instil in the younger generation a categorical rejection of fascism and a resolute readiness to resist this evil. So that history does not repeat itself again.

The pain still won't subside

On the eve of the celebration of the Great Victory Day, representatives of various ministries and departments took part in commemorative events. Workers in the sphere of culture, headed by Minister Anatoly Markevich, laid flowers at the memorial sign at the place of execution of members of the Minsk communist underground in Aleksandrovsky Park in Minsk. Employees of the Central Office of the Investigative Committee, headed by the Chairman of the Department Dmitry Gora went to the Victory Monument. The Ministry of Justice laid flowers at the Masyukovshchina memorial complex located on the site of the former German concentration camp Stalag 352. Members of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly also

paid tribute to the memory of those who died during the Great Patriotic War. Laying flowers at the monument to the victims of fascism, Chairwoman of the Upper House of Parliament Natalya Kochanova noted that the terrible tragedy of the Great Patriotic War touched every Belarusian family, "We always empathise with what happened, with particular pain. Years pass, you get older, and the pain does not subside. It is hard to imagine what our people endured, the victorious people who defended the peace and freedom of Belarus. The Nazis hoped to break humanity not only physically, but also spiritually, they hoped to educate obedient slaves of the Nazi regime. But it didn't happen. We must not betray the memory of our heroes. With our work, each in his own place, we must do everything to preserve peace and tranquillity. To save what our compatriots laid down millions of lives for."

According to the Speaker of the Council of the Republic, these days (and not only these) (2022 was declared the Year of Historical Memory in the country, and the current year is the Year of Peace and Creation) people remember the Great Patriotic War in preschool institutions, schools, universities, enterprises and organisations, "How many more white spots are kept in history, which, thanks to the employees of the Prosecutor General's Office, are being opened today! Once we said that every fourth person died in our country, today it is already every third. Low bow to them for this and eternal memory. Belarus remembers,



remembers everyone. Let the whole world remember. After all, only by uniting, humanity will be able to win the final victory over the brown plague.”

The State Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus Aleksandr Volfovich also spoke about the importance of preserving historical memory in the Korelichy District. He met with the activists of the district, talked with high school students of local schools and laid flowers at the Zvezda memorial complex and at the memorial sign to the commander of the 120th Guards Rifle Division Jan Vogel, who died during the liberation of the Korelichy land.

“It is important to convey history to the younger generation,” said Aleksandr Volfovich. “After all, this is one of the levers to prevent the tragedy that was during the Great Patriotic War. We need to bring our children to the memorials, to the Brest Fortress, take them to Khatyn, Trostenets and tell them what happened on Belarusian soil in those years. This will not leave them indifferent. After all, one of the objects of influence today, the Western information machine sees the impact on our youth, turning history upside down.”

Ready to defend the Motherland

During the years of World War II, 12 million citizens from 30 countries of the world were killed in a bloody conveyor belt. Today only in Belarus there are about 9 thousand monuments and burial places of those terrible times. Defence Minister Viktor Khrenin laid flowers at the mass grave of Soviet soldiers in Ostroshitsky Gorodok. According to him, 104 soldiers of the division of General Russiyanov are buried here, “In the distant 1940s of the last century, our people stood up to defend their homeland. And the memory of these people is sacred for us. It was here, in the area of Ostroshitsky Gorodok, that the soldiers of the 100th Infantry Division of General Russiyanov took up defensive positions and did not allow the German fascist invaders to take possession of the city of Minsk on the move.”

The minister recalled that here in the summer of 1944, the 5th Tank Army defeated the enemy and opened the way for the Red

Army to liberate Minsk, and in the intervals between these events, many years of occupation and the heroic struggle of partisans and underground fighters, “This cannot be allowed, and we, being the heirs of the great victorious people, are obliged to do everything to preserve peace, freedom and independence in our country. The Armed Forces are ready to defend our Motherland as selflessly as our ancestors.”

Ignorance is a crime

Political and public organisations joined the Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone republican event. Thus, the activists of the political party Belaya Rus laid flowers at the monument to Marshal of the Soviet Union, four times Hero of the Soviet Union Georgy Zhukov.

“Thanks to the Great Victory in 1945, we were able to become a state in which the Belarusian people live freely, brightly and happily, independently build their lives and determine the future development,” said Oleg Romanov, chairman of the Belaya Rus party, member of the Council of the Republic. “Forgetfulness is the path to the destruction of a people. To forget those who put their lives on the altar of our Victory is a crime. We have no right to do so. And those who forget, nullify their memory, take the path of betrayal, the path of indulging the worst ideologies in the world. After all, today in many countries of the world there is a flourishing of fascist ideology, and the culmination of this flourishing was oblivion, rewriting of history, labelling.”

Of course, after the horrors that our people experienced during the Great Patriotic War, no one could have imagined that the revival of fascism would become possible. But this, unfortunately, is already happening.

Traditions live on

It is no coincidence that two articles in the updated Constitution of Belarus at once provide for the need to preserve historical memory. According to the Basic Law of the country, the state



ensures the preservation of historical truth and memory of the heroic deed of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War, and patriotism is the duty of every citizen of Belarus. In this regard, Irina Dovgalo, a member of the Standing Committee on Legislation of the House of Representatives, noted, “Remember, as the President said in his annual Address: only a patriot can bring up a patriot. And in this case, the role of the family is exceptionally great. A family where the continuity of generations is preserved and respect for each other reigns can bring up a person, a true patriot of his country. And when several generations of families gather at one table at once, leaf through the pages of family albums, talk about the life and deeds of (great-great-grandfathers) veterans of the Great Patriotic War who liberated their country from the Nazi invaders, how parents cherish this memory and what children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will have to carry it through their lives and pass it on to new generations — this is the memory of the family. I believe that such traditions should be in every family.”

And if we talk about true patriotism, then who, if not the Patriots of Belarus public association plays a key role in this. They drove along the avenues of the capital to the accompaniment of the famous Victory Day, Katyusha, Internationale, We are Waiting for a Deadly Fire. The rally has become a kind of symbol of the memory of the feat of ancestors.

“Our valiant grandfathers and great-grandfathers defeated fascism, giving a worthy rebuff to the invaders,” said Nikolai Zarubitsky, chairman of the Patriots of Belarus non-government organisation. “The courage and courage of the front-line soldiers, the selfless work of home front workers manifested the true power and strength of our people, their victorious spirit and love for the Motherland. We honour those who gave all their strength in the battles for the independence of the Motherland, we defend the historical truth about the Great Patriotic War, about the heroic feat of the generation of Victors. On this day, we feel ourselves involved in a great event, we are proud of our country, its history.

This holiday inextricably linked us — those who were born after the war, who owe their lives to veterans, the opportunity to study, work peacefully, and be able to raise children. An example of selfless service to the Motherland in wartime and in the peaceful life of our veterans today helps to educate worthy young people who love their native land.”

Be proud of the deeds of the ancestors

On May 9th, people came to lay flowers at the Victory Monument in Minsk throughout the day. Many with families and children. Including the hockey team of the President. Dmitry Baskov, head coach of the team, member of the Council of the Republic, stressed that these days it is important not only to visit places of memory, but also to pass it on to the future generation of Belarusians, “Therefore, we try to involve our children in participation in such events as laying flowers and visiting the burial places of soldiers who died during the Great Patriotic War and memorial complexes, passing on the history of our ancestors, explaining at what cost that Great Victory was won.”

Yaroslav Chupris, the head coach of the Shakhtar-Salihorsk hockey club, a member of the hockey team of the President, added that today it is more important than ever that all generations remember what a feat our people accomplished 78 years ago, “The generation of Belarusians, which was associated with the heavy burden of the war, has no right to live differently. We must know our history, be proud of the exploits of our ancestors and not forget the atrocities of the Nazis. The great feat of our people will live for centuries, and we will remember that it is thanks to our grandfathers and great-grandfathers, to everyone who, at the cost of their own lives, gained Victory during the war years, we have today the opportunity to live under a peaceful sky, to live in a state that remembers feats of our veterans, in a country that honours and respects this great holiday — Victory Day.”

Aleksandr **Pimenov**

Photo by BELTA

AS A REMINDER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORLD



Victory Day has become an important element of the family traditions of the citizens of Belarus

Victory Day, annually celebrated in Belarus on May 9th, is the main memorable date dedicated to the heroic deed of the Liberator Soldiers. And it is not without reason that many events are held on this day, reflecting the awareness of the importance of the Great Victory in the history of our country and the preservation of peace. The people of Belarus not only perpetuate in memory the exploits of the Heroes who defended their Motherland during the war years, but also remember those who died for the sake of the peace of future generations and experienced hardships during the years of occupation. Sociological studies from year to year show that Victory Day has become an important element of the family traditions of the citizens of Belarus.

Special attitude to Victory Day

The Great Patriotic War left a deep mark in the history of our country and is one of the key tragic events for Belarusians to this day. Chairman of the Standing Committee of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly on Education, Culture and Science, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences Igor Marzalyuk notes, "The Great Patriotic War is a collective trauma for the Belarusian people. When we say the word 'war', we understand what kind of war we are talking about. We paid a very high price, and therefore we have a special attitude towards Victory Day. This is not just a holiday, it is a day of the triumph of life over death, absolute good over absolute evil."

Importance of memorable events

The results of the study showed that for 81.7 percent of the country's citizens, Victory Day is the most significant public holiday. Igor Marzalyuk considers this to be completely logical, "We must remember that the Belarusian nation is the most anti-Nazi of those that were under occupation. We have the largest number of righteous people in the world who, at the cost of their lives and the lives of their children, saved the Jews. There were a small number of collaborators among us. This must be constantly reminded, especially today, when under the guise of destruction and dismantling, as some say, of the old Soviet ideology, we are being offered a collaborationist, crypto-Nazi version of the 'Belarusian' history of the Second World War."

A true family holiday

Almost every Belarusian family in one way or another experienced all the horrors of the war, and therefore the medals and awards received by their relatives and friends for military merits and selfless work in the rear are of particular value. The vast majority of study participants (84.8 percent) noted that their relatives participated in the Great Patriotic War. At the same time, 42.5 percent of respondents indicated that among their family members and close relatives there were dead or missing during the war years.

The families of almost half of the respondents cherish the awards that were presented to their relatives during the Great Patriotic War. A third of the respondents indicated that they celebrate the holiday in the family circle to honour the memory of the fallen

Heroes, 29.1 percent remember their relatives and friends on this day. Director of the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Candidate of Sociological Sciences Nikolai Myslivets emphasises, “At the same time, 41.8 percent of the country’s residents learn the truth about those events through the stories of relatives and friends. That is why for 44 percent of the country’s citizens, Victory Day is a truly family holiday.”

Enduring values

The Great Patriotic War for the inhabitants of our country is, first of all, the heroic feat of the Soviet people (58.6 percent), the Great Victory of fathers and grandfathers (53.9 percent), a difficult test for the inhabitants of Belarus (53.0 percent), as well as a tragic event which claimed the lives of many people (52.8 percent). Among the feelings that arise in Belarusians when they hear about the Great Patriotic War, pride in the people (56.1 percent) and fear that the war could happen again (54.5 percent) were noted first of all. Nikolai Myslivets explains, “This testifies to the strong consolidation in the minds of the modern generation of Belarusians of the significance of the Victory and, as a result, the special value of peaceful existence. Also in this regard, the respondents named sorrow and grief, gratitude to the participants in the war, joy for the Victory and patriotism. Such a mixture of feelings indicates the complexity of perception and the spectral versatility of this tragic experience for the citizens of our country.”

Brest Fortress and the Partisan Republic

The citizens of the country associate the Great Patriotic War with the mass partisan movement (58.1 percent) and the defence of the Brest Fortress (56.8 percent). And this is quite justified: only the garrison of the Brest Fortress for almost a month in extremely difficult conditions of the blockade repelled enemy attacks. While the military operation of the Wehrmacht against Denmark lasted only six hours, the Nazis occupied Luxembourg in a day, the Netherlands were withdrawn from the war in five days, France capitulated 44 days after the start of the German

with weapons in their hands. There is incommensurability! In three years, the patriots destroyed more than 500 thousand invaders, blew up and derailed 11,128 military echelons and 34 armoured trains, destroyed 29 railway stations, 948 headquarters and garrisons, 18,700 vehicles, 819 railway bridges and 4,710 other bridges, disabled 1,355 tanks and armoured vehicles. By the beginning of 1944, 148 large partisan formations were operating in the republic, controlling 60 percent of the territory of Belarus.”

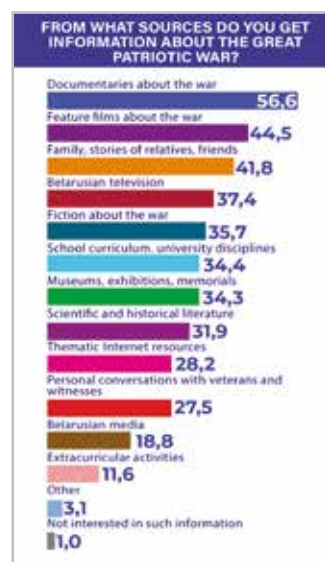
Answers to modern challenges

The theme of the immortal feat and interest in it does not fade over the years and worries Belarusians, as modern realities and events in the world are more and more reminiscent of that period.

“People are looking for and finding answers to modern challenges in historical materials and the truth about the Great Patriotic War,” says Nikolai Myslivets. “The results of the study showed that the absolute majority of respondents (98.5 percent) believe that it is important for every Belarusian to know the history of their country. At the same time, 91.4 percent of the survey participants noted that they themselves are interested in the past of Belarus, and only 6.7 percent are not interested. It is noteworthy that this trend is also relevant for young people aged 18—29, who also show considerable interest in the past of our country (84.7 percent). This is a reflection of the continuity of generations.”

The main sources of information about the Great Patriotic War are the school curriculum and historical subjects studied in institutions of higher education, museums, exhibitions, memorials, scientific and historical literature, thematic Internet resources and personal conversations with veterans, witnesses of the war. Despite the significant digitalization of our everyday life, nothing can replace personal communication. That is why we say that the memory of the Victory lives on as long as our veterans live. Our common task and sacred duty is to preserve this memory and pass it on to future generations. The Director of the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences concludes, “Thus, we can say that the Great Patriotic War remains one of the most important events in the history of Belarus. This is not a simple declaration of common truths, this is a statement supported by the results of sociological research and the personal experiences of our citizens. Belarusians not only remember and appreciate the exploits of the Heroes who fought for the freedom and independence of the Motherland, but they are also fully aware of the significance of this event for each of us, they understand the content of such concepts as unity, creation and peace.”

Vladimir Velikhov
Photo by BELTA





Important statements and accents at the meeting of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko with the parliamentarians of the CSTO countries

This year Belarus chairs the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. At last year's summit of the organisation's member countries in Yerevan, Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined in detail to his colleagues from Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan the priorities of the Belarusian chairmanship. Minsk puts an increase in the cohesion of all participants in the association at the forefront. A special role is given to parliamentarians as the main conductors of public diplomacy. At the May meeting

with the participants of the meeting of the Council of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly, the President of Belarus once again emphasised the seriousness of this critical moment in modern history, "Today the powers are trying to redistribute the world, and we are in the spotlight. Therefore, we must hold on to each other, we must be closer to each other at this time. This is our policy, we offer it to you. I think that there is no other alternative to preserve the sovereignty and independence of our states."

Parliamentary dimension is of particular importance

The President stressed that Belarus, as the chair of the organisation, attaches particular importance to the parliamentary dimension as an integral part of the successful activities of the CSTO, “Naturally, the first and main task is the convergence and harmonisation of national legislation. There are no complaints against our Parliamentary Assembly here. You have proposed many model laws to the national parliaments, some of which are being used with pleasure in Belarus and other countries. Another, no less urgent task is the observation function during election campaigns in the states of our organisation. Given the degree of negative feedback on the conditions for their preparation and holding by biased political institutions, impartial assessments of our assembly play the role of a positive balance. That is, we ourselves, our states, do not give offense to each other.”

The world is on the dangerous brink of global conflict

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that the negative trends that have been repeatedly discussed over the past year are becoming a reality in foreign policy, “The military presence and offensive potential of the North Atlantic Alliance are being built up near the western borders of the CSTO. Large-scale exercises are being held, military infrastructure is being modernised at an accelerated pace, including in neighbouring states. Individual states have become a testing ground for the destruction of old and testing of new Western weapons. After the recent entry into the alliance of Finland and the impending entry of Sweden, we have once again witnessed the expansion of the North Atlantic bloc. Such actions put the world on a very dangerous brink of global conflict. Everything that I said is justified by the West by ‘intervention’, ‘aggression’ of Russia in Ukraine and so on. If we weren’t politicians, maybe we would listen to this rubbish. But what does a special military operation have to do with it, or what does Finland’s entry into NATO have to do with a special military operation? Absolutely nothing. They were waiting for the moment. Then they decided that this moment had come. I think that this will not cause much harm to either Russia or Belarus. Still, no matter what decisions politicians make in Finland, the people there are not stupid and know what war is.” Despite the rapid decline in living standards and the deteriorating economic prospects in European countries, the West is escalating international tension and openly admits, with the voices of politicians, that it is preparing for war. Ukraine remains the central arena of confrontation, the battlefield on our continent, because of the military clash in which all the most important spheres of interstate relations — political, economic and humanitarian — have been violated, the President of Belarus concludes.

...To stop the war

Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that the efforts of Western opponents of the UN and the OSCE are turning into institutions of pressure and confrontation, “If the OSCE is the Organisation

for Security and Cooperation in Europe; if this conflict flares up in Europe, well, it’s time to just get together at the highest level, look at each other and make some decisions. Or at least talk if we can’t accept. And the Russians and I have suggested many times: let’s meet and discuss problems. Even before the special military operation. Zero. No discussion is needed. This suggests that one thing is needed — war. And they are doing everything to bring us to this war, to unleash this war. On the very first day (the parliamentarians of Russia were directly involved in this), we suggested: let’s sit down at the negotiating table. Well, we hurt each other, let’s talk, let’s stop this war. Three rounds have passed in Belarus. Then Zelenskyy became either too cramped, or something else, and they left for Turkey. Okay, let’s go to Turkey. A draft treaty was placed on the table. If Russia were reading



it now, it would go crazy. It was absolutely disadvantageous for Russia. But Russia agreed. I have a draft of this treaty on my desk. And as soon as Russia agreed to peace initiatives, the draft treaty was thrown into the basket.

These people may not know everything. But experts participated in it and know. Therefore, before accusing us of confrontation and expansion of this conflict, we must return to the negotiating table. Take not the document, which was developed at the initial stage in the course of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations, but a new one. To stop the war.”

The President of Belarus is categorical in this.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also drew attention to how much they are now talking about the ‘counter-offensive’, adding that disinformation may take place, “In any battle, disinformation is very dangerous. Remember the Battle of Kursk, near Stalingrad, when we successfully misinformed the enemy and won this battle. But, I must say, the biggest misinformation is this ‘counterattack’. From my point of view, there is no ‘counterattack’ and there cannot be. It’s just crazy. To fight one to five at the front in terms



of equipment and manpower is just crazy! No, it is necessary to escalate, it is necessary to wind up the Ukrainians in order to continue and drown us in this confrontation. This is the essence of today at the front. We see it. It's right behind our fence."

Sit down at the negotiating table and talk

The President emphasised that Belarus never escalates the situation, but, on the contrary, always stands for a peaceful dialogue, "Don't think that we don't want peace talks, we don't want to agree on peace. But the bigger picture is seen from a distance, as I always say. We will come to the assessments, and we will see who is right and who is wrong. And especially now. Through the efforts of our Western opponents, as I said, both the UN and the OSCE are becoming help dogs for Western states. We consider such actions short-sighted and irresponsible."

Nevertheless, as the Head of State said, Belarus remains committed and open to dialogue aimed at strengthening global and regional security. The country is tirelessly calling for an end to confrontation and a return to a peaceful solution of issues. But, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed, the dialogue should be mutually respectful and equal, "And all sorts of preconditions that Ukraine, the President of Ukraine put forward today are made in order to prevent any negotiations, which is absolutely clear. What are the preconditions? It is necessary to sit down at the negotiating table and work out all sorts of conditions there." The best prospects for the development of the world are in the multipolarity

Another important statement by Aleksandr Lukashenko, "We must focus our efforts on the formation of a new system of international relations based on generally recognised norms and principles of international law, and not on some 'rules' that are slipped to us by the West. We are constantly accused that the elections were not held on some principles of the OSCE. Where are these principles? Who approved these principles? There are rules that they have established and which they change for each state and for each event."

The President of Belarus believes that most countries, which include the CSTO member states, see the best prospects for the development of the world in multipolarity. Belarus intends to further promote the principles of a just and multipolar world, to contribute to the development of reliable guarantees to ensure both collective security and stability, and the security of each member of the international community.

OUR COUNTRIES HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH NOT TO BE TORN APART

Imangali Tasmagambetov, Secretary General of the CSTO, "Of course, we have enough strength not to be torn apart. This is the main thing. As for the cohesion of the CSTO states, this is indeed a very serious issue. The geopolitical situation in the world is tense, and there are many crisis moments in the CSTO's area of responsibility. This is the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the border issue between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Speaking specifically about Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the heads of state established that they would decide on the delimitation of the border and the signing of an appropriate agreement without the mediation efforts of third parties. To date, more than 63 percent of the length of the border has been determined, and we certainly welcome these efforts. As for the problem of the South Caucasus, negotiations are underway now. Recently, another round took place in Europe. It was noted with satisfaction that both Azerbaijan and Armenia practically recognise the borders between the two countries according to the Almaty Declaration of 1991, according to which the administrative borders that existed between these republics until 1991 as part of the USSR are also state borders. We hope that these negotiations will lead to the signing of a peace treaty and subsequently the parties will proceed to the delimitation of the border."

"I am sure that the motto of the Belarusian chairmanship 'through solidarity and cooperation to peace and security' meets the interests of all members of the CSTO," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

In this regard, according to the Head of the Belarusian State, the issue of the unity of our ranks cannot be avoided, "Belarus, within the framework of its chairmanship, aims to make the necessary efforts to increase the cohesion of the CSTO member states. It is in the removal of existing contradictions that we see the prospect of strengthening the organisation, ensuring security and stability in its area of responsibility. We often discuss this problem with the President of Russia. We do not want you to fall under sanctions imposed against us, while cooperating with us. We absolutely do not need it, this will only make things worse. But we very much hope that these attempts to tear us apart will not affect our unity." The main thing is the economy, the main thing is the market, Aleksandr Lukashenko believes, "There are always enough problems in the post-Soviet space. But we somehow got together, discussed problems, and sometimes serious actions were taken to somehow calm the situation in one or another point of the post-Soviet space. It costs a lot. They are trying to separate us. Therefore, as an experienced person, I just want to ask you: carefully, without noise, do not fall for these tricks. You must look where it is best for you, where it is best for your peoples. If, for example, it is profitable for Tajikistan to trade in vegetables and fruits, then it is necessary to trade with us and with Russia. If it is profitable for Georgia, for example, to fly to Moscow, and Moscow to Tbilisi, what's wrong with that? 'No, this is bad...' This example already shows what they want. Therefore, do not allow (you, parliamentarians first of all) this gap at this critical moment in our history. Today, the powers that be are trying to redistribute the world, and we are in the spotlight. Therefore, we must hold on to each other, we must be closer to each other at this time. This is our policy, we offer it to you. I think that there is no other alternative to preserve the sovereignty and independence of our states."

On the conditions for a peaceful dialogue

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that parliamentarians, through their active participation in the development and strengthening of the CSTO potential, will be able to enhance the role of the organisation in the system of international relations, "Strict adherence to the principle of the indivisibility of security as an essential condition for a peaceful dialogue, countering external pressure and sanctions will also contribute to the progress in this direction.

I am absolutely sure that the meeting of the Council of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly in Minsk will contribute to the adoption of specific decisions aimed at strengthening the relations of true alliance between the CSTO member states. At least we will do our best for this. You can count on us and not even doubt."

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasises the important role of unity in the CSTO to preserve the sovereignty and independence of its members. The President is confident that the motto of the Belarusian chairmanship 'through solidarity and cooperation to peace and security' meets the interests of all members of the CSTO.

COMMON CHALLENGES UNITE US. THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly, "Of course, the position of the Head of State, the country chairing the CSTO, is very important for us. Such meetings are extremely important because they set guidelines and give impetus to our work. In particular, with regard to the convergence and harmonisation of national legislation, we have adopted 82 documents, including 12 model laws and 70 recommendations. By 2025, we plan to reach the adoption of another 33 model acts. All decisions are made by consensus. In this regard, our organisation is unique.

Today the world is getting closer to disaster. And, of course, everyone should be aware that a lot depends on us all. Common challenges unite us. This is the moment of truth. We stand for a multipolar and just world where every country should have a future. The people must have prospects. And when Washington decides whether a country should or shouldn't be... We have seen this in the example of what happened with Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, and Afghanistan. Until Washington makes a decision, no Zelenskyy, no Ukraine will sit at the negotiating table. Ukraine as a state does not exist. This is a testing ground for weapons supplied by all NATO countries. Power in Ukraine is absolutely in the pocket. Everything is managed by advisers from Washington, from Brussels. If we talk about Zelenskyy, this is just a TV presenter. And with the text that is written to him. There are no legitimate authorities there. Washington is in charge there, and Washington will determine how long the war will last, how many Ukrainians will die. For them, the inhabitants of Ukraine are expendable material.

The current situation hits Europe the hardest. In Europe, inflation is from 16 to 27 percent. The business leaves Germany for the USA. The Americans blew up the Nord Stream. Whom it affected? Germany, the Netherlands, France. Cheap energy was at the heart of competitive products produced by Germany, Europe's most powerful economy. But it loses the most, now they do not have these preferences. And who received them? USA. Because their shale gas is many times more expensive than the gas supplied by Russia. But at the same time, they sell this gas to their enterprises in America four times cheaper. This means that their economy will develop, while the German economy will fall and stagnate. And all this will hit the European economy as a whole."

"In this connection it is impossible to bypass the issue of the unity of our ranks. Belarus, within the framework of its chairmanship, aims to make the necessary efforts to increase the cohesion of the CSTO member states," said the Head of the Belarusian State.

Vladimir **Khromov**

Photo by BELTA

LEGISLATIVE CONVERGENCE IS A PRIORITY

The meeting of the supreme body of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly, held in Minsk, confirmed: the positions of the CSTO member countries on the most important issues of ensuring international and regional security fully coincide



Discussed a range of issues

It is undoubtedly symbolic that the event, which discussed the most important issues related to the legislative regulation of security, was held on the days of the 78th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The CSTO member countries remember well the events of that time. Therefore, among other things, they pay such close attention in their activities to the legislative support for the peaceful settlement of issues. In memory of the heroes who gave their lives in the struggle for peace, the heads of the parliamentary delegations of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan laid flowers at the Victory Monument before the meeting.

During the meeting at the traditional round table, the CSTO PA Council discussed a whole range of issues related to both the work of the assembly and the situation in the area of responsibility of the organisation. The parliamentarians also listened to a report on the activities of the state bodies of our country to ensure the stability of the socio-political and military situation, counter the challenges and threats to security in the context of implementing the priorities of Belarus' chairmanship in the CSTO in 2023, discussed amendments to the Assembly's Programme of Activities for the Rapprochement and Harmonization of the National Legislation of the CSTO Member States for 2021-2025 and draft amendments to the Regulations on the Participation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation in International Observation of Elections and Referendums. A number of other issues were also raised.

Cooperation needs to be strengthened

Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly Vyacheslav Volodin, speaking at the meeting, noted that the priority

for the organisation today is the convergence and harmonisation of national legislation, the quality of joint work to prevent threats in the area of responsibility of the organisation largely depends on this. Also, in his opinion, the CSTO PA needs to more effectively use the practice of adopting political statements by the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly as a tool for indicating common approaches on topical issues on the agenda.

No arms race in space

Speaking of statements. The Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation called on the world community to reaffirm its commitment to the current international legal norms to exclude the possibility of a military confrontation in outer space.

"I would like the deputies of Western countries to consider this issue. They need to think about what the militarisation of space leads to. Such provocations on their part jeopardise the security of all mankind," noted Viacheslav Volodin.

Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly Vladimir Andreichenko, talking to journalists, stressed the importance of this issue, "Who knows what will happen tomorrow. It is possible that not only nuclear weapons, but also other weapons that will pose a serious threat to humanity may appear."

VERBATIM

SHOW HUMANITY, COMPASSION AND KINDNESS TO THE WORLD

Natalya Kochanova, Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly, "Belarus invariably confirms its status as a peace-loving state, even despite the unfriendly attacks of individual

politicians. Our principles are mutual support in the fight against the challenges of our time, responsibility, good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and de-escalation of conflicts. Long before the conflict in Ukraine, the President of Belarus repeatedly emphasised the highest importance of peace for the sustainable development of any country at international conferences in Minsk on security issues, called on the world community for dialogue, strengthening trust and cooperation. Then these words of the Belarusian leader could seem ordinary and self-evident to someone. But now there is a universal awareness of their depth and enduring meaning. Peacefulness is an integral feature of the Belarusian people, who, despite all the cruellest trials of fate, did not kneel, did not become embittered, did not turn off the true path, but, on the contrary, continued to show humanity, compassion and kindness to the world. The motto of the current Belarusian chairmanship in the CSTO 'through solidarity and cooperation to peace and security' is another clear confirmation of this. We categorically do not accept any attempts to denigrate the peaceful image of the Belarusian nation."

LAWS CREATE CONDITIONS FOR STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE SECURITY

Vladimir Andreichenko, Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, "The CSTO should act not only as a guarantee against external threats and interference in internal affairs, but also as an important element in the formation of a multipolar world based on the principles of equality and mutual respect. It is in this vein that the deputies consider the priorities of their parliamentary activities within the framework of the CSTO PA. First of all, this is the improvement of the regulatory legal framework of the CSTO and national legal acts. The adopted model laws create conditions for strengthening collective security. But we must move forward, taking into account the changing situation in the region.

Protection of historical truth, traditional moral and family values, confessional and interethnic peace, the fight against terrorism, extremism, and the drug threat are fundamental emphases that we must constantly keep in our field of vision.

The inadmissibility of the use of economic sanctions, political pressure and blackmail, interference in the internal affairs of states is an incomplete list of topics that directly affect each of the CSTO member states. And here it is necessary to develop a coordinated position, defending it in all international structures, especially within the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Serious potential lies in the work with the parliamentarians of the SCO countries."

MINSK IS READY TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR DISCUSSING ALL PROBLEMATIC AND ACUTE ISSUES

Aleksandr Volfovich, State Secretary of the Security Council, "Belarus took over the chairmanship of the CSTO at a difficult time. In this regard, one of the areas under our chairmanship has become the settlement of existing crises, and for this we need to get together and discuss, develop ways to solve existing problems, promptly report on the situation that is developing in a particular sector or region. The actions of some political figures outside the

Republic of Belarus, in particular the leadership of Ukraine and Poland, cross all possible boundaries.

The main problem on the European continent is to stop the military conflict on the territory of Ukraine. If this is not done, if we do not agree on security measures, do not find ways to resolve existing issues and do not come to a peaceful dialogue, what happened on the eve of the First and Second World Wars may flare up.

The Head of State always says: let's get together, find solutions and compromises in order to stop unnecessary bloodshed. Minsk is ready to provide a platform for discussing all problematic and acute issues, finding solutions for the benefit of the security of peoples and countries of the world."

FACT

During the period of work of the CSTO PA, 82 documents were adopted, including 12 model laws and agreements, 70 recommendations in the field of countering terrorism and extremism, ensuring information security, and responding to emergencies. All these decisions were taken by consensus.

MEANWHILE

The CSTO PA Council supported the initiative of Belarus to hold a conference on Eurasian security in Minsk.

The CSTO PA activity programme must meet the challenge of the time. In this regard, the Chairman of the Assembly, Vyacheslav Volodin, stated, "We support the initiative of Belarus, which chairs the CSTO this year, to organise a conference in Minsk this autumn on the problems of Eurasian security."

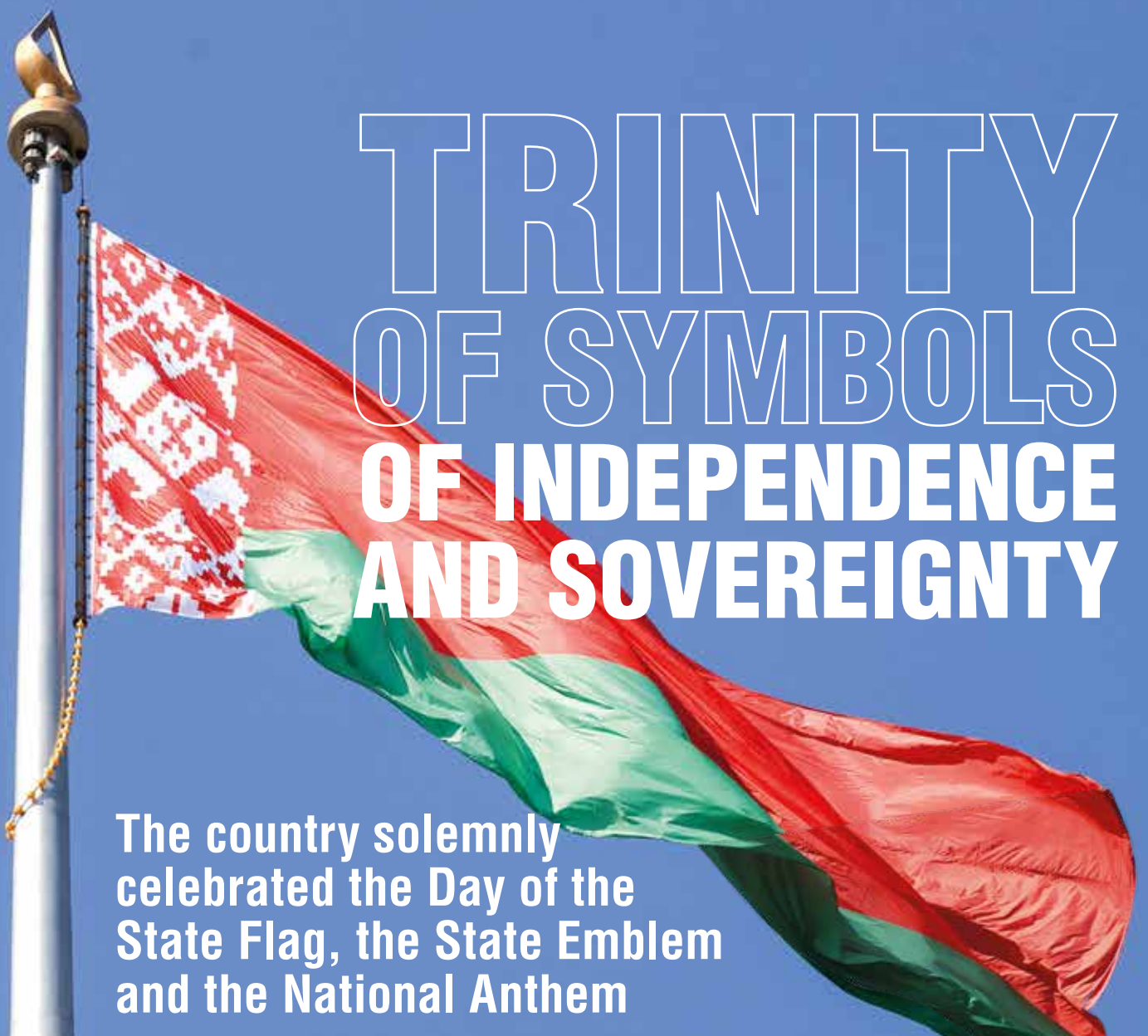
Viacheslav Volodin explained that all the international institutions that should deal with this issue, if we talk about the international level, have degraded. And instead of solving real problems, they serve the interests of one country — the United States of America. In his opinion, the CSTO PA needs to strengthen interaction with other countries that share the principles of the organisation: mutual respect, absence of double standards, non-interference in the sovereign affairs of other states, respect for traditions, history and culture.

With concern for the future

At the initiative of Belarus, the CSTO PA talked about countering drug abuse among children and youth and promoting their healthy lifestyle. The message from the CSTO states that the problem of drug abuse among children and young people has become global, and also emphasises the need to improve collective measures to combat this phenomenon.

"This is a very important issue," Vladimir Andreichenko, Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly, stressed in his conversation with journalists. "In our country, special attention is paid to it. And we want to fight this evil not alone, but to promote the importance of countering drug abuse among children and young people in other international parliamentary platforms."

Aleksey Fedosov



TRINITY OF SYMBOLS OF INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY

The country solemnly
celebrated the Day of the
State Flag, the State Emblem
and the National Anthem

Belarus celebrated the Day of the State Flag, the State Emblem and the State Anthem on May 14th. This is the first time in such a 'triune' format: the corresponding decree of the President was signed on April 12th, this document approved the new name of the holiday, which allows paying tribute to all three state symbols of the country. However, this is not the only thing that unites them: all three symbols were adopted on the basis of a nationwide discussion.

