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IMPORTANT POINTS ARE ESTABLISHED, THE ACTION PLAN IS DEFINED

This meeting of the Presidents of Belarus and Russia Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin in Minsk was expected with great interest in the widest circles. In fact, it was special in many ways. Starting with the fact that the last time the Russian leader visited the Belarusian capital was in the summer of 2019, and ending with the atmosphere in which the negotiations took place with the participation of a wide range of high-ranking government officials from both sides.

It was decided a long time ago to meet in this composition to discuss issues of a strategic nature, to review the implementation of 28 allied programmes, giving the green light to the further work of governments. After all, at some points dotting the 'T' and, as they say, clearing the way on the integration track was required at the highest level. But one obvious thing immediately caught my eye — everyone gathered that day in the Palace of Independence not to argue and defend some of their momentary national interests (although they did not suffer), but to negotiate for the future.

Allied nature of relations

It is noteworthy that the meeting between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin immediately began with an expanded composition in the presence of members of the delegations. At the same time, the leaders of the countries did not sit opposite each other, as is usually the case during such negotiations, but side by side. This, no doubt, emphasised the special allied nature of relations.

The whole spectrum of Belarusian-Russian relations was discussed that day by the presidents of Belarus and Russia in

Minsk. Emphasis was placed on the strategy of cooperation primarily in the economic sphere. Industrial cooperation, import substitution, equal conditions for enterprises, the implementation of 28 union programmes — all this is aimed at minimising the negative impact of Western sanctions. An important topic on the negotiating agenda was cooperation in the energy sector. The heads of state also discussed countering security and defence challenges.

Warmly greeting Vladimir Putin and the members of the Russian delegation at the Palace of Independence, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that although there had not been such meetings at the highest level and in such a representative composition in Minsk for a long time due to circumstances, the interaction did not stop, “You are always welcome guests for us. The break in visits to Minsk did not prevent us from being in constant contact. Even our Western so-called partners were very worried that we sometimes meet very often. We met regularly both in the Russian Federation and at international venues. Our governments are also working intensively, many meetings are held at the level of regions and enterprises. This is confirmed by the steady growth of trade,



the solution of many issues that previously hindered cooperation.”

At the same time Aleksandr Lukashenko paid special attention to the fact that Russia and Belarus are open for dialogue with other countries, including European ones. The Head of State is convinced that this is very important in the current realities, “How successful we are in this work depends on the place that our countries will secure for themselves tomorrow in the new system of international coordinates.”

The President of Belarus also focused on the priority in relations between the two countries, “Our unconditional priority is the solution of sensitive economic issues on which the well-being of the population depends and, ultimately, the support of our reforms in the public and political spheres.”

There is more to work on

Aleksandr Lukashenko believes that both countries, thanks to joint steps, have generally managed to overcome the possible negative effects of sanctions pressure. A good example of this is the development and implementation of 28 allied programmes affecting various areas of cooperation. But there is still work to be

done here. President of Belarus proposed to once again discuss these issues in detail and, if necessary, take appropriate political decisions.

In turn, Russian President Vladimir Putin outlined the purpose of the meeting as follows: to sum up some results of the work of governments and various departments in various fields, but above all in the economy. The Russian leader added that the parties have recently paid much attention to security issues, cooperation in the international arena, and expressed satisfaction with the way bilateral relations are building on this track. He made an important point, “I would like to note something that everyone is already well aware of, but still it must be emphasised that Belarus is not only our good neighbour, with whom we have been working, taking into account each other’s interests, over the past decades, but Belarus is, of course, our ally in the truest sense of the word. Therefore, all other issues, including in the economic sphere, we decided on the basis of these data.”

The President of Russia also agreed with the thesis voiced by Aleksandr Lukashenko that the economy is now a priority, and cited the level of trade as an example:

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“Our trade turnover, I want to emphasise this, even before the events within the framework of the military operation, in 2021, increased by a third and reached \$38.5 billion. This is a very good and significant indicator. But over the ten months of this year, it has grown by another ten percent compared to the base of the past.”