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, "Understanding the deep historical and political significance of the emblem and flag of Belarus, the ability to sing our anthem, knowledge of the Constitution — the Basic Law of the country — should become an integral part of the common culture of every Belarusian. It is necessary that a

real cult of state symbols be formed in Belarus. So that they are revered in every Belarusian home, being a source of pride and a source of patriotism."

(At the opening ceremony of the State Flag Square, July 2nd, 2013)

It is important to know the origins

A bit of history. On July 2nd, 2013, the State Flag Square was opened in Minsk. It was an enchanting spectacle: in a solemn atmosphere, the flag was raised to the flagpole, then the anthem was sung, which was accompanied by volleys of artillery salute. The evening sky over the capital was adorned with fireworks and ten thousand balloons in the colours of the State Flag. A new patriotic tradition of swearing allegiance to the State Flag, the symbol and bulwark of independence and statehood, was laid at the ceremony. The

worthiest representatives of science, culture, industry and sports were the first to take such an oath. Since then, festive events have been held on the new capital square, labour semesters are solemnly opened, young officers take the military oath, and young citizens of the country receive their first passports. The State Flag Square has become a symbolic place for Minsk residents and guests of the capital, for independent Belarus.

The current State Flag of Belarus was adopted following the results of the first referendum in the history of the country in the years of independence, which was held on May 14th, 1995. One of the four blocks submitted for public discussion was the issue of changing the state symbols. In the official report published by the Central Election Commission following the results of the plebiscite, it was said that 75.1 percent of the citizens participating in the plebiscite were in favour of establishing the new state flag and emblem.

Doctor of Political Sciences, Professor Vladimir Melnik emphasised in a conversation that the first symbol of the statehood of the Belarusian people was the red flag of the Socialist Soviet Republic of Belarus, formed on January 1st, 1919, "Originally it was just a red cloth. According to the Constitution adopted on February 3rd, 1919, the abbreviation SSRB appeared on this flag at the flagstaff. Its subsequent modifications differed only in the abbreviation of the name of the state. From 1937 to 1951, on the flag of the BSSR, above the abbreviation, a golden hammer and sickle were depicted, and above them — a red five-pointed star framed by a golden outline. Being one of the founders of the UN, the BSSR modified its flag in 1951: a green stripe was added to the red stripe and a white stripe near the pole with a national ornament. The state flag of the Republic of Belarus is also a modification of the flag of the BSSR."

At the same time, the scientist emphasised that the red flag was by no means an invention of the Bolsheviks. According to him, this is a very ancient symbol of the victorious struggle. The banners of some Russian princes were red. For example, on one of the miniatures of the Radziwill Chronicle, illustrating the release of Grand Duke Usiaslau (the legendary Usiaslau the Sorcerer) from a Kyiv prison in 1068, a red banner fluttering over a detachment of squads is clearly visible. So all citizens of Belarus have very good reasons to be proud of their national flag!

The red stripe on the flag symbolises the courage of the people who defended their freedom with blood. Green is the colour of life and hope, the colour of our forests and fields, evidence of the peaceful nature of the Belarusians, their hard work. The white stripe with an ornament is a symbol of our purity and high spirituality.

Reflection of faith in goodness and justice

The Belarusian national emblem, adopted at the same plebiscite, had gone a long evolutionary path by that time. Initially, it was the national emblem of the RSFSR of 1918 with the inscription SSRB, and then the BSSR. In 1927, a prototype of our modern state symbol appeared: at the 8th All-Belarusian Congress of Soviets, the State Emblem of the BSSR was adopted, which consisted of an image on a red background in the rays of the rising sun with a sickle and a hammer, placed crosswise with handles down and surrounded by a wreath: with rye ears intertwined with clover and flax on the left and oak branches on the right. Below, between both halves

of the wreath, there is a part of the globe with the territory of the Byelorussian SSR. Both halves of the wreath are intertwined with a red ribbon, on which there are inscriptions in four languages: 'Proletarians of all countries, unite!', and below there is the 'B. S. S. R.' inscription. The national emblem was crowned with a five-pointed star.

In 1938, the oak branch was replaced by rye ears, and flax was depicted in the form of boxes with seeds. In 1949, flax is already in bloom. In 1981, the national emblem became brighter: the hammer and sickle, the sun and the rays acquired a golden colour.

In the referendum of 1995, the national emblem was adopted, which is a green outline of the Republic of Belarus in the golden rays of the sun over the globe. At the top of the outline is a five-pointed red star. The national emblem is framed by a wreath of golden ears intertwined with clover flowers on the right and flax flowers on the left. The ears are entwined with a red-green ribbon, on which the inscription 'Republic of Belarus' in gold is made on the bottom.

Exactly one year after this referendum, some results were summed up in the media, "Of course, the decision of the majority of citizens who took part in the plebiscite and preferred the new national emblem and flag should be deeply respected... Symbols in general cannot be enforced in some specifically established term. They should sink



into hearts and souls over time, pour in with mother's milk. Today we can safely state that the symbols have become a recognizable in the world as the embodiment of international, scientific, sports and other achievements of Belarus. It flew into space more than once, climbed the highest mountain peaks and visited Antarctica."

In May 2007, a member of the Heraldic Council under the President, Doctor of Historical Sciences Sergey Rassadin, was able to state, "The state symbols of the Republic of Belarus were defined, were tested and entered the consciousness of society. The colours and composition of the State Emblem of Belarus reflect the social meaning of the state, based on faith in goodness and justice. Therefore, the Belarusian state is established."

The national emblem was last slightly changed in January 2021. The green contour of the State Border of Belarus has become golden. Ears of corn, clover and flax on the framing wreath took

TRADITION THAT UNITES THE COUNTRY

on a slightly different form. And the planet under the rising sun was turned on the national emblem so that the country was in the centre of the image. The colour of the continents has also changed from blue to dark orange.”

The birth of modern traditions

The editorial archives store unique evidence of the era — the articles describe in detail the history of the birth of the anthem of the Republic of Belarus. For example, there is a story about how on May 8th, 2002, the President personally listened to the five versions of the anthem proposed by a special commission in the Great Hall of the Palace of the Republic. A casual discussion revealed a general doubt, it seems. The conclusion was formulated by Aleksandr Lukashenko, “There is no flawless text that meets all the requirements of the anthem. The words need

the Anthem Together campaign was held, which was supported by the Head of State. It has replenished the treasury of modern traditions of independent Belarus.

So, if you pay attention to history, then back in the last century, at a referendum, the citizens of Belarus independently decided what the national emblem and flag should be. Belarusians have chosen those state symbols that reflect things close to the state. Of course, they preserve historical memory. But for any society it is very important that the continuity of generations be sacredly revered. The current flag echoes many important historical events for the country. Under it, in the last century, the borders of modern Belarus were formed. The national emblem tells that very beautiful and hardworking people live in the country, who wish the whole world only good and happiness. Under these symbols, the young state has passed a significant path of



to be improved, especially those that are proposed for the music of Nestor Sokolovsky. The available options should be broadcast on radio and television so that all citizens can form their own opinion about them.”

As a result, all versions of the National Anthem — versions to music by Vasily Rainchik, Vladimir Olovnikov and an updated arrangement by Nestor Sokolovsky — performed by the orchestra and choir were broadcast on radio and television, and five versions of the text were published. More than one hundred thousand people expressed their opinions and opinions about how the Belarusian anthem should be. Citizens preferred the music of Nestor Sokolovsky.

On July 2nd, 2002, the President approved the text and music of the anthem. And on December 8th, at the initiative of the ONT TV channel, for the first time in the country, the Let's Sing

development. There is confidence that there will be many more achievements ahead.

Respect for the personification of independence

Thus, it is on the second Sunday of May that state symbols are traditionally honoured in the country. The holiday is not new, but the scope with which this time the Day of the State Flag, the State Emblem and the National Anthem was celebrated was comparable only to the celebration of Victory Day. The explanation for this is simple — citizens have realised that they need to respect those things that embody the independence and, in general, the statehood of Belarus. This is what really matters now and will always be important. Solemn events on the occasion of the holiday were held in all regional centres, and the largest ceremony of honouring national symbols took place on the State Flag Square



in the capital. It gathered more than five thousand people, and most importantly, mostly young people.

Yes, the Day of the State Flag, the State Emblem and the State Anthem was celebrated in such a formulation for the first time. Even last year, only the national emblem and the flag appeared in the name of the holiday, but by the Decree of the President of April 12th of this year, an anthem was added to them. Thus, a trinity of state symbols was created, which are always sacred for every citizen, patriot of their country.

Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko spoke about this from the State Flag Square. After he announced the congratulations of the Head of State, on behalf of the young generation of Belarus, the oath of allegiance to state symbols was pronounced by representatives of youth from all regions and Minsk. Roman Golovchenko urged young people to remember what true patriotism is and how it manifests itself, "I am sure that for each of you this day will be remembered as one of the most important events in life. And years later you will come here to hear how your children will utter the same oath, whom you will bring up as real patriots. Please do not forget that real patriotism is manifested not in words and slogans, but in life position, everyday deeds for the good of the country. Remember that state symbols embody independence and sovereignty, unite us all in an effort to preserve our way of life, primordial traditions and heroic past."

Commitment to one's country

The symbols of any state are not just the lines and music of its anthem, images of the national emblem and flag. They summarise the path of the people through the centuries, the historical memory accumulated by generations, reflect the character of people, mentality. And more importantly, they allow you to feel the unity and belonging to your state. Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly Natalya Kochanova emphasised that we have built a beautiful and strong country and this holiday is proof of that, "We say — national emblem, flag, anthem. But what a sense of pride one takes for one's country when we all sing the anthem together, when we see the flag. We feel a sense of belonging to our country. I wear with great pride the badge of a member of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus. Every morning I put it on and I am proud that our national

flag is on my chest. As a person who has lived enough on this earth, I will say that every time I feel awe for my country. I think that exactly the same feelings are experienced by all real citizens of the Republic of Belarus, who love it immensely."

Obviously, the country has already achieved a lot, and it has great prospects in the future. However, further development will be impossible if we do not know the centuries-old history, traditions and features of Belarus, which are reflected in the trinity of its symbols. This opinion was voiced by the Head of the Administration of the President Igor Sergeyenko, "They should be honoured and taught to the younger generation from an early age. The day when we honour our national symbols is a wonderful and necessary holiday. The symbols of our statehood and independence of Belarus are the flag, national emblem and anthem, which every citizen of the country must remember."

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union Aleksandr Lukyanov expressed solidarity with the Head of the Administration of the President. In his opinion, through heraldry, symbols of the state, the genetic code is transmitted to future generations. Aleksandr Lukyanov spoke about the importance of the main Belarusian symbols for modern youth, "Today, all regions are full of native red-green colours. The whole country sings the anthem, and young people do it especially brightly. In very creative and non-standard forms, the participants of the large-scale event are proud of the native symbols of their country. Even a boutonniere with an apple flower evokes a feeling of patriotism. Today, it is a special honour for every Belarusian to wear the national flag on the lapel, hang it in the windows of houses and in the car. All these are the pride of our country and the special pride of our youth. I am sure that this trend will continue in the future."

By the way, an exhibition with the main achievements and important cultural objects of all regions and Minsk was presented on the State Flag Square. Anyone could see how successfully Belarus works in various fields. Minister of Culture Anatoly Markevich said that during the creation of the exhibition, the organisers consulted, among other things, young people in order to more fully reflect the view of Belarusians on the present and future.

Vsevolod **Yevseyev**

Photo by BELTA



CONTINUATION OF LIFE IN A NEW DIMENSION

On April 26th, 1986, the largest man-made disaster in the history of mankind occurred — the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. In total, five million people suffered from the disaster and its consequences. As a result of the accident, almost a quarter of Belarus was contaminated with cesium-137. But thanks to those people who refused to leave their homeland, and the colossal support of the state, these territories today are not only returning to normal life, but are becoming an example for other regions of the country.

37

years after Chernobyl... Perhaps this expression is no longer very relevant. Life goes on — 40 and 50 years will pass from the moment when, in fact, an atomic explosion happened in Chernobyl... Yes, that man-made disaster attracted the attention of the whole world. People suffered, radionuclides got into the ground, in Belarus most of all, by the way. But the republic, the country came out of the situation with honour.

Test of endurance

It is no secret that the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant had huge social consequences for Belarus. Settlements and villages near the station were empty. Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated to safe places, resettled for permanent residence in other regions. The disaster caused huge economic losses. According to some estimates, the amount needed to overcome the consequences of a man-made accident is hundreds of billions of dollars.

During the first four years after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Soviet authorities struggled with the consequences of the explosion on their own. The United Nations and its partners were looking for ways to help assess nuclear safety and environmental conditions in the contaminated area, as well as diagnose various diseases resulting from the accident. In addition, UN activities were aimed at raising awareness among residents of the affected areas and educating the population about protection from radionuclides contained in the environment and agricultural products.

Over time, it has become clear that the goal of improving the environment and improving health is inextricably linked to development issues. UN, large non-governmental organisations and foundations have implemented more than two hundred different projects related to research and assistance in areas such as health, nuclear safety, information, socio-psychological and economic rehabilitation, environmental restoration and the production of clean products.

Yes, at that time the tragedy brought to Belarus by the catastrophe at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was a real shock for the inhabitants of the affected regions. Everything has changed both for the migrants and for those who did not want to leave their homes. Habitual way of life, perception of circumstances, plans for the future — a lot had to be revised. Scientists are forced to state: radiation has not passed without a trace for health. Right after the accident, radioactive iodine had a significant radioactive effect on the human body. It tends to accumulate in the thyroid gland. Almost the entire population of Belarus was subjected to the so-called 'iodine strike'. By the way, according to the World

Health Organisation, this is the only disease for which an unambiguous causal relationship with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant has been established. However, Belarusian scientists experimentally proved that the radiation factor underlies the growth of other diseases, affects the metabolic processes and functions of the most important body systems — immune, endocrine, cardiovascular and others.

Observations of scientists over the situation that developed after the accident made it possible to talk about another negative consequence of the Chernobyl disaster, which can equally be attributed to both a medical and a social problem. The conducted socio-psychological studies showed that the majority of people who lived in the contaminated territories developed a stable social and environmental stress, which is based on a sense of concern due to a high risk to health and anxiety about the future.

"The first years after the accident were psychologically quite difficult," Nikolai Yermakov, a witness of those events, recalled (at the time he headed the Department for the Elimination of the Consequences of the Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Gomel Region). "People had to be reassured and adjusted to the fact that life goes on and it is in our common power to make it comfortable if we follow the recommendations of specialists."



■ monument to the evicted villages of the Narovlya District.

Health under protection

These starting points have become guidelines for the state in the revival of the affected territories. Medical rehabilitation of the affected population was recognised as one of the most important areas of the programme to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. During these years, special medical supervision managed to cover about two million people, including more than three hundred thousand

children. Participants in the liquidation of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant were taken under special patronage. To preserve and improve the health of the residents of the affected territories, free sanatorium treatment and rehabilitation was organised.

In the years following the accident, new medical institutions, specialised clinics and centres equipped with modern medical equipment have opened in the country. In 2003, the **Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Radiation Medicine and Human Ecology** began operating in Gomel. Today, the best medical and scientific personnel working on the Chernobyl problem are concentrated in the centre.

Since the late nineties of the last century, the Scientific and Practical Centre of Children's Oncology and Haematology has also been operating in the country. Modern methods of diagnostics and treatment of oncohaematological diseases have been developed here.

Annual medical examinations, as well as systemic treatment and regular health improvement, have made it possible to stabilise and even improve many indicators of people's health. Thanks to the re-equipment of clinics and centres, Belarusian doctors have also managed to achieve a lot. For example, in the treatment of such a disease as thyroid cancer — a disease that is closely related to the impact of the disaster. As a result, mortality from this disease in Belarus has been reduced. The methods of treatment of patients with thyroid cancer developed by domestic scientists have reduced the frequency of relapses. Such successful results are also noted today in overcoming other serious diseases.

A look into the future

However, after almost four decades, the consequences of the Chernobyl tragedy for Belarus remain relevant. State policy, as before, assigns a special place to solving the problems of the affected regions. The programme of their rehabilitation is now focused on developing the potential of these territories, their economic revival, and with it a quality social life. The medical aspect has not lost its significance either. Also, the re-equipment of hospitals and clinics, the introduction of new medical technologies and approaches will be carried out everywhere.

One of the evidences of this is the opening of an operation and resuscitation module in the Gomel Regional Cardiology Dispensary. The costly project was implemented with humanitarian support from China. At one time, the affected region acquired a new generation operating unit with the most modern equipment. In fact, it was a breakthrough in the development of cardiac surgery, which allowed us to do much more to improve the quality of health and life expectancy of people. Indeed, even today, in general statistics, mortality from cardiovascular diseases is more than fifty percent, and timely surgical intervention will allow this trend to be reversed.



It is significant that this kind of progress in medical care automatically becomes available to small settlements. In the Gomel Region, for example, the Telemedicine project was actively developed, which was implemented by the Gomel State Medical University in cooperation with the Japanese Sasakawa Health Foundation. At present, all district hospitals of the region are provided with network and computer equipment so that at any time local practitioners can receive teleconsultation from the country's leading specialists. Video conferencing is one of the innovative developments that is actively used in medicine. The great merit of telemedicine is that it removes the issue of the isolation of remote settlements and makes the help of highly qualified doctors available to their residents. As noted above, the modern coordinating centre for telemedicine is located at the premises of the Gomel State Medical University. With its help, communication takes place between a specialist and a doctor, if desired, the patient can also be present. In other words, telemedicine systems make it possible to organise a dialogue with an expert doctor at any distance and provide





almost all the medical information necessary for a qualified conclusion. The next step that the Gomel doctors took was online surgeries, which are carried out under the remote control of a leading highly qualified doctor.

After April 26th, 1986, not only millions of inhabitants of the affected territories comprehended the reality of nuclear energy. For the first time, the whole world saw face to face what the scale of the atomic element could be if suddenly something went wrong. The social and medical consequences of the Chernobyl tragedy were fully assumed by the affected states in the first years. Belarus, despite the difficult times and limited opportunities, also turned out to be among those who counted more on their own strength. Nevertheless, in the thirty-seven years of life after Chernobyl, the country not only recovered from the consequences of the disaster, but also managed to rise to a completely new level of development.

Troubles strengthened the forces

So, the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant 'covered' almost a quarter of the territory of Belarus. This is more than three thousand cities and villages. Every fifth inhabitant of the republic was in the centre of the tragedy. About a quarter of the country's forest fund has undergone radioactive contamination. However, at first the scale of the accident did not seem so overwhelming. But when the reality became objectively assessed, all resources were mobilised in Belarus in order to protect people who fell into the disaster zone.

Among the most affected at that time were the Gomel and Mogilev Regions. Thousands of people were forced to leave their homes forever. The radiation left no choice. At the same time, the state provided support to the migrants, providing free housing and the opportunity to continue life in a new place. At the same time, large funds were invested in the development

of medicine to help the population, the rehabilitation of polluted lands, and the production of clean products. Life went on. Time, science and government investments did their job. And after some time, Belarus has identified a new vector for itself: from overcoming and rehabilitating polluted lands to sustainable development of regions through business, creating new industries and enterprises, improving the social sphere. To do this, the state took care of the provision of preferential treatment regime.

Today, nothing remains of the anguish, fear and confusion that reigned in the early nineties in the post-Chernobyl territories. The frightening uncertainty was replaced by a clear and transparent stability. Thanks to rehabilitation measures, the affected areas of Belarus have found a second wind. No more people leave here in search of a better life. Here they build new enterprises, create young families, raise children. Here they know: the black date is in the past. It is remembered, but they no longer look back, do not perceive themselves as victims of the tragedy. On the contrary, they do everything so that every day is open for creation, and not in order to pack their bags and leave as quickly as possible.

State approach

Since 2021, Belarus has been implementing another five-year state programme to overcome the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and the Institute of Radiobiology comes up with new projects to improve the quality of life in contaminated areas. 90 percent of the funds provided for the implementation of the state programme will be directed to support and development of the six most polluted districts of the Gomel Region: Bragin, Khoiniki, Narovlya, Chechersk, Korma and Vetka.

"Affected areas develop as people move into them. If we continue to create comfortable conditions for life in such regions, I am sure that neither young people nor experienced specialists will want to leave there. And the state programme contains directions that return life to the contaminated territories," Dmitry Rutkovsky, Head of the Main Department for Eliminating the Consequences of the Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant of the Gomel Region Executive Committee, is sure.

The programme includes four blocks, the permanent ones are social protection of the population (pensions for liquidators, benefits and allowances for specialists, free meals in schools and kindergartens) and protective measures in the agro-industrial complex (additional volumes of potash and phosphorus fertilizers to prevent the transfer of radionuclides from the soil to plants). The new block is socio-economic. It is designed to improve life in the disaster-affected territories in a different way to build or modernise enterprises so that the areas become more attractive in terms of working conditions and wages. And another new direction is the reconstruction of children's rehabilitation and health centres so that children from the affected areas can relax and improve their health in modern health resorts. The state programme includes large-

scale work in such centres located in Mozyr, Zhlobin, Petrikov, Gomel Districts and Gomel itself.

In previous programs, emphasis was placed on the development of social infrastructure — the reconstruction of medical institutions, schools, kindergartens. And here is the result: well-equipped hospitals and outpatient clinics already operate in every district centre of the region, diagnostics are at a high level, people have less and less need to go to other cities for examination and treatment. Restored halls of culture, music schools are also important for the full life of the population. Also, almost 90 percent of the residents were provided with gas supply, thanks to the construction of a nuclear power plant, work began on the electrification of facilities, including the housing stock. Now it's time to boost production: build or modernise dairy farms, pig farms, and industrial enterprises. The region needs a strong economy — housing is being built here for people, it is absolutely accessible for new specialists, it is allocated quickly and already with repairs. Now the task is to make enterprises more modern, to give people not just a job, but also an opportunity for career growth.

The main focus in the implementation of the state programme for 2021–2025 is on three facilities: a new line for the production of toffees will be introduced at Krasny Mozyryanin JSC, a crumb for various types of surfaces will be made from tires at the toxic waste processing complex in the Chechersk Region, for example, treadmills, at the Kormalen enterprise, production facilities will be re-equipped. As a result, thanks to the modernisation, Krasny Mozyryanin will be able to produce new types of products, in addition, jobs will be created. The implementation of the state programme will help not only to clear the territory, to get rid of such garbage in a timely manner, but also to get an additional source of profit from the production of new types of products.

There is an unused production building on the territory of the Kormalen enterprise: in order to increase the production of flax fibre, it will be modernised and new technological equipment for processing flax straw will be installed. The commissioning of two streams of lines will increase the production volume by almost five thousand tons of flax fibre per year when working in two shifts. The renovation is scheduled to begin this year and be completed in 2024. Twenty new jobs will be created.

In the affected areas, work is also ongoing to restart agricultural activities. As a result of a man-made disaster, more than two hundred thousand hectares of land were withdrawn from agricultural circulation, and only for 17 thousand hectares people were able to resume activity again. However, today any land user can apply to the local executive body with a statement on the withdrawal of land from the category of radiation hazardous for possible agricultural work. If a positive decision is made, in compliance with the legally established regulations for the Chernobyl state programme, phosphorus-potassium fertilizers will be allocated free of charge for the cultivation of land. From 1991 to the present time, most of the land has



■ On April 21st, 2004, the President visited Babunichi village of Petrikov District

been revived in the Korma and Chechersk Districts — almost five thousand hectares, followed by Bragin and Narovlya. In Khoiniki, work is actively underway to develop experimental and economic activities on the territory of the Polesky Radiation-Ecological Reserve.

Ability to overcome consequences

The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant happened 37 years ago. When we remember that catastrophe, it is customary and quite justified to talk about its irreversible consequences, the tragic fate of the liquidators and the inhabitants of nearby villages. But it is worth looking more and more persistently into the future. Moreover, the facts allow us to do this: over the past period, the area of contamination with cesium-137 in Belarus has almost halved.

In total, the republic went through four major stages in overcoming the consequences of that catastrophe. The first, 'hot' stage fell on the Soviet years. The second stage was the implementation of protective measures. In certain directions, it continues to this day. The third stage is the rehabilitation of contaminated territories. And for the last 15 years, the fourth stage has been going on in the country — the revival of the affected regions. Almost \$20 billion was invested in state programmes to overcome the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. In the socio-economic development of the affected regions, the emphasis is on the construction of the necessary facilities. This allows us to increase the number of jobs, improve working conditions. There is a construction of new apartments, gasification of houses. Much attention is paid to the construction of agricultural facilities — dairy farms, grain drying complexes. In addition, more than twenty healthcare facilities have been reconstructed and built.

Aleksandr Lukashenko paid attention to the affected territories from the very beginning of his presidency. **Every year, on the anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, he visits the most affected areas. And in April 2004, his working trip here lasted for ten days. The Head of State visited Brest, Gomel, Minsk and Mogilev Regions. The President**



- New playgrounds appeared in Stern
- Much attention is paid to the health of children. New kindergarten with swimming pool

visited agricultural and industrial enterprises, talked with local residents, got acquainted with the organisation of medical care and medical rehabilitation of citizens, inspected the construction of housing for citizens, work to preserve the historical and cultural heritage and the formation of a cultural and tourist zone. The press service then called this visit the 'Chernobyl path' of the President.

Once every five years, Belarus publishes a list of settlements located in zones of radioactive contamination. In 2021, just over two thousand settlements were included in such a list. Today they are home to about a million people. Compared to the 2016 list, the number of towns and villages located in the 'contaminated zone' has significantly decreased. Yes, the affected territories will become absolutely clean not in a year or even in 10 years. But the fact is there: these areas have a future.

Ability to see perspective

Every year, on the anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, the Head of State visits the regions affected by the largest man-made disaster. He is interested in their development, thanks the local residents for not giving up in difficult times, not succumbing to panic and fear, persevering and winning. And today they are successfully working on their native land, growing bread, building houses, raising children. Restoration and development of contaminated territories became a priority and a national task with the beginning of the presidency of Aleksandr Lukashenko. However, during the current trip to the Vetka District, it was decided to move away from the traditional 'Chernobyl' format. A little earlier, the Head of

State visited the Grodno Region and now they analysed in detail, in all nuances, the work of the economy in the Gomel Region. Based on what he saw, Aleksandr Lukashenko actually announced a programme of further actions for the whole country, "Save the country... And we can only save it if the whole world works hard and solves the problems. It is necessary that everyone, on his own piece does his job, and there will be a result. We must step up these paces: where we walked, we must run; where we ran, we must run even faster. Let's get together and do something wherever we can."

Just think: 37 years ago, the lands of 56 regions of Belarus fell under the Chernobyl blow. Almost a quarter of the country. There is no reason to hide that many people then thought that these lands would not be returned, rejected any prospect of their development. Aleksandr Lukashenko thought otherwise, deciding to give a second life to these regions. And today, using the example of Vetka itself, you can see how justified this decision turned out to be.

The Vetka District in the Gomel Region is one of those for which the accident was a real shock. Of the 48 thousand inhabitants in this region, 18 thousand remained. Most of the villages were evicted, and the forests ended up in a closed area behind barriers under the warning sign 'Caution! Radiation!'. By the way, these barriers can still be seen in the Vetka District today. But they don't scare anymore. Rather, they remind: it was, you should not forget about caution, break the rules too. Then you will be safe.

In recent years, Vetka has blossomed. It is no longer what it used to be. One after another, new buildings are being built,

new enterprises appear. The area is developing. This can be seen in terms of economic growth. After all, without new industries it is impossible to imagine the well-being of people. Behind every successful enterprise is the prosperity of the residents, their confidence in the future.

However, this time in the district centre they talked no more about successes, but about where there are still shortcomings and how to achieve more significant results. The President spoke about iron discipline and even dictatorship more than once in Vetka. After all, it is their absence that sometimes causes the situations when broken and not yet old equipment rusts under fences, and farms complain about the lack of tractors, harvesters, seeders, ploughs and beg for preferential funds for new ones. Such mismanagement and negligence are categorically unacceptable for Aleksandr Lukashenko. After all, the Gomselmash harvester should work for at least 15 years, the President emphasised. And this is far from the limit. If every manager, machine operator treats agricultural machinery as if it were their own personal vehicle, if it is serviced properly and on time, it will last much longer.

Equipment that is out of order is put in order, restored and offered on the secondary market. This costs the farms many times cheaper than new machines and units. The samples of restored equipment were highly appreciated by the President, "The system is set up correctly, this is the way to go," Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised. "We have enough of everything. We lack discipline. An iron dictatorship is coming!"

The President is categorical: irresponsibility and slovenliness are not only unacceptable, they are criminal. This means that they should not go unpunished. Leaders, on the other hand, should not flatter themselves with the illusion that in such case they will be able to jump off and move to another warm place. The Head of State gave an example that he has a personnel register and he coordinates the appointment of a number of leaders, including chairmen of district executive committees. And without his knowledge, they cannot be dismissed from their posts. The same thing — a certain list of personnel — should be at the level of the region and district.

Components of success

From the very first minutes, the President set a dynamic working tone for the meeting with the activists of the Gomel Region, "As I was convinced once again, we know how to do everything right. Question is why we don't do the right thing? Or more precisely, why we don't always do the right thing? Secondly, I would not want us to meet after a certain time and shrug. So we did not, and we begin to look, as usual, for the cause. To prevent this from happening at the end of this year (you have no other time and neither do I), we met today. To talk in between about why we don't do the right thing and the way you know how to do it. You demonstrated it today."

Aleksandr Lukashenko once again recalled the motives for his visit, "Every year, on the anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, I come to one of the affected regions of Belarus. But most often

IN FOCUS

The following President's statement was also interesting, "Everyone should now spin in their place, spin. Especially in the Gomel Region. Guys, you are actually at the front. Save the country. This is not only and not so much for me. You need it. And we can save it only if the whole world exerts itself and solves problems. Listen, we don't even need to stress. It is just necessary that everyone, on his own piece does his job, and there will be a result. We must step up these paces: where we walked, we must run; where we ran, we must run even faster. We are sandwiched between the European Union and Russia. There is a war, NATO is expanding there, and so on, so forth. It's not easy for us right now. I'm not just dragging nuclear weapons here. It is necessary to secure the country in order to make enemies afraid to look in our direction. Otherwise, we will again be walking under someone's boot. I want you to take this message first of all from me."

I visit here, in the Gomel Region, which in 1986 was almost completely contaminated by radioactive contamination. That was how it was supposed to be. All, not all, but it so happened that we believed that all."

According to the Head of State, this region is actually like a native for him, "I have always emphasised at any forums, conferences, referendums, elections: the Gomel Region has always supported me more than any other region. Here are hard-working, wise, seasoned and infinitely loving people of this land."

Aleksandr Lukashenko also specifically noted, "While in the first decade after the accident we literally fought for survival, then in recent years we are talking about development. Involvement in agricultural land turnover, construction of dairy and fattening complexes, creation of efficient industrial enterprises. You have nothing to be offended by. There is not a single city in your country, more or less large, where I would not visit and would not plan the construction of woodworking, processing, pulp enterprises, oil refineries. We need to look today, and even better, create drivers for the economic growth of the region in the near future."

If approached fundamentally

Aleksandr Lukashenko dwelled in detail on the analysis of the socio-economic situation in the region. He noted that the results of the first quarter of this year are far from what the regional authorities had promised. In terms of economic development, the region ranks fourth among all regions. Although the industry worked well (4.5 percent growth, the



republic — about two), this is largely the contribution of organisations of the republican form of ownership, their share is 80 percent in the local industry. But in the zone of direct responsibility — in agriculture — the pace does not reach one hundred percent. The last place in the country.

The President recalled that in November last year, a rather substantive, sometimes even tough meeting on the strategy for the development of the region's agro-industrial complex had already been held in Gomel. They set the goals, agreed on approaches, received assurances from the leaders that they would work hard, with full dedication. What has been done so far? What are the issues hindering the implementation of the agreements? Many of the problems here are being tried to be solved either by consolidating or merging farms with powerful industrial enterprises. And what is the effect of this? The President noted that, flying around the Gomel Region in a helicopter, he carefully looked at what was being done on the farms, in the fields, all construction sites, facilities, roads. The shortcomings still remain. There is no proper order yet. The Head of State also reminded about the need to develop the Polessky Radiation-Ecological Reserve and the Prip'yat Park. Since this year, the reserve has passed from the Ministry of Emergency Situations under the control of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. But how does the reserve work in the current conditions? It is known that they are engaged in beekeeping and fish farming. Without anthropogenic load, plants and animals, especially rare, Red Book ones, feel great. Even Przewalski's horses took root

there. Paradise for scientists. And tourists are also interested in this. But is this diversity being fully exploited?

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that at meetings on the economy, the task is constantly set to reduce the dependence of the region's indicators on the work of industrial giants of republican significance — the Mozyr Oil Refinery, the Byelorussian Steel Works in Zhlobin, Svetlogorsk Pulp and Cardboard Mill, and Dobrush Paper Mill. Hence another question. How is the President's order 'one district — one new project' carried out, where should the initiative of the local vertical be visible? Are concepts changing? Are these really fundamentally new industries with created jobs, or is it just a simple separation of one of the usual areas of work for old enterprises? At the request of the President, there should be no substitution here.

During the meeting on the socio-economic development of the Gomel Region, the President pointed out the features of the present time, which must be taken into account, "I want to emphasise that we are peaceful people, we do not need foreign land. By the way, it was from the Gomel Region, from the town of Komarin, in September 1943, that the liberation of Belarus from fascist evil spirits began. And it is here, in Komarin, that in September we should give a good start to the anniversary events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the entire republic, which we will widely celebrate in 2024. I repeat once again: ensuring peace and security is the business of the President and the security bloc. Your task is to create decent living conditions for people. Your job is economics."

VERBATIM

Ivan Krupko, Chairman of the Gomel Region Executive Committee, *“The conversation was very serious. The President focused on issues of discipline, personnel, responsibility of everyone at their workplace. And today the task is to mobilise all forces, to balance all resources. It is necessary for everyone to delve into their own production and strictly, clearly control everything in order to achieve the planned indicators. We also have to work hard on investments. There are interesting projects. We are working on them with the Development Bank. We work with business. There will be financial stability at enterprises — there will be filling the budget, financing of all programmes and a stable income for each family.”*

Focus on performance and discipline

The region's governor Ivan Krupko reported on the development of the Gomel Region. The basis of the region's economy is industrial production, which forms more than forty percent of the gross regional product. As a result of the quarter, the index of industrial production amounted to 104.4 percent. The increase in volumes, the governor is sure, will continue to be ensured, they are calculated for each enterprise. According to the assessment of the first half of the year, taking into account the positive dynamics of the sectors of the real sector of the economy, it is expected that the growth rate of GRP will be 100.2 percent. At the end of the first half of the year, agriculture should reach a growth rate of 103.7 percent by January-June 2022. According to the results of nine months — by 114.2 percent, for the year — 116.2. Technologically, all measures have been worked out.

The governor is convinced that there are reserves in the investment direction. First of all, they are connected with the development of local resources. Thus, Ivan Krupko named the development of rock salt deposits in the Yelsk District as one of the most promising. A working group has already been formed to propose proposals for the creation of a domestic production of soda ash. In addition, 22 projects are being implemented in the region to create new enterprises and industries in each district in the current five-year period. And this will create about eight hundred jobs.

In turn, Yury Nazarov, the Head of State's Commissioner for the Gomel Region, spoke about the decisions taken to prevent the outflow of qualified personnel, identified cases of formalism in work with personnel and lack of discipline. He noted that it is necessary to solve personnel issues not only with administrative resources, but it is also important to motivate people. Incentives include salary, housing, quality of medical care. Work in this direction is underway, but there is still a wide field for activity. Including the power block, issues of both performing and

technological discipline are kept under special control. At the same time, Yury Nazarov noted that the region has ambitious plans for 2023 and there are resources to fulfil them. This is confirmed by the positive trends of the first quarter.

Meanwhile, Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that the President has a solid personal personnel reserve and he works with it personally. This model is an example for leaders of all levels: from the Government and governors to local authorities and business leaders. They must see their people, be responsible for their appointment or dismissal. A person who has not justified himself in the area of work entrusted to him should not have an accidental opportunity to get an equivalent or better job. The President is categorical on this score.

Don't look for excuses

Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out the obvious mistakes and miscalculations of the southern neighbours, from which it is necessary to draw the right conclusions, “You remember, there was no Ukraine before the war. It was ‘disrupted’. This is the richest country. They had everything. In industry, and especially in agriculture. Chernozems and so on. If it were for us, we would develop better than the Emirates. And it all started with this: controllability is lost, the market will regulate everything, headless leaders... And off we go. Corruption, bribes at all levels, the division of property, everything was cut, distributed. There is no country. This is where it all started. This is the main reason.”

Particular attention is given to sanctions issues. Yes, there is little good in restrictions, but there is no disaster here either. The President stated, “They say sanctions... Yet you rejoice that these sanctions have been introduced. Especially farmers. Our country receives a lot from the agricultural sector. Take it, sell it. Yes, there is a lot of milk in Russia. We have to compete, it's not easy. Well, we have to move ourselves somewhere.”