From space to peaceful atom

During the talks, Vladimir Putin also noted that interstate cooperation between the two countries is developing in all areas. In particular, he cited the Belarusian NPP project as an example, emphasising that the Russian side is ready to further develop it on a full scale. The President of Russia noted that there are other important areas of cooperation, for example, in the financial sector, including within the framework of the EAEU, in the space industry, there are areas related to military-technical cooperation.

From the statement of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin at a meeting with media representatives following the talks, “The main issues of Russian-Belarusian relations were considered in a business-like and constructive manner — in the sphere of economy, in the cultural and humanitarian sphere, in the field of security and defence. And, of course, the discussions took place taking into account the situation in the world, which is developing in general and in our region in particular.

Let me emphasise that our countries are the closest allies and strategic partners, cooperation between which is developing on the principles of mutual respect and consideration of each other's interests. We are united by a common history, spiritual values, family and kinship ties that have developed between many Russians and Belarusians. Russia and Belarus are building the Union State together, consistently deepening economic integration, which is aimed at ensuring sustainable economic growth and improving the living standards of citizens.

Together we resist sanctions pressure from unfriendly states, attempts to isolate Russia and Belarus from global markets, coordinate steps to minimise the impact of illegal restrictive measures on the economies of our countries. And I must say that we are doing it quite confidently and effectively.

I would like to state with satisfaction the successful implementation of 28 sectoral integration programs developed in the context of the implementation of the Treaty on the Union State. To date, 600 out of almost 1,000 integration activities scheduled for implementation by 2023 have been implemented. This is over 60 percent — this is a very good movement forward, a good pace. In particular, a programme was implemented to harmonise currency regulation and control, an agreement on a joint monetary policy was signed, and accounting and financial reporting was unified. A unified system for the traceability of goods has been launched, and an interstate coordination centre for customs services has begun work. Next in line is the creation of an integrated system for the administration of indirect taxes and the establishment of a supranational tax committee.

Russia is the largest investor in the Belarusian economy with over \$4 billion in investment. About 2.5 thousand companies

with Russian participation are represented on the Belarusian market. Large-scale bilateral projects are being implemented in industry, in the field of high technology and innovation, in many key areas. In general, Russian and Belarusian enterprises maintain close cooperative ties and have established mutual deliveries of components and finished products. To finance promising import-substituting joint projects in mechanical engineering, machine tool building, and electronics, Russia has allocated an additional 105 billion roubles (Russian roubles) to our Belarusian partners.

I will also mention that Russia supplies oil and gas to Belarus on very favourable preferential terms, which confirms the privileged nature of our partnership and is a serious measure of support for the Belarusian economy. We discussed price parameters in the energy sector. I think that now, when we have had a one-on-one conversation with Aleksandr Grigoryevich, we will assume that all the main parameters, including such sensitive ones as pricing in the energy sector, have been agreed upon.

In addition, cooperation in the field of peaceful atom is systematically expanding. Next year we have in mind to complete the construction of the second power unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant, and its first unit has already generated about 10 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity in two years.

Our countries also cooperate closely in many other science-intensive industries. For example, in space exploration, including the joint creation of satellite vehicles. Next year, as agreed, a flight of a Belarusian cosmonaut to the orbital station is planned.

Of course, during today's talks, the issues of forming a common defence space and ensuring the security of the Union State, as well as cooperation within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, taking into account the fact that the chairmanship in the CSTO will pass to Belarus from January 1st, were also discussed in detail.

Let me remind you that within the framework of the consistent implementation of the common military doctrine of Russia and Belarus, joint military planning is being carried out, a Russian-Belarusian regional grouping of troops is operating. At present, activities of combat coordination of formations and military units of our countries are being carried out on the territory of Belarus. A unified air defence system has been created and is on combat duty. We agreed to continue to jointly take all necessary measures to reliably ensure the security of our two countries, to give priority to the training of troops, to increase their combat readiness and combat capability, and to continue the practice of regular joint exercises and other operational and combat training activities, to carry out mutual deliveries of much-needed weapons and to jointly engage in the production of new military equipment.