The Head of State demanded, “Work, work and forget about sanctions! Sanctions are not easy, it's difficult. But it is not easy for Belaruskali and oil refineries. Are you preoccupied with this? No. This is resolved by specific people in the Government.” Meanwhile, there are positive dynamics for these sanctioned goods, “And potash fertilizers went. Yes, the cost of logistics has gone up a bit. But we are selling. Oil products are in great demand now. And before we were afraid that there would be nowhere to go. So what can't we sell? Tractors? The Russian market is free. Yes, the Chinese are there, they want to sell. But we are competitive. Somehow they found contacts with Rostselmash. We need to develop them. We need to move. You don't just have to tie people down.”

The main thing is not to look for excuses for inaction. Aleksandr Lukashenko paid special attention to this.

“We must be ready for anything...”

In Vetka, the President visited the Church of the Transfiguration of the Lord and lit a candle. Near the temple, he laid flowers at a memorial sign about the settlements that ceased to exist as a result of the Chernobyl tragedy. The Head of State was presented



with the icon of the Mother of God of the victims of Chernobyl. Then Aleksandr Lukashenko had a warm conversation with the local residents who had gathered on the square after learning about the arrival of the President. Approaching the townspeople, the Head of State remarked, “These are the most persistent, heroic people who did not escape from Vetka in their time.”

“What problems do you have today?” asked the Head of State.

“There are none, we were waiting for you! It’s so beautiful here, Vetka was so transformed 4 years ago. Clean, neat!”

“It is beautiful, yes. But there still must be problems,” noted the President.

“They are everywhere,” the townspeople replied.

One of the women, the mother of four children, addressed the President with the following words, “Many thanks on behalf of the large families. I am a citizen of Ukraine, and you gave me citizenship of Belarus. I am very proud of this.”

Another resident of Vetka also thanked the Head of State for the country, “I came from Uzbekistan. To a peaceful, friendly country. We have put down roots here, we have been living for 30 years. Our children live here!”

“Aren’t you going home?” Aleksandr Lukashenko asked a question.

“I want my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to grow up here. I will stay here for the rest of my life! And most importantly, that you also keep the peace, so that the sun always shines for us. And I wish health to you!”

People have repeatedly thanked the President for a peaceful and calm life in the country.

“I don’t want to fight,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said to the loud applause of the people.

“We don’t want either! We need peace!”

Communication continued after the meeting. The Head of State thanked the audience for their patience, “You are just great! I feel how Belarusians, especially here in the south — Gomel Region, Brest Region (these are front-line regions), have already begun to appreciate life. And no more food, just give me peace. You will have peace, don’t worry. The main thing is that you work quietly and raise your children. There is a war behind the fence... But I understand you more, so that we do not get involved in this large-scale massacre. There will be no sense from it, only people will die. We use its experience, we study it, we look to make our army stronger. So don’t worry. I don’t want to fight anymore. I have children too, and you are all my children. I don’t want to have to send you somewhere to the front. So calm down, work calmly. No one is going to attack us, including the Ukrainians. Yes, and the Westerners with whom I meet say to me: ‘Mr. President, neither the Poles nor the Ukrainians are going to come to you’. Maybe they are not, but we need to be ready for anything.”

Vasily **Kharitonov**

Photo by BELTA

"WE VALUE PEACE VERY MUCH, NOT ONLY ON OUR LAND, BUT ALSO ON A REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SCALE"



Aleksandr Lukashenko sent a letter to Antynio Guterres in response to an invitation to the SDG summit

Minsk was visited by the Regional Director of the UN Development Cooperation Office for Europe and Central Asia Gwi Yeop Son, who called the experience of Belarus in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals the best. And noted that it could be used by other European countries. Moreover, the UN expects that President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko will be able to personally share the experience of the country on the sidelines of the summit on sustainable development goals, which will be held in September in New York. A corresponding invitation to the Head of State from the UN Secretary General António Guterres has been received. In turn, Aleksandr Lukashenko sent a reply letter.

What the UN expects from Belarus

First, about the letter to Aleksandr Lukashenko from the UN Secretary General. It states, “Halfway through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the time has come to face the facts. Without a dramatic increase in commitment, solidarity and transformative action, we will miss the main goals of the 2030 Agenda to end poverty, reduce inequalities and protect the environment. I count on your support in bringing about the breakthroughs our world desperately needs.”

António Guterres notes that the multiple crises of the past three years have dealt a severe blow to efforts to achieve the SDGs. Nevertheless, the envisaged transformations remain possible and necessary. The letter says that the SDG summit will be the centrepiece of a range of events, including a climate summit, a high-level dialogue on financing for development, a series of meetings on health issues and a ministerial meeting in preparation for the future summit, 2024. “The SDG Summit could be the moment when our world moves from fear to hope and from deepening pessimism to accelerating action. I look forward to your personal participation in the summit and your contribution to making it a turning point for the SDGs,” said the UN Secretary General.

What experience Belarus is ready to share

Aleksandr Lukashenko sent a letter back to António Guterres, which emphasises that Minsk fully welcomes the initiative to hold the summit, “We believe that the upcoming event is a good opportunity to sum up the intermediate results of our common efforts. The Republic of Belarus is fully committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, they are effectively integrated into our national strategic documents. I am convinced that the experience of Belarus in the effective organisation of work at the national level in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will be interesting and useful for many other UN member states. We are certainly ready to share it during the summit.”

The Head of State also noted the importance of the summit becoming a source of ideas and initiatives that contribute to the elimination of problems on the path to achieving the SDGs, “You quite rightly noted that the numerous crises of the past three years have dealt a serious blow to efforts aimed at the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Today it is quite clear that without peace there can be no sustainable development on the planet. I said

these words back in 2015, speaking at the UN summit, where the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted. You also repeatedly voiced a similar thought.”

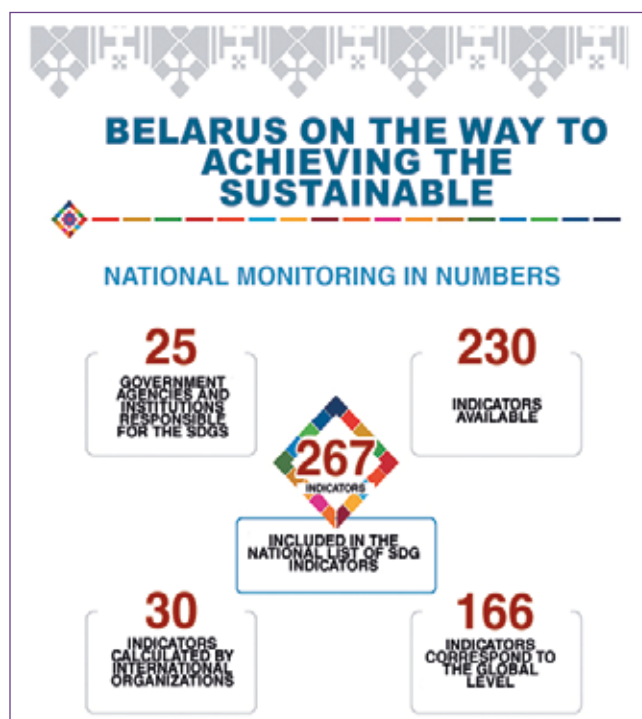
What position has the country always defended

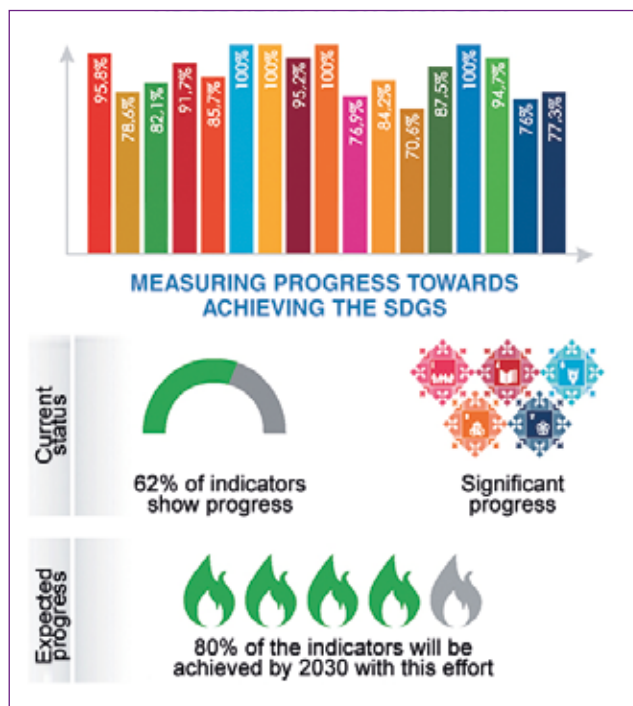
In a response letter to António Guterres, the President draws attention to the fact that the history of Belarus is riddled with sad memories of the war, “And therefore, we greatly value peace, not only on our own land, but also on a regional and global scale. Over the past few years, we have been actively calling on all states to engage in a comprehensive security dialogue in order to lay the foundations for building a new, just world order. Is it possible that in order to finally listen to us, a global catastrophe must occur that will claim the lives of millions of people? Against the background of the growing geopolitical confrontation on the planet, dialogue in the true spirit of San Francisco is now more needed than ever since the end of the Cold War.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that the upcoming summit should clearly outline the relationship between peace and sustainable development and thus give impetus to the start of a global dialogue on security.

Serious challenge for the common cause

The President of Belarus draws principled attention to the pressure of sanctions, which turns into a weapon, “Unilateral coercive measures, or sanctions are a serious challenge to the common cause — the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These voluntaristic actions of a group of Western states contradicting the international law and limited by their interests and prejudices





are directly destroying progress in achieving the SDGs. How can we, for example, eradicate poverty and hunger when sanctions undermine global food security and therefore increase poverty and hunger to entire regions and even continents? Sanctions have become weapons. They can kill!”

The Head of State thanked the UN Secretary General for the invitation to the summit and assured that Belarus would actively contribute to its preparation and take part in this important event at a worthy level.

“Very good progress...”

Inna Medvedeva, Chairwoman of the National Statistical Committee, spoke about the best practices of our country, which was highly appreciated by the UN. First of all, we are talking about the monitoring of SDG indicators, which is conducted by Belstat. By the way, Belarus was one of the first in the CIS to

FOR REFERENCE

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 interrelated goals developed in 2015 by the UN General Assembly as ‘a blueprint for a better and more sustainable future for all’. These goals have been called the 2030 Agenda. The final document of the General Assembly Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains 17 global goals and 169 corresponding tasks.

create the set of indicators itself and, together with UNDP and UNICEF, launched a national platform. Today, 267 indicators are included in the national list of SDG monitoring indicators, notes Inna Medvedeva, “Of these, 170 correspond to the global ones. We made an assessment of progress (it was this that impressed the UN representative the most): according to the current state, progress in solving the tasks was observed in more than 62 percent of the indicators. Moreover, the indicator targets set for 2030 are or will be achieved at the current level of effort at the rate of 80 percent. We will make very high progress!”

A very important point, which was mentioned in a response letter to the UN Secretary General by Aleksandr Lukashenko and which the head of Belstat draws attention to. The Sustainable Development Goals (our national list that we created) are effectively integrated into national strategic documents. This was the key movement of our country. That is, not just an indicator for the sake of an indicator. They are all included in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the

FACT

In 2022, Belarus ranked 34th out of 163 countries in the Sustainable Development Goals ranking according to the Sustainable Development Report. Countries are ranked by an overall score that measures progress towards all 17 SDGs.

Belarus scored 76 points out of 100 possible. This indicator reflects the progress of the country as a whole in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and can be interpreted as a percentage of the achievement of the SDGs.

Programme for Social and Economic Development until 2025, and regional programs.

Moreover, according to Inna Medvedeva, Gwi Yeop Son paid special attention to the fact that Belstat, together with local authorities, developed a list of SDG indicators for the regions and the city of Minsk. In addition, these indicators have already been digitised. The UN believes that this is a great achievement. Because far from many states are able to digitize this data and provide information not only on the development of the country, but also on regional development. Belarus has this information, and we are ready to present it.

How Belarusian developments are adopted

After getting acquainted with the Belarusian experience, Gwi Yeop Son suggested that our country take a higher bar: that is, set tasks, goals and parameters higher than they are now. Moreover, the UN proposes to work together so that Belarus moves forward, while some still have to achieve certain indicators. Are we ready for this step? Inna Medvedeva is sure: ready! We can really take the bar higher. There are a number of indicators by which we have long stepped over

the international level. But all this leads to an improvement in the life of every citizen. For example, SDG 1 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere'. We have one of the lowest levels of poverty in the world. And fundamentally, Belarus can take on completely different obligations. The same concerns SDG 2 'End hunger, ensure food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture', SDG 4 'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' and many others.

The head of Belstat also drew attention to the fact that the Belarusian side has effectively established cooperation with Western partners. Our experience is presented at all venues, emphasises Inna Medvedeva, "We are pleased to be invited by the UNECE Statistical Department (Geneva)." By the way, the Belarusian experience in monitoring the SDGs was published on the website of the department as the best. Representatives of Belstat participate in all events, in the meeting of the UN Statistical Commission, where they also present their position. When they presented an assessment of progress in achieving the SDGs (far from many countries do this), the Belarusian envoy was approached by European colleagues from international organisations who were impressed by the Belarusian experience. Summing up, the Chairwoman of the National Statistical Committee noted that a colossal work is underway in the country to achieve the SDGs, and it is quite natural that the Belarusian experience was highly appreciated by the UN.

COMMENT ON THE TOPIC

Valery Belsky, Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly, National Coordinator for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, is a consistent supporter of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, "A national architecture for sustainable development has been created. Global goals are incorporated into national documents. This work is under constant control. A Council for Sustainable Development has been created, and there are national coordinates for sustainable development. Today we have accumulated a unique experience that can be used by our partners. In this context, all countries and states should be considered partners. The Earth is not such a large object of cosmic matter that we can behave deviantly and expect that such an irresponsible existence can provide us with the continuation of civilization and a comfortable existence. Therefore, we must unite. And the Head of State, in response to Guterres, stressed the importance of the peaceful coexistence of peoples. Achieving peace as the basis for all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Civil society, parliamentary representation, and government bodies are involved in achieving the SDGs in Belarus. 38 ministries and departments are involved in the work of the Council for Sustainable Development. Coordinating groups have been created in various areas. There is an institute of young ambassadors of the Sustainable Development Goals. Extensive work is being carried out, including by the Parliament. We do a lot and have a lot to show the world."

MEANWHILE

An important role in regional sustainable development is played by 80 plus cities, which include 15 percent of those employed in the economy, 150,000 square meters of finished industrial sites, and more than 500 hectares of unoccupied land in free economic zones. It is planned that by the end of 2025, at least 100 projects with a total investment of more than 600 million roubles will be implemented in these cities and 3.5 thousand jobs will be created. Reducing regional differentiation makes an important contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



VERBATIM

Vadim Borovik, political scientist, "We have always been open for cooperation with all international organisations, from regional to global ones, such as the UN. The BSSR was among the founding countries of this organisation. Through our activities we promote peace, international cooperation and friendship of peoples in every possible way. Therefore, the fact that our President is invited to such summits is quite natural.

Belarus has done a lot for the world community: we can recall the peace agreements that were signed in Minsk regarding the Ukrainian crisis, a number of initiatives of Belarus within the UN and other international organisations that were aimed at deepening international cooperation, developing trade, economic, political relations, settling migration issues and more. All these initiatives were friendly and constructive. Therefore, the participation of representatives of Belarus at the highest level, including at the level of the Head of State, in the work of such organisations is of great benefit to these structures, making them more stable and stronger. And without Belarus, such summits, on the contrary, show the inefficiency of the work of the UN bodies and discredit them."

Aleksandr **Pimenov**
Photo by BELTA

A TANGIBLE AND GENERALLY OBVIOUS PROSPECT



Experts predict that with a high degree of probability Belarus will take a full-fledged place in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June at the summit in New Delhi

By strengthening mutual trust and a collective approach to solving pressing problems, the SCO is becoming an attractive platform for regional and international cooperation. The organisation is able to effectively respond to various challenges and contribute to the 'promotion of a new democratic, just and rational political and economic international order'. Located at the centre of Eurasia and dynamically expanding in recent times, the SCO is leading the region and the world as a whole towards a renewed and reformed multilateralism with the UN at the centre. Therefore, it is natural that countries from different parts of the world strive to become its partners and contribute to strengthening regional and global stability and security.

Consistent and coordinated steps

It is quite logical that, against the backdrop of ongoing geopolitical shifts, key attention is now being paid to the issues of ensuring the safe revival and stable development of Eurasia, as well as the vision of concrete steps by the SCO in these areas. Note that as an organisation grows, so do the expectations of it and the challenges it faces. The pandemic revealed the close relationship between economic development and security, including even public health. Disaster resilience is critical to reducing economic losses and improving community well-being. In short, closer engagement in Eurasia with a holistic vision is the way forward. At the recent Reunification — Rejuvenation International Conference, held in New Delhi, speakers from different countries noted that the region can develop if it is stable, predictable and connected, which determines the importance of joint efforts to maintain peace and security. At the same time, growing insecurity in the face of terrorism, extremism and cyber threats creates barriers to peace and economic progress. In this regard, the commitment to combating such threats, in the forefront of which is the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, as well as consistent and coordinated steps by all interested parties, will strengthen international efforts in this direction.

Separately, the situation in Afghanistan was touched upon, the consequences of which cannot leave the SCO indifferent as a responsible player capable of promoting its own agenda of ensuring stability there. It was emphasised that the huge potential of Afghanistan, which should become a 'ringroad' of the regional connection, can also be realised for the benefit of the entire region.

Among the top priorities

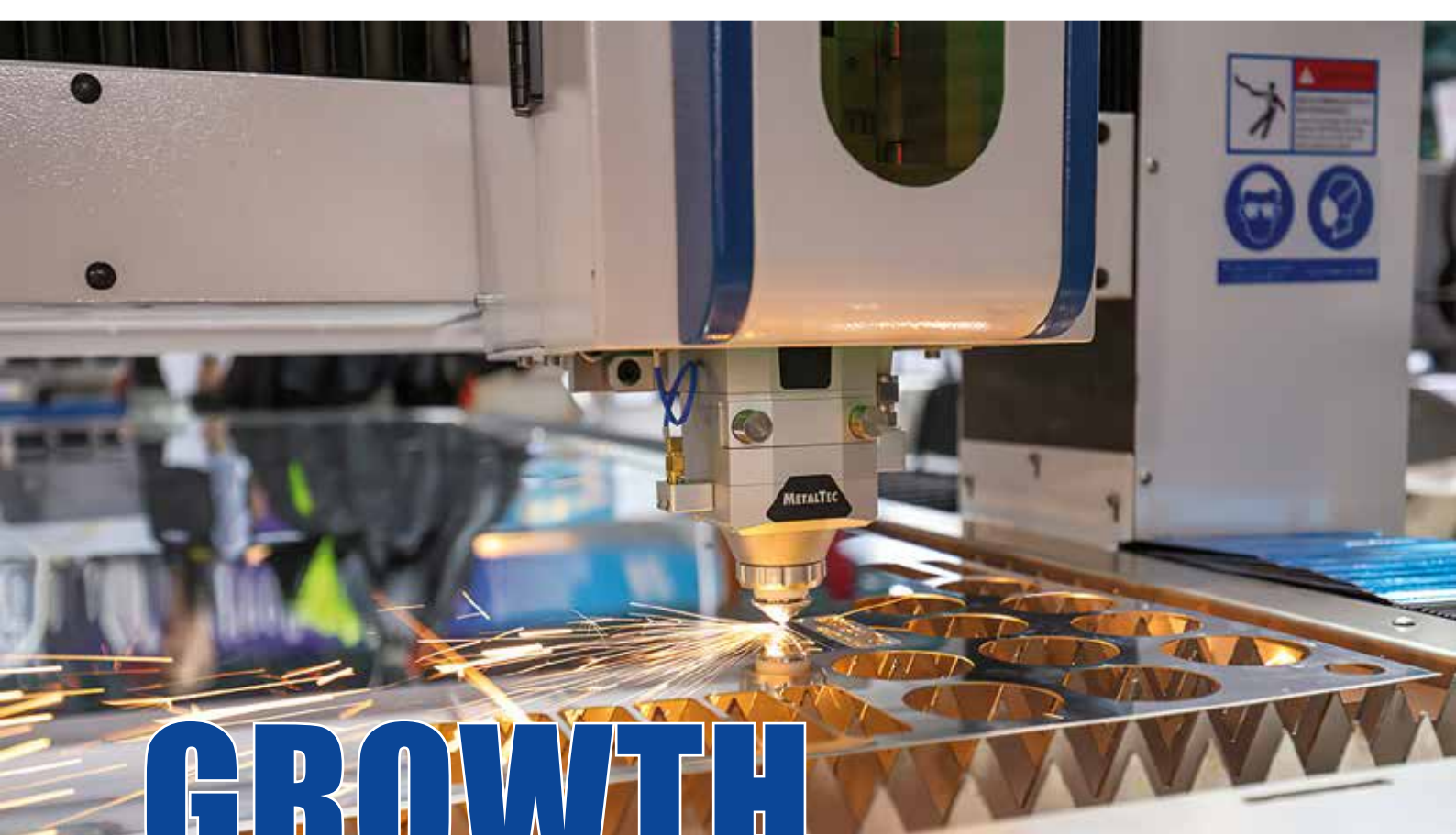
Among the key tasks of the SCO in the economic sphere, which can be solved through the development of a comprehensive regional relationship, observers name the promotion of effective cooperation in the sectors of technology, education, energy, transport, tourism, and environmental protection. By the way, two sessions were devoted to the discussion of this issue, namely the role and place of the SCO in expanded regional integration and restoration of connectivity at the Reunification — Rejuvenation International Conference, which were held under the common slogan: 'Restoration, Synchronisation, Development'. The relevance of this area is supported by an expert forecast: by 2030, infrastructure needs in Asia will be estimated at between 22.6 trillion and 26 trillion US dollars. It should be noted that a well-integrated SCO space can not only achieve new successes, but also open a new era for the Eurasian region and beyond. The top priorities are ensuring unhindered access to the oceans of the territorially isolated SCO countries in order to create favourable conditions for trade. For Belarus, this issue is more than relevant and important today.

It is also important to take into account the message that strengthening cooperation in the SCO space, including in the areas of digital and energy connectivity, is vital for a more dynamic recovery after COVID-19, overcoming problems in the fight against poverty and creating jobs. Such a mutual approach can also contribute to the efficient use of resources, the formation of reliable supply chains and sustainable infrastructure, and the protection of the environment.

In pursuit of market complementarity

In general, it is worth emphasising that the issues of intra-regional trade and economic cooperation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are given enough attention. As a response to today's challenges in this area, the SCO proposed to standardise customs and other rules, strive for market complementarity, create a favourable environment for attracting talented specialists in the field of new technologies, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, space technology and medicine. The importance of planning and implementing cross-cutting 'all-SCO' initiatives with a tangible and obvious perspective, as well as developing a transparent financial mechanism, which would benefit all SCO member states, was noted.

Aleksey Fedosov



GROWTH DRIVERS

BELARUS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE A LEADER IN HIGH-TECH IMPORT SUBSTITUTION. AND THIS IS NOT AN AXIOM. THIS FACT IS ALREADY SUFFICIENTLY CONFIRMED BY INDUSTRIAL REALITY.

Actually, the import substitution strategy for Belarus is not new. In one configuration or another, we have been dealing with the replacement of 'foreign' with 'ours' for almost three decades. Undoubtedly, a very valuable experience. True, the priorities have changed somewhat in recent years. While previously import substitution was more of an economic strategy with corresponding goals and objectives, such as creating new jobs, improving the foreign trade balance, attracting investments and technologies to the country, expanding the tax base, today the focus has shifted towards increasing the level of ensuring national security. Therefore, we are no longer talking about import substitution, but about independence from it. A change of course also requires new strategies, approaches, vectors of concentration of efforts and resources.

The issue has become urgent

Yes, even in the conditions of rapid deglobalisation, the Belarusian economy is doomed to openness. However, the interaction with the outside world will unequivocally proceed in a completely different configuration. And if earlier economic efficiency was a key priority for the vast majority of industries, today, as already noted, security and sustainability issues come to the fore. True, they must be achieved by the most effective tools possible and available.

Today, the issue of import independence, and with it sovereignty in general, has fundamentally become an urgent one. The task is clear and understandable. Now the puzzle is, in which specific areas to concentrate forces, means, resources? And what are the vectors to move in the priority direction? Until recently, each country had a lot of imports in various forms. With a different coefficient of influence both on the economy and on the well-being of people. And in Belarus, critical imports were singled out, i.e. goods that

are not produced and cannot be produced in the country. For example, these included bananas, citrus fruits... Although the 'criticality' of any product is a relative category. And it depends on various conditions, including the external environment.

For independence, first of all, it is necessary to produce goods necessary to meet key, basic daily needs, basic food, medicine, clothing, building materials, products for transport and communication infrastructure. And to ensure the stability of the production of these products through our own technologies, equipment, and scientific developments. In other words, we are talking about ensuring the production of a full cycle: from the development of technology, scientific support to the production of means of production and final products for consumption.

Examples of industrial rise

Specialised industrial exhibitions are already a tradition. They have been held in the country for more than ten years. In the old days, exhibition stands were full of European brands. This year, Western companies did not come to Minsk. Nevertheless, the April forum only benefited from this to some extent. There was no vacuum. Moreover, an unusual revival reigned in the exhibition pavilions. It's nice that Belarusian producers take central places, once occupied by the far abroad. The expositions of the partner countries — Russia, China, Israel, the Republic of Korea and others — supplemented the national industrial flavour. There are about 150 participants in total. It is noteworthy that most of the exhibitors of this industrial forum are manufacturing companies. Therefore, long before the official opening, professional discussions and dialogues began between colleagues. Themes for deeper cooperation were determined and developed. In this sense, memories of the beautiful and bright stands of dealers of foreign companies seem boring from a business point of view. Everything is standard there, without fantasy: there is a product, and it is promoted. And our market players are not yet ossified, they treat life and consumers flexibly. Of course, they do not grab every idea, but they are ready to calculate the economic feasibility of manufacturing products for the specific needs of the customer. In a word, a bunch of ideas that are worth discussing. There has been a lot of talk lately about technological sovereignty. But this is not something ephemeral. Visual expositions are just the case when this very sovereignty can be visualized. Belarusian machine tools and CNC machining centres, tools for metal processing of various profiles, automation systems for machine-tool building, advanced technologies... Beautiful, interesting, promising, innovative.

Here it is, an example of an industrial rise. Actually, our machine-tool factories did not appear yesterday. Many have more than half a century of history. And the date of foundation, for example, of StankoGomel JSC is a distant 1885! Enterprises worked, designed, developed to the best of their ability before the sanctions. Only they were relegated to the background by transnational equipment suppliers. And today it turned out that we have a lot of promising developments. However, until last year they did not find implementation. They were considered economically inexpedient in an open market. Maybe, it is to the best that it closed on the other side. New opportunities have opened up. It's time for a technological renaissance.

Mission possible

So, we had, have and are developing the basis for technological sovereignty. But let's not rest on our laurels ahead of time. There is still a lot of room for action ahead. Yes, the weak point of our machine-tool industry is imported electronics. The CNC systems were exported mainly from Germany and Japan in the past. At a kind of technological forum, Deputy Minister of Industry Aleksandr Efimov emphasised that industrialists face a fundamental task to switch to a domestic component base. So, over time, you need to master the production of your electronics. This is possible in cooperation with strategic partners, Russia and China. And the process is in the active stage. Belarusian machine-tool builders are actively cooperating with Russian companies producing CNC systems. There are also domestic developments. True, so far on a foreign component base. But the creation of Belarusian control units no longer seems unbelievable.

In this regard, the stand of the Integral holding was interesting at the Minsk Industrial Exhibition in April. CNC systems are not produced here yet, but they have mastered the line of on-board computers for agricultural machinery — harvesters, seeders and other equipment. Including with functionality for precision farming. Previously, Western companies supplied these products to our machine builders. Now there are Belarusian brands. For a number of properties, their devices even give odds to foreign counterparts. But once sceptics tried to convince: such complex units cannot be repeated even in simplified versions. It turned out to be possible. And even in more complex variations. Therefore, domestic CNC systems, as they say, are a feasible mission.

The achievement of the promising technological level of the next generation by our machine-tool industry is just as real. After all, what is important is that Belarus has not only a production base for this, but also a scientific and technological base. As Sergei Chizhik, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, noted at the forum, science has become closely involved in the processes of import substitution. Recently,



■ The key task is to switch to our own component base in the machine-tool industry

for example, Akademtekhograd was created at the premises of the Physical and Technical Institute of the National Academy of Sciences. As Vitaly Zalessky, Director of the Institute, specified, in fact, this is a centre of competence in the field of metal processing. It not only develops new technologies, but also introduces them into production. In a word, industrialists' interest in cooperation with research organisations has increased significantly. Science, hand in hand with industry, solves the most complex production problems and is a driver of technological development.

Cooperation ties are getting stronger

Marketing services of machine-tool enterprises naturally state that the demand for products is growing. Both from domestic consumers, and Russian. And the demand is solvent. And while relatively recently many enterprises did not know how to use their production capacities, now they are actively increasing them. In the past, modest sales volumes have been one of the industry's main constraints. With small series, production costs ate up all the profitability, leaving not very much money for development in the broad sense of the word. The



departure of Western brands from the union trading space has expanded horizons. The Russian market woke up. Until recently, Russians visited exhibition events more in order to get acquainted with Belarusian products, to take a closer look at them. But in their hearts they kept Belarusian brands 'in reserve', hoping for an international detente, parallel imports, some ornate supply routes. A series of escalations put an end to cooperation with European manufacturers. There is talk on the sidelines: a certain interaction 'quietly' continues. But it has become very fragmented, complex and unreliable. As a result, the quotes of our machine-tool builders went up. Their investment attractiveness has also increased. A number of projects in the field of machine-tool building have been included in the list of import-substituting projects and will be financed from the funds of an interstate targeted Russian loan.

However, with all the striving for technological sovereignty, we are far from the idea of economic closeness. But cooperation will develop along the vector of all-weather friendly states. First of all, with Russia and China. By the way, the Ministry of Industry has announced a trip to China for a delegation of Belarusian machine tool builders. The topic is the deepening of cooperation, the creation of joint ventures for the production of technological products. Cooperation ties with Russian partners are also growing stronger. As a result, dependence on the dictates of Western transnational corporations is melting away. And there are all prerequisites for the fact that critical imports will be completely replaced in the shortest possible time.

Real opportunities for leadership

Despite all the disadvantages, the sanctions can be assessed positively: they forced the country to wake up from the hibernation of the consumer economy, took it out of the zone of import-dependent comfort and sent it on the path of innovative, engineering creativity. Moreover, they created demand in Russia and the EAEU. And within the framework of the union, Belarus can rightfully claim to be one of the leading centres for the development of technological independence.

Recently, experts from the All-Russian Academy of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Economic Development analysed imports to the EAEU member countries. And it turned out that we can produce products in the equivalent of 20.6 billion dollars (!) within the framework of the union ourselves. And not tomorrow, but now.

In the selection of products that it would be expedient to import by the EAEU member countries, experts of the All-Russian Academy of Foreign Trade included commodity items whose imports exceeded 50 percent of the Union's needs or in the amount of more than \$100 million.

Moreover, Belarus alone or along with other countries of the Union is capable of producing almost half of this product. Both for the domestic market and for export to partners in the EAEU. As it turned out, we have the most powerful potential in the Union for import substitution. And it can become and is becoming a source of both an increase in production volumes, and exports, and growth in GDP and other macroeconomic indicators.

Undoubtedly, we are the most valuable partners for Russia. And the whole value of Belarus in the integration processes manifested itself, both empirically and scientifically confirmed, in the study of the All-Russian Academy of Foreign Trade.

During the period of post-war industrialization, Belarus turned into one of the centres of engineering competencies throughout the USSR. The specificity of the Belarusian industry has been and remains the possibility of producing a full cycle of high-tech products.

It is the engineering potential that allows us to adequately respond to all challenges and threats. All our industrial enterprises have their own powerful design and technological services. These functions were not outsourced to foreign design studios.



Therefore, our manufacturers are able to respond flexibly to both market demands and external factors. And this knowledge and experience have become super-demanded today. Both in Belarus and with our Russian partners.

Time for new prospects

Microelectronics is the foundation of the modern information society. It is necessary not only to fly into space, but also to cook food, clean the apartment, call and even turn on the light. That is why Belarus is now paying a lot of attention to research and development in the field of import-substituting and export-oriented electronic component base. Actually, domestic microelectronics today is the most important condition for the independent economic development of the country. It forms the basis of most modern technologies. These issues have been dealt with before. Within the framework of the programmes of the Union State, sensors and microwave microcircuits were developed. The industry laboratory has become a continuation of this work, a new level. Now its task is to provide enterprises with critically important electronic components.

A new industry laboratory for the development and production of electronic components for microelectronics appeared in Belarus in December last year on the basis of the Research Institute of Radio Materials and, against the backdrop of sanctions pressure, opened up new opportunities for import substitution and closer cooperation with the Russian Federation in common projects for the development of innovative products. The opening of the laboratory became possible with the support of the innovation fund of the Minsk City Executive Committee. The project was implemented in a short time. Belarusian equipment was installed in the laboratory, including the equipment of Planar JSC. This indicates that Belarus has the potential from creating microelectronic technologies to equipment that produces microelectronic products. Today we talk a lot about a smart

city, smart homes, unmanned vehicles. At the same time, in these systems, sensors and microwave microcircuits are the key elements of various nodes and modules.

Precision farming also does not do without systems for operational control of soil and atmosphere parameters, where it is necessary to measure temperature, humidity, dew point and other parameters that significantly affect the state of crops. This requires appropriate sensors. And they are made in the country. Without sensors, it is impossible to develop mechanical engineering and automotive industry. For example, for BELAZ heavy trucks, a tilt angle sensor is vital to prevent overturning of vehicles working in a quarry. Belarus has mastered the manufacture of such sensors. Sensors are also needed in radars for unmanned vehicles, which allow you to control the distance to other objects on the road. And there are already relevant developments here too.

By the way, space satellites also use sensors and microwave components that provide signal transmission from orbit to user tablets. The specialists of the laboratory are currently working on the creation of Belarusian components for satellites. The Research Institute of Radio Materials is also working on complex products, in particular, it is developing a set of mobile weather stations for the Belarusian Antarctic expedition. The first experimental sample has already been tested in Antarctica. Now it is being finalised taking into account the comments in order to provide the expedition with a full-fledged set of meteorological data for receiving aircraft and organising field research in Antarctica. It is planned to deliver the finished equipment to the South Pole before the end of the year.

A large layer of work is import-substituting sensors. For the Byelorussian Steel Works, an experimental batch of sensors for monitoring round rolled steel was made, which are responsible for quality and allow reducing the reject rate. One such imported sensor costs about 6—8 thousand euros. Now we make them on



our own in our country. Specialists are already integrating them into the factory's control system for the rolled products.

In parallel, a wide range of end position sensors is being developed as part of the import substitution of German counterparts. About thirty items have already been mastered. Contracts have been signed with several companies. The Minsk Tractor Works alone will purchase more than a thousand end position sensors this year.

The stage when a lot of things could be freely bought abroad has been passed. However, before there were critical technologies that were not sold. For example, supersensitive elements for sensors. Without them, it is impossible, in particular, to provide the necessary accuracy of positioning objects in space. And now we do not depend on anyone, we can create such super-sensitive elements ourselves. It is in the laboratory of the Research Institute of Radio Materials that there is equipment that provides the necessary technological process and climatic conditions for this.

For several years now, the institute has been implementing a strategy aimed at transforming it into a research and production enterprise. This made it possible to focus the scientific and technical potential on the development of a sought-after commercial product, develop a production vector, expand the range of products and the range of customers. This year, the company has gained good momentum. Exports are expected to double. The portfolio of orders is practically formed until the end of the year. Russia is a long-standing and reliable partner, whose customers are interested in Belarusian sensors, systems and microwave components. Undoubtedly, in the context of sanctions for Belarus and Russia, it is beneficial to deepen integration. In particular, the Russian Federation is interested in cooperation and the development of import substitution in microelectronics, machine tool building, transport engineering, nuclear energy, the chemical industry, metallurgy, and space.

There is potential, and it is in demand

Let's be honest: even before the sanctions period, innovations were developing in the country. But they were often treated with scepticism. Including our Russian partners. The situation changed last year. And it turned out that there are a lot of products in the country that Russian colleagues would like to purchase.

Those who were at the Intellectual Belarus exhibition probably remembered Polina, a skeleton with domestic endoprostheses. In terms of quality and engineering solutions, in some respects they are even better than imported ones. For example, Czech colleagues noted that the quality of metal polishing (an important factor when a piece of iron is in a living body) is higher with our manufacturers. The only drawback was the 'youth' of our products: their release was mastered relatively recently compared to Western competitors. Now Belarusian products have been given the green light.

Why did we enter the medical devices market with strong positions? Including thanks to a strong school of surface treatment. By the way, fundamentally important competencies for a wide range of products. Belarus has the most innovative developments and technologies. And they are transformed into the development and production of our own technological equipment.