I consider it possible to continue the implementation of the proposals of the President of Belarus on training the crews of combat aircraft of the Belarusian army, which have already been converted for the possible use of air-launched ammunition with a special warhead. I emphasise that this form of cooperation is not our invention. The United States of America, for example, has been conducting similar activities with its allies within the NATO bloc for decades. Such coordinated measures are



extremely important in connection with the tense situation on the external borders of the Union State.”

From the statement of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at a meeting with media representatives following the talks, “Today, as we have always done with the President of the Russian Federation, we constructively and fruitfully held talks on the main issues of Belarusian-Russian cooperation. The emphasis was placed on strategic areas, primarily in the economic sphere. Traditionally, much attention was also paid to the foreign policy agenda.

The outgoing year in the entire thirty-year post-Soviet history has indeed become a record one in terms of the number and intensity of contacts at all levels. But this is objective — the situation in the world is rapidly changing, and these changes in depth and scale, without any exaggeration, are truly fateful. In fact, the future of the Belarusian and Russian peoples is being determined. The reality is this, and there is not a drop of pathos. Today we can unequivocally state that together we were able not only to survive, but also to find opportunities for the development of our economies. Moreover, unexpectedly for everyone. And above all those who created difficulties for us.

The day before in Bishkek, at a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, I already noted that the West’s primitive stamping of economic sanctions against our countries is beginning to fade. It is important (now it is obvious to everyone) that such restrictions hit the initiators like a boomerang. Moreover, it is by no means the figures who invented the sanctions that suffer, but ordinary people and business. This is on the conscience of those who unleashed first an economic war against our countries, and

then a proxy war with Russia at the hands of the Ukrainians. As it is now clear, to the last Ukrainian.

Nevertheless, 2022 gives reason to say, with cautious optimism for the time being, that we are coping, and quite well, with economic challenges. Unexpectedly for ourselves, we reveal our huge potential, which at other times we simply did not see or did not believe in it. But speed is needed in making and implementing decisions. Time is more important than money now. This is the essence of our negotiations today.

Vladimir Vladimirovich and I discussed the implementation of the general plan for economic development — 28 union programmes. So far, about 60 percent of the total number of tasks identified by these programmes have been completed. A number of system-forming documents were signed in the customs sphere, taxation, as the President (of Russia) spoke about. We need to build on our success. Of key importance are programmes that provide for the creation of unified energy markets. Appropriate instructions have been given to governments in order to finalise these programmes. Formation of a unified industrial and agricultural policy: we agreed that we will strengthen our cooperation, we will not create unnecessary parallel industries, if there are any in this or that country, and we will focus on industry. We talked about the unification of the regulation of the transport market. I think that in the near future we will remove all issues on this topic. This will ensure equal conditions for the activities of business entities and access of goods to public procurement. In all these areas, we decided to accelerate. Pace, pace and more pace. Time does not endure.

It is obvious that we need to focus our joint efforts on transforming the economies of Belarus and Russia in the direction

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of increasing their knowledge intensity, innovation, digitalisation and technological sovereignty. We need, probably, 60 percent of what we produce, we can consume it. Everything else is made for export. And when our Western partners left, we turned out to be in demand for huge Russia. And this is our common one, which we created quite recently. This is where we can do something. And if we are needed, and now Russia has discovered that we are needed on the Russian market, we go there and replace those who left. A little more time — and we will replace them. We, together with Russians, scientists, designers, will create samples that the world has never seen.

Based on the current situation along the perimeter of the borders, as the President (of Russia) has already said, we discussed some important details of cooperation in the field of military security. Today we put the C-400 complex, which you handed over to Belarus, on combat duty. And most importantly, the Iskander complex, which you also, having promised six months ago, handed over to us. You have just carefully touched upon a very sensitive topic (but we are not its authors) on the preparation and training of our crews (aircraft), capable of carrying special weapons and special ammunition. I must inform you that we have prepared the planes. It turned out that we have had such aircraft since Soviet times. We tested them in the Russian Federation. We are now, together with the Russians, preparing crews capable of flying these aircraft carrying specific ammunition. This is not a threat to anyone. I met several times in St. Petersburg, and in Moscow, and in Sochi, and informed you that tension along the perimeter of

the borders of the Union State causes us great concern. Primarily in the west. And we had to secure the Belarusian state. You have taken a decisive and very important step in supporting Belarus. Once again, many thanks to you.