There is a strong school in the field of microelectronics, radio electronics, microwave technologies in the country... Our Integral has not acquired a single license in its history: the enterprise has developed on its own scientific base. The sanctions forced us and our partners to take a closer look at our own potential. It exists and is in demand.

By the way, Belarus is lucky: we do not have a lot of minerals. The absence of an inexhaustible flow of commodity dollars has forced the country to historically engage in currency savings. Including through import substitution. And this experience is useful today.

The study of the All-Russian Academy of Foreign Trade states that Belarus alone can supply almost a billion dollars' worth of spare parts for vehicles to the EAEU market. The domestic holding

Autocomponents mastered more than thirty new products last year alone. In the interests of the Belarusian and Russian industry. The renaissance is experienced by the machine-tool industry and instrument making. Let's face it: so far, deliveries to Russia are not as significant as we would like. But last year there was a pilgrimage of Russian delegations to our specialised enterprises. We looked closely. Our producers are ready to meet the demand of neighbours. The goal is to multiply the volume of production.

And there are many such points and vectors of cooperation. Of course, in the modern world it is impossible to produce the entire range of products. However, we never aspired and do not aspire to isolation. This is not the essence of technological sovereignty and import independence. It is fundamentally important not to produce every bolt and nut, but to produce products that are sensitive to sanctions, violations of logistics and production chains. Plus, it has its own design and scientific base. These competencies allow us to flexibly manoeuvre, if necessary, quickly and almost painlessly change suppliers. The accumulated experience allows our enterprises to effectively help Russian partners in import substitution. And to contribute to the economic stability of both the Union State and the EAEU.

Activity at the regional level

Here it is worth clarifying that a number of key intergovernmental Belarusian-Russian agreements in the field of a common industrial policy have already destroyed the barriers that existed on the way to close cooperation. The top-level agreements between the leaders of the two countries are now being actively filled with the expansion of interaction at the regional level and specific projects to deepen cooperation at the corporate level. And Belarus has concluded agreements with more than 80 Russian regions. About 450 more agreements are in force between the regions of Belarus and administrative-territorial subjects of the Russian Federation. A vertical system of interaction has been built between the two countries: from the highest level to the corporate one. Not so long ago, for example, a meeting of the working group of the Ministry of Industry of our country and the government of the Sverdlovsk Region was held in Minsk. The meeting was of a purely practical nature: the specifics of expanding cooperation projects to increase technological and import independence were discussed.

The Sverdlovsk Region is one of the industrialised regions of Russia. The turnover of enterprises of the Belarusian Ministry of Industry and the Sverdlovsk Region is growing dynamically. Due to the expansion of the range and volume of deliveries, this indicator increased by 85.6 percent last year. Representatives of over twenty enterprises of various industries arrived in Minsk as part of the Sverdlovsk delegation. "Everyone is united by an interest in partnership with colleagues from Belarus," emphasised Aleksey Shmykov, First Deputy Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region at the time.

The basis of Belarusian exports to this Russian region is metal products, transformers, elevator equipment, passenger transport, municipal and agricultural equipment, and mining dump trucks. One of the long-standing partners of the Sverdlovsk residents is Belkommunmash. Recently, the company signed a contract for the supply of 50 autonomous trolleybuses to the Sverdlovsk Region.

This mode of transport makes it possible to develop the route network without additional investment in infrastructure. Four units have already been shipped. Until autumn, the rest of the equipment will also leave for Russia.

According to Oleg Bytsko, Deputy General Director of the enterprise, both parties are considering options for expanding cooperation. Cooperation is especially important in such industries as mechanical engineering and machine tool building. Manufacturers of the two countries are learning to respond quickly to each other's requests. "In previous years, our partners paid more attention to Western and Asian manufacturers of machine tools," said Aleksandr Ogorodnikov, First Deputy Minister of Industry. "The current situation shows that we can compete at least in terms of price and quality. The most important thing is that we have overcome our dependence on a number of European hubs and found a replacement for them in friendly countries."

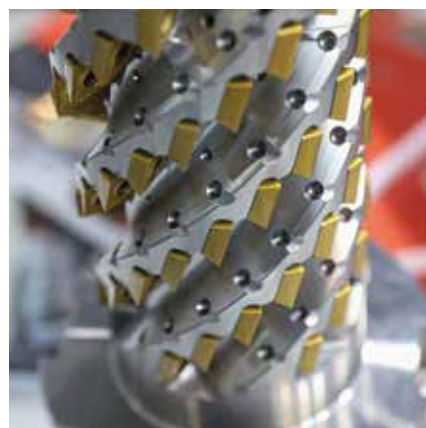
Thanks to the support of the state, almost all machine-tool plants were saved in Belarus. In addition, we have our own design school. The existing competencies allow us to automate technological processes and production management systems. The Belarusian side offers the Sverdlovsk residents to unite their potentials.

Belarusian brands are in trend

The discussion on cooperation topics will continue in July at the annual INNOPROM exhibition in Yekaterinburg. Belarus will act as a partner country. According to the Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mikhail Myatlikov, about 200 machine-building, machine-tool, energy, petrochemical companies, as well as light industry enterprises have already applied for participation in the national exposition. The main topic of the upcoming Yekaterinburg forum is 'Sustainable Production: Renewal Strategies'.

The Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in Belarus believes that our country has a real prospect of becoming one of the three main trading partners of its neighbours. Today, Belarusian brands in high-tech areas, including mechanical engineering, are in trend among Russians. The history of interaction between domestic and Sverdlovsk manufacturers confirms this. Among the permanent partners of the region from our side are such industrial giants as Minsk Tractor Works, BELAZ, Minsk Automobile Plant. Moreover, the number of participants in industrial cooperation is constantly expanding, including through private enterprises.

Vladimir Velikhov
Photo by BELTA



DEDICATION TO MEMORY AND LIFE



Peacefulness and philanthropy are those national features of the Belarusians, which the national art is constantly glorifying through the efforts of its best creators. Emotionally filled works of artists about wartime will always have a special status.

During the days of May, the National Art Museum traditionally renews the exposition of paintings by veteran artists. This tradition has not been changed this year. Works by Belarusian people's artists Viktor Gromyko and Leonid Shchemelev, Mikhail Savitsky were hung in the hall. They themselves went through the harsh miles of that war, they knew about it, as they say, firsthand. It is not surprising that artists have a lot of works dedicated to the theme of the heroic and tragic past...

Convincing visual solutions

The day of June 22nd, 1941 promised to be an ordinary Sunday. People calmly planned how to spend the day off. But it was on this day that the Great Patriotic War began... Three years of occupation and heavy fighting that swept across the territory of Belarus twice, in 1941 and 1944, claimed about two million lives and left a deep imprint on the people's consciousness. For several generations, recent history has been divided into 'pre-war' and 'post-war'.

The military era is a whole huge world of feelings and experiences with its own social, psychological, moral characteristics, and each generation of artists was looking for its own key to revealing this world. The art of the 1940s and 1950s, which in fact is the starting point in the development of the military theme, is usually reproached for its peculiar varnishing and excessive staging. However, considering those works, one should not forget that this, in our current opinion, 'varnishing' conveyed sincere feelings. Being at the same time a document of the era, and the personal experience of the artist, and part of the general spiritual upsurge, they can only be adequately understood in such a single context. And the artistic method of the 'grand style' itself, which required numerous preparatory sketches, led to a kind of pictorial literacy, a staging of military events with the orientation towards the exact reflection of nature, which was inherent in the Belarusian school of socialist realism. The art of that time was a direct response to the still very recent, still, as they say, not forgotten events of the war. Hence the sharpness and excitement of creative expression.

Maybe some works of that time did not always reach psychological depth, but the leading artists of the first post-war generation always found convincing visual solutions for their paintings, which determined the creative longevity of their works. Large-scale multi-figured compositions by Yevgeny Zaitsev, Ivan Akhremchik, Valentin Volkov, sculptural portraits of Zair Azgur and Andrey Bembel became classics. An important role in the formation of the military-patriotic theme of fine arts was played by front-line drawings and sketches, in which the authors recorded everyday moments



of the war. Already in those years, themes were developed that later became typical: the tragedy of the death of a hero, confrontation, bitterness of loss, dramatic conflicts of battle, disasters of war and occupation. The leading place among them was occupied by the partisan epic, which revealed many diverse life and moral aspects of the war, largely determining the evolution of the Belarusian fine arts.

Variety of human emotions

Over time, the attitude to the military theme began to change. Other themes appear, the main thing is not documentary accuracy, but the disclosure of the deep philosophical meaning of events, the connection of times, generalisation and publicism. Not everything here is equally valuable, but there is no doubt that this direction has enriched and expanded the horizons of fine art.

However, soon interest in the essence of documentary details awakens again. The works of some artists already in the 70s were saturated with the desire to return to the past, to feel it in all its veracity, which is obvious from the multi-figured compositions of Ivan Tikhonov, Anatoly Shibnev, Sergei Romanov. At this time, Mikhail Savitsky created a one-of-a-kind series *Numbers on the Heart*, based on autobiographical material: these canvases are not just a dramatic story about the trials of the war, but a tense monologue of a participant and witness of terrible events. His interpretation of the



military theme stands out sharply for its special emotionality. For many artists, including those who participated in hostilities, over time, the main thing in the embodiment of the war is the various human emotions associated with it, which are outside the ideological framework. Often the authors turn to the theme of 'woman and war', which varies widely from stories about refugees, lonely widows, devastated land to generalised, symbolic images. For example, in the painting *June 22nd. Brest Fortress* by Iosif Belanovich, the figure of a mother in mourning attire with a child in her arms is associated with the classical theme of commemoration.

Unfortunately, young artists do not always dare to turn to the theme of the so-called 'civilian sound', which implies a great responsibility of the author. And the point here is not in the material itself, the potential of which is still far from being exhausted, but in a certain resistance of this material. The theme of war, as a kind of not only a social, but also a cultural phenomenon, does not require the obligatory pathos of artistic language. It has always been and remains close to the eternal problems of good and evil, happiness and suffering, life and death, loyalty and betrayal — in a word, everything that is a solid basis for creativity in any style, direction and material.

It is important not to lose the best

Undoubtedly, for the artists of the older generation, the war was part of the biography. Many of their works became simply an epic story, often based on the specifics of real stories. But the further the time of military events goes from us, the more often artists turn to them with the help of a figurative interpretation: psychological, romantic or lyrical. The war began to acquire a 'human' face. The new authors not only reflected certain real circumstances and the actions of the heroes of their paintings, they sought associations, conveyed emotions, yearned, rejoiced, expressing all this, standing at the easel. For artists, the opportunity to convey secret, intimate thoughts and feelings somehow naturally opened up. Yes, we can safely say that in the 21st century the military-patriotic genre has received further development. But the whole difference is that if previously they spoke about the war 'in the first person', the authors were purely guided by their own memories, today artists interpret the topic associatively, shifting it to historical issues, to the courage of people in the fight against the enemy, to display joy for the victory. Nikolai Opiok, Head of the Studio of Military Artists established under the Ministry of Defence, believes, "Our task is not to lose the best that was achieved by our predecessors. We practically do not have taboo topics. It all depends on the ability and courage



of the artist, his civic position. If someone seeks to delve into history, let him not look for only the most spectacular moments of it. It is important to show not only victories, but also defeats, joy and pain, our strength and courage. It is necessary to be honest with history and modernity.”

Today, these studio artists seek to explore the conditions of modern military service. After trips to specific military facilities, numerous sketches and studies form the basis of paintings on the army theme. And the focus on the achievements of Soviet battle painting, for example, on the canvases *Defenders of the Brest Fortress* by Yevgeny Zaitsev, Valentin Volkov's *Liberation of Minsk on July 3rd, 1944*, helps studio members feel confident at the height of creative continuity.

Well, war and an artist are a very difficult union. It is very easy to lose the truth in it. The artist, showing the reality of a process unacceptable to the very essence of man, should not lose himself as a creator. At the same time, the war should not turn into a set of refined postcards. Difficult task. And the main phenomenon is not even the victory over evil in itself, but the fact that the winners did not come out of the war with hardened souls.

This is very significant for art. In Belarus, where people fully felt all the horrors of what they experienced, art received a

new impetus. The post-war years became his golden age — a national school was formed.

In the first person about war and victory

The theme of war, of course, occupied a significant place in the work of Belarusian artists. But the interpretation of the theme varied from the dramatic nature of the paintings by Mikhail Savitsky to the life-affirming still lifes and landscapes of Leonid Shchemelev. The breadth of the view on the task has always been present in the Belarusian fine arts.

In a word, the works of artists with all the power of individual emotionality reveal the essence of those severe trials that befell the people of the war times. Of course, paintings were also exhibited by those authors who went through the war themselves. They also usually say about such people: they survived! We are talking about a generation that has experienced an extremely cruel ordeal by war.

They themselves knew the war and they had enough life experience to later reveal its terrible essence with their creativity. People's Artist of Belarus Viktor Gromyko, for example, not only felt all the hardships of that harsh time, but he was a warrior-liberator of his native land from fascist invaders. Already in 1941 he became a member of an underground organisation in the city of Orsha. And then he was a scout,

CULTURAL PHENOMENON



a machine gunner, and even a commissar of a detachment of a special forces regiment. He edited the newspaper *People's Avengers*. Behind these dry facts of military biography is a great effort of strength, courage and human dignity. However, the war also exposed the inexhaustible love of life of Viktor Gromyko, which he later revealed in his rich creative variety. Thus, the work of Viktor Gromyko invariably correlates with high ideas about the meaning of life, about spiritual ideals and beliefs, about the responsibility of the artist. He himself entered Belarusian art as a master of historical heroic painting, large-scale epic landscape and psychological portrait.

Or take the famous battle painter Fyodor Baranovsky, one of the first graduates of the Minsk Art Institute. He was a painter of Soviet realism, whose works are usually called the basis of the Belarusian fine arts. Fyodor Baranovsky painted soldiers, skilfully revealed their characters. His paintings convey human emotions, willpower, conviction. In a word, his characters are courageous people who have had a difficult fate and who have passed through life with honour. However, one of the most famous works of Fyodor Baranovsky is *Banya*, in which, behind the external everyday plot, one can read a protest against the war, which took away young lives. The picture is perceived as special and significant not only due to the professionalism of the artist and an unexpected approach to the topic, but also due to the paradoxical combination of external love of life and hidden tragedy.





Paintings conquer without words

Yes, the war has long been history. But it still remains a part of the fate of almost every Belarusian family. It cannot be otherwise in a country that lost a third of its inhabitants in that war.

Of course, Fyodor Baranovsky is a bright phenomenon in the Belarusian fine arts. Actually, the same high marks can be given to Nikolai Zalozny, Ivan Dmukhaylo and Iosif Belanovich, whose works are also often displayed at exhibitions.

By the way, Ivan Dmukhaylo is one of those rare artists who, having gone through the Great Patriotic War, could not paint it on canvas. In his work, he took the path that helped him depict the richness of life, the beauty of its moments. Ivan Dmukhaylo is an excellent landscape painter. It was this genre that helped him show his talent, his abilities.

However, for the former participant in the Great Patriotic War, Iosif Belanovich, the military theme, as already noted, on the contrary, was fully present in his works. *Brest Fortress*, *Heroes of Immortality*, *Memory*, *Soldiers* are the names of only some of his paintings, by which one can judge their subject matter. Iosif Belanovich managed to show the humanity of the soldier-liberator. The artist worked on this topic until the last days of his life, having managed to create canvases dedicated to the heroic defence of the Brest Fortress, and the courage of the blockade of Leningrad, and the battles in Berlin.

In general, the works of many Belarusian artists about the war are tragic, they are dominated by the themes of heroic resistance and deeds. This fully applies to the work of the People's Artist of Belarus Georgy Poplavsky, according to whom Belarusian artists inscribed their line in the reflection of the history of the Great Patriotic War with their paintings.

"This is our duty, because the sacrifices that Belarus suffered during the war years are unforgettable," he said.





New impetus for art

Whatever it was, but the fate of the art of Belarus in the forties of the last century was closely connected with the course of military events. Some of the artists ended up at the front, some were evacuated or remained in the occupied territory, some joined the partisan movement. The collection of the pre-war State Art Gallery — the predecessor of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus — was not evacuated: most of the works were looted or destroyed during the bombing and fires. Despite the difficult conditions, Belarusian artists worked during the war. They found for themselves more convenient forms of depicting reality: small sketches, front-line drawings, posters and caricatures, portraits. After the liberation of Belarus, artists made many creative business trips to the places of military events, created images of war heroes.

The heyday of the military theme in Belarusian fine art fell on the period from the end of the 1940s and up to the 1970s. The current exposition of the National Art Museum presents paintings, works of graphics, sculpture, arts and crafts dedicated to the defence of the Brest Fortress, the liberation of Minsk, images of partisans and the glorification of the memory of the Heroes of the Soviet Union who died during the war. 'Old Man' Minai (Minai Shmyrev), Nikolai Gastello, Lev Dovator, Konstantin Zaslonov, Pyotr Kupriyanov, Yelena Mazanik, Mikhail Silnitsky and grandfather Talash (Vasily Talash) — their exploits inspired not only artists, but also writers, composers, film and theatre directors.

Come and see

But here, in the permanent exhibition of the National Art Museum, first of all, you can see works on the patriotic theme of people's artists of Belarus: Zair Azgur, Anatoly Anikeichik, Ivan Akhremchik, Andrey Bembel, Gavriil Vashchenko, Valentin Volkov, Aleksei Glebov, Viktor Gromyko, Aleksandr Grube, Lev Gumilevsky, Mai Dantsig, Yevgeny Zaitsev, Arlen Kashkurevich, Raisa Kudrevich, Pavel Maslenikov, Georgy Poplavsky, Mikhail Savitsky, Sergey Selikhanov, Vladimir Stelmashonok, Vitaly Tsvirko, Vasily Sharangovich, Leonid Shchemelev. The genre range of works in the exhibition is very wide: from portraits to thematic paintings. For several decades, artists emotionally and dramatically conveyed the tragic and tense atmosphere of the war days. For example, Vitaliy Tsvirko's *Invictus*, Yevgeny Zaitsev's *Stand to the Death*, Algerd Malishevsky's *We'll Be Back*, Natan Voronov's *In Memory of Fellow Soldiers*, Nikolai Zalzorny's *Poppies*, Mikhail Savitsky's *Vitebsk Gates* and *Partisan Madonna*, Viktor Gromyko's *1941. Over Pripyat*, *My Birth* by Leonid Shchemelev, *Breakthrough* by Gavriil Vashchenko.

In his own way he spoke about the war, about the world

The brightest representative of the 'severe style' is the People's Artist of Belarus Mai Dantsig. Not a single large-scale exhibition has been complete without his work. Mai



CULTURAL PHENOMENON



Dantsig is one of those creators who tried to speak directly, loudly, honestly, always remaining true to himself, beliefs and ideals. In his best works — in thematic canvases, urban landscapes, still lifes, portraits — the main thing is the theme, idea, bright solution. The artist's paintings are characterised by the scale of the search, the expressiveness of the plot and semantic significance. And this is especially vividly reflected in canvases on the theme of war: such paintings as *And the Saved World Remembers...*, *Belarus is a Partisan Mother*, *On Guard of Peace*, included in the golden fund of national fine arts. In general, the artist's works are characterised by a unique breath of time, sublimity and nobility. Mai Dantsig told in his own way about the war, about the world, about his beloved hero city Minsk, about the people with whom he was close. And most importantly, about the time in which he lived.

Core values

Yes, the Victory was sharply and emotionally reflected in the work of Belarusian artists. There are many good works on this subject. The best of them are in the funds of the main museum of the country. And the museum had much to show during the holidays. No wonder they decided not to limit themselves to one, albeit large in scale, permanent exhibition. From February to May, several halls of the museum displayed an exhibition timed to coincide with the centenary of the birth of People's Artist of Belarus Leonid Shchemelev, vividly and expressively reflecting the work of the famous front-line artist. As a matter of fact, this exhibition, like no other, was devoted to life, its boundless value. As well as memory, which should not become dull over time.

Veniamin **Mikheyev**
Photo by the author

“КІТАЙЦЫ БОЛЬШ ТРЫВАЛЫ НАРОД, ЧЫМ ЕЎРАПЕЙЦЫ...”

Класік беларускай дзіцячай літаратуры Янка МАЎР (1883 – 1971) на пачатку сваёй творчай дарогі выступіў у часопісе “Беларускі піянер” з артыкулам пра Кітай

Здавалася б, нічога ў гэтым дзіўнага няма. Але гэта калі мераць падыходамі сённяшніх дзён. Міжнародная праблема-тыка не сыходзіць з газетных і часопісных старонак. Што ўжо казаць пра магчымасці адкрыцця самай свежай інфармацыі пра далёкія краіны праз сацыяльныя сеткі?! Ды і ўласныя карэспандэнты буйных інфармацыйных агенцтваў працуюць у розных кутках свету. Як для Беларусі, то інфармацыя пра іншы свет здабываецца, як правіла, праз “другія рукі”, найперш – з дапамогай электронных рэсурсаў. І даведацца пра землятрус ці тэрарыстычны акт альбо пра ўзброенае сутыкненне розных палітычных сіл у Афрыцы ці Азіі асабліва складана, не ўяўляе. Цяжэй сфарміраваць паўнавартасны партрэт жыцця чужаземнага народа. Не заўсёды і не адразу дапамагаюць у гэтым нават развіцця турыстычныя сцэжкі-дарожкі...

Янка Маўр пачаў друкавацца ў сярэдзіне 1920-х гг. Дэбютаваў фельетонамі ў газеце “Советская Белоруссия» і ленинградскім часопісе “Бегемот”. У 1926 годзе “Беларускі піянер” у двух нумарах пачынае друкаваць апавесць “Чалавек ідзе”. Выкладчыку 25-й мінскай чыгуначнай школы было на той час 44 гады. Настаўнік раскажаў пра такую стадыю развіцця першабытнага чалавека, калі той пачынаў станаўліцца на ногі, нічога асабліва яшчэ не ўмеючы. І ўсё, да

“中国人比欧洲人 更有耐心.....”

杨卡·马夫尔 (1883–1971)
是白俄罗斯儿童文学的著名作家, 创作生涯之初曾在
《白俄罗斯少先队员》杂志上
发表过一篇关于中国的文章。

这似乎没有什么意外的。但这是如果我们用今天的方法来衡量的话。国际问题不会离开报纸和杂志的页面。关于通过社交网络发现有关遥远国家的最新信息的可能性, 我们能说些什么?! 主要新闻机构的记者在世界不同地区工作。至于白俄罗斯, 关于世界的信息通常是通过“二手”获得的, 首先是借助电子资源。了解地震或恐怖主义行为或非洲或亚洲不同政治力量之间的武装冲突并不是特别困难。要完整地描绘一个外国人的生活是比较困难的。即使是流行的旅游线路也不总是立即帮助解决这个问题.....

杨卡·马夫尔于 1920 年代中期开始发表文章。他在报纸《苏联白俄罗斯》和列宁格勒杂志《河马》中首次亮相。1926 年, 《白俄罗斯少先队员》开始分两期发表中篇小说《人在行走》。那位第25号明斯克铁路学校的老师当时44岁。老师讲述了一个原始人的发展阶段, 当他开始站起来时, 还不能做任何特别的事情。他通过第一次经历获得的一切对于我们的远祖来说都是第一次: 用工具猎杀动物、寻找火种、使用石头作为工具..... 对于年轻的白俄罗斯文学来说, 这本小说当然是出乎意料的事件。

чаго ён даходзіў праз першыя вопыты, -- было для нашага далёкага прашчура ўпершыню: паляванне на звера з прыладамі, здабыванне агню, выкарыстанне каменя ў якасці інструмента... Для маладой беларускай літаратуры твор гэты стаў, зразумела, нечаканай падзеяй.

І Янка Маўр (сапраўднае імя і прозвішча настаўніка – Іван Фёдараў) пачынае актыўную працу не толькі над новымі мастацкімі творамі, але і часта выступае ў перыядычным друку. Найперш – пад рознымі псеўданімамі і крыптанімамі (Я. Сталы, М., Я. М.). І вось у часопісе “Беларускі піянер”, у восьмым нумары за 1928 год, з’яўляецца артыкул Янкі Маўра “Экскурсія ў Кітай”. Чатыры з паловай часопісных старонкі, сем фотааздымкаў... “У Кітаі жыве больш за 400 мільёнаў народу, што складае блізка чацвёртую частку насельніцтва ўсяе зямной кулі. І аб жыцці гэтакага вялікага народу мы ведаем меней, чымся аб іншых дробных народах. А між тым у жыцці кітайскага народу ёсць шмат цікавага, з чым варта пазнаёміцца. Хоць з большага, кожнаму з нас. Дзеля гэтага спрабуем зрабіць экскурсію ў Кітай...”

Нарысы, якія напісаны па ўсіх законах такога разгалінавання жанра, як “падарожны нарыс”, складаецца з сямі невялікіх раздзельчыкаў: “У дарозе”; “У вёсцы”; “На полі”; “Кітайскія дзеці”; “Кітайскія забабоны”; “Кітайская культура”; “Лёс кітайскага народу”. Нагадаем, што ў 1925 – 1927 гг. у Кітаі праходзілі рэвалюцыйныя падзеі. Першы этап: з 30 мая 1925 па чэрвень 1926 г. масавыя страйкі і прыход да ўлады на поўдні Кітая Чан Кайшы. Другі: з чэрвеня 1926 па 17 красавіка 1927 г. удалае наступленне Нацыянальнай Рэвалюцыйнай Арміі на поўнач Кітая і контррэвалюцыйны пераварот Чан Кайшы. Трэці, заключны: з 2 красавіка па 15 ліпеня 1927 года – завяршэнне рэвалюцыі паразай. Канешне ж, на фоне гэтых падзей інфармацыя ў савецкім перыядычным друку пра падзеі ў Кітаі стала шмат шырэйшай. Савецкі Саюз актыўна дапамагаў дэмакратычным, рэвалюцыйным сілам Паднябеснай... У 1924 годзе ў СССР нават было створана таварыства “Рука прэч ад Кітая!”. Акрамя падрабязнага асвятлення падзей у Кітаі ў інфармацыйным плане, газеты і часопісы друкавалі і мастацкія творы пра падзеі ў Пекіне, Шанхаі, іншых гарадах. Былі надрукаваны вершы У. У. Маякоўскага, І. Уткіна, А. Жарова, Дзям’яна Беднага, нарысы Сяргея Трацякова, Зінаіды Рыхтэр, Оскара Эрдберга, Мікалая Кастарава... Сяргей Трацякоў быў першым савецкім пісьменнікам, які пражыў у Пекіне каля двух гадоў. Ён выкладаў у Пекінскім універсітэце рускую літаратуру. Пазней ён, акрамя нарысаў і вершаў, напіша п’есу “Рычы, Кітай!”. Магчыма, ведаў гэты твор і Янка Маўр... П’есу ў Савецкім Саюзе пераклалі на ўкраінскую, узбекскую, армянскую, татарскую і іншыя мовы. Была ў Сяргея Трацякова і паэма, аднайменная з назвай п’есы, – “Рычы, Кітай!”. Вось пачатак паэмы:



杨卡·马夫尔 (老师的真名是伊万·费多罗夫) 不仅开始积极从事新艺术作品的创作, 而且还经常出现在期刊上。首先, 使用不同的笔名 (雅·斯塔利、玛·雅·玛)。因此, 在《白俄罗斯少先队员》杂志 1928 年的第八期中, 出现了杨卡·马夫尔的文章《中国之旅》。四页半、七张照片……“中国有四亿多人, 几乎占全球人口的四分之一。与其他小国相比, 我们对这样一个大国的生活知之甚少。同时, 中国人的生活中也有很多有趣的事情值得去了解。至少对我们每个人来说。为此, 我们正试图去中国旅行……”

这篇文章是根据“旅行随笔”体裁的所有规律写成的, 由七个小部分组成: 《在路上》、《在村里》、《在天上》、《中国孩子》、《中国迷信》、《中国文化》和《中国人的命运》。在 1925–1927 年中国正在发生革命事件。第一阶段: 1925年5月30日至1926年6月, 华南群众大罢工, 蒋介石上台。第二阶段: 1926年6月至1927年4月17日, 国民革命军在中国北方的成功进攻和蒋介石的反革命政变。第三阶段, 最后一阶段: 1927年4月2日至7月15日——革命以失败告终。当然, 在这些事件的背景下, 苏联期刊中关于中国事件的信息变得更加广泛。苏联积极帮助中国的民主革命力量……1924年, 苏联甚至成立了“放开中国!”的社团。除了在信息方面

У Кітая много тяжелых стен.
 Цапают небо зубами за кожу.
 Китай устал.
 Китаю постель —
 Меж стен пустыня постлала ложе.
 Жёлтый лёсс —
 Земляное сало,
 Чтобы колес
 Грохоталь не бряцала.
 Жирный лёсс
 Родит рис.
 Водоемных колес
 Взмах вверх,
 Взмах вниз, —
 И зеленый рисовый мох
 Растет.
 Рис, питай
 Китай.
 Арба, катай
 Китай.

... Не будзем губляць час на здагадкі ў дачыненні да магчымых крыніц інфармацыі беларускага пісьменніка пра Кітай... Зазірнём у яго нарыс з часопіса “Беларускі піянер” за 1928 год. “Зямля ў Кітаі жоўтая, мяккая, лёгкая (назваецца “лэс”). У сухую пару году з дарогі падымаецца густы пыл і адносіцца ветрам у бок. У часе дажджу вада размывае дарогу. І з цягам часу дарога ўсё паглыбляецца і паглыбляецца і нарэшце робіцца равам. Нездарма кітайцы кажуць: “кожная дарога праз тысячу гадоў робіцца ракой”. І далей: “Вось дарога падыходзіць да ракі, але мосту на ёй няма. Прыходзіцца пераязджаць на пароме. Пачынаецца вялікая тузаніна, каб пагрузіць цяжкія колы і ўпартых быкоў. Быкоў прыходзіцца цягнуць вяроўкамі за рогі і за хвост разам. Таму ля перавозу заўсёды знаходзяцца чалавек дзесяць-пятнаццаць для гэтай справы, а праежджаму прыходзіцца плаціць усім за дапамогу”. Беларускі пісьменнік стараецца паказаць характар жыцця, прынцыповыя рэчы, якія вызначаюць побыт далёкага народу... “Большасць сялян мае каля гектару (дзесяціны) зямлі. Багатыры маюць 4-6 гектараў. Кітайцы нават лічаць, што для пражыцця аднаго чалавека павінна хапіць адной сямнаццаці часткі гектара. Гэта больш-менш магчыма таму, што яны могуць зняць з свайго поля 2 ураджаі, а ў паўднёвым Кітаі нават 3 ураджаі ў год. Але самае галоўнае – гэта незвычайная, цяжкая

详细报道中国的事件外, 报刊杂志还刊登了有关北京、上海等城市事件的艺术作品: 发表了马雅可夫斯基、乌特金、扎罗夫、比迪尼的诗歌、特列季亚科夫、里希特、厄德贝里、科斯塔罗夫的散文……特列季亚科夫是第一位在北京生活了大约两年的苏联作家。他在北京大学教授俄罗斯文学。后来, 除了散文和诗歌, 他还写了话剧《怒吼吧, 中国!》。也许杨卡·马夫尔也知道这部作品……该剧在苏联被翻译成乌克兰语、乌兹别克语、亚美尼亚语、鞑靼语等多种语言。谢尔盖·特列季亚科夫还有一首与剧名同名的诗——《怒吼吧, 中国!》。这是这首诗的开头:

中国有许多厚墙。
 天空被牙齿咬破了皮肤。
 中国为中国铺了床——
 沙漠铺设在墙壁之间一张床。
 黄土——
 地球的猪油，
 轮子
 拨浪鼓没有嘎嘎作响。
 肥黄土
 出来。
 承水轮
 向上摆动，
 向下摆动，—
 和绿色稻苔
 生长。
 喂养水稻
 中国。
 犁，滚动
 中国。

……让我们不要浪费时间猜测白俄罗斯作家关于中国的可能信息来源……让我们看看他在1928年《白俄罗斯少先队员》杂志上发表的文章。“中国的土地是黄色的，柔软的，光（称为“黄土”）。在旱季，路上扬起厚厚的灰尘，被风吹走。下雨时，水会冲刷路面。久而久之，路越走越深，最后变成一条沟。难怪中国人说：“条条大路一千年成江河”。后面还写：“路临河，桥上无桥。必须坐渡轮过去。一场伟大的争夺开始装载沉重的车轮和顽固的公牛。公牛必须用绳子拉着它们的角和尾巴一起拉。这就是为什么这件事情总是有十到十五个人在摆渡口上，而乘客必须为每个人的帮助付出代价。”

白俄罗斯作家试图展示生活的本质，决定远方人民生活的基本事物……“大多数农民拥有大约一公顷（俄亩）的土地。大力士有 4-6 公顷。中国人甚至认为，一公顷的十七分之一应该足够一个人的生活。这大致上足够，因为他们可以从他们的田地里收获两季庄稼，而在中国南方，一年甚至可以收获三季庄稼。但最重要的是中国人十分耐心的工作。他坐下来单独处理每一粒谷物，甚至在上面涂上肥料。〈...〉黄土是一种很好的土壤，但它需要大量的水。所以，为了得到这些水，中国人做了我们农

праца кітайца. Ён сядзіць і апрацоўвае кожнае зярнятка паасобку, нават абкладае яго ўгнаеннем. <...> Лёэс – добрая глеба, але вельмі патрабуе вады. І вось, каб здабыць гэтую ваду, кітайцы робяць такую працу, на якую ніхто з нашых сялян ня пойдзе: і накачваюць ваду, і носяць, і збіраюць дажджавую ваду; размяркоўваюць палі так, каб з аднаго поля сцякала на другое.

Для сваёй спажывы яны сеюць галоўным чынам рыс, боб і пшаніцу, а на продаж – чай і бавоўну ды яшчэ тутавыя дрэвы для шоўкапрадаў (чарвякоў).

Бедната прадае нават рыс і пшаніцу, а жывіцца галоўным чынам бобам (бабовы тварог, бабовыя корынкi, бабовы сыр, бабовыя пірагі і г.д.)...” Канешне ж, усё гэта са-

сыр, бабовыя пірагі і г.д.)...” Канешне ж, усё гэта сапраўды было цікава і юным чытачам, і іх бацькам. Такой інфармацый наўрад ці хто валодаў. Ці на крайні выпадак – было зусім мала дасведчаных у кітайскай гісторыі і сучаснасці чытачоў. Ды і Беларусь на пачатку другой паловы 1920-х гг. складалася ў значнай ступені з вясковага насельніцтва. Згодна перапісу 1926 года ў рэспубліцы 84 працэнты жыхароў пражывала ў сельскай мясцовасці. Відавочна, была і запатрабаванасць такога кшталту ў чытача: “А як у іншым свеце сеюць, збіраюць ураджай, жывуць як, адным словам, з зямлі..?” І ў нас, у Беларусі, шмат што рабілі рукамі. Але ж ужо і былі і механізмы. А наперадзе былі і калгасныя пераўтварэнні, першыя трактары...

“...Жнуць сярпамі або проста вырываюць рукамі. Але ў гэты час прыходзіцца вельмі абараняць свой ураджай ад птушак і людзей. Сярод народу столькі галоты, што яны ідуць на ўсё, каб толькі ўкрасці які-небудзь каласок...” І як бы не стараліся кітайцы, голад час ад часу набываў не-верагодныя маштабы. Па некаторых дадзеных смерць ад голаду прыйшла ў 1927 годзе да двух мільёнаў чалавек... З нарыса Янкі Маўра: “Трэба адзначыць, што кітайская бед-ната часам сабе “робіць” зямлю. Пабудуе на рацэ плыт, на-носіць мяшкамі зямлі – вось табе і поле. Або зробіць такім самым чынам поле дзе-небудзь на гары, на голым каменні”. Такія памкненні, такі паводзіны можна па праву назваць гаспадарчай, сацыяльнай мужнасцю шэраговых вясковых кітайцаў!..

Падрабязна апісвае беларускі пісьменнік долю кітайскіх дзяцей, прыводзіць уражлівую лічбу: “Вучыцца кітайскіх дзяцей” вельмі мала: на 100 чалавек жыхарства прыпадае 2 вучні”. У Беларусі ў тых гады ішла актыўная ліквідацыя няграматнасці... “Бацькі заўсёды працуюць і не маюць часу выходзіць дзяцей, -- піша аўтар нарыса “Экскурсія ў Кітай”. – Тыя жывуць самапасам: капошацца на сваім панадворку, купаюцца ў бруднай лужыне, гуляюць. Але ў іх ёсць адзін вялікі абавязак: збіраць паліва і ўгнаенне.

Гэта праца патрабуе шмат часу і цярдлівасці”.
Завяршае “Экскурсію ў Кітай” раздзел “Лёс кітайскага на-
роду”. Письменнік, публіцыст разумее, што вялікая, адмет-

民都不会做的工作：他们抽水，搬运，收集雨水；分配田地，以便从一个田地流向另一个田地。

为了自己的喂养,他们主要种植水稻、豆类和小麦,而为了出售,他们种茶叶和棉花,以及用于养蚕的桑树。

穷人连米、麦子都卖，主要靠豆子（豆花、豆皮、豆饼等）为生……”当然，这一切让小读者和他们的父母都很感兴趣。

几乎没有人知道这样的信息。或者，作为一个极端的例子，很少有读者了解中国的历史和现代。白俄罗斯在 1920 年代下半叶，主要由农村人口组成。根据 1926 年的人口普查，共和国 84% 的居民居住在农村地区。显然，读者对这类事情有需求：“在另一个世界里，他们如何播种、收获、生活，总之，就像来自地球……”而我们，在白俄罗斯，用我们的双手做了很多事情。但是已经有了机制。前面还有集体农场的改造，第一台拖拉机……

“……他们用镰刀收割，或者只是用手把它们拔出来。但此时你必须保护你的作物免受鸟类和人类的侵害。人民中有如此多的饥饿，以至于他们会不惜一切代价只是为了偷一个玉米穗……”无论中国人如何努力，饥饿时不时地达到令人难以置信的程度。根据一些数据，1927年有200万人死于饥饿……摘自杨卡·马夫尔的一篇文章：“值得注意的是，中国的穷人有时会为自己开垦土地。他们会在河上搭筏子，铺上几袋土——那是他的田地。或者他会在山上某处的一块光秃秃的石头土以同样的方式开辟一块田地。”这样的抱负，这样的行为，堪称普通中国农村人的经济勇气和社会勇气！

白俄罗斯作家详细描述了**中国孩子**的比例，并引用了一个令人印象深刻的数字：“学习的中国孩子很少：每100名居民有2名学生。” 在那些年的白俄罗斯，文盲被积极扫除……“父母总是工作，没有时间抚养孩子，”《中国之旅》文章的作者写道：“他们过着自给自足的生活：在院子里玩闹，在肮脏的水坑里游泳，玩耍。但他们有一项重大职责：收集燃料和化肥。这项工作需要大量的时间和耐心。”

《中国人的命运》部分结束了《中国之旅》。这位作家、时评家明白，一个大的、独特的、有趣的国家及其人民在小说中看起来很无魅力的……这就是为什么他从本章一开始就指出：“在阅读了这里写的关于中国人的一切之后，有人可能会想：他们就是这么狂野、有趣、愚蠢、肮脏等等。但这样的想法是完全错误的。只能说一件事——他们又穷又无学无术的；所有其他荒谬之处都源于此。”进一步说：“还有穷人，因为领主和祭司故意让他们蒙在鼓里吸他们的血。现代将军尤其具有破坏性。他们利用人民被压迫和分裂的事实，使自己成为自己地区的沙皇，并且不断地相互交战。而最不良的是，外国（英、美、法、日）利用这种情况，骑在四亿人的头上。在中国，外国人比中国人拥有更多的权利。在中国的城市里，在城市花园里，或者在饭店、剧院里，都有外语标志：‘中国人和狗禁止入内’。这些国家用金钱‘收买’那些将军，他们为外国人的利益工作。当然，整个国家都在受苦。”

终于，老百姓受不了了，先造反洋人，再造反他们的主人。争斗已经进行到第三个年头了，依然没有结果。

我们希望，毕竟会有数百万人获胜。然后中国将开始全新的生活。而且他们会做很多事情，因为说实话，中国人是比欧

ная і цікавая краіна разам са сваімі насельнікамі выглядае ў расповядзе непрыглядна... Таму і зазначае з самага пачатку раздзела: “Прачытаўшы ўсё, што тутак напісана аб кітайцах, хто-небудзь можа падумаць: вось якія яны дзікія, смешныя, дурныя, брудныя і г.д. Але такая думка будзе зусім няправільнай. Можна толькі адно сказаць, -- што яны бедныя і цёмныя; а ад гэтага ўжо ўсе іншыя недарэчнасці”. І далей: “А бедныя таму, што паны і жрацы наўмысля трымаюць іх у цемры і сасуць з іх кроў. Асабліва шкодзяць сучасныя генералы. Яны выкарысталі тое, што народ прыгнечаны і раз’яднаны, зрабіліся нібы царкамі кожны ў сваёй вобласці і безупынна ваююць паміж сабой. А горш за ўсё, што такое становішча выкарысталі замежныя дзяржавы (Англія, Амерыка, Францыя, Японія) і ўселіся на карак усяму 400-мільённаму народу. У кітайскай дзяржаве больш правоў маюць чужаземцы, чымся самі кітайцы. У кітайскіх гарадах, у гарадскім садзе, ці рэстаране або тэатры ёсць чужаземныя надпісы: “Уваход кітайцам і сабакам забараняецца”. Гэтыя дзяржавы за грошы “купляюць” сабе тых генералаў, і тыя працуюць на карысць чужаземцаў. А церпіць, зразумела, увесь народ.

Нарэшце, народ не вытрымаў і паўстаў спачатку супраць чужаземцаў, а потым і супраць сваіх паноў. Трэці год ідзе барацьба, але вынікаў яшчэ няма.

Трэба спадзявацца. Што ўсё ж такі шматмільённы народ пераможа. І тады Кітай пачне зусім новае жыццё. А зрабіць ён зможа шмат, бо, калі праўду сказаць, кітайцы больш працавіты і трывалы народ, чымся еўрапейцы.

А той дзень, калі кітайская рэвалюцыя пераможа, будзе святам і для нас, святам, не меншым за наш Кастрычнік, бо да нас далучацца браты, разам з каторымі мы будзе складаць трэцюю частку ўсяго народу на зямлі”.

Адной з выразных крыніц невядомай для Маўра інфармацыі былі яго стасункі з эсперантыстамі свету. Эсперанта педагог Іван Фёдараў пачаў вывучаць яшчэ ў 1904 годзе. Нават у 1920-я гг. вёў перадачу для эсперантыстаў на Беларускай радыё. Міхась Міцкевіч, малодшы сын Якуба Коласа і зяць Янкі Маўра, згадваў, што пісьменнік чытаў “Яўгенія Анегіна” А.С. Пушкіна на эсперанта. Дзякуючы стасункам з эсперантыстам з вострава Ява ці іншага вострава Інданэзіі Янка Маўр напісаў аповесць “Амок”, прысвечаную паўстанню 1926 года на Яве.

Цікавымі падаюцца і ўспаміны дачкі пісьменніка – Аляксанды Іванаўны Капыловай: “... Самую вялікую ролю ў выхаванні дзяцей бацька адводзіў чытанню. Наш дом быў напоўнены кнігамі і часопісамі: у той час хатняя бібліятэка бацькі лічылася адной з лепшых у горадзе. І асноўную каштоўнасць у ёй уяўлялі не кнігі, якія стаялі на паліцах, а перыядычная літаратура. Не было ніводнага колькі-небудзь цікавага часопіса і дадатку да яго, якія не выпісваў бы наш бацька. Ніколі не забыць, з якой цікавасцю і нецярпеннем чакалі мы іх!

Мала таго, што бацька такім чынам выклікаў у нас цікавасць да чытання, але ён яшчэ і ўважліва сачыў за тым, што мы чытаем і як. Варта было прапусціць некалькі

старонак альбо зазінуць у канец кнігі, як адразу ж выдавалася асуджэнне. Ён абавязкова патрабаваў, каб усе геаграфічныя назвы, якія сустракаліся ў тэксце, мы знаходзілі на школьнай карце. Настойваў, каб ніводнае незразумелае слова не заставалася нерастлумачаным. І хаця ў доме была энцыклапедыя, мы рэдка ёю карысталіся, бо лічылі за лепшае выслухоўваць падрабязныя, даходлівыя тлумачэнні бацькі. Веды яго ва ўсіх галінах былі сапраўды энцыклапедычныя...”

Цікава, да Кітая з боку пачынальніка беларускай дзіцячай літаратуры Янкі Маўра – сапраўдны прыклад жадання пісьменніка адкрываць новы, невядомы свет.

Застаецца дадаць, што ўжо ў другой палове ХХ неўміручыя “Палескія рабінзоны” Янкі Маўра не аднойчы выдаваліся ў Паднябеснай у перакладзе на кітайскую мову. І будзем спадзявацца, што юныя чытачы Кітая і надалей будуць уважлівыя да арыгінальнай, прыгодніцкай, захапляльнай прозы класіка беларускай дзіцячай літаратуры.

Кастусь **Лешніца**

洲人更勤劳、更耐劳的民族。

而中国革命胜利的那一天，也是我们的节日，不亚于我们的十月一日，因为我们的兄弟们将和我们一起，占地球人口的三分之一。”

马夫尔不知道的明确信息来源之一是他与世界世界语者的关系。教育家伊万·费多罗夫早在 1904 年就开始学习世界语。即使在 1920 年代。在白俄罗斯电台主持了世界语者节目。雅库布·柯拉斯的小儿子和杨卡·马夫尔的女婿米哈斯·密茨凯维奇提到作家读过世界语的普希金的《尤金·奥涅金》。由于与来自爪哇岛或印度尼西亚其他岛屿的世界语者的关系，杨卡·马夫尔写下了关于1926年爪哇起义的中篇小说《疯狂的》。

作家的女儿亚历山德拉·伊万诺夫娜·卡皮洛娃的回忆也很有趣：“……父亲将抚养孩子的最大作用分配给了阅读。我们的房子里堆满了书籍和杂志：当时，我父亲在家里收藏的书籍被认为是城里最好的书籍收藏之一。它的主要价值不是书架上的书籍，而是期刊文献。没有一本有趣的杂志或增刊是我们父亲不订阅的。我们永远不会忘记我们等待他们的兴趣和不耐烦！”

父亲这样不仅激发了我们读书的兴趣，而且还细心地关注我们读什么、怎么读。有必要跳过几页或看书的结尾，因为立即发出了谴责。他坚决要求我们把学校地图上文字中的所有地名都找出来。他坚持认为，任何难以理解的词都不应得不到解释。虽然家里有一本百科全书，但我们很少使用它，因为我们更喜欢听父亲详尽而有见地的解释。他在各个领域的知识都是真正的百科全书……”

白俄罗斯儿童文学的创始人杨卡·马夫尔对中国很感兴趣——这是作家渴望发现一个新的、未知的世界的真实例子。

值得一提的是，早在1920世纪下半叶，杨卡·马夫尔的不朽名著《小鲁滨孙历险记》就已经不止一次地以中文译本在中国出版。希望中国的小读者们继续关注白俄罗斯儿童文学经典中原创、冒险、精彩的散文。

卡斯图斯·**莱什尼察**

АНТАЛОГІЯ «“РОДНЫЯ ВОБРАЗЫ” НА МОВАХ СВЕТУ» ПАПОЎНІЛАСЯ ПЕРАКЛАДАМ НА КІТАЙСКУЮ МОВУ

У выдавецкім доме “Звязда” сумесна з Дзяржаўным літаратурным мемарыяльным музеем Якуба Коласа рыхтуецца да выдання зборнік анталагічнага характару народнага песняра Беларусі Якуба Коласа. У мяркуемым коласаўскім шматмоўным зборніку – пераклады на англійскую, рускую, французскую, узбекскую, каракалпакскую, мангольскую, польскую, балгарскую, іспанскую, літоўскую і іншыя мовы. На кітайскую мову знакавы верш Якуба Коласа пераўвасобіў Гу Юй, перакладчык рускай і беларускай літаратуры, прафесар Інстытута замежных моў Нанкайскага ўніверсітэта (Кітай).

《世界语言中的‘家乡的风光’》诗集上增加了中文翻译

在“星星”出版社和雅库布·柯拉斯国家文学纪念馆博物馆，白俄罗斯民族讴歌者雅库布·柯拉斯的诗集《家乡的风光》正在准备出版。在此多语种的柯拉斯诗集中，有英语、俄语、法语、乌兹别克语、卡拉卡尔帕克语、蒙古语、波兰语、保加利亚语、西班牙语、立陶宛语等语种的翻译。雅库布·柯拉斯的标志性诗歌的中文翻译由俄罗斯和白俄罗斯文学翻译家、南开大学（中国）外国语学院教授谷羽先生完成。



Р“Родныя вобразы” – легендарны верш у гісторыі беларускай паэзіі, які быў напісаны маладым Якубам Коласам на пачатку свайго творчага шляху. Твор прасякнуты святлом і цеплынёй, якія ідуць ад сэрца маладога творцы, у вершы паэт выяўляе замілаванне роднай старонкай, любоў да Радзімы. Галоўны рэдактар – дырэктар выдавецкага дома “Звязда” Алесь Карлюкевіч так расказвае пра гэты праект: “Зараз ідзе збор перакладаў на розныя мовы. Некаторыя пераклады здзейснены даўно. Іншыя рыхтуюцца наўмысна для кнігі, якая заплававана. У Беларусі быў вопыт падобнага кшталту выданняў. Выходзілі кнігі аднаго верша на мовах народаў свету. Напрыклад, кніга Янкі Купалы “А хто там ідзе?” на мовах свету”, у анталогіі змешчаны пераклады на сто моў народаў свету. Чатыры разы выходзіў зборнік “Францыск Скарына на мовах народаў свету”, дзе змешчана каля сямідзесяці перакладаў урыўка з прадмовы Францыска Скарыны да кнігі “Юдзіф”.

Спадар Гу Юй – аўтар кітайскай версіі “Родных вобразаў”, з’яўляецца ўшанаваным даследчыкам і перакладчыкам рускай і беларускай літаратуры. Сярод перакладзеных і выдадзеных ім твораў рускай літаратуры: “300 знакамітых рускіх вершаў”, “Поўны збор любоўнай лірыкі А.Пушкіна”, “Выбраныя вершы А.Пушкіна”, “Выбраныя вершы А.Фета”, “Выбраныя вершы І.Буніна”, “Выбраныя вершы К.Бальмонта”, “Выбраныя вершы В.Брусава”, “Выбраныя вершы М.Цвятаевай”, “Выбраныя вершы Я.Бершына”, “Выбраныя вершы Р.Гамзатава”, “Выбраныя вершы Р.Раждзественскага” і многія іншыя. З беларускай літаратуры ён звяртаўся да творчасці Максіма Танка, Гу Юй пераклаў больш за сто вершаў беларускага паэта. З новых перакладаў – вершы Якуба Коласа, Янкі Купалы, Максіма Багдановіча, Цёткі і Анатоля Сыса.

Якуб Колас – адзін з першых беларускіх пісьменнікаў, перакладзеных на кітайскую мову. Але, нягледзячы на яго значную ролю ў развіцці беларускай і савецкай літаратуры, кітайскі чытач слаба знаёмы з творчасцю нашага славуэтага земляка. У перакладной літаратуры і літаратуразнаўстве Кітая паэзія і проза Якуба Коласа прадстаўлены дастаткова сціпла.

Першы пераклад Якуба Коласа на кітайскую мову, – верш “Абаронцам роднай зямлі” надрукаваны ў зборніку “Выбраныя вершы пра Вялікую Айчынную вайну” ў 1946 годзе. Перакладчыкам верша выступіў Лінь Лін (1912-1987). У 1957 годзе кітайскі чытач пазнаёміўся яшчэ з адным творам Якуба Коласа. Ім стала апавяданне “Макарка Навак” у перакладзе Чэнь Чжаоліня. Аповесць пра партызанскую барацьбу падчас польска-савецкай вайны 1919—1921 гг. на тэрыторыі Беларусі, на Палессі надрукавана ў Кітаі пад назвай “Стары герой-партызан”, і выдалася двойчы – у 1958 і 1959 гг. Дапамог пераўвасобіць твор беларускага песняра на кітайскую мову адзін з самых уплывовых перакладчыкаў замежнай літаратуры ў Кітаі – Лі Лянмін (1919 – 1991), кітайскі перакладчк раманаў “Авадзень” Э.Л.Войніч, “Спартак” Р.Джаваньолі, “Белы раб” Р.Хільдэрэта і інш. Ёсць згадкі пра пераклад на кітайскую мову паэмы Якуба Коласа “Рыбакова хата”, але дакладных звестак, што кніга была выдадзена, няма. У канцы семідзесятых творчасцю Якуба Коласа таксама зацікавілася перакладчыца Ма Дэцзюй. Яна выступіла ў перыёдыцы з перакладамі верша “Вецер” (1978) і апавядання “Васіль Чурыла”(1979).

Радасна, што кітайскія перакладчыкі зноў звяртаюцца да творчасці Якуба Коласа, і больш шырока – да класічнай беларускай літаратуры. Такія працэсы змогуць змяніць успрыманне творчай спадчыны Якуба Коласа ў кітайскай літаратурнай прасторы, дапамогуць адысці ад аднабокага прачытання беларускага песняра, выразніка самабытнасці беларускага народа.

Прапануем да вашай ўвагі новыя пераклады з паэзіі Якуба Коласа на кітайскую мову – вершы “Родныя вобразы” і “Не бядуі”.

Вераніка Карлюкевіч

Родныя вобразы

Вобразы мілыя роднага краю,
Смутак і радасць мая!
Што мае сэрца да вас парывае?
Чым так прыкованы я

К вам, мае ўзгорачкі роднага поля,
Рэчкі, курганы, лясы,
Поўныя смутку і жалёбы нядолі,
Поўныя сумнай красы?

Толькі я лягу і вочы закрою,
Бачу я вас прад сабой.
Ціха праходзіце вы, як жывыя,
Зяючы мілай красой.

Чуеца гоман мне спелае нівы,
Ціхая жалёба палёў,
Лесу высокага шум-гуд ішчаслівы,
Песня магутных дубоў...

Вобразы мілыя, вобразы смутныя,
Родныя вёскі і люд,
Песні цягучыя, песні пакутныя!..
Бачу і чую вас тут.

[1908]

Не бядуі!

Не бядуі, што сонца нізка,
Што прыходзіць нудны дзень,
Не бядуі, што восень блізка
І на дол кладзецца цень.

Не бядуі, што снег халодны
Скрые землю ад вачэй:
Не загіне край твой родны
У тэй цемні начэй!

Будзе час, і снег растане,
Прыйдзе зноў да нас вясна,
Ветла з неба сонца гляне,
Ачуняе старана.

Не бядуі, што цяжка стала
Жыць у вечнай цемнаце,
Што нас доля вечна гнала,
Што жывём у беднаце.

Не бядуі, што звіслі хмары,
Што нам сонца не відаць,
Не бядуі, што ўноч пажары
Сталі неба заліваць, –

Дымам пойдзе ўсё ліхое,
Усё, што душыць нас і гне.
Вер, брат, – жыццё залатое
Будзе ў нашай старане.

[1907]

家乡的风光

亲爱家乡的这些风光，
我的喜悦和我的忧伤。
我的心为你们激动燃烧！
迢迢远方像披戴枷锁一样，

牢牢固定在祖传的土地上，
连接河流之歌，森林之歌，
险峻的峡谷回荡着忧愁，
到处是优美而悲伤的景色！

只要在瞬间合上眼睛，
无须观望，我向你飘浮。
你在我面前缓缓移动，
彩色鲜明，看得清清楚楚。

我听见金色田野的歌唱，
连续不停动人的声响，
莽莽的阔叶林跟它应和，
如同高空滚滚的波浪。

我的幸福呀，我的折磨，
故乡的村庄，故乡的人，
希望之歌呀，痛苦之歌！……
我遥望家乡、聆听乡音。

谷羽译

莫伤心！

莫伤心，太阳西沉，
白天缓慢地爬行，
莫伤心，秋季临近，
草地笼罩着阴影。

莫伤心：隆冬季节
把大地的面貌隐藏。
即便是幽暗夜色迷茫，
亲爱的家乡不会灭亡！

时刻一到，积雪融化，
春天来临，受到欢迎！
太阳在空中光芒闪耀，
我们的家乡必定苏醒。

莫伤心，日子艰难，
黑暗无光忍受熬煎，
有时不得不屈从命运，
庸庸碌碌，贫寒卑贱。

莫伤心，雾霾凶恶，
又一次遮蔽了太阳，
夜晚的余晖与光亮
开始在天空中游荡，——

阴霾的日子很快消遁，
带走令人窒息的乌云。
兄弟，请在家乡坚信，
美好的生活必定来临！

谷羽译

《家乡的风光》是白俄罗斯诗歌史上的著名诗篇，是年轻的雅库布·柯拉斯创作生涯初期写成的。作品充满了年轻创作者内心的光明和温暖，诗人在诗中表达了对家乡的温情、对祖国的热爱。《星星》出版社总编辑和主任阿列西·卡尔柳科维奇谈到这个项目时，说：“我们目前正在收集不同语种的翻译。有些翻译是很久以前做的。还有些是专门为这本书准备的。白俄罗斯已有类似的出版经验——同一本书中收集世界各语言的翻译文本。例如，扬卡·库帕拉的书《世界语言中的《是谁在那儿走着？》》，该文集包含世界各民族一百种语言的译文。《世界各民族语言中的 弗朗西斯克·斯卡里纳》合集出版了四次，其中包含弗朗西斯克·斯卡里纳对《尤齐夫》一书的序言摘录的大约七十种译文。

《家乡的风光》的中文译者谷羽先生是著名的俄罗斯和白俄罗斯文学翻译和研究者。翻译和发表的俄罗斯文学作品有《俄罗斯名诗300首》、《普希金爱情诗全编》、《普希金诗选》、《费特诗选》、《蒲宁诗选》、《巴尔蒙特诗选》、《勃留索夫诗选》、《茨维塔耶娃诗选》、《别列列申诗选》、《伽姆扎托夫诗选》、《罗日杰斯特文斯基诗选》等。他翻译的白俄罗斯文学作品有马克西姆·唐克的100首诗，新的作品包括雅库布·柯拉斯、扬卡·库帕拉、马克西姆·波格丹诺维奇、泰特卡和阿纳托利·西斯。

雅库布·柯拉斯是最早被翻译成中文的白俄罗斯作家之一。但是，尽管他在白俄罗斯和苏联文学的发展中发挥了重要作用，但中国读者对这位著名诗人的作品只是略知一二。在中国的翻译文学和文学研究中，对雅库布·柯拉斯的诗歌和小说的呈现相当少。

雅库布·柯拉斯的第一首中文译文是1946年发表于《苏联卫国战争诗选》的诗歌《献给国土解放者》。这首诗的译者是林陵（1912-1987）。1957年，中国读者认识了雅库布·柯拉斯的另一部作品。这是陈兆林翻译的故事《马卡尔卡·诺伐克》。讲述了1919年至1921年的波苏战争，而在白俄罗斯波列西亚地区游击队参加的斗争的短篇小说《游击老英雄》（原名《沼泽》）于1958和1959年在中国两次出版。这本小说的中文译者是中国最有影响力的外国文学翻译家李俚民先生（1919-1991），他翻译了艾·丽·伏尼契的《牛虻》、乔万尼奥里的《斯巴达克斯》、希尔德烈斯《白奴》等作品。网上还有雅库布·柯拉斯的长诗《渔夫之家》已经被翻译成中文的消息，但没有准确的信息表明该书已出版。七十年代后期，翻译家马德菊也对雅库布·柯拉斯的作品产生了兴趣。她翻译了诗歌《风》（1978年）和短篇小说《瓦西里·邱里拉》（1979年）。

令人欣慰的是，中国译者又开始关注雅库布·柯拉斯的作品，更广泛地说——关注白俄罗斯经典文学。这将能够改变中国文学领域对雅库布·柯拉斯创作遗产的观点，将有助于摆脱对这位表达白俄罗斯人民独创性的作家的诗歌的片面解读。下面请您欣赏雅库布·柯拉斯诗歌《家乡的风光》和《莫伤心！》的中文新译本。

维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇（韦兰妮）

CREATIVITY WITH HANDS AND HEART!



The Charouny Mlyn (Magic Mill) exhibition , which takes place three times a year at the site of the Minsk Sports Palace, continues to delight fans of hand-made works. This time, in May, 350 talented craftsmen, artists and designers from all over Belarus took part in it.

Instead of a foreword

The Charouny Mlyn exhibition-fair began its history in May 2010. Since then, its participants have been increasing year by year. Anyone who has been here knows that the exhibition is distinguished by a special atmosphere of sincerity and festivity, filled with music and smiles of visitors, whose faces reflect a genuine interest in the handicrafts of artisans. There are so many things here! Fluffy toys, paintings, decorations, a wide range of decor for summer cottages and city apartments, summer collections of clothes and accessories, painted dishes, musical instruments, furniture, and this is not a complete list of artworks. They are made of wood, leather, metal, felt, wool, linen, wax, clay, paper, resin and other materials.

All this beauty is created by people in love with creativity. Here every visitor can not only admire it, but also buy gifts and souvenirs. For yourself, as well as for family and friends. And then, remembering their daily bread, they were able to visit a food court with farm delicacies, organic products and natural sweets, there one could drink a cup of coffee or tea, and choose, say, jamón for yourself. Yes, jamón, but in the Belarusian version. For those who do not know: the famous Spanish delicacy made from pork ham is also our domestic 'kumpyak', the technology of which Belarusians have mastered a long time ago. The real ham ripens from one and a half to three years. I know that not far from Minsk, in the village of Lipniki, Smolevichi District, there is an agroestate where you can taste this exclusive product.

Those who have visited it know: this is always the discovery of the world of beauty and inspiration. By the way, they say that some visitors to the exhibition then have the desire to create their own masterpieces. Which is understandable. After all, Charouny Mlyn is also an exciting master class where, if you wish, you can learn the basics of decorative and applied arts, in particular, ceramics and straw weaving.

- In Olga's arms there is a cat with blue eyes and a white mouse on its paw. She says that he is her talisman. Olga takes it with her to any exhibition. Before the pandemic, she often traveled abroad, taking part in various exhibition projects.



Plus, it is quite good for your health. The product contains oleic acid, which belongs to the group of omega-9 unsaturated fatty acids. It helps fight diseases of the cardiovascular system and reduces the risk of acquiring them.

Charouny Mlyn mosaic

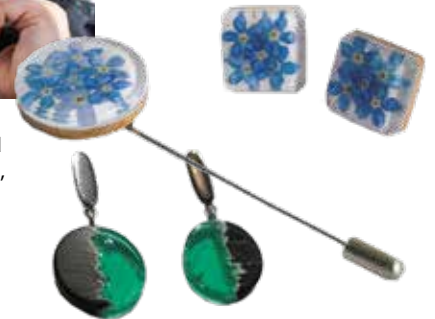
This year, without having time to have breakfast at home, I immediately headed to the gastronomic sector with the smell of coffee. I quickly snacked on a fresh croissant, while sipping aromatic herbal tea. And then, just glancing at the showcases with meat delicacies, cheeses and other farm products, among which there is the Belarusian-style jamón, I passed them and

went into the hall. I noted that the music was in the major key, but the decibels were quite acceptable for hearing, not annoying. Children's cries burst into the soft hum of voices: 'mom, look, look... buy... I want this butterfly... oh, fish...'.

And then I saw cat in the arms of a tall man. Adults and children crowded around. A thought flickered: wow, and animals at the exhibition. And I have a special liking for cats: I have three handsome ones... I got closer, and my illusion dissipated: the fluffy cat, it turned out, was man-made, even though it shook its head. And quite like the real one. It was so skilfully made that it looked like a living thing! There were many other cats in the booth, big and small. White, grey, red and black... Everyone



■ Jewellery made of wood and resin by Konstantin and Julia, VECHER studio



- Yelena Klimareva is a journalist, the owner of one of the well-known Belarusian agrotourism sites — Zapovedny Ostrov (Reserved Island). The author of unique blankets, hanging cradles for babies made in the style of macramé, as well as rugs. All her products are crocheted. In the farmstead, all her works are used in guest cottages, and duplicated for the exhibition.
- Viktoria Antipina is an artist who worked at the Grodno Puppet Theatre for 12 years. There she learned 'all sorts of secrets' and now she makes dolls.



had their own face. But, of course, the most important one was the one in the hands of the owner of the stand. She was there with her son Aleksandr, who helped her. We introduced ourselves to each other and admired their work.

Olga Korotkaya is an animator, worked in the studio of animated films at the Belarusfilm national film studio, on Belarusian television in the Kalykhanka (Lullaby) children's TV show, drew pictures for some of the shows. By the way, Belarusian children really like to watch this popular programme before going to bed. A cat with blue eyes, with a white mouse on its paw was perched on Olga's arms. She says that it is her mascot. But here the narration of my interlocutor was interrupted by a woman's exclamation of surprise and delight at the cat: it is not alive! Olga takes a cat with her to any exhibition. Before the pandemic, she often travelled abroad, taking part in various exhibition projects. She confessed: toy cats are in demand, especially for those who for various reasons cannot afford to keep real pets, besides, cats decorate the interior and are pleasant to the touch... I wanted to talk to many craftsmen. Every booth was interesting. However, I understood that even a day would not be enough to see everyone, even though the masters deserve it. I lingered at the booth with night lamps.

- Roman Kurach is a craftsman who makes flutes and all kinds of wind instruments. He is also engaged in music, sound therapy, conducts lessons and retreats with it.



They were burning! They turned out to be made of felt. They were made by Tatiana, a wool felting master, craftswoman. She had been working with felt for more than 10 years. And the night lamps are already 6 years old. She spoke about how her children had appeared who were afraid to fall asleep alone in the room, so she had to stay with them for a long time. The night lamp that the young mother made from felt helped to resolve this situation. And then she thought about putting some fantasy characters in the night lamp, with whom the children would not be afraid. And she implemented that idea. The night lamp is connected to a 220-volt mains, there is also a small remote control with a timer, thanks to which the night lamp turns itself off after 30 minutes. During this time, children fall asleep without being afraid of the dark. Ulyana Slutskaya, a master craftsman in sewing clothes from flax, came from

- Night lamps from Tatiana made of felt in which you can place a fantasy character, helping children fall asleep. A night lamp is connected to a 220 volt network, there is a small remote control with a timer. Thanks to this, the night light turns off in 30 minutes. During this time, children fall asleep without being afraid of the dark.



WORLD OF BEAUTY AND INSPIRATION



- And such unique ceramics pleases the eye
- Leather paintings and flowers by Svetlana Lanskaya



- Aleksandra Chepura is a manager-economist, she takes part in the exhibition for the first time, she sews stylish clothes. She likes the exhibition because 'you can express your desire for beauty, as well as earn money'.
- Vadim Lavyshik is a carpenter. He has been engaged in the manufacture of original furniture as a craftsman for a couple of years. He gets great pleasure when people pay attention to his products.
- Products by Pavel Yakubovich are made in the style of Shan Hetao Ke

Mogilev, she participates exclusively in the Charouny Mlyn exhibition. Here, she confesses, she is among her own people: artists, creators, people who create not only with their hands, but also with their hearts. That's why she loves this exhibition so much. Ulyana is the author of the Len Vlublen brand. Mostly, she sews clothes for women, preferring pastel colours. A couple of ladies were trying on dresses, and I expressed my desire to order a linen outfit for myself, which is comfortable in the heat. Flax, which is always in fashion, has this property. And summer is near, which is also hot in Belarus.



- Ulyana Slutskaya from Mogilev is a master of sewing stylish linen clothes.
- It was impossible to get through to the master of steampunk toys to find out his name: teenagers attacked the author with questions
- Viktor Kulpin is a musical instrument maker, Chairman of the Association of Folk Craftsmen of Musical Instruments in the Union of Musical Workers of Belarus
- The paintings of Olga Travnikova, a chemistry tutor, are made in the style of diamond painting. This is her hobby.
- Dmitry Subach is an electrician by profession, he graduated from the design courses at the Belarusian State University. He independently studies woodworking, creates, as he put it, beauty for cottages and houses, for the interior.

Continuing along the booths, I was amazed at how unique the handwork is. I hope that the photos will at least convey the atmosphere of the exhibition-fair, which is popular among Belarusians. Those who have visited it know: this is always the discovery of the world of beauty and inspiration. By the way, they say that some visitors to the exhibition then have the desire to create their own masterpieces. Which is understandable. After all, Charouny Mlyn is also an exciting master class where, if you wish, you can learn the basics of decorative and applied arts, in particular, ceramics and straw weaving.

Valentina **Zhdanovich**
Photo by the author



The Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus is 90. The glorious anniversary was celebrated at the theatre with a brilliant gala concert on May 19th, and on May 25th they performed the opera *Carmen* by Georges Bizet. It was the theatre's first production back in 1933. This significant occasion, moreover, on the International Day of the Theatre, served as the basis for a meeting of the General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre Yekaterina Dulova – Doctor of Arts, Professor – with the media. She told how the jubilee year passed in the theatre and with what projects and achievements the Bolshoi enters a new period of its life.

We remind the reader that Yekaterina Dulova headed the Bolshoi Theatre about a year and a half ago, saying goodbye to the Belarusian Academy of Music, where she worked for more than thirty years, eleven of them as rector. In addition, many are familiar with her work as Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus on Education, Science, Culture and Social Development, as well as Chairman of the President's Special Fund for Supporting Talented Youth. Perhaps today she is one of the most media people in Belarusian scientific musicology, the author of two monographs and

more than a hundred scientific papers. And Yekaterina Nikolayevna's doctoral thesis seemed to anticipate her logical arrival at the Bolshoi: *The Ballet Genre as a Musical Phenomenon (Russian Tradition of the Late 18th - early 20th Centuries)*. Her parents were musicians, both worked at the Belarusian Academy of Music — they are still remembered there. Father — cellist, professor of the Chamber Ensemble Department Nikolai Semenovitch Shcherbakov. Mother — Taisiya Alekseyevna Shcherbakova, Professor, Doctor of Art History, for many years she was a member of the artistic council of the Bolshoi Theatre. Therefore, from the earliest years, little

Katya has known well the opera and ballet repertoire. And now Yekaterina Dulova is in a completely different role at the Bolshoi! Which confirms the truth: everything in our life is not accidental. This is probably why they say about the General Director in the theatre: a person in the right place.

When she was presented in the theatre, Yekaterina Nikolayevna said, "It is a great honour to lead the theatre that I have known since childhood. The status of the Bolshoi Theatre has always been extremely high. I would like us to continue to work brightly, interestingly, productively and creatively. I will make every effort to do so. After all, I came here to serve."

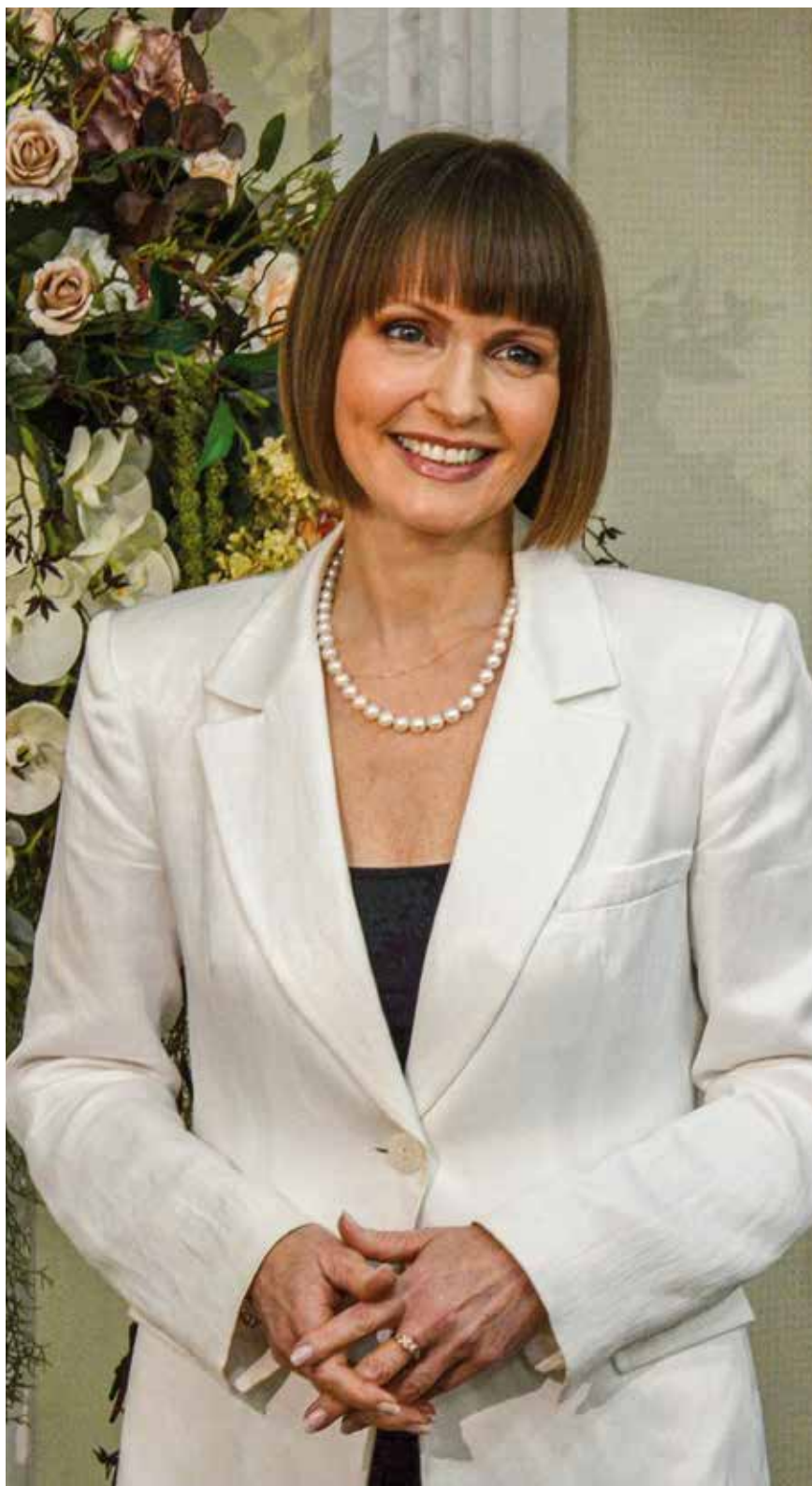
That is what she, a worthy representative of culture, a high-class professional, is doing today. For I am convinced that music is that spiritual environment, getting into which almost every person sees how the best feelings awaken in him or her.