“We have created the basis for the future breakthrough”

Following the summit talks, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin answered questions from Belarusian and Russian journalists

The first question was that the meetings of the presidents of Belarus and Russia always take place against the backdrop of conspiracy theories. The current one is no exception. The information space was literally overwhelmed by waves of fabrications that the Kremlin, they say, was engaged in the absorption of Belarus.

“Russia has no interest in absorbing anyone. There is simply no expediency in this,” said Vladimir Putin. “It’s not a matter of absorption. The issue is the coordination of economic policy. The way it is done in many other integration associations. Everything else is superficial, nonsense. These are attempts by our ill-wishers to slow down our integration process. And they do it only in order not to get effective and dangerous competitors in the world markets. That’s all.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko agrees with this point of view. However, he is convinced that the main thing is the results. Commenting on them, the President of Belarus noted that the parties discussed a number of burning issues, “Energy. Are we producing gas? No, we get natural gas from fraternal Russia. Are

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“Strengthening Belarusian-Russian ties has become a natural response to the changing situation in the world, in which we are constantly being tested and are being tested for strength. I believe that, despite some rough edges, we still find effective responses to various challenges and threats. The fateful decisions on closer integration of our states once again demonstrate to the whole world that only together can any pandemic, crisis or sanctions be overcome.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin,

“Belarus is not only our good neighbour, with whom we have been working, taking into account each other’s interests, over the past decades, but Belarus is, of course, our ally in the truest sense of the word.”

we producing 25 million tons of oil that we can process? And we have two modernised enterprises. Can we provide them (with raw materials)? No. Whom did they contact? Russian Federation. And not just contacted. Okay, volume is not a problem. And you also need favourable prices. And today there is also a problem to sell oil products, and so on and so forth. We discussed this and adopted decisions on these issues.”

Regarding energy prices, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that the governments will formalise the decisions made in the near future, “Then, I think, there will be a reason to talk... We fixed our price. It is beneficial for us. Russia helps a lot in this regard. New topics have appeared in the field of gas supplies. Don’t talk about them just yet. I can only say one thing: we are satisfied with the overall results of the discussion of the concept of a single gas market and pricing for the next three years.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko gave another example, “Oil and gas were not the main issues. Industrial policy: do not create parallel production. Cooperation! So that no one will ever bend us again, so that they don’t come, and then they leave it all and leave as it was done. Is this not good for us? Russia will manage without us, but we cannot do without it. And we agreed here that yes, we will act on equal terms.”

Another confirmation that the parties are working together is a joint statement on defence and security. The President of Belarus asked a reasonable question, “Let’s be honest, are we able to defend our independence and sovereignty alone,

without Russia? Unable. And in a difficult moment, he (Vladimir Putin) did not refuse. Today they will howl: ‘Putin has arrived, someone is scaring someone here’. Look, after our statements. And he went to meet us as a person close to Belarus.”

At the talks, they discussed cooperation on the BelNPP, and in foreign policy, moreover, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, jointly and on an equal footing. Therefore, he continued, it is meaningless to talk about some kind of absorption, “Russia has always met us halfway. Today there is not a single issue that has not been resolved. We are going to meet the Russian Federation in the most difficult moment... If someone thinks to tear us apart today, to drive a wedge, it will not work. In 2020, it was not he who attacked me here around the perimeter. Not Russia. Russia extended its hand to us. Just out of spite, one more time: they won’t be able to break off our relationship. They will only get stronger. And today, together with the President and our colleagues, we have actually created a base for a future breakthrough. We will make it.”