One of our colleagues on the day of Yekaterina Nikolayevna's appointment to the post of General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre expressed confidence that as a leader she would bring with her the revival of the best traditions, strengthening the structure of the theatre, enriching the repertoire and improving the forms of working with the audience.

We know that the Bolshoi Theatre is a single mechanism in which about 900 people interact. Its repertoire now includes about 80 operas and ballets (national performances, masterpieces of world classics, modern productions). Yekaterina Dulova began her speech to reporters with an emphasis: The Bolshoi is not only an opera and ballet troupe, a troupe of an orchestra, a choir, supernumeraries, but also a considerable number of services whose work is aimed at creating productions. The conversation between journalists and the head of the Bolshoi lasted for a long time. It was a kind of live report on the activities of the theatre in the anniversary year. What Yekaterina Nikolayevna spoke about allowed us to see once again how deeply she is immersed in the affairs of the theatre, and how flawlessly, as they say in such cases, she owns a wide variety of information.

"Just imagine what a huge number of people, a variety of specialists work in the theatre. In our anniversary concert, we will try to slightly open the veil of secrecy, tell about what is hidden from the eyes of the audience. You know that there is a direction in the theatre that has become extremely popular. These are backstage tours. They take on different twists depending on what kind of audience we have: kids, adults, or representatives of the diplomatic corps. As it turned out, the backstage life of the theatre is very interesting for all visitors! That is why we want to use this unexpected move in the celebratory concert.

Each of the creative teams will definitely take part in the concert. Take, for



Bolshoi Theatre today

The repertoire of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus includes about 80 operas and ballets (national performances, masterpieces of world classics, modern productions). Major forums and festivals are held: the Minsk International Christmas Opera Forum, Bolshoi Theatre Evenings at the Radziwill Castle, the Big New Year's Ball at the Bolshoi, Ballet Summer at the Bolshoi and others.

example, a symphony orchestra. This is our precious asset. I think I won't be dishonest if I say as a professional: today it is the best orchestra in the country, taking into account the specifics of its activities, the quality and quantity of work. Therefore, the appearance of musicians from the orchestra pit to the stage is a great event."

On the birthday of the great Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninov — April 1 — the orchestra appeared on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre. In the second part of the concert Music Without Borders, the 2nd symphony, one of the most beautiful and most complex scores by Rachmaninov, was performed.

The project Masterpieces of Choral Music, which was shown to the audience twice in the anniversary season, was awarded with a huge success and a full house. According to Yekaterina Dulova, the fact of the brilliant creative manifestation of another unit of the Bolshoi — the choir, which works at a high professional level under the guidance of the People's Artist of Belarus Nina Lomanovich, the Chief Choirmaster, was obvious. The concert included choral scenes of performances that were and are now in the theatre repertoire.

"I want to emphasize that at present the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus is based on the best traditions of the past. The theatre is, first of all, a living historical tradition



transmitted literally from mouth to mouth. It is in names, in faces, in plots, in achievements..."

Back in March, the Belarusian channel Belarus 3 began a series of films dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Bolshoi Theatre. They filmed 5 episodes. Leading artists, soloists of opera and ballet, who are known and loved by the audience, as well as people working in tailoring workshops, scenography workshops, performance lighting workshops, behind the scenes and even under the stage, where all the necessary and powerful mechanisms that set it in motion, told their stories. Thanks to them, all sorts of effects are created that are used in a particular performance. And on May 25th, a film about the Bolshoi was also shown on the Belarus 3 channel, in which people who serve here spoke about their theatre.

"If we are talking about the ballet troupe, then it has now demonstrated the highest skill, appearing, it would seem, in the familiar, close and understandable

production of *Don Quixote* by Ludwig Minkus. But in fact, this is the next stage in the life of the performance demanded by the public. Valentin Elizariiev revised his previous version (and he staged the ballet 30 years ago!) in a series of three more versions of this historical work. Therefore, today we see a completely exclusive composition on stage. These is the new scenery, and costumes... And three or even four generations of dancers who in different years danced various parts in this performance. Among the tutors who worked on the ballet there were Lyudmila Genrikhovna Brzhozovskaya and Tatyana Mikhailovna Yershova, who at one time shone in the title role — Kitri in this ballet. And today a young, 16-year-old student of our choreographic college stars as Dulcinea. There is a magnificent tradition of performing this composition. It is also evidence that the Belarusian choreography (in this case, by Valentin Elizariiev) is a phenomenon of our national culture. And classics are a phenomenon for the ages."



■ Oksana Volkova and Stanislav Trifonov during the concert, dedicated to Victory Day.

■ Nina Lomanovich, "The choral collective consists of beautiful voices, purity of intonation, rhythmic precision, expressiveness of performance, high professionalism of the artists who must convey different feelings and emotions through singing. That is why the choir on stage is the real actor..."
A scene from the concert *Masterpieces of Choral opera Music*. February-2023.

in non-core activities, the business of the theatre is performances. And I am absolutely convinced that new directorial decisions in different projects are wonderful! The Bolshoi's concerts are in great demand by the public, so why shouldn't we satisfy these requests? In addition, we can easily export such a small format, where several compositions are presented at once, for showings in the regions. After all, there are difficulties with big performances: you won't find such a stage as in the Bolshoi in the country."

compositions were also presented. And at the end of the concert, together with all the spectators in the hall, we performed the famous song *Victory Day* while standing. This concert is the first directorial work on such a complex topic for the Honoured Artist of Belarus Oksana Volkova.

"That difficult time left us a whole layer of real creativity: war songs, touching, melodic, aching, artists love to perform them very much, our audience certainly knows them," the director said on the eve of the concert. "I tried to weave into the canvas the actions and works of



There is another small 'enterprise' inside the Bolshoi Theatre — the Children's Musical Theatre Studio. Many of its former students have grown into well-known figures of Belarusian culture. By the way, a number of employees of the Bolshoi Theatre were once artists of the studio, and today, being the leading soloists of the opera, they go to the main stage.

On April 22nd, during the Easter holidays, the audience was presented the performance of the Children's Studio, where Easter songs were played.

"Our concert formats, dedicated, for example, to the Great Victory Day and Independence Day, remain traditional. Someone can say that we are engaged

A festive concert dedicated to the Victory Day was held at the Bolshoi Theatre on May 7th. That day in the foyer and in the hall there was a sincere atmosphere. It was noticeable that both the audience and the performers had deep feelings. After all, the topic of war and peace is very important for all of us, especially in our days. This holiday remains significant for many. The heartfelt songs of the war years, songs about the war, do not let you forget about it either. It was they who helped our fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers not to give up, not to lose hope, to survive, fight, and win. These songs sounded from the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre performed by the leading soloists of the opera, artists of the choir and orchestra. Choreographic

contemporary composers. As a musician myself, it was interesting for me to offer the orchestra and artists new works that had never been performed in the theatre or performed by specific artists."

It should be noted that Oksana Volkova, together with the Honoured Artist of Belarus Stanislav Trifonov, performed the popular song *The Noise of Birches* by Konstantin Orbelyan. We were also impressed by the choreographic number that Igor Kolb, Chief Choreographer of the Bolshoi Theatre, choreographed to John Williams' melody from the movie *Schindler's List* for Olga Gaiko, People's Artist of Belarus. There were spectators of all ages in the hall. It is this continuity of generations that will never allow us to



- Carmen, 1933. In the center there is Larisa Aleksandrovskaya, People's Artist of the USSR as Carmen.
- Modern Carmen - Oksana Volkova

who love and support this theatre. The concert directed by the Chief Director of the Bolshoi Anna Motornaya, which she called *The Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus in Portraits, Faces and Events* was really grandiose. It was started with a fanfare from the overture to the opera *Orpheus*. And then we saw everyone who was involved in the creation of performances. It was a solemn procession of the entire huge ensemble of the Bolshoi to the sounds of music from the opera *Aida*. The concert programme left no one indifferent: the audience did not let the artists leave the stage for a long time after each performance.

As we have already said, the date of birth of the theatre is May 25th. Traditionally, the play *Carmen* was shown that evening. The title part was performed by Oksana Volkova.

During a meeting with journalists, Yekaterina Nikolayevna spoke about the tradition of gratitude expressed to those employees who are ending their careers or celebrating an anniversary. She considers gratitude to be one of the most valuable

forget those terrible years.

“And on May 19th we have the creative culmination of our work this year — a gala concert for the anniversary of the theatre. I really want it to be unforgettable, special. But let’s see what our directors will offer. Yes, not all of them put on big performances, but they know how to work with other projects, create stories that delight the public. I would very much like the concert to have a strong historical component, in some way a memory of the creative path the theatre has gone through.”

And so it was. The hall was attended by stage veterans involved in the history of the theatre. Their faces flickered on the screen, which lowered and rose in the foreground of the stage... Congratulations were heard from it on behalf of the President of the country and other officials, as well as those





doctor Aibolit' — this is Pavel Zhulpa, a veterinarian, a member of the expert council of the Association of Animal Protection Organisations. He returned life and faith in people to more than one pet. "It is simply necessary to draw attention to this problem," says the leading ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre Lyudmila Khitrova, Honoured Artist of Belarus. "Yes, I want the picture to be beautiful. And it is. But the heart shrinks from pity, the soul aches, it is impossible to remain indifferent."

"And one more exhibition idea will come true. It has emerged recently. I, a native Minsker, myself love historical photography, pictures dedicated to the history of Minsk, everything related to the old city. And we turned to Vladimir Likhodedov, the owner of a large collection — almost five million photographs and postcards about Belarus. I enjoyed looking at the photographs dedicated to the Belarusian costume, women's headdress. It's amazing! For the theatre, this is such a close topic! But for the time being, we asked him for photographs for the exhibition, which depict that part of the city where our theatre stands. These are unique pre-war photographs. It will be possible to see in the photographs the interior of the theatre in a variety of years."

There are educational projects and cultural programmes at the Bolshoi Theatre, which Yekaterina Dulova spoke about. She proudly announced that thousands of young people and students visited the Bolshoi Theatre in 2022, not only as spectators, but also participants in creative events and excursions.

"For me, this is real happiness! When I see young people in the hall, I understand and rejoice: our art is alive, it continues to excite and inspire. Let me tell you more about the audience. It loves our projects, which are carried out in an open format, so much that I want to talk with the city authorities so that we can work on landscaping the area around the Bolshoi Theatre together. I wish there were more flowers and beautiful shrubs here by Independence Day. In the 1950s and 60s, if you look at old photographs, the riot of colours was impressive. And today we



■ The photo was shown at the exhibition *The Art of Mercy* at the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus.

applauded her standing, like decades ago ...

"I really like the exhibition activity of our theatre. These are the expositions that we present in the lobby all the time. I think those who attend our performances will pay attention to one of the unexpected recent exhibitions called *The Art of Mercy*. It was preceded by an

appeal to the theatre from enthusiasts and representatives of the Association of Animal Protection Organisations. Our leading ballet dancers responded to the proposal of the Association: to take part in a photo session, the main characters of which were animals in need of help — wild animals and disabled animals. Again, the question may arise: why does the theatre need it? The answer is obvious: in the name of mercy. The problem of animal welfare must be brought to the attention in all possible ways."

This exhibition (the author of the concept of photography is the Chief Choreographer, Honoured Artist of Russia Igor Kolb) took place over several months. In the photographs, we also saw the 'Belarusian

qualities in a person. So, on April 21st, the anniversary of the ballerina, an outstanding teacher who once shone on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre, the owner of the Francysk Skaryna medal, Associate Professor of the Academy of Music Olga Lappo, was celebrated. She is currently raising stars. One of them, 19-year-old ballet dancer Yelizaveta Musorina, dances the part of Giselle in the ballet of the same name.

And on May 10th, P. Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake* was dedicated to the legendary ballerina — People's Artist of Belarus, who has devoted more than 20 years to the Belarusian stage — Nina Davydenko who celebrated her 90th birthday on May 8th. The same age as the theatre, this evening she was in the hall and the audience

ANNIVERSARY

- The highest point of the work of the Bolshoi Theatre is the anniversary gala concert, which took place on May 19th



can create a similar beauty around the building! I think we will go along. We will also continue summer concerts at the most beautiful fountain in front of the theatre.”

*Yekaterina Nikolayevna spoke about the five oaks planted by the People's Artists of the Bolshoi near the theatre building, about the continuation of this, in her words, wonderful tradition — the planting of an alley. Also about the fact that theatre artists constantly perform on various stages of the country: in 2022 there were 35 tours. And interestingly, the artists, for example, after a performance in Zhodino in the BelAZ Palace of Culture, asked to organise a tour of the enterprise for them. The director also announced premiere performances of the near future. Italian colleagues are already rehearsing for the opera *The Barber of Seville*. June projects also continue: *Ballet Summer* at the Bolshoi and *Evenings at the Radziwill Castle* in Nesvizh.*

*In July, Russian theatres will tour on our stage. The Chelyabinsk Opera and Ballet Theatre, for example, will present *Un Ballo in Maschera*. There is an agreement with the State Academic Theatre of Classical Ballet under the direction of N. Kasatkina and V. Vasilev, known as the Moscow Classical Ballet, as well as with the Imperial Russian Ballet under the direction of G. Taranda (the tour of the*

team will be accompanied by the Kaluga Symphony Orchestra named after S.T. Richter).

In November, we are waiting for the exchange tour of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia in Minsk. As previously announced, Russian opera and original ballet will be presented.

*In April, the ballet *Spartacus* directed by Valentin Elizariyev was shown on the stage of the Uzbek Navoi Bolshoi Academic Theatre during the Charm of Ballet festival. In the near future, the Bolshoi will travel to the cities of Russia — Perm, Tyumen, Kazan and Chelyabinsk — with the ballet *Swan Lake* and *Anna Karenina*.*

“I am very glad that our theatre has begun to come to life! Back in January 2022, there was a difficult coronavirus, post-pandemic season. Now the audience goes to the theatre very actively! Many performances are sold out. In 2022, we held 350 performances and concerts, and more than 200,000 spectators visited the Bolshoi.”

The journalists' conversation with the General Director of the Bolshoi Theater Ekaterina Dulova was warm and confidential. To be honest, we don't remember such a format of meetings from the past! Yekaterina Nikolayevna was able not only to answer all the questions that came from our

colleagues, but to answer beautifully, competently and meaningfully. It was felt that this experienced leader managed to look into many corners of the large theatrical economy, to determine both the sequence of 'current tasks' and the strategy of work for the future. She thanked the journalists for their help in working with the audience. The General Director herself offered to help those who wished to delve deeper into theatre life.

Well, we will not fail to take advantage of this and have already submitted for consideration some ideas for 'in-depth' cooperation. They even expressed their views on how to attract more young people to the theatre. We cannot but notice: the charm, polyphony of the personality of Yekaterina Dulova, so to speak, attract for such co-creation. By the way, we also remembered how one Moscow theatrical top manager at last year's Christmas Forum spoke with enthusiasm that with Yekaterina Nikolayevna 'we were able to do the almost impossible: to organise a tour in a month!'. Even then, one of the colleagues said about 'our national treasure called Yekaterina Dulova'. We are writing about this with great satisfaction because we are sure that the new General Director will not 'become bronzed' in his post. And by all means,

- Participants of the Children's Musical Theater-Studio in the play *The Snow Queen*



History:

On May 25th, 1933, the first production of the theatre took place — the opera *Carmen* by Georges Bizet. On March 10th, 1939, a new theatre building was opened. It was built according to the design of the famous architect Iosif Langbard. The Bolshoi Theatre is located in this building to this day. Its address: Place de la Commune-de-Paris, 1. 1944. The first production of the theatre in liberated Minsk was the premiere of the opera *Alesya* by Yevgeny Tikotsky. 1948. Work on the restoration of the theatre building was completed: the theatre, badly damaged in wartime, was practically rebuilt. On March 8th, 2009, the building of the Bolshoi Theatre was solemnly opened after reconstruction. The opening ceremony was attended by the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko. 2014. The team was awarded the Presidential Spiritual Revival award for the creation and staging of V. Kuznetsov's ballet *Vitovt*. 2017. The creative team of the production of D. Smolsky's opera *The Gray Legend* represented by Oksana Volkova, Anastasia Moskvina, Stanislav Trifonov, Sergei Frankovsky, Nina Lomanovich, Aleksandr Kostyuchenko was awarded the State Prize of the Republic of Belarus 2022. The Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus became the winner of the Republican competition for the best organisation of the work carried out by state organisations subordinate to the Ministry of Culture. 2022. Staging of V. Soltan's opera *King Stakh's Wild Hunt* (directed by A. Motornaya) was recognised as the best cultural project of patriotic themes in the Best Musical Theatre Performance category.

as she promised, she will make every effort to serve the Bolshoi Theatre.

At the end of the conversation, Yekaterina Nikolayevna addressed the journalists with a wish, "Not so long ago, 22 young specialists came to the theatre: some to the opera, some to the ballet, also to the choir, to the orchestra and to the workshops. I understand that the theatre is made by stars, the audience comes to us for the stars... But they did not immediately begin, figuratively speaking, to shine! It took time to reach the level of leading soloists. I would like our youth to also be in the field of view of journalists. After all, to get, as they say, to the Bolshoi is already a recognition. You can enter here only by competition! There are exclusive contracts for the distribution of young people to us. Aren't their fates interesting!? I think that over time we will offer you to participate in the Bolshoi Youth project."

You can rest assured, Yekaterina Nikolayevna! We will support this project. However, as well as others. Because we understand how important systemic, teamwork is in any business, as well as in working on a performance.

Valentina **and Ivan Zhdanovich**

Photos courtesy of the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus

TO THE STAGE FOLLOWING THE DREAM

On International Dance Day, spectators dreaming of ballet stood at the ballet bar next to the leading soloists of the Bolshoi Ballet Company.

They received this honour by taking part in the Bolshoi Theatre Makes Dreams Come True event. The new project was announced just in time for the anniversary season. It was offered to university students, those creative young people who would like to enter the famous stage. The event took place in two stages. First there was the so-called 'Step 1'. Six brave girls took part in it, who for one evening were not afraid to step over the line that separates the viewer from the stage, they went to the stage with supernumeraries in the play *La Bohème*, which tells about the life of young gifted people, and became part of the world of Giacomo Puccini's famous opera. They, like the professionals of *La Bohème*, were made up, dressed in suits. "It was very exciting!" Valeria Zhuravkina shared her impressions. "I'm on stage! I couldn't even dream of it!" By the way, she continued her rapprochement with the Bolshoi Theatre in Step 2 and, together with five other choreographers, went to the rehearsal of ballet dancers. And the essence of Step 2 is this. The audience was invited to write essays about ballet,





- Rehearsal start
- Leading stage master Viktoria Trenkina, followed by schoolgirl Marya Sergeyeva
- At the bench of the winner of the Bolshoi Theatre's Step 2 event during a rehearsal
- People's Artist of Belarus Konstantin Kuznetsov for the first time holds a rehearsal of ballet dancers, next to whom fans of choreographic art strive with all their might to perform according to his instructions

continuing the phrase: 'Ballet for me is...'. Which they did. As a result, the initiators of the event chose 12 people whose sincere statements about the art of ballet attracted attention. Currently, they can be found on the website of the Bolshoi Theatre (<https://bolshoibelarus.by/>).

The winners of the competition were representatives of various professions. And six people came to the rehearsal: a doctor, an architect, a teacher, a couple of students from a linguistic university and one girl from a gymnasium. How happy they were, even a little shy, happy that they were able to practice at the bar next to the stars. We will show readers some excerpts from the letters.

"For me, ballet is the intoxicating beauty of moments — a miracle, tenderness, inspiration, delight for the senses and mind, art and soul connection!"

Valeria Zhuravkina

"Ballet is the soul on the tips of pointe shoes! It's magic pollen on the wings of willis! These are tears and joy, labour, pain, overcoming, happiness!..." *Polina Klopotok*

"... Once my mother asked me: 'Masha, why ballet?'. And then, almost without thinking, I answered the question with a question: 'Why do we breathe air?!'." *Marya Sergeyeva*

"In the 2nd grade, at the choir lesson, we sang a song in which there were words: 'I want to hear music, I want to see music...'. For me then it was a paradox. How can you see what sounds are? When I first came to the Opera and Ballet Theatre at the age of 9 to see Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake*, I understood what it meant to 'see the music!'..." *Anna Perevoznikova*

"Love for ballet came in early childhood after acquaintance with the work of Anna Pavlova. And although I had to choose another field of activity that was not related to dance, Anna Pavlova's phrases went through her whole life: 'To pursue the same goal without stopping is the secret of success. What is success? It seems to me that it is not in the applause of the crowd, but rather in the satisfaction that you get from approaching perfection... Beauty does not tolerate dilettantism. To serve it means to devote yourself entirely, without reserve.' These and many other words of Anna Pavlova (in a broad sense) are relevant not only in art. Striving for perfection, meaningfulness and responsibility for one's work, novelty — I tried to follow these principles in my work..."

Olga Didenko

"I am in love with ballet. Once upon a time there was an opportunity to become a ballerina, but I did not take advantage of it, to my own regret. And now, when I'm almost 40, I still

PROJECTS



- This is what the rehearsal room looked like before the lesson. Ballet soloists and amateurs warmed up, warmed up the body.
- Already before the start of the rehearsal, it was clear how the winners of Step 2 were trying. Marya Sergeyeva is one of them, the shortest girl. It can be seen that she is better prepared than others. Even the fuete is trying to do. Then I find out that the high school student Marya Sergeyeva is studying at the SMART DANCE Centre for Contemporary Choreography in Minsk.



opened the door to the most expressive art form — the world of ballet.

“I understand that I will never become a professional ballerina, but for me ballet is a path to beauty, immersion in the world of dance and emotions, which helps to relax, find harmony, enjoy the creative process and enjoy the perfection of movements...”

Helena Komarevich

“Ballet is a manifestation of the dynamics of life. Poetry written by the body. These are dendrites and axons, creating a certain configuration, rushing into the visible manifestation of the dynamics of life.

... Ballet brings an impulse to life and charges with living energy...”

Alex Zh.

“Ballet for me is like walking on freshly cut grass. When you barely touch the ground

with light fingers, feeling a certain flight. At this moment, many feelings penetrate to the depths of the soul: joy, love, admiration. And if you open your arms and spin around, it just blows your head from overflowing emotions... Ballet is not only a technique. The best performances are danced with the soul...”

Emilia Saft.

“Ballet is breathing. Air is essential for human existence. It evenly enters the lungs, filling all the free space with its lightness. Dance is breath. Just as light, but strong, able to both sweep you off your feet and show its own power. You get goosebumps from the ballet, the whole world freezes and narrows down to the space of the stage and smooth movements. Dance hypnotises, does not allow you to take your eyes off the performance. And then, it seems that you are breathing at the same time as the artist on the stage — and all your heart flutters



- The participants of the rehearsal are convinced that the choreography affects the general condition of the body. Through the study of poses in which the correct even back is constantly needed, posture changes. In everyday life, movements and gait become more graceful. "We all want to be beautiful!" The opinion of the majority, of course, cannot be challenged.



enthusiastically in your chest, beats against your ribs like a bird. And then the moment stops. You forget that you are a person, that you need air to live, you are lost in movements, lost in a dance, as if in a forest..."

Anna-Maria Vorobieva

So, we, journalists, are in the sancta sanctorum of the Bolshoi, in the rehearsal room, where the daily, exhausting drill takes place. But there is no way without it, Konstantin Kuznetsov, People's Artist of Belarus, who will conduct it, will tell us after the rehearsal. "After all, this is a unique tool that allows the artist to keep his body in shape, makes it possible to work for a long time and without injury. A ballet dancer must come to this room, exercise, restore a sense of being in this world and space, and leave here — talented, self-satisfied, with a desire to move on."

We had a chance to see with what trepidation the girls entered the rehearsal room, how they settled

down at the ballet bar after the leading soloists of the famous stage Igor Artamonov, Lyudmila Khitrova, Victoria Trenkina and other stars, and began to warm up in anticipation of Konstantin Kuznetsov. And here is the master. A few handclaps, a few phrases from his lips — and all the dancers and ballet fans freeze at the ballet bar. As you know, almost all ballet vocabulary came from the French language, and literally describes how the movements look like, which should be performed by those who came to the rehearsal. Short words similar to the language of birds: plie, demi-plie, attitude, batman and other ballet terms are understandable to artists and other inhabitants of the backstage involved in choreographic art. The artists quickly follow Konstantin's commands. And amateurs watch and repeat after them. The lesson starts with a plie. This, as they say, is the first in order and one of the main movements in ballet. Any classical dance lesson starts with a plie — both for first-class ballet students and for



- The rehearsal process with the supernumeraries lasted several days. The girls were shown the place on the stage where they were supposed to appear, how they should move. They also tried on costumes beforehand. And before the start of the performance in the dressing room, everyone was given minimal make-up. "It was very exciting and great!" Valeria Zhuravkina shared her impressions.

theatre artists. Professionals emphasise: the ideal position of the feet and the ideal eversion of the legs, the purity of performance is the hallmark of the ballet school.

It can be seen how the winners of Step 2 are trying. One of them, the shortest girl, attracts attention. It can be seen that she is better prepared than others. She is even trying to do a fouetté. Then I find out that the high school student Marya Sergeyeva is studying at the SMART DANCE Centre for Contemporary Choreography in Minsk. And this is more than 25 dance styles, 20 qualified teachers, more than 1,000 students! In the near future it will show itself in the play *Sleeping Beauty*.

"Of course, it's impossible to repeat everything! And it doesn't matter that not everything have

worked out for me. But even standing next to real stars, seeing them, looking at them is already happiness!" Polina Klopotok, a student of the Minsk State Linguistic University, a future teacher of English and Italian, admitted after the lesson. The girl has been dancing since the age of three. Ballet is her life style, the art that inspires her. Dance, she says, helps to overcome difficult moments that happen in her life. "When I'm sad, I dance; when I'm happy, I dance too."

Minsk resident Valeria Zhuravkina, an architect who expressed her opinion about the ballet in a poetic form, after the rehearsal, said how deeply she felt that ballet is that lightness that comes so hard. But the inspiration and joy of life, although the body is tired, according to her, remain in the soul for a long time. At the same time Marya Sergeyeva is not afraid of the work, she is sure

- Six brave girls who took part in Step 1, were not afraid to step over the line separating the viewer from the stage, went with the supernumeraries in the play *La Bohème*, which tells about the life of young gifted people, and became part of the world of part of the world of Giacomo Puccini's famous opera. They, like the professionals of *La Bohème*, were made up, dressed in suits. Valeria Zhuravkina (second from left, in the bottom row) was so impressed by her appearance on stage in an opera performance that she also took part in Step-2.



that over time she will be able to become a professional. I have no doubt that she will succeed. That calm perseverance and lack of ungrounded enthusiasm, which was observed in other participants in the Step 2 event, just testified that this girl would achieve her goal. Looking at her, I remembered myself at the age of five, when

I read a book about the famous Russian ballerina Galina Ulanova, and how after that I began to dream passionately about ballet. My dream was expressed in free dance at home, on the street, as well as in drawing ballerinas — on sand and paper. But the 'kind' people living in the neighbourhood sowed uncertainty in the child's soul, saying: you will never become a ballerina, they said 'your legs are thick'. I look at family photos and don't understand why they did it: children's legs were just strong. Years later, I realised: this is how my dream was tested. I told the girls this story. They regretted, sympathised, were surprised at the cruelty of the neighbours, and one of them said: to dream means to act, which means that this was not your path. With which I agreed.

Isn't it too late for professional ballet at the age of 16-20, I asked the girls who could not say goodbye after the rehearsal. They vehemently answered: no! It turns out that classical choreography, contrary to stereotypes, can be started at any age. This dance helps to strengthen the body, develop coordination, and gain flexibility. The participants of the rehearsal are convinced that the choreography affects the general condition of the body. Through the study of poses in which the correct even back is constantly needed, posture changes. In everyday life, movements and gait become more graceful. "We all want to be beautiful!" the opinion of the majority, of course, cannot be challenged. And I understand: the lessons improve the physical form, strengthen the back, improve the figure, give lightness to the gait. Concluding the conversation, together we come to the conclusion: ballet is the Universe in which everything is arranged according to the laws of beauty and perfection. And the way is open.

Valentina **Zhdanovich**
Photo by the author and of Bolshoi Theatre

“FOLKLORE IS A LIVING BEING”

Selected passages from a conversation with Ivan Kirchuk, a man who learns about himself and the world through folk images, music, songs and thoughtful comprehension of the treasures of Belarusian folklore



We know the folklorist Ivan Kirchuk as a charismatic singer-musician. But, as they say, ‘behind the scenes’ there are his achievements as a researcher of folk culture, teacher, writer. Ivan Kirchuk is also a collector: he has collected a very valuable collection of musical instruments (more than 250 of them!) from different countries, and plays almost every one of them. Another facet of his talent was revealed when last year in Minsk, the University of Culture Art Gallery hosted the personal exhibition *Labyrinths of Sound*. And quite recently, the presentation of Ivan’s new album called *Varazhbit* took place at the Loshitsa Usadba Museum. And this, as the author put it, is two and a half hours of music. And we will add: the music is absolutely mesmerizing. And what wonderful solo performances he created!

We saw with our own eyes the unique ethnic art of Ivan Ivanovich in Minsk Loshitsa. In a cosy space under the roof of an old manor house, where the exhibition *Treasury of Memory* was located, on the May Night of Museums, the folklorist presented ‘a creative tete-a-tete’ *About the Secrets of the Belarusian Wedding*. And a little later, his music workshop, *Round Dance of Life*, worked there. Both one-man performances are syncretic in essence, they inseparably combined music, singing,

reincarnations with puppet masks, as well as elements of the Belarusian batleyka (puppet theatre). Moreover, the author, performer changed roles in the blink of an eye: he was a sorcerer with magic words, then a lyre player or a piper, or an accordion player, or a batleyka performer... Later, during the conversation, Ivan Ivanovich said that it was in the chamber version that his previous solo performances *My Path* (it was shown also at the Belarusian State Philharmonic Society in 2019) and *Loaf, My Paradise* (according to one of the wedding songs) were presented. The folklorist collected materials for the script for years, and they were gradually embodied in stage actions. Based on songs from Ivan's solo album Kirchuk *The Legacy of the Lost Villages*. In order to create *Path...*, he worked for a long time in the academic archives, looking for radio recordings that carry the folklore experience of understanding the seasons, the main elements, folk holidays, significant events on life paths Belarusians. About 40 songs are included in the performance, besides, Ivan plays more than 30 instruments in the course of the action.

And this year, Ivan Kirchuk told us, the traditional meetings at the Loshitsa estate continued: on April 22nd, he introduced his admirers to the ancient Belarusian rituals that accompanied the actions with tunes. This time the meeting was called *What Our Ancestors Played*, the conversation was about the calendar path of human life, about old holidays and rituals, during which people worshiped the elements of air, water, fire and earth.

In the ethno laboratory of the Institute of Belarusian Culture, where Ivan Kirchuk invited us for a conversation, we took a closer look at the original

dolls with whom he communicates, as he put it, 'to read fortunes' during his solo performances. One of the dolls is Varazhbit, Vedun: it has the face of a folklorist and is dressed in a costume from the production of *My Path*. The masks of the Goat, the Wolf, the ancestors of Grandfather and Grandmother live in the laboratory in their places. All of them, the owner explains, were made by his colleagues, teachers of the Minsk Pedagogical University — these are the Priymov sisters, who also work in ceramics.



Conducting a short tour of his possessions, Ivan explained, "When I was developing a solo performance, I had in my head the image of Varazhbit, a man who collected a lot of interesting information: about people, about the laws of the Universe and about our place in this world. I thought: such a doll will come in handy. I turned to my colleagues." When the Priymov sisters worked, they consulted with him on details.

Further conversation with Ivan Ivanovich turned out to be very

interesting, sincere and informative. We select from it the most iconic fragments.

"No, I'm not a candidate of science yet, although I was working on my thesis, I studied with Konstantin Kabashnikov. Yes, I wrote it, but, as they say, no luck... In 2022, the book *The Flower of Perun* was published — this is a joint work of me and my wife Katerina, a number of collected materials were used there. I just didn't have time to present the work, I was caught up in a flood of other worries.

Indeed, in Belarus there are such depths of folklore treasures! Sometimes I say in class: we know our folklore by two percent. Two! Yes, the Belarusians are 'rich in folklore', but they have lost the keys, figuratively speaking, to this wealth, to the knowledge encrypted in our folklore heritage. We have neither TV nor radio programmes on this topic, few Internet resources, CDs with materials from six known ethnographic regions. It's all like an Egyptian pyramid: oh, we know, we are even proud that it exists! But who delved deeply into its secrets? We cannot take full advantage of the treasures that our ancestors have collected for their descendants over the millennia, we have taken

only the smallest fragments of their life experience. I can also say: folklore is a living being. And it requires an appropriate attitude towards itself. There are large layers of coded information in chants, rhythms and images. And by virtue of experience I can already handle it correctly. By the way, my wife Katerina, also a folklorist, has finished the graduate school. And with her, in addition to the general immersion in folklore, we have three small children. So everything in life is combined: folklore, secret knowledge, love, children, creativity..."

“I do not undertake to convince sceptics that it is important to know folklore, traditions of one’s people in the current life. It seems to some that everything there is ancient, the ‘relics of the ancient worldview’ are not worthy of our ‘educated’ attention. But as a scientist, and not a young romantic, I affirm: the folklore mosaic determines and describes the eternal laws of the universe (most often coded) that are important for the survival of the people, nation and every person. Apparently, the former mysteries associated with the transfer of secret knowledge found a continuation in folk rituals. Of course, they are not accessible to everyone, but only to those who are physically and mentally able to accommodate and assimilate them. In folklore, the remains of ancient knowledge are encrypted, they are in words, songs... And in patterns of clothes, embroidery on towels. Ritual actions also have their own ciphers and codes.”

“In ancient cultures, there are many signs, messages about the ratio of male and female principles in the world, about the laws of harmony of the soul, personality and society as a whole. This knowledge, in my opinion, has not become outdated in our time, it is also recorded in Belarusian folklore materials in large quantities. And in Belarusian state laws too! I hope that one of my colleagues will undertake to systematise all this, comprehend the ‘female role’ in Belarusian culture, history and in general in the life of the people. We see how much depends on a woman in preserving the family, traditions of ancestors and national culture in general. I have heard this term: the cultural gene pool of a nation. I can say from my own experience: indeed, on expeditions we mainly make folklore recordings from women. Their role in preserving such a heritage is enormous.”

“Religion, a certain creed help a person to harmonise their relationship with Earth and Heaven. When I was little, I grew up in an atheistic society. We were forbidden to go to church. But my parents both sang in the church choir in Lida, so I did not grow up godless: the religious worldview penetrated me, as did family traditions. I knew little about my ancestors, thrifty, hardworking and pious people. Let’s say my grandfather Tamas had 14 children. He was a hardworking man, hence there were some means. Later, my mother discovered the gift of an herbalist, she became famous in the area. She even cured female infertility. Young mothers, I remember, approached her more than

Ivan Kirchuk has been studying Belarusian folklore for almost 40 years. His solo performances were synthesised from materials collected during expeditions around Belarus.

once in the market or in the city — with a bow, with gratitude, with children. Over the years, I realised: my ancestors have accumulated a lot of different knowledge, and if I do not know them, do not have spiritual contact with them, then I will not be able to reach those treasures. Unfortunately, many people lose the foundation of traditions, the experience of their ancestors is not passed on to their descendants. I see it myself: at some of my performances, young people simply do not understand what is happening, what I am doing.”