P.S. At the end of the negotiations and the press conference, the members of the delegations continued to communicate over a working dinner. The journalists noticed that Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko treated the guests in the Grand Banquet Hall of the Palace of Independence, but the heads of state were not there. It turned out that Aleksandr Lukashenko invited Vladimir Putin to a real Belarusian dinner at his home.

Vasily **Kharitonov**

PARTNERS MUST FEEL THE COLLECTIVE STRENGTH

On what Belarus will bring to the CSTO as part of its chairmanship in 2023

Strengthening the eastern flank of NATO, the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the border confrontation between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, the situation in Ukraine, political tension in Moldova. Unfortunately, there are no fewer points of tension along the perimeter of the former USSR. This means that the CSTO allies need to update their approaches to strengthening security. This was the main theme of the next session of the Collective Security Council in the capital of Armenia. The President of Belarus also took part in it.



Since the chairmanship in the CSTO is passing from Armenia to our country, the Head of the Belarusian State announced the priorities on which joint efforts should be concentrated in the coming year. And these are very specific actions and proposals aimed at solving urgent problems. It is no coincidence that experts pin their hopes on increasing the international prestige of this organization with the chairmanship of Belarus in the CSTO. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised a very important point, “In this raging and rapidly changing world, our allied relations must remain the same value. We must not allow ourselves to quarrel, to sow between us the seeds of contradictions and disagreements. The future of both our countries and our organisation will depend on this.”

The unipolar era is over

The agenda of the talks of the leaders of the CSTO countries in a narrow format, which lasted exactly three hours, included the most acute problems of international and regional security, ways and means of countering new challenges and risks. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that first at the SCO summit in Samarkand, and then in Astana at the CIS summit, the parties discussed pain points and problems that are emerging in

the world, “Now is the time to substantively discuss the issues of military-political cooperation, ensuring security at the CSTO site. Their relevance is growing day by day. It is no coincidence that this year we held four meetings, both in the format of a videoconference and in person. And so far, unfortunately, we have few reasons for optimism.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled the thesis that the unipolar system of the world order is objectively and irrevocably a thing of the past, “This process provokes a crisis of the system of international relations, boundless in its depth and scale, with many pain points all over the globe. A number of these points, unfortunately, are located in the European and Eurasian space, including in the area of responsibility of the CSTO.”

NATO’s unfriendly vectors

The President of Belarus drew attention to what is currently happening in the European region. According to him, the North Atlantic Alliance has finally consolidated the anti-Russian and anti-Belarusian vectors of the organisation’s activities for the foreseeable future and, on its own initiative, has interrupted all contacts and is building up forces near our western borders. In this regard, Aleksandr



The President of Belarus drew attention to what is currently happening in the European region. According to him, the North Atlantic Alliance has finally consolidated the anti-Russian and anti-Belarusian vectors of the organisation's activities for the foreseeable future and, on its own initiative, has interrupted all contacts and is building up forces near our western borders.

Lukashenko called the recently made decision to deploy a regional grouping of troops of Belarus and Russia a natural reaction to the existing challenges, “The countries that are striving to follow their own path of development and pursuing an independent foreign policy course are under the most severe pressure. International organisations, including the UN, are also trying to put under their control. Spending on armaments is growing at an unprecedented pace and reaching horrific figures.”

All this, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, is taking place against the backdrop of worried statements by representatives of individual countries about impending problems in the field of global food, energy and other security.

Nuclear blackmail has no place in politics

Increasingly, we are talking about the possibility of using nuclear weapons.

“Something that could not be imagined 2 — 3 years ago. The nuclear rhetoric of individual Western leaders is going wild. The Polish leadership declares its readiness to host nuclear weapons. It is good that the Americans, we must give them their due, still have sane people who perfectly understand

the dangers of nuclear games, especially with unpredictable partners.”

Our firm conviction is that there should be no place for nuclear blackmail in international politics!

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled the well-known thesis that there will be no winners in a nuclear war, “The great physicist Albert Einstein once said, “I don’t know what weapons the third world war will be fought with, but the fourth one will be fought with sticks and stones.””