“My ascent to the knowledge accumulated by my ancestors was gradual. I moved forward, including through singing: from childhood I loved to sing, studied to be a singer, sang in the academic choir. And parents sang all sorts of songs at home. My father collected a large collection of records: recordings of Italian opera. We listened to them together. So I wasn’t going to



be a folk singer. But if we talk about enlightenment, then it came to me in the early 80s at the Minsk concert of the Dmitry Pokrovsky ensemble. Musician, teacher, researcher Dmitry Pokrovsky created an experimental ensemble in 1973 at the Folklore Commission of the Union of Composers of the RSFSR. He was the first in the USSR and Russia to combine the traditions of folk, national musical culture with modern expressive means and ways of presenting material. Later I learned

that Russian folklorists made such recordings: they seated five singing grandmothers, put the same number of tape recorders and a microphone for each. And each voice was recorded separately, then they listened and deciphered. It was as if they were disassembling a sample in order to study the structure of the singing material. It was incredibly interesting for me to hear such a reconstructed polyphony in different ways of singing. And I thought: we all sing the same way, although the regions in Belarus are different. I wanted to dive deeper into our folklore material. Since 1983, I worked as a teacher at the Minsk Cultural and Educational College (in addition, I studied in absentia at the University of Culture, graduated in 1985). Our first experiment was recorded on the radio. ‘Pokrovsky initiation’ burns constantly in me. Apparently, there is a contact channel with some kind



- Ivan Kirchuk is a frequent guest in the countryside. Moments of the song feast. Polesie, 2018.
- At a solo performance with masks of grandfather (ded) and grandmother (baba)
- Ivan Kirchuk with folk master Viktor Dudkevich from Glubokoye, with whom he collaborates

of supersystem. Including through dreams, this happens: there were dozens of them, many were deciphered. When I wake up, it is only important to remember the main key words — and then I describe the dreams in detail.”

“Of course, I do not just live by folklore: I am interested in life in its various manifestations.

There was a period when I worked in Moscow as a healer with a group of like-minded people. Much has been seen, experienced, realised during trips and tours to various festivals and countries. There are references to this, the experience is reflected in my books *Autobahns and Minstrels* and *City of Climbing*. Gradually, one might say, new horizons of creativity opened up. Previously, my graphics were in notebooks, on pieces of paper, some perceived it as some kind of meaningless nonsense — and now its time has come: the exhibition *Labyrinths of Sound* was held in Minsk. Almost 50 paintings are stored here in four cabinets, each with its own name. These are attempts to discover the inexpressible: the labyrinths through which we travel in thought. I have a travel schedule: usually on the road, between concerts, the hand began to involuntarily create these labyrinths. Of course, I’m not talking about everything that I feel, that comes to mind. Not everyone will understand... In order to properly adjust my mind and feelings, I had certain practices — they are described in books. It happens that some kind of force wakes me up at six in the morning, and I go to nature. I’ve done ice swimming before. Immersion in nature, while everyone is sleeping and no one interferes, prayer practices, meditation are a constant process, a part of my life.”

“Who would I call myself today?

Apparently, I am the one whom the Belarusians call ‘varazhbit’, the one who tells fortunes. I lead people through the arrays of information that I own, mainly course participants and students. In the classroom, I ‘capture’ the consciousness of adults who have already passed part of their life path.

There is an entry in the Book of Reviews, “I was just blown away Kirchuk’s lecture today...” I repeat insistently: we must remember our ancestors, look for their names, and restore spiritual ties. I have a slightly different way of dealing with children. You need to surprise them with something, attract their attention, say, with an unusual whistle. In my classes with adults, I talk, relatively speaking, about the geometry of the soul. I draw ancestral stars, I try to show how ancestral constellations are connected. You can look at a guy and a girl who like each other as the contact of galaxies of two sexes. There are hundreds, thousands of stars — their predecessors. I mentioned grandfather Tamas, who had 14 children. There were 3 sisters on my father’s side, 12 on my mother’s side. So my mother’s family is ‘stronger’. I once boasted to one woman on the expedition of these 14, she just calmly told me that she had 18. So, in terms of energy, their family is stronger: the higher this number is for the family, the higher territory it covers, because today almost everyone has grandchildren, great-grandchildren. And where your loved ones are, there should be no conflicts: there should be harmony.”

“There were no love triangles in the Slavic tradition: our ancestors knew how to resolve ‘heart matters’ amicably. And then other models of behaviour appeared in the mass consciousness. They are now being imposed on us, including through films: starting with the Mexican TV series *Wild Rose*. Remember, in the early 90s, women cried in front of the TV? So the question arises: haven’t people coded our space with these films about jealousy, revenge, murder and endless wars? And now the virtual war broke into reality. By the way, I have a friend, he used to take a bus or a train in Minsk and go to Poland or Germany, all the while playing shooting games. And didn’t sleep the whole way!! What was his brain synthesizing at that time, what thought forms? And how many such ‘shooters’ there are today! And

now we are here... Haven't our living space been coded with tanks and war? Please note: fakes sometimes already include pictures from virtual games. I remember that in 1999 we were in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the festival, where I first saw a shot through skyscraper in its natural form: a rocket flew through it — and it still stands. People live there, next to a window hole in the curtains. When they show videos of military operations now, I sometimes get a feeling of déjà vu. And who is fighting whom? Our own against our own... We ourselves wove this terrible web. You have to be very careful with these things. Virtual games are supposedly harmless, but in fact, invisible matrices of future events are created in this way. Our future that shoots into reality. Where, why? Worth thinking about. I agree with this idea: until there is peace and tranquillity in our souls, wars in the world will continue. Besides, war is a successful business. In wartime, the accents of good and evil are mixed, people become a mass, which they look at as expendable material. The Moloch of war demands more and more expenses, more and more victims."

"There is magic in male acapella, choral singing. And I still can't say how it happened that this song sort of faded into the background in our time. The singing of the Aleksandrov Choir touches my soul, the Armenian and Georgian choral songs speak to me more than the women's choir. Probably, once there was a priestly tradition of male singing, and it somehow

disappeared. If we talk about the subtle sensation of sound, then I see the stream of female singing as a red and warm stream, and the stream of male as blue and cold. But there has been a reversal of poles. So far, few songs by men have been recorded in Belarus, and women's songs are the main ones in the archives. Therefore, our women are the main bearers of culture. They

The ethno laboratory of Ivan Kirchuk works at the Institute of Belarusian Culture, it 'contributes to the improvement of the qualifications of specialists in the field of culture'. Great treasures are collected there: there are more than 3,000 CD-ROM with records, and more than 500 discs in DVD format. There are many audio and video cassettes, various literature, including those about medicinal herbs. There were losses in the folklore-ethnographic collection: fires, floods. However, the museum is still rich and unique. There are several two- and three-tiered batleykas in the collection."

give birth to a new life, continue the race, a woman is destined to protect her offspring with all her might. Therefore, more often it is women who know the healing properties of roots, herbs and flowers better, they know instructive songs, rituals and traditions better. Because these are essential conditions for survival."

"Our ties with flora and fauna are extremely strong. In one Belarusian region, an unusual rite was recorded associated with procreation. If there were no children in a young family,

then the old woman, in order to help the youngest, gathered everyone who already had children. Together they walked outside the village, where they chose a beautiful slender birch. And, apparently, they chose it so that the vibrations of the tree were in unison with the vibrations of the old woman. Then she told the childless woman to hug the birch trunk. And the women led a round dance around the birch, sang incantatory songs. I think: this was all done so that the birth canal of a young woman would be opened, first on the energy level, and then on the physical one. After such a ceremony, a woman could become pregnant and give birth. And then the birch was cut down."

"I myself also witnessed how strongly trees and people are energetically connected. At one time, my mother, her name was Helena, gave me a summer house near Lida. I planted two apple trees there: one in honour of my father, the other in honour of my mother. And so the 'mother's' tree grew up weak, it simply said goodbye to life while her mother was sick. And when my mother died, the very next year the apple tree blossomed and even gave first fruits."

"I have repeatedly been convinced of the great power of words, prayers, incantations. For example, in our country house, there was holy water in the well. I remember when they dug this well, my mother read prayers. The water was very tasty and so satisfying that you drank it and you didn't feel like eating. Mom maintained perfect

order there while she was healthy. And then when she was gone, everything started to run wild. And even snakes returned, which, according to local residents, have lived in those places since time immemorial."

"There are more female healers in Belarus than male healers. They are also called: whisperers. But I know that there was a male healer near Logoyisk, I took a man to see him once. Moreover, he told me, it was his dying mother who gave him such a gift, although he did

there are many charlatans, psychics-imposters. And television, among other things, worsened the situation, spinning the topic in the direction of some kind of show, commerce. All these are very serious things, they should be treated with great respect and due attention. Once, on an expedition, they told me: an old woman was dying in the village, and none of her relatives wanted to take on her gift. And a little girl walked by, granddaughter or great-granddaughter. The old woman asked

Previously, in the 70s and 90s, this was not the case, but now folk crafts are actively reviving. In Belarus there are craft centres, there are craftsmen, schools, festivals and exhibitions are held. Perhaps this is necessary at such a time of development of our nation. Perhaps, some hidden mechanism of self-defence, self-preservation of the nation turns on when there is a threat of globalisation, spiritual poverty. However, in order to receive and assimilate the hidden knowledge of the ancestors, a certain

attitude is needed. One day I was showing course participants a new book on medicinal herbs and related rituals. And they ask me, "And you, Ivan Ivanovich, believe in all this?". But my mother was a herbalist, and today only the lazy ones will not get to the bottom of the Internet to learn that all pharmaceuticals began, in fact, with herbal treatment! Modern scientists will confirm: this is not magic, but rather biomedicine, biochemistry."

"In my male opinion, a woman needs to learn to throw everything unnecessary out of life in order to be happy. Women need wisdom to be happy: to distinguish what is necessary in life from what is superfluous, which will simply take away your strength. Today, it happens that a woman thinks that the man who is next to her does not need her at all. Perhaps such women lack

wisdom: after all, everything in life should be balanced, harmonised. And what harmony is there where there is a strong woman and no men at all? For a while, it may even seem that you have made your life easier by choosing loneliness. However, it is worth remembering: this simpler and more carefree life is not always happy. As a rule, over time, this is well understood by many: both women and men."

Ivan and Valentina **Zhdanovich**

Photos by the authors and from the archive of Ivan Kirchuk



■ "I take strength from the oak. This is how I recover, as my ancestors did."

not want to deal with it. He worked in forestry, did not know any grief. And now it is necessary to pay attention to everyone who turns to him, and not to try to escape this fate. He said as soon as he didn't treat people, everything fell apart for him, and there was no development in the forest. And there is such an attitude or a sign among the people: if you have been given some gift, you should use it. How, under what conditions is a separate question. But you won't be able to bury your gift in the ground. In our time, however,

for water, the little one gave — so they touched. And that's all: instantly, as the people say, the force passed to the girl. Another thing is that she is not yet ready to contain this force, but 'the seed has been sown'. And over time, there is a high probability that the girl will also become a healer."

"I do not rule out that secret knowledge is transmitted through traditional crafts. Well, it's not just that society now pays a lot of attention to weaving, embroidery, straw weaving, clay products. Why all of a sudden?

THESE DEAR PLACES

Aleksandr Matveyenko was born on October 23rd, 1953 in the village of Berezyaki, Krasnopolye District, Mogilev Region. In 1973, he graduated from the Republican Boarding School for Music and Fine Arts, in 1978 he graduated from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts, Department of Monumental and Decorative Art. Since 2000, he has been a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists.



PHOTO REPORT



The Vysokae Mesta Art Lounge of the Minsk City History Museum hosted a presentation of a personal exhibition of paintings by Aleksandr Matveyenko Cherikov's Landscapes took place. The exhibition is dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the master and prepared jointly with the Belarusian Union of Artists.



The nature of the native land at all times fascinated artists, was a pleasure and inspiration for them. Watching his native places, a true master strives to depict their beauty in his works, to share their originality with others. Aleksandr Matveyenko introduces the viewer to the memorable places of Cherkov through his paintings.



The exhibition presents landscapes painted by the artist in different periods of his work. Aleksandr Matveyenko sincerely admires every moment of the vivid manifestation of nature in his works. The master draws its transitional states: early spring, late

Cherkov is a small Belarusian town, which is located on the banks of the picturesque Sozh River in the Mogilev Region. The town has a rich history and amazing nature, it is one of the most beautiful and wonderful corners of our country.





autumn... However, even in the saturation of colours, the artist finds a gentle note of calmness. His landscapes are characterised by an exquisite sense of colour, taste, a sense of the beauty and harmony of nature.



However, the artist is attracted by both pure, untouched nature and signs of modernity that change the usual natural landscape. The works of Aleksandr Matveyenko depict many unique, very beautiful corners of his native land: birch grove, endless fields, forest glades, villages covered in melted snow, hot summer... In fact, his landscape works presented at the exhibition are an epic depiction of the Belarusian land.

Vsevolod **Yevseyev**
Photo by the author



ДЗВЕ ТЫСЯЧЫ ІМЁНАЎ ДЛЯ РАДЗІМЫ

Мы часта не задумваемся, які выхаваўчы патэнцыял схаваны за словамі “гісторыя”, “памяць”, “лёсы”. На беларускай зямлі нарадзілася багата таленавітых і моцных духам людзей. Яны працавалі на карысць сваёй краіны і станавіліся вядомымі за яе межамі. Змагаліся, ратавалі людзей, рабілі адкрыцці, пакаралі космас. Пра імёны некаторых з іх мы забываемся, іншых – не ўпісваем ў нацыянальную скарбонку гонару. А нам ёсць на каго раўняцца, чыімі прыкладамі захапляцца, на малой радзіме якіх герояў ставіць помнікі і мемарыяльныя дошкі, чые біяграфіі вывучаць і чые лёсы класці ў сюжэты мастацкіх твораў.



Неўтаймоўны аднавясковец

У вёсцы Будзілаўка Докшыцкага раёна нарадзілася новая традыцыя, звязаная з ушанаваннем імёнаў герояў і ахвяр Айчыннай вайны. Вучні са школ Бягомля і Докшыц прыязджаюць сюды на ўрокі памяці.

У 2020-м годзе ў Будзілаўцы ўрачыста адкрыты народны мемарыял. На чатырох плітах – імёны землякоў, якія не вярнуліся з фронту, партызанаў, мясцовых жыхароў, якія загінулі падчас карных

операцый, а таксама ўдзельнікаў Першай сусветнай вайны.

— Адна з жанчын, калі даведалася, што на помніку няма прозвішча яе родных, да мяне нават у Маскву дзатэлефанавалася. Сказала, што згодна заплаціць тое, каб пліту перарабілі, – узгадвае доктар гістарычных навук, палкоўнік запаса Мікалай Печань. Шмат гадоў ён жыве ў Расіі, але ніколі не забываецца пра сваю малую радзіму. Менавіта ён выступіў з ідэяй стварэння ў Будзілаўцы мемарыяла

на закінутым месцы, дзе некалі стаяла хата, чатыры чалавекі з якой загінулі ў гады вайны. Ён жа выступіў арганізатарам народнай будоўлі, працаваў у архіве, шукаў прозвішчы землякоў, якія загінулі на фронце ці прапалі без вестак, абзвоньваў ураджэнцаў, многія з якіх раз'ехаліся па розных гарадах і краінах, збіраў сродкі.

У Будзілаўцы нават бабулі адкладалі са сваіх пенсій грошы на помнік, а калі даведваліся, колькі здавалі суседзі, у наступным месяцы яшчэ падносілі сродкі. Старыя жанчыны дзякавалі, Мікалаю Анатольевічу, што знайшоў звесткі пра іх родных, што вярнуў памяць пра іх.

Калі адкрываўся помнік, сюды прыехала багата народу, нягледзячы на тое, што ў той час яшчэ паўсюль людзі асцерагаліся каранавірусу...

Побач з помнікам – маладая бярозавая рошча. 108 дрэўцаў пасаджаны па колькасці прозвішчаў, размешчаных на плітах мемарыяла. Да яе пасадкі далучыліся мясцовыя школьнікі, да дрэўцаў ставілі шыльды з імёнамі герояў і ахвяр, таму калі дзеці прыязджаюць сюды зноў, бягуць правяраць “свае бярозкі” і ўзгадваюць імёны вяскоўцаў, якіх забрала вайна.

Мемарыял змяніў жыццё вёскі. Гэта месца, дзе праходзяць урачыстыя мерапрыемствы, сустрэчы са школьнікамі, на якіх дзеці са слязьмі на вачах слухаюць пра тое, якія пакуты выпалі на долю жыхароў гэтых земляў. Рабілася нават тэатралізаваная рэканструкцыя ваенных падзей. Але галоўнае: мемарыял спрыяе ўмацаванню трывалых сувязяў паміж пакаленнямі. Да помніка людзі прыходзяць, прыязджаюць з малымі дзецьмі, шукаюць прозвішчы сваякоў, прыносяць фотаздымкі. Бабулькі ідуць да імянных бярозак, шэпчуцца з імі, і так быццам звяртаюцца да блізкіх, якіх страцілі ў ваеннае ліхалецце. А колькі эмоцый было ў людзей, якія прыйшлі да мемарыяла ўшанаваць продкаў, калі над імі пачалі кружыць буслы! Будзілаўцы вераць, што гэта душы тых ахвяр, чые імёны нанесены на помнік.

Мікалай Печань упэўнены, што з'яўленне такога мемарыяла ў Будзілаўцы – не проста зварот увагі жыхароў да ваеннай гісторыі. Гэты месца памяці будзе спрыяць выхаванню павагі і любові да сваёй зямлі, вёскі, роду.

Дарэчы, гэта не адзіны праект на малой радзіме, які ўдалося рэалізаваць Мікалаю Анатольевічу. Ён выступіў арганізатарам семінара з удзелам знакамітых ураджэнцаў Докшыцкага краю, на пошук якіх у яго было затрачана каля года. Ураджэнцаў раёна раскідала па розных гарадах, яны жывуць і ў Маскве, і ў Санкт-Пецярбургу, і ў Навасібірску. Таксама палкоўнік збіраў

Мікалай Печань нарадзіўся ў 1957 годзе ў вёсцы Будзілаўка Докшыцкага раёна Віцебскай вобласці. Сямнаццаць гадоў праслужыў у Савецкай Арміі і дванаццаць ва Узброеных сілах Расійскай Федэрацыі. Ветэран баявых дзеянняў. Палкоўнік. Доктар гістарычных навук. Прафесар. Працаваў у Расійскім дзяржаўным сацыяльным універсітэце, Цэнтральным музеі Узброеных сіл Расіі, Інстытуце ваеннай гісторыі. Спецыяліст у галіне патрыятычнага выхавання. Праводзіў для студэнтаў і школьнікаў семінары і канферэнцыі, экскурсіі па месцах воінскай славы, адна з якіх – “Ад Масквы да Брэста”. Першым у гістарычнай навуцы прапанаваў прыныць “выхавання гісторыяй”, з выкарыстаннем звестак пра воінаў Рускай і Чырвонай Арміі... Аўтар 32 кніг.



■ У 2021 годзе ў Будзілаўцы высадзілі “Алею Памяці і адзінства”



■ Мікалай Печань праводзіць патрыятычныя заняткі са школьнікамі

выпускнікоў, якія не бачыліся дзесяцігоддзямі. Для аднавяскоўцаў рабіў буклеты па гісторыі іх малой радзімы. А яшчэ ён падаў суседзям прыклад, як можна захоўваць і наладжваць сувязі паміж прадстаўнікамі аднаго роду: правёў свята адной сям'і. Прымеркаваў яго да стагоддзя маці, пастараўся сабраць усіх сваякоў па яе лініі. У Будзілаўку тады прыбылі госці з розных куткоў Беларусі і Расіі. Толькі машын уздоўж вуліцы стаяла каля васьмянаццаці. Загадзя быў падрыхтаваны фільм пра маці і пра род, перагледжаны сямейныя архівы з фотаздымкамі. Для кожнага гасця рабіўся альбом... А яшчэ Мікалай Анатольевіч стараецца кожную вясну цікава правесці для мясцовых школьнікаў урокі памяці. За такую актыўнасць журналісты нават прызвалі яго "неўтаймоўны Печань".

Ён упэўнены, што ва ўсіх справах, за якія бярэцца, важны не толькі канчатковы вынік, але і сам працэс. Людзі пачынаюць часцей задумвацца пра свае карані, пра тое, як моцна яны звязаны са сваёй зямлёй, наколькі яна для іх дарагая.

"27 гадоў таму я патрапіў у сур'ёзную аварыю. Траўма была цяжкая, дзясяткі аперацый, я больш за 40 гадзін правёў на аперацыйным стале, год – у гіпсе. Але, відаць, Гасподзь пакінуў мяне для добрых спраў, і я сёння гэта адпрацоўваю. Збіраю інфармацыю, пішу пра герояў. А яны за мяне моляцца. Так і живу", – прызнаецца Мікалай Анатольевіч.

Нашы людзі

У Год міру і стваральнай працы Мікалай Печань плануе закончыць яшчэ адну справу, якой прысвяціў больш за дзесяць гадоў. Павінна пабачыць свет яго кніга "Біяграфічны слоўнік. Беларусь – Расіі і свету".

У ліпені 2021 года Прэзідэнт Рэспублікі Беларусь Аляксандр Лукашэнка, звяртаючыся з віншаваннямі да ветэранаў, заўважыў: "Не толькі на роднай зямлі, але і па ўсім свеце сярод нацыянальных герояў мы знойдзем і нашых з вамі сучаснікаў. Іх дасягненні сталі арыенцірам у культуры і духоўным развіцці розных народаў. І нам не хопіць гэтага вечара, каб назваць усе імёны. Але мы дакладна ведаем, што ў кожным з нас ёсць мудрасць, смеласць, маральная моц, інтэлектуальны і творчы патэнцыял вялікіх людзей, якіх падарыла свету Беларусь. Гэта спадчына і з'яўляецца нашым галоўным нацыянальным багаццем і годнасцю". "Менавіта гэтыя словы Прэзідэнта далі мне дадатковы штуршок і сілы для завяршэння работы над кнігай, – прызнаецца Мікалай Печань.

У выданне ўвойдуць звесткі пра ўраджэнцаў беларускіх земляў і асоб, якія маюць беларускія карані, што прысвяцілі сваё жыццё вайскавай службе, ваеннаму будаўніцтву, умацаванню абароннай здольнасці дзяржавы, вывучэнню ваеннай гісторыі, развіццю ваеннай навукі за межамі сваёй гістарычнай радзімы. Ім сабрана і сітэматызавана інфармацыя пра 2200 нашых землякоў і асоб, якія маюць беларускія карані. І гэта толькі ў адной галіне, звязанай з ваеннай справай! 600 з іх праславіліся ў перыяд з 1721 па 1917 гады. Імёны астатніх сталі вядомымі пасля распаду Расійскай імперыі. Некаторыя з герояў, інфармацыя пра якіх сабрана ў даведніку, і сёння жывуць і праслаўляюць сваімі справамі Беларусь.

Дарэчы, назапашваць звесткі пра знакамітых беларусаў Мікалай Печань пачаў яшчэ гадоў трыццаць таму. Яго прафесійная кар’ера была звязана са службай Айчыне, таму і даследчыцкія пошукі ён веў у гэтым кірунку. Вывучаў гісторыю афіцэрскага корпусу Расіі, займаўся патрыятычным выхаваннем, працаваў у музеях. З канца 80-х гадоў мінула стагоддзя, калі быў слухачом Ваенна-палітычнай акадэміі імя У. І. Леніна, сабраў звесткі пра выпускнікоў установы, якія сталі Героямі Савецкага Саюза. Данія ляглі ў аснову кнігі. Пазней пабачылі свет іншыя выданні, дзе падавалася інфармацыя пра салдат і афіцэраў. Падчас падрыхтоўкі выданняў трапляў на інфармацыю пра ўраджэнцаў беларускіх земляў. Так, пад уражаннем аб подзвігу беларуса Аляксандра Казарскага (родам з Дуброўна), загарэўся ідэяй збіраць інфармацыю пра знакамітых землякоў. Казарскі камандаваў брыгам “Меркурый”, які атрымаў перамогу ў няроўным баі з туркамі ў 1829 годзе. У Севастопалі быў пастаўлены помнік мужнаму камандзіру, сродкі на яго ўзвядзенне па падпісцы ішлі ад марскіх афіцэраў, якія служылі на Чорным, Балтыйскім, Белым і Ахоцкіх морях, з Камчаткі і многіх іншых месцаў.

Адна з мэт, якую паставіў перад сабой даследчык, – узбагаціць Беларусь імёнамі. Прозвішчы некаторых з яго герояў сёння добра вядомыя, але мы раней не гаварылі, ці нават не ведалі, што гэта “нашы людзі”. Сярод іх можна ўгадаць Сяргея Каралёва – аднаго са стваральнікаў савецкай ракетна-касмічнай тэхнікі, заснавальніка практычнай касманаўтыкі, галоўнага канструктара першых ракет-носьбітаў пілатуемых касмічных караблёў, акадэміка АН СССР, доктара тэхнічных навук, двойчы Героя Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Працы. Пад яго кіраўніцтвам быў створаны першы пілатуемы касмічны карабель “Усход”, на якім Юрый Гагарын паляцеў у космас. Але ці ведае хто, што бацька Сяргея Каралёва нарадзіўся ў Магілёве?

А колькі імёнаў касманаўтаў-беларусаў сёння на слыху? Хутчэй за ўсё ў Беларусі назавуць толькі тры прозвішчы: Пятра Клімука, Уладзіміра Кавалёнка і Алега Навіцкага. Мікалай Печань у час гутаркі з лётчыкам-касманаўтам Антонам Шкаплеравым атрымаў інфармацыю, што той

з’яўляецца беларусам, яго бацькі – з вёскі Кіпячы Быхаўскага раёна Магілёўскай вобласці. Бацька касманаўта Алега Арцём’ева нарадзіўся ў Друе Браслаўскага раёна. Нават амерыканскі касманаўт Бартоў Джон-Дэвід Фрэнсіс мае беларускія карані. Рыхтаваліся да палёту ў космас Барыс Белавусаў з Хоцімска, Анатоль Дзядкоў з вёскі Лучын Рагачоўскага раёна, Аляксандр Шчукін, бацька якога нарадзіўся ў Кармянскім раёне, і Юрый Сенкевіч, чые продкі па лініі маці паходзяць з Мядзельшчыны. Наогул жыхароў беларускіх земляў заўсёды вабілі нябесныя глыбіні. Вучні і настаўнікі Слуцкай гімназіі нават рыхтуюць даследчыцкія работы, колькі выпускнікоў толькі гэтай вучэбнай установы звязалі сваё жыццё з космасам. Так, Ілья Капіевіч – аўтар першай зорнай карты неба, зробленай на рускай мове, якая была складзена па заказе Пятра Першага. Вітольд Церацкі першым вызначыў зорную велічыню Сонца і кіраваў астранамічнай абсерваторыяй Маскоўскага ўніверсітэта.

Наш знакаміты зямляк Казімір Семяновіч яшчэ ў 1650 годзе выдаў ў Амстэрдаме кнігу “Мастацтва артылерыі”,



■ Народны мемарыял у Будзілаўцы



дзе ў тым ліку разгледзеў рэактыўны прынцып. Яго ідэі і сёння выкарыстоўваюцца ў касманаўтыцы.

Ураджэнцы беларускіх земляў кіравалі касмадромамі, адказвалі за падрыхтоўку палётаў, распрацоўвалі харчаванне для касманаўтаў, выпрабавалі на сабе абсталяванне, былі інжынерамі-канструктарамі. Васіль Старавойтаў, Віктар Камісараў, Яўген Кулін – інжынеры – канструктары лунахода. Вікенцій Самаль з Маладзечна і Канстанцін Давідоўскі са Случчыны былі штурманамі-навігатарамі экіпажаў лунахода. Першая ў свеце жанчына-касманаўт і першая ў Расіі жанчына-генерал Валянціна Церашкова таксама мае беларускія карані.

Гісторыя стварэння паветрана-дэсантных войск таксама звязана з імёнамі беларусаў. Яны распрацоўвалі першыя парашуты для дэсантнікаў, здзяйснялі паказальныя скачкі з самалётаў. Заснавальнікам сучасных паветрана-дэсантных войск называюць Васіля Маргелава, чые бацькі – выхадцы з Беларусі. Яго сын Аляксандр 23 студзеня 1976 года, калі ўпершыню ў сусветнай практыцы на парашутна-рэактыўнай сістэме ў комплексе “Рэктаўр” была праведзена мяккая пасадка баявой браніраванай машыны БМД-1, знаходзіўся ўнутры. Дэсанціраванне праводзілася з вялікай рызыкай, без індывідуальных сродкаў ратавання. Уявіце, якія эмоцыі перажываў Васіль Маргелаў, які камандаваў аперацыяй, у якой сваім жыццём рызыкаваў ўласны сын.

Генерал-палкоўнік паветрана-дэсантных войск Расіі 1996–2003 гадоў Георгій Шпак – з Асіповіч. Блакітныя берэты ў дэсантнікаў з’явіліся дзякуючы Івану Лісаву, які нарадзіўся ў Віцебску. Песня “Расплекалася синева”, якая ў савецкі час стала гімнам паветрана-дэсантных войск, была напісана ў Наваполацку ў ваенным гарнізоне “Баравуха-1”...

У кнізе будуць пададзены кароткія звесткі як пра пра знакамітых выхадцаў з Беларусі, так і тых, чые імёны, як кажуць, не на слыху. У сваёй рабоце Мікалай Печань дае не толькі біяграфічныя звесткі пра іх, але і спрабуе паказаць у лічбах, колькі нашых землякоў дасягнулі тых ці іншых вяршынь. Так, з 1917 года многія выхадцы з нашых земляў і асобы, якія маюць беларускія карані, даслужыліся да высокіх пастоў на вайскавай і грамадзянскай службах. 7 былі прэзідэнтамі іншых краін, 6 – міністрамі замежных спраў, 13 – міністрамі абароны, 8 – начальнікамі Генеральных штабоў. 37 кіравалі Ваеннымі акадэміямі Савецкага Саюза і 4 – іншых дзяржаў. Адміралаў Зямлі Беларускай – больш за сотню, Маршалаў Савецкага Саюза – 12, генералаў арміі Узброеных сіл СССР – 10, іншых краін – 2, генералаў-палкоўнікаў УС СССР і РФ – 54, іншых краін – 4. 7 нашых землякоў сталі дырэктарамі ваенных заводаў, 56 – генеральнымі канструктарамі, 70 – дырэктарамі навуковых інстытутаў, 32 – акадэмікамі Акадэміі навук СССР, 18 –

акадэмікамі Расійскай акадэміі навук. І гэта не канчатковыя лічбы, даследаванне працягваецца.

Біяграфіі многіх з іх маглі б легчы ў аснову сур’ёзных артыкулаў і нават сцэнарыяў фільмаў. Так, доктар медыцынскіх навук Валенцій Война-Ясянецкі паходзіў з шляхецкага беларускага роду. Ён працаваў у кіеўскім медыцынскім шпіталі Чырвонага Крыжа, у складзе якога ў 1904 годзе накіраваўся на Руска-японскую вайну. Працаваў у эвакуацыйным шпіталі ў Чыце, заведваў хірургічным аддзяленнем. У пачатку Першай сусветнай вайны арганізаваў шпіталь для параненых. Быў галоўрачом і хірургам

Ташкенцкай гарадской бальніцы, садзейнічаў стварэнню Вышэйшай медыцынскай школы, быў адным з арганізатараў Ташкенцкага ўніверсітэта, дзе ўзначаліў кафедру апэратыўнай хірургіі. У гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны стаў галоўрачом эвакуацыйнага шпіталя ў Краснаярску і Тамбове.

У пачатку 1946 года атрымаў Сталінскую прэмію першай ступені за навуковую распрацоўку новых хірургічных метадаў лячэння гнойных захворванняў і раненняў. І гэта адзіны святар, які быў адзначаны такой высокай ўзнагародай. Дарэчы, манаства ён прыняў у 1923 годзе, падвяргаўся рэпрэсіям за рэлігійную дзейнасць і правёў у ссылках каля 11 гадоў. Быў кананізаваны Праваслаўнай Царквой, яго шануюць як лекара душы і цела, да мошчаў прыязджаюць маліцца, каб пераадоліць хваробы.

А колькі нашых землякоў сталі першымі ў пэўнай галіне! Так, Сцяпан Джавецкі ў 1884 годзе стварыў першую ў свеце падводную лодку з электрычным рухавіком, якая працавала ад акумулятара. Лідзія Зверава – пешая жанчына-пілот на тэрыторыі Расіі і другая ў свеце пасля французжанкі Раймонды дэ Ларош. Карл Румель – першы ўраджэнец Беларусі, які ўдзельнічаў у Алімпійскіх гульнях. З імем Івана Ярकोўскага звязана стварэнне Расійскіх верталётаў яшчэ ў канцы XIX стагоддзя. Сяргей Грыцавец стаў першым двойчы Героем Савецкага Саюза. Барыс Коўзан – адзіны ў свеце лётчык, які тараніў 4 варожых самалёта і застаўся жывым. Аляксей Семянкоў уначы 9 мая 1945 года даставіў у Маскву савецкі экзэмпляр Акта аб безагаворачнай капітуляцыі Германіі, а ў 1957 годзе на самалёце Ту-104 першым у СССР здзейсніў трансатлантычны пералёт Масква – Нью-Йорк. “Гэта кніга – даніна памяці нашым продкам за іх працу, здабыткі, захапленне іх мужнасцю, розумам і талентам. Яна выклікае ў чытача гонар за сваю краіну, за Беларусь, – заўважае Мікалай Печань. – Гэта своеасаблівы навігатар у часе, гераічным мінулым, ваеннай гісторыі дзяржавы, які можа паслужыць моладзі для выпрацоўкі актыўнай жыццёвай пазіцыі, жадання самааддана служыць ёй, быць гатовай да яе абароны”.

Алена **Дзядзюля**

Фота з адкрытых крыніц і архіва Мікалая Печаня



Аляксандр Корзюк: Мы гаворым пра тыя падзеі і тых асоб, якімі павінны ганарыцца

Трыццаць гадоў таму пачаў выходзіць “Беларускі гістарычны часопіс”. Да яго выдання спрычыніліся Міністэрства адукацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь, супрацоўнікі гістарычнага факультэта Белдзяржуніверсітэта, Інстытута гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі, грамадскія арганізацыі.

Фарміравалася незалежная дзяржава, мяняліся падыходы да разумення ролі і месца Беларусі ў сусветнай гісторыі. Часопіс з першых дзён свайго існавання рэалізоўваў дзяржаўную палітыку па захаванні гістарычнай праўды, працаваў на ўмацаванне нашай гісторыка-культурнай ідэнтычнасці, знаёміў чытачоў са славымі асобамі, выхоўваў патрыётаў. Сёння гэта адзінае ў краіне штомесячнае навукова-тэарэтычнае, навукова-метадычнае ілюстраванае выданне па гістарычных і юрыдычных навук, культуралогіі, мастацтвазнаўству.

Калі скласці ўсе асобнікі часопіса, што пабачылі свет за гэты час, адзін на адзін, атрымаецца стос вышыняй ў паўтара метра. На яго старонках выйшла ўжо больш за 3500 навуковых артыкулаў, інфармацыйных і метадычных матэрыялаў. Колькасць аўтараў часопіса перавышае дзве сотні, сярод іх – дактары і кандыдаты навук, вядомыя навукоўцы, педагогі, бібліятэка-

ры, музейныя супрацоўнікі. Аўдыторыя часопіса – чытачы з 12 краін блізкага і далёкага замежжа.

Як заўважае галоўны рэдактар “Беларускага гістарычнага часопіса”, кандыдат педагагічных навук, дацэнт Аляксандр Корзюк, сёння гэта не толькі перыядычнае выданне, але і сапраўдны навукова-метадычны цэнтр, які вялікую ўвагу ўдзяляе працы з аўтарамі, чытацкай аўдыторыяй, студэнцкай і вучнёўскай моладдзю, праводзіць семінары-практыкумы і трэнінгі з настаўнікамі гісторыі ўстаноў агульнай сярэдняй адукацыі, сустрэчы са студэнтамі, квэсты для падлеткаў і моладзі.

— **Ці мяняе супрацоўніцтва з часопісам яго аўтараў? – цікаўлюся ў Аляксандра Корзюка.**

— Вельмі часта, калі заяўлены артыкул па пэўнай тэме, у канцы сумеснай працы з аўтарам мы атрымліваем зусім іншы па форме падачы і змесце тэкст. Падрыхтоўка артыкула – бес-

перапынны працэс развіцця аўтара як даследчыка, як чалавека, які хоча сваю думку зрабіць зразумелай для чытачоў. Немагчыма ведаць усё. Таму гэта супольная праца па фарміраванні ўласных прафесійных кампетэнцый не толькі аўтараў, але і членаў рэдакцыі.

Падчас супрацоўніцтва з аўтарамі, якія займаюцца гістарычнымі даследаваннямі па розных кірунках, мы таксама ўзбагачаем свае веды, даведваемся шмат новага.