The main thing is that people do not die

Speaking about the existing challenges and threats, Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that a difficult situation is developing in the CSTO, “We have repeatedly said about this, that they are trying to shake the societies within our countries, just along the perimeter of the Russian Federation. First, Ukraine flared up, in 2020 they tried to destroy Belarus. In January of this year — Kazakhstan (it’s good that the leadership of Kazakhstan coped with this conflict there). Conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. I will repeat what I said at the extraordinary session of the CSC on October 28th: we want the conflict between two neighbouring and friendly states to be settled peacefully. I think

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The history of the CSTO dates back to May 15th, 1992, when the Collective Security Treaty was signed in Tashkent.

Today the organisation includes Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Armenia.

The total population of the participating countries is 193,835,249 people (as of 2021). The number of peacekeeping forces for 2022 is 3,600 people.

I will express everyone's opinion. We are not aloof. We are not, as Nikol Vovaeovich (Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan) said here, did not deter Azerbaijan from aggression. It's not our job to keep anyone. But in fact, we must respond. So we are ready to respond."

The President noted that Russia is currently carrying out a mediation mission in this matter, with which both Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed, "Let's move in this direction. Let's agree, we will do everything so that people do not die there. This will be accepted with pleasure in the Armenian and Azerbaijani society."

Aleksandr Lukashenko does not rule out the existence of serious nuances in this matter. And yet he emphasises, "We can fundamentally settle this conflict, which could flare up again, now. If desired, first of all by the leadership of Armenia. And, of course, Azerbaijan. This is one of the priorities of the Belarusian presidency. We must not turn a blind eye to this. Whether we can solve this problem or not, this should be the focus of the CSTO. We must understand that the conflict is between two neighbouring and close, friendly states. This is the only reason. Not because we want to please one side at the expense of the other. Armenians are not strangers to us, and we want to support them. But in this regard, there should be a movement, first of all, of Armenia."

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko does not hide his bewilderment about why in this conflict, besides Russia, which is involved in mediation, there is also the European Union and the OSCE, "To further drive a stake into relations between us, between allies? It has always been like this in history. We know

what this kind of 'mediation' leads to. This conflict will simply be at least frozen again for many years. They do not need stability and peace in our region, but they need the devastation they manage."

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that the conflict situation on the border of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan is from the same nature, "We are pushed head-on... No need for these fights. Because logs will be thrown into this fire all the time. We don't need this."

Like a tornado rising in strength

Here is how Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about the conflict in Ukraine, "Belarus has constantly and persistently warned about a dangerous escalation of the military-political situation in the European region. We pointed to the degradation of the international security system, the depreciation of agreements in the field of disarmament and arms control. Unfortunately, they didn't listen to us then. And we see the tragic result of this arrogant position today in Ukraine."

The President recalled that since 2014 Belarus has been doing and continues to do everything possible to end this conflict, "Western countries have accused and continue to accuse us of all mortal sins. They are trying with all their might to drag Belarus into this conflict, although they themselves are deeply involved in it."

Aleksandr Lukashenko compared the events in Ukraine to a tornado that is gaining strength, which is dragging an increasing number of countries into its funnel and creating new problems.

Much depends on internal unity

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed the importance of maintaining allied relations, “In this raging and rapidly changing world, our allied relations must remain the same value. We must not allow ourselves to quarrel, to sow between us the seeds of contradictions and disagreements. The future of both our countries and our organization will depend on this.”

The President stated that over the past 30 years since the signing of the Collective Security Treaty, a very difficult path has been passed in the formation of a military-political union and its transformation into a modern multifunctional organisation, “It is vitally important for us to strengthen cohesion and solidarity within the CSTO, to resort to each other’s help more often and not to look for it on the side. The stronger the internal unity, the stronger our organisation will be, the more others will respect it, the more effectively it will respond to the evolving context regional and global security.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also stated the need to adapt the CSTO to changing challenges and threats, “For this, the organisation has a strong collective potential. There are also specific growth points.”