— **Вялікая колькасць аўтараў і разнастайнасць тэм дапамагаюць фарміраваць у чытача ўяўленні пра тое, наколькі цікавая наша краіна і яе гісторыя?**

— Мінуты год у краіне быў прысвечаны гістарычнай памяці, а для нашага часопіса гэта тэма актуальная заўсёды. Усё, што мы робім, накіравана на папулярызацыю гістарычных ведаў, выхаванне патрыятызму, грамадзянскіх пачуццяў. Артыкулы, якія дру-

2023

куюцца ў часопісе, сапраўды ўражваюць чытачоў, але ў той жа час яны паказваюць, што ў гісторыі застаецца дастаткова белых плямаў. Мы імкнёмся гаварыць пра тыя падзеі, тых асоб, якімі павінны ганарыцца. Багата імёнаў, якія многім невядомыя, але яны вартыя таго, каб пра іх нагадвалі, адкрывалі для шырокай публікі. Для гэтай мэты служаць рубрыкі “Постаці нашай гісторыі”, “Імёны вядомыя і невядомыя”, “Выхаванне гісторыяй” і іншыя. Так, супрацоўніца гомельскай навуковай бібліятэкі Алена Ведзь падрыхтавала два цікавыя артыкулы пра архітэктараў, якія праектавалі бібліятэку, праспект і плошчу Перамогі ў Гомелі. Перад чытачамі паўсталі лёсы Валянціны і Івана Бурлакоў, якія ў адказ на заклік “Камуністы, наперад – на аднаўленне роднай Беларусі!” пасля Вялікай Айчыннай вайны прыехалі ў Гомель і звязалі сваё жыццё з адбудаваннем гэтага горада, фарміраваннем аблічча яго сучаснага цэнтру. Вельмі шмат артыкулаў было прысвечана дзеячам культуры, мастацтва, навукі. Напрыклад, калектывам аўтараў з Інстытута гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі пад кіраўніцтвам Сяргея Віцязя і Вольгі

Мядзведзевай падрыхтаваны артыкул “Ураджэнцы Беларусі ў сусветнай археалогіі”. Там характарызуецца дзейнасць цэлай плеяды спецыялістаў з Беларусі, якія па розных прычынах у канцы XVIII – пачатку XX стагоддзяў апынуліся за межамі сваёй радзімы, зрабілі вялікі ўклад у развіццё еўрапейскай і сусветнай археалогіі, былі ўганараваны належным чынам у гэтых краінах і зараз з’яўляюцца часткай іх гістарычнай памяці. Сярод іх – Зыгмунд Мінейка, Іван Чэрскі, Бенядзікт Дыбоўскі і іншыя навукоўцы, якія ў розных кутках свету працягвалі займацца даследаваннямі, асветай і спрыялі росту адукацыі і навуковых ведаў.

— **Ад навукоўцаў не адзін раз даводзіцца чуць, што гісторыя – жывая, яна можа з часам мяняцца, бо з’яўляюцца новыя артэфакты, дакументы, гіпотэзы. Гістарычны часопіс дапамагае сачыць за яе развіццём?**

— Сапраўды, немагчыма проста ўзяць і вывучыць гісторыю, бо яна адлюстроўвае абсалютна ўсё, што мае дачыненне да жыцця дзейнасці чалавека і грамадства. Але ход сусветнага гістарычнага працэсу можна зразумець. Факты сёння знайсці вельмі лёгка – у бібліятэках, у інтэрнэце, навуковых крыніцах, манаграфічнай літаратуры. Яны з’яўляюцца падставай для абагульненняў, высноў, вылучэння заканамернасцяў гістарычнага развіцця. Матэрыялы, якія друкуюцца ў часопісе, імкнучыся ўпісаць гістарычныя падзеі і асобы, нават калі тыя маюць лакальны характар, у агульнанацыянальны або нават агульнаеўрапейскі кантэкст, таму што ніводная гістарычная падзея не з’яўляецца ізаляванай. Гэта частка ланцужка, які прывёў да пэўных вынікаў. Фармулёўка прычынна-выніковых сувязяў, іх абгрунтаванне ў многім вызначаюць тэматыку артыкулаў і метадычных распрацовак, якія знаходзяцца адлюстраванне на старонках часопіса.

— **Гэтыя веды дапамагаюць зразумець падзеі, якія адбываюцца ў**

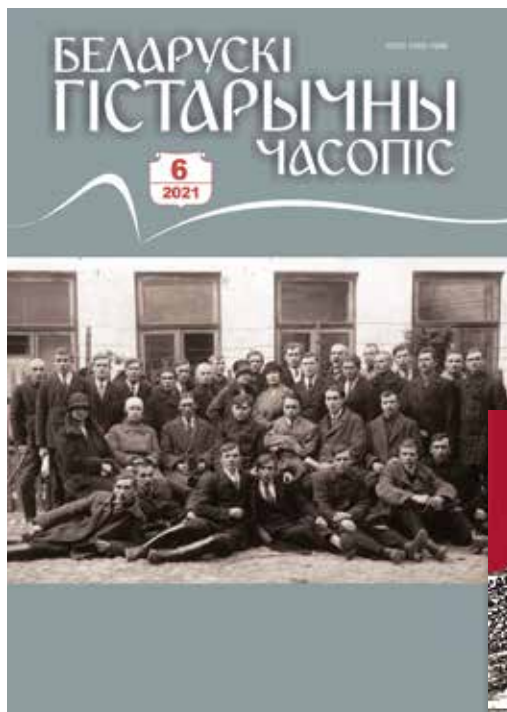


тым ліку і сёння, і як на нас уплывае вопыт, закладзены папярэднімі пакаленнямі?

— Вы правільна абазначылі місію гісторыі. Гісторыя – гэта навука, якая не толькі тлумачыць мінулае. З яе дапамогай сапраўды можна паказаць, чаму мы цяпер жывём так, а не інакш. Усе падзеі маюць гістарычнае абгрунтаванне, з’яўляюцца наступствамі пэўных прычын, якія рэалізаваліся ў тых ці іншых гістарычных умовах. Гэтыя падыходы можна знайсці і ў школьных падручніках. Дзеці вучаць гісторыю для таго, каб зразумець, хто мы, адкуль наш род, што мы маем за сваімі плячыма, і якая нас можа чакаць будучыня. Чалавек без пошуку адказаў на гэтыя пытанні з’яўляецца недзеяздольным. Ён будзе ісці наобмацак, не ведаць, якія арыенціры ў грамадства, у дзяржаву, якія канструктыўныя мэты яго самарэалізацыі ў соцыўме. Тут гісторыя выконвае светапоглядную функцыю. Яе вывучэнне дазваляе не згубіцца ў сучасным інфармацыйным грамадстве, а цвёрда стаяць на нагах. Узгадаем словы, сказаныя ў XIX стагоддзі Мікалаем Чарнышэўскім, якія актуальныя і цяпер,



1997



разам з супрацоўнікамі Беларуска-казахстанскага культурна-адукацыйнага цэнтра на базе БДПУ імя Максіма Танка займаецца пошукам і ўвекавечаннем імёнаў воінаў – ураджэнцаў Казахстана, якія змагаліся і загінулі на беларускай зямлі. Акрамя таго, добрае супрацоўніцтва склалася з расійскімі педагогамі: прафесарамі Вольгай Стралавай з Хаба-

чымасць паглядзець на гісторыю з беларускага пункту гледжання. Ён мае месца быць, бо наш народ ніколі не быў аб'ектам гісторыі, ён выступаў як суб'ект, як народ-творца, народ-стваральнік, народ-ваяр, які абараняў сваю тэрыторыю ад захопнікаў. Акрамя таго, часопіс дае магчымасць быць у трэндзе сучасных навуковых даследаванняў, даведацца, якія ёсць напрацоўкі ў галіне беларусазнаўства, мастацтвазнаўства, культуралогіі, якімі могуць карыстацца замежныя калегі. Не ва ўсіх ёсць магчымасць прыехаць папрацаваць у нашых архівах. І публікацыі, створаныя ў часопісе на аснове архіўных даных, могуць у такім выпадку аказацца вельмі карыснымі. Плюс – гэта магчымасць, як кажуць, “зверыць гадзіннік”. Навука не можа развівацца ізалявана. Яна, як і культура, не мае меж.

— Ці дапаможа часопіс разабрацца маладым людзям у тым, чым яны могуць ганарыцца?

— Тут мы не можам з упэўненасцю казаць пра кожны выпадак, але гатовы расказаць пра агульныя тэндэнцыі. За 30 гадоў “Беларускі гістарычны часопіс” выходзіў не адно пакаленне патрыётаў – навукоўцаў, настаўнікаў, метадыстаў. Для многіх нашых чытачоў шлях у навуку альбо цікавасці да Беларусі пачаўся менавіта са старонак “БГЧ”.

— Сёння навукоўцы выбіраюць новыя тэмы і кірункі даследаванняў, ад агульнага асвятлення пэўных падзей і лічбаў пераходзяць да больш вузкіх пытанняў. Як гэта адбываецца на рабоце часопіса?

— Гэта два адначасовыя працэсы. З аднаго боку, ідзе дыферэнцыяцыя галін навуковых ведаў. Напрыклад, развіваюцца гісторыя штодзённасці, мікрагісторыя, вусная гісторыя, эпіграфіка, гісторыя касцюма, гісторыя зносін і г. д. З другога, працягваецца іншы працэс – інтэграцыя – узбуйненне галін навуковых ведаў. Гэта звязана з тым, што ўвогуле ХХІ стагоддзе ў навуцы – час міждысцыплінарнасці. Калі мы хочам атрымаць вынік, які адпавядае рэчаіснасці, гісторык павінен

пра тое, што можна быць адукаваным чалавекам і не ведаць мноства навук, але не любіць і не ведаць гісторыю можа толькі чалавек абсалютна неразвіты разумова. Для любой асобы пытанні гісторыі, продкаў, Радзімы з'яўляюцца жыватворнымі, якія фарміруюць яго светапогляд і, адпаведна, яго як члена сучаснага грамадства.

— Якія міжнародныя сувязі падтрымлівае часопіс?

— За 30 гадоў існавання часопіса яго чытачамі, аўтарамі, суаўтарамі выступалі многія навукоўцы і педагогі з розных краін: Расійскай Федэрацыі, Казахстана, Украіны, Грузіі, Польшчы, Чэхіі, Ірака і інш. З апошніх прыкладаў магу назваць нашу супрацоўніцтва з выкладчыкам Еўразійскага нацыянальнага ўніверсітэта з Астаны Таццянай Кошман, якая

раўска і Яўгенам Вяземскім з Масквы. Гэта вядомыя ў Расіі навукоўцы. Яны знаёмяць нашых настаўнікаў са сваімі тэарэтычнымі і практычнымі напрацоўкамі, актыўна прапагандуюць наш часопіс у Расіі.

“Беларускі гістарычны часопіс” у ліку вядучых гістарычных выданняў краін СНД забяспечваў інфармацыйную падтрымку Міжнароднаму гістарычнаму навукова-адукацыйнаму форуму «Гістарычная навука і сучасная адукацыя – прастора дыялогу і супрацоўніцтва», які адбыўся 22 – 25 сакавіка 2023 г. на базе Новасібірскага дзяржаўнага педагогічнага ўніверсітэта.

— Чым можа быць цікавы часопіс людзям з іншых краін і нашым суайчыннікам?

— У першую чаргу часопіс дае маг-

карыстацца метадамі з іншых навук. Гэта асабліва заўважана па даследаваннях у археалогіі, крыніцазнаўстве і гістарыяграфіі, археаграфіі. Напрыклад, дацэнт Полацкага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта імя Еўфрасінні Полацкай Алена Сумко паспяхова займаецца вуснай гісторыяй. Для часопіса яна падрыхтавала змястоўны артыкул, які грунтуецца на вуснагістарычных сведчаннях жыхароў Віцебскай вобласці, дзяцінства якіх прыпала на вайны і пасляваенныя гады. У час экспедыцыі Алена Вячаславаўна разам

на тэрыторыі Беларусі. З аднаго боку, тэматыка можа паказацца дастаткова вузкай, з другога – яна патрабуе комплекснага падыходу да даследавання, бо яна звязаная з архівазнаўствам, статыстыкай, гісторыяй рэлігіі, культуры, мастацтва. Так, ён прапанаваў нам два артыкулы пра тэрыторыю рассялення і колькасны склад старавераў на Беларусі ў сярэдзіне XIX стагоддзя, а таксама пра стараверскія храмы і іх архітэктурныя асаблівасці.

Вельмі актуальна сёння краязнаў-

ны, займаюцца выяўленнем і апісаннем археалагічных помнікаў, актыўна працуюць на базе школьных музеяў.

— **Каго б хацелі бачыць сярод аўтараў часопіса ў Год міру і стваральнай працы?**

— Мы гатовы супрацоўнічаць як са сталымі аўтарамі, так і з маладымі. Чакаем цікавыя і якасна падрыхтаваныя матэрыялы, якія могуць быць запатрабаваныя шырокім колам чытачоў і мець магчымасць выкарыстання ў адукацыйным працэсе ва ўстановах сярэдняй і вышэйшай



■ Калектыв, які сёння робіць часопіс

з калегамі і студэнтамі сабрала значны матэрыял, у якім людзі дзяліліся ўспамінамі пра голад, пасляваенную разруху і адбудаваў гаспадаркі, стасункі з блізкімі людзьмі. Дадзенае даследаванне яшчэ цікава тым, што ўжо сталыя людзі ўзнаўляюць у сваёй памяці падзеі, якія былі 70 і нават больш гадоў таму, і глядзяць на іх праз прызму жыццёвага досведу. Вусныя даследаванні служаць доказам таго, што гісторыя грамадства, дзяржавы складаецца з гісторыі ўсіх яе членаў. Гісторыя – гэта мы.

Дацэнт Полацкага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта Уладзімір Аўсейчык займаецца гісторыяй стараверства

ства. Ён займаюцца як школьныя настаўнікі, так і дактары навук. Напрыклад, загадчык кафедры гісторыі Беларусі, археалогіі і спецыяльных гістарычных дысцыплін Гродзенскага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта імя Янкі Купалы Сяргей Піваварчык выступіў на нашых старонках з арыгінальным матэрыялам, звязаным з помнікамі фартыфікацыі Аўгустоўскага канала, якія могуць быць выкарыстаны ў турыстычных мэтах. Не адстаюць і настаўнікі, якія займаюцца краязнаўствам з вучнямі. Яны ўздываюць пытанні мемарыялізацыі падзей Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, папулярызуюць гісторыю сёвай мінуўшчы-

адукацыі. Вельмі добра, што да нашых аўтараў далучаюцца музейныя супрацоўнікі і бібліятэкары – гэта тыя катэгорыі чытачоў, якія раней не былі дастаткова актыўнымі, аднак цяпер маем тэндэнцыю да павелічэння матэрыялаў з іх боку. Адзначу таксама, што многія настаўнікі ў рэгіёнах робяць цікавыя справы, іх вопыт можа быць карысным для іх калег.

— **Аляксандр Аляксандравіч, дзякуй за інтэрв'ю. Жадаем Вам і часопісу добрабыту, цікавых адкрыццяў і цікавых чытачоў.**

Алена **Дзядзюля**

Фота з архіва рэдакцыі "Беларускага гістарычнага часопіса"

“ПЕСНЯ ПРА ЗУБРА” — СУЧАСНАЕ ПРАЧЫТАННЕ

У Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы Беларусі працуе выстава “Мікола Гусоўскі. Песня пра зубра”. Яна прымеркавана да 500-годдзя з часу першага выдання знакамітага твора.

Прадстаўнік эпохі Адраджэння, аматар новалацінскай паэзіі, Гусоўскі стаў адным з заснавальнікаў жанру ліра-эпічнай паэмы ў літаратуры Усходняй Еўропы.

Гусоўскі напісаў “Песню”, калі знаходзіўся ў складзе дыпламатычнай місіі Вялікага Княства Літоўскага. Рабіў ён яе на лацінскай мове па просьбе папы Льва X Медычы, які хацеў больш даведацца пра незвычайную жывёліну. Але Мікола Гусоўскі ў сваім творы «Carmen de statura feritate ac venatione Bisontis» («Песня пра выгляд, лютасць зубра і паляванне на яго») не проста распавёў пра магутнага ляснога волата. Паэма стала гімнам краіне, роздумам над яе лёсам. Ці мог ён тады ўявіць, што гэты твор чакае вялікая слава і што нават праз стагоддзі даследчыкі будуць надаваць яму пільную ўвагу.

Выстава ў “Нацыяналцы” – літаратурна-мастацкая. Тут сабраны выданні і артыкулы з фондаў бібліятэкі, прысвечаныя Гусоўскаму і яго твору. Не адзін раз да твора звярталіся вядомыя перакладчыкі. Так, на выстаўцы пададзены пераклад на беларускую мову Язэпа Семяжона, пераклады на рускую і балгарскую мовы. У 1980 годзе, калі ў Беларусі адзначалася 500-годдзе з дня нараджэння Міколы Гусоўскага, свет пабачыла выданне “Песні пра зубра” на лацінскай, беларускай і рускай мовах. Тады ж імя паэта і яго дзень нараджэння былі ўнесены ЮНЕСКА ў міжнародны календар памятных дат.

Сюжэт паэмы не раз спрабавалі пераасэнсаваць знакамітыя беларускія мастакі – Арлен Кашкурэ-





віч, Міхаіл Басалыга, Барыс Забораў, Уладзімір Савіч і многія іншыя. Выданні з іх ілюстрацыямі і асобныя аўтарскія эстампы таксама пададзены на выстаўцы.

На экспазіцыі прадстаўлена кніга ручной работы з гравюрамі ў тэхніках афорта і меца-тынта мастака Юрыя Якавенкі. Гэта ўнікальнае спалучэнне літаратуры і выяўленчага мастацтва. Кніга выканана ў элітарным кірунку кніжнага мастацтва. Яна надрукавана на паперы ручной работы (якая ствараецца па тых жа тэхналогіях, што былі ў Сярэднявеччы), яе вокладка зроблена з натуральных матэрыялаў.

Сваім бачаннем твора Гусоўскага падзяліліся выкладчыкі і студэнты Беларускай дзяржаўнай акадэміі мастацтваў і гімназіі-каледжа імя І.В. Ахрэмчыка. Незвычайная эпічная паэма і сёння натхняе на стварэнне цікавых твораў. У экспазіцыі прадстаўлена больш за 45 работ двух дзясяткаў аўтараў. Яны выкананы ў розных тэхніках, у лічбавым і высокім друку, жывапісе, графіцы, у каліграфіі, ёсць тут і партрэты, і сюжэтныя экспазіцыі.

Цікава, як у работах перададзена сувязь часоў і сімвалаў. Мастакі эксперыментуюць са шрыфтамі, спалучаюць выяву зубра з радкамі твора, напісанага паўтысячагоддзя таму. Тут можна пабачыць інтэрпрэтацыі тытульнага ліста, ілюстрацыі, якімі можна было б аформіць у будучым новыя выданні “Песні пра зубра”. Да ўдзелу ў выстаўцы былі запрошаны і кітайскія студэнты, яны паспрабавалі пры дапамозе кітайскіх іерогліфаў перадаць сваё ўяўленне пра “беларускага бізона”.

Яўген **Кручкоў**
Фота Лізы Голад



У пасляваенныя гады, калі вёскі інтэнсіўна адбудоваліся пасля пажараў, людзям хацелася забыцца на ўсе тыя нягоды, праз якія яны прайшлі. Ім неабходны былі цяпло і ўтульнасць, яны думалі, чым упрыгожыць свае дамы. Калі сапраўдныя карціны былі недаступнымі з-за свайго кошту, патрэбны былі рэчы, якія маглі б іх замяніць. Нядзіва, што побач з вышытымі ручнікамі, саматканымі пошцілкамі ў інтэр'еры пачалі з'яўляцца расфарбаваныя шкельцы. На іх вытворчасць не трэба было шмат часу і матэрыялаў. Народныя мастакі спрабавалі зрабіць на шкле малюнкi, якія сустрэкалі ў кнігах, часопісах, альбо перадаць сюжэты казак. Малявалі кветкі і прыгожыя краявіды. Стваралася многа падобных адна на адну работ. Нескладаны сілуэт птушкі, коціка, галубоў, ці прыгажунь у капелюшах можна было лёгка паўтарыць.

Фарба часта спалучалася з бляскам фольгі, якую размяшчалі за шклом. Яна сапраўды дадае асаблівы эффект: залаты і срэбны фоны робяць просты малюнак больш “багатым”. Карцінкі на шкле выдатна ўпісваліся ў пасляваенны вясковы інтэр'ер і адлюстроўвалі ўяўленні аб прыгажосці цэлага пакалення жыхароў вёскі. Пік папулярнасці “відзікаў” (такую назву роспісаў на шкле даследчыкі пачулі ў Вілейскім раёне) прыпадае на 50 – 60-я гады. У вясковых хатах можна было пабачыць як уласна шклянкі-маляванкі, так і распісаныя рамкі для абразоў і фотаздымкаў.

Аздабленыя малюнкамі рамкі дарылі на вяселлі і наваселлі. Узор на іх мог ісці па краю альбо запаўняць амаль усё шкло, заставаліся толькі акенцы для фатаздымкаў. Доўгі час на такія маляваныя ўпрыгажэнні даследчыкі не звярталі ўвагі, нават лічылі за кіч. Сапраўды, у сярэдзіне мінулага стагоддзя “відзікі” ствараліся масава і прадаваліся на кірмашах, бадай як у наш час танныя кітайскія сувеніры. Далікатныя, хрупкія работы маглі быць страчанымі, калі б даследчыкі не заўважылі, што шкло замяніла палатно многім таленавітым народным мастакам, чые імёны сталі адкрываць толькі ў 90-я гады. Многія з іх працавалі на Заходнім Палессі. Часам на шкле яны пісалі шыкоўныя карціны і нават абразы. Дарэчы, сёння вядома толькі адно імя народнай мастачкі – Алены Васілеўскай з Бярозаўскага

раёна, якая малявала на шкле выявы святых. Наогул у Беларусі абразоў на шкле знойдзена ўсяго каля двух дзясяткаў, у той час як у замежных музеях захоўваюцца багатыя калекцыі падобных работ.

Вывучэннем і збіраннем роспісаў на шкле вучоныя заняліся зусім нядаўна. Толькі ў апошнія гады пра “відзікі” загаварылі як пра феномен інісінага (ці як яшчэ кажуць “наіўнага”) мастацтва, якое заслугоўвае ўвагі, можа нават такой як да маляваных дываноў і распісных куфраў. Між іншым, у малюнкаў на шкле шмат агульнага з іншымі відамі дэкаратыўна-прыкладной творчасці. Напрыклад, на іх паказаны сюжэты з увасабленнем мары аб раі, як на маляваных дыванах. Яскравыя элементы на шкле падаюцца насычаным колерам на цёмным ці нейтральным фоне – як на тканых пошцілках. Папулярныя схемы вышывак (тых жа коцікаў, папугаяў, паненак, трох асілкаў на конях) мастакі на вёсках

маглі выкарыстаць і для стварэння ўпрыгажанняў на шкле.

“У пасляваенныя гады такія работы ў вялікай колькасці вазілі і прадавалі па вёсках. Яны добра ўпісваліся ў інтэр'ер, гарманіравалі з поліхромнай гладзевай вышыўкай, ткацтвам, моднымі ў той час фотапаштоўкамі з надпісамі, накшталт “Любі мяня, как я тебя”. Малюнкi на шкле масава ствараліся невядомымі мастакамі. Сюжэты іх нават называлі мяшчанскімі, таму спецыялісты доўга адмаўлялі такія работы, – узгадвае

доктар мастацтвазнаўства Яўген Сахута. – Але ішоў час, і мы пачалі мяняць погляды, асабліва калі пабачылі работы, якія па рынках, па вёсках ніхто не вазіў. Іх рабілі для сябе канкрэтныя майстры. Часам яны распісвалі куфры, а калі ім траплялася шкло, маглі ў такой жа стылістыцы намаляваць букет ці арнамент. Мы сталі прыглядацца, збіраць тое, што ўцалела ў старых хатах. У музеях з'явіліся калекцыі, якія яшчэ патрабуюць вывучэння”.

У Бярозаўскім і Пружанскім раёнах такія тэхнікі ўжо ўключаны ў спіс нематэрыяльнай гісторыка-культурнай спадчыны. Роспісам па шкле займаюцца народныя майстры, яго вывучаюць у школьных гуртках і цэнтрах дадатковай адукацыі. У наш час такое рамяство стала развівацца на новым узроўні. Шкляная паверхня дазваляе ствараць мастацкія творы.

РАДАСЦЬ БАБУЛІ СОНІ

Як выглядаюць роспісы на шкле



У мастацкай галерэі Мінскага абласнога цэнтра народнай творчасці працуе выстаўка “Відзікі: беларускі традыцыйны роспіс на шкле”. У такой колькасці адначасова падобных работ яшчэ ніколі не выстаўляліся. Апошняя выстаўка, прысвечаная роспісу на шкле, праходзіла дзесяць гадоў таму ў Дзяржаўным музеі архітэктуры і побыту. Дарэчы, калекцыя з яго прадстаўлена на экспазіцыі “відзікаў”. Наогул, да выставачнага праекта далучыліся пяць музеяў, а таксама прыватныя калекцыянеры. Тут можна пабачыць “відзікі”, якія захоўваюцца музейнымі супрацоўнікамі Вілейкі, Заслаўя, Бярозы, а таксама аддзела старажытна-беларускай культуры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук.

Адну з работ, прадстаўленую на экспазіцыі, перадала Наталля Плакса. Даследчыца збірае інфармацыю пра мастакоў мінулага, і рупіцца, каб работы, якія раней ўпрыгожвалі хаты, не сышлі ў небывідае. “Усе прызвычаліся глядзець на Нясвіжчыну як на Радзівілаўшчыну. А там ёсць яшчэ пра што расказаць, напрыклад пра народную творчасць. Я ўжо 20 гадоў збіраю народныя шэдэўры, раблю іх фота. Мая калекцыя фотаздымкаў маляванак ужо сягае за сотню”. Літаральна перад адкрыццём выстаўкі даследчыца нарэшце

пашчасціла атрымаць работу Іосіфа Мысліцкага, які жыў у ваколіцах Нясвіжа, творчасць якога яна вывучае. Гэты малюнак на шкле яна назвала “Вяночак”. Сапраўды ўражае, наколькі гарманічна ў ім пададзена кожная кветка. У карціны свая гісторыя. Яна вісела ў хаце адзінокай бабулі Соні. Старая расказала, што неяк у яе трэснула шкло, і каб замяніць шыбу яна купіла новае. Вось толькі па дарозе да дому сустрэла мастака Мысліцкага. Той разам з суседам “уламаў” жанчыну аддаць шкло пад карціну, для якой мужчыны нават зрабілі рамку. Так на цэнтральнай сцяне ў хаце жанчыны з’явіўся намаляваны букет. Старая, калі заўважыла пільны інтарэс даследчыкаў да яе ўпрыгажэння, адразу папярэдзіла: “Нікому яе не аддам. Гэта ж мая радасць!”. Калі бабулі Соні не стала, спадчыннікі закінулі “размяляванае шкло” на гарышча. Толькі праз некалькі гадоў даследчыца змагла выкупіць работу. Наталля Плакса прызналася, што хвалявалася, ці стане гэта карціна радасцю, яшчэ для каго-небудзь: “Бачыла б бабуля Соня, колькі цяпер людзей на выстаўцы спыняюцца каля яе “Вяночка”!”

Таццяна **Бузінойская**
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі



Вучоныя Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук прэзентавалі кнігу “Вайна – трагедыя і памяць народа”. Выданне гэта незвычайнае, бо ўспаміны відавочцаў жаклівых падзей сабраныя не гісторыкамі, а мовазнаўцамі. Запісы рабіліся ў розных кутках Беларусі, куды даследчыкі выязджалі ў экспедыцыі, каб вывучаць асаблівасці маўлення мясцовага насельніцтва. Уласна, новая кніга – гэта зборнік дыялектных тэкстаў, у якіх перададзена адметная гаворка вяскоўцаў. У той жа час – гэта ўнікальная крыніца споведзей-ўспамінаў пра жаклівыя ваенныя падзеі, якія перажылі расказчыкі.

Мовазнаўцы паспелі запісаць аповеды сведкаў, час нараджэння якіх прыпадае на другую палову ці канец XIX стагоддзя або пачатак XX стагоддзя. Збіраць гэту інфармацыю было не проста, людзі ўзгадвалі, як акупанты палілі вёскі, як на іх вачах забівалі родных і суседзяў, як туліліся ў халодных зямлянках і збягалі хавацца на балоты пад час карных аперацый. Тут падаюцца і ўспаміны пра канцлагеры, пра тое, што давялося перажыць тым, каго прымусова вывезлі на Нямеччыну ў якасці бясплатнай працоўнай сілы. Асобныя гісторыі паказваюць і цяжкія, галодныя пасляваенныя гады. “На першы погляд здаецца, што гэта кніга знаёміць з індывідуальнымі гісторыямі. Але насамрэч тут уваблена наша калектыўная, усенарод-

ная, агульнанацыянальная памяць пра жаклівыя трагічныя перыяд”, – заўважае загадчык аддзела дыялекталогіі і лінгвагеаграфіі Інстытута мовазнаўства Цэнтра даследаванняў беларускай культуры, мовы і літаратуры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Вераніка Курцова.

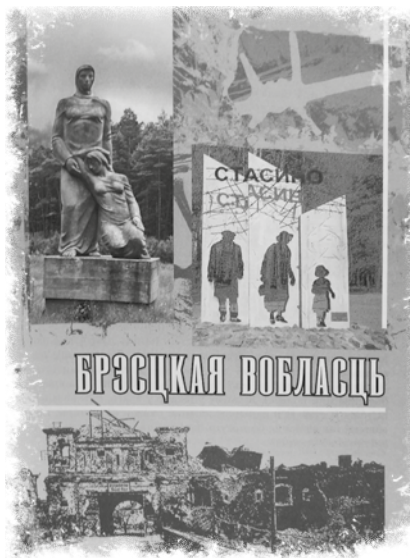
Гэта энцыклапедыя сабраная з мікрагісторый. У ёй змешчаны расказы, запісаныя даследчыкамі на тэрыторыі 19 раёнаў, 264 вёсак Беларусі. У даведках падаецца інфармацыя пра населеныя пункты, якіх ужо не існуе, і якія былі спалены акупантамі. Людзі ўзгадваюць таксама пра ўдзел у партызанскім руху, у такім выпадку ў кнізе падаюцца звесткі пра партызанскія фарміраванні і асоб, якія іх узначальвалі.

А яшчэ дзякуючы зробленым мовазнаўцамі запісам можна даведацца пра побыт вяскоўцаў, пра тое, чым яны харчаваліся, як гадавалі дзетак, якімі рэчамі карысталіся, як жылі да вайны.

“Гэтыя жывыя размовы са сведкамі гучаць як набат. Амаль кожны аповед закончваецца словамі: “Не дай Бог гэткага жыцця як мы аджылі”. Гэта пасыл для нашчадкаў, заклік зрабіць усё магчымае, каб такое ніколі не паўтарылася, і каб у далейшым вучоным не прыйшлося запісываць трагічныя, балючыя тэксты”, – адзначае Вераніка Курцова.

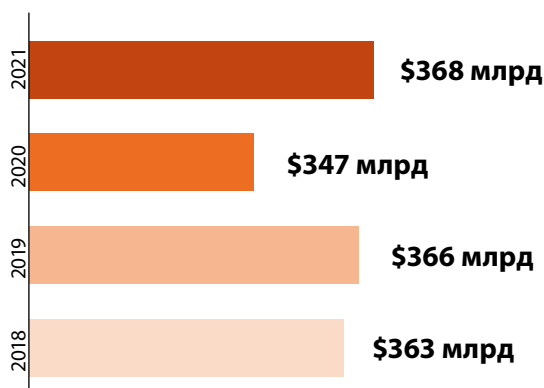
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Надзея Бузіноўская



Курс — на супрацоўніцтва

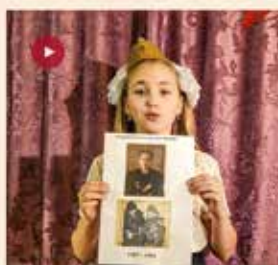
Беларусь і кітайскі Спецыяльны адміністрацыйны раён Ганконг будуць развіваць гандлёва-эканамічнае супрацоўніцтва. Аб гэтым карэспандэнту БелТА расказалі ў беларускім пасольстве ў Кітаі. Аб пашырэнні кантактаў ішла размова на сустрэчы кіраўніка беларускай дыпламатычнай місіі ў КНР Юрыя Сянью з кіраўніком урада кітайскага Спецыяльнага адміністрацыйнага раёна Ганконг Джо-нам Кейсі Лі. Бакі разгледзелі актуальныя пытанні гандлёва-эканамічнага, фінансаванага, міжбанкаўскага, інвестыцыйнага і гуманітарнага ўзаемадзеяння паміж Беларуссю і кітайскім САР Ганконг. У тым ліку размова ішла аб рэалізацыі сумесных праектаў на пляцоўцы Кітайска-беларускага індустрыяльнага парка "Вялікі камень". Спецыяльны адміністрацыйны раён Кітайскай Народнай Рэспублікі Ганконг (Сянган) – адзін з вядучых сусветных фінансавых цэнтраў. Да 1997 года – калонія Вялікабрытаніі. Насельніцтва складае 7,3 млн чалавек. **ВУП** у 2022 годзе – **\$363,4 млрд**, на душу насельніцтва – **\$49,4 тыс.** На сферу паслуг прыпадае каля 93 працэнтаў ВУП, у сувязі з чым яго эканоміка лічыцца самай "паслуга-арыентаванай" у свеце. Ганконгская біржа з'яўляецца адной з буйнейшых у свеце, на ёй зарэгістраваны 2234 кампаніі з агульнай капіталізацыяй **\$4,46 трлн**.



■ Аб'ём ВУП спецыяльнага адміністрацыйнага раёну Кітайскай Народнай Рэспублікі Ганконг з 2018 па 2021 гады



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Сергей Грачев
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Дыпламаты расказваюць пра герояў

З нагоды 78-й гадавіны Перамогі ў Вялікай Айчыннай вайне Міністэрства замежных спраў Беларусі сумесна з беларускімі замежнымі ўстановамі запусціла памятную акцыю ў сацыяльных сетках. Пад адзіным хэштэгам #МыПомним беларускія дыпламаты распавядаюць пра подзвігі выдатных суайчыннікаў, сваіх родных і блізкіх у гады вайны. Героямі гэтых гісторый сталі, у прыватнасці, Гаўрыіл Палаўчэня, Мікалай Шут, Зінаіда Тусналобава, Валерый Паўлоўскі, дзядуля Пасла Беларусі ў Казахстане Паўла Уцюпіна, дзядуля часовага паверанага ў справах Беларусі ў Эстоніі Аляксея Зубко і многія іншыя.

Пасол нагадаў пра генацыд беларускага народа

Надзвычайны і Паўнамоцны Пасол Рэспублікі Беларусь у Федэратыўнай Рэспубліцы Бразілія Сяргей Лукашэвіч у якасці спецыяльнага гасця прыняў удзел у мерапрыемстве, якое было арганізавана Заканадаўчай асамблеяй штата Сан-Паўлу і прысвечана святкаванню 78-й гадавіны заканчэння Другой сусветнай вайны.

У сваім выступленні перад прадстаўнікамі бразільскага істэблішменту, замежнага дыпламатычнага корпуса ў Бразіліі, у тым ліку з дружалюбных Беларусі краін, Сяргей Лукашэвіч надаў асаблівую ўвагу тэматыцы генацыду беларускага народа. Дыпламат сказаў пра важнасць ушанавання памяці падзвігу нашага народа ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Кіраўнік беларускай дыпламатычнай місіі таксама звярнуў увагу на неабходнасць давадзення аб'ектыўнай інфармацыі аб знакавым характары Дня Перамогі да прадстаўнікоў шырокай бразільскай грамадскасці. У мерапрыемстве ўзялі ўдзел Генеральны консул Расійскай Федэрацыі ў горадзе Сан-Паўлу, дэпутаты Заканадаўчай асамблеі штата Сан-Паўлу.



Прадукцыя прэзентуецца ў Шанхаі

**Пятая кітайская міжнародная
выстава імпарту ў Шанхаі —
добрая пляцоўка для прэзентацыі
беларускай прадукцыі.**

Кітай — адзін з асноўных гандлёвых партнёраў для перапрацоўчых арганізацый Беларусі, гэта важны і перспектыўны рынак. У сувязі з гэтым арганізацыі галіны актыўна прымаюць удзел у пятай Кітайскай міжнароднай выставе імпарту ў Шанхаі. «Гэта добрая пляцоўка для прэзентацыі беларускай прадукцыі, для павышэння пазнавальнасці вытворцы і прадукту на кітайскім рынку», — адзначыла начальнік Галоўнага ўпраўлення знешнеэканамічнай дзейнасці Міністэрства сельскай гаспадаркі і харчавання Ксенія Мялешка. Сёлета на выставе былі прадстаўлены буйныя малака перапрацоўчыя заводы з узорами малочнай прадукцыі, у тым ліку сыроў, масла, сухога малака ў дробнай фасоўцы — тыя тавары, пастаўкі па якіх плануецца павялічваць.

Удзел у выставе прадугледжваецца не толькі для прэзентацыі, але і для заключэння кантрактаў, бо яе наведвальнікі — непасрэдныя пакупнікі прадукцыі.

На працягу апошніх некалькіх гадоў Кітай займае другое месца сярод больш чым ста краін — пакупнікоў беларускай прадукцыі. У КНР адгружаецца шырокі асартымент прадукцыі — ялавічына, мяса птушкі, малако ў спажывецкай упакоўцы, сухія малочныя прадукты, алеі рапсавы, кандытарскія вырабы і іншыя.