Structure of the CSTO

- ♦ Collective Security Council (the highest body of the CSTO, the chairmanship of which is transferred in alphabetical order)
- ♦ Secretary General of the CSTO (appointed by the CSC for three years on a rotational basis.
- ♦ Since January 1st, 2020, Stanislav Zas has been appointed Secretary General of the CSTO)
 - ♦ Council of Foreign Ministers
 - ♦ Council of Defence Ministers
 - ♦ Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils
 - ♦ Joint Headquarters of the CSTO
 - ♦ Crisis Response Centre
 - ♦ CSTO Parliamentary Assembly

The main areas of activity of the CSTO in the field of countering modern challenges and threats

- ♦ Combating international terrorism and extremism
- ♦ Combating drug trafficking, illegal migration and human trafficking
- ♦ Counteracting criminal and destructive activities in the information space
- ♦ Emergency response

Military cooperation

To guarantee the military security of the member states, the organisation has formed a force potential. It is based on the Collective Forces of the CSTO. They include:

- ♦ Collective rapid reaction force,
- ♦ Peacekeeping forces,
- ♦ Collective Air Force,
- ♦ Joint air defence and missile defence system.

Since 2004, about 50 joint exercises, such as Frontier, Interaction, Indestructible Brotherhood, Thunder, Cobalt, and others, have been held on the territory of the CSTO member

states. At the talks in a narrow format, the President of Belarus raised three fundamental questions:

- ♦ Under the pretext of containing the allegedly aggressive behaviour of Russia and its allies, there is a systematic build-up of the military presence of the United States and other NATO countries near the western borders of the CSTO, that is, near our borders. The West continues to transfer troops, weapons and military equipment to the eastern flank of NATO. The intensity of their operational and combat training activities is increasing. What is this if not the development of a potential theatre of operations?

- ♦ Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers are being trained at their training grounds (in Western countries) according to NATO programmes. Kyiv is provided with Western weapons and military equipment. What is this, if not direct involvement in the conflict? And how to understand the statements of the NATO Secretary General, who says that the defeat of Ukraine will mean the defeat of the North Atlantic Alliance?

- ♦ We must stop this bloodshed and start peace negotiations. The question is, will Ukraine be allowed to sit at the negotiating table?

About the new CSTO Secretary of State

At the summit in Yerevan, the heads of state, as part of the planned rotation, decided to appoint the representative of Kazakhstan, Imangali Tasmagambetov, to the post of Secretary General of the CSTO from January 1st, 2023 for a period of three years. At various times, he served as prime minister, state secretary of Kazakhstan, head of the presidential administration, akim of Almaty and Astana, and minister of defence. The leaders of the CSTO countries thanked Stanislav Zas for his work in the organisation in difficult times.

CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas for his significant contribution to the development of the organisation and ensuring collective security during the summit was awarded the CSTO badge of honor of the 1st degree.

It won't be like before

During the summit events, Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed to the difficult external background of the present. The main global process today is that the unipolar system of the world order is objectively and irrevocably a thing of the past. Of course, this is not to everyone’s liking. First of all, until recently, the only pole. Hence the large-scale crisis in the system of international relations with many sore points around the globe. A number of these points, the President stated, are also in the area of responsibility of the CSTO.

Such ‘partners’ will only make things worse.

The obvious direction of attack is an attempt to shake the CSTO countries from within. The goal is to kindle a fire of conflicts along the perimeter of the Russian Federation. The President of Belarus recalled the sequence of events. First flashed Ukraine. In 2020, they tried to destroy Belarus. In January of this year — Kazakhstan. Conflicts are heating up in the border regions of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, the Armenian-Azerbaijani

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confrontation. Regarding the situation in Transcaucasia, Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that all members of the CSTO want the conflict between the two neighbouring and friendly states to be resolved peacefully. Just don't drag advisers from the EU and the OSCE here. Sometimes it sounds like such an absurd idea. Such 'partners' will only make matters worse. "They do not need stability and peace in our region, but they need the devastation they manage," stated Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Priorities of Belarus' chairmanship in the CSTO

1. Settlement of crisis situations and prevention of further destabilisation in the area of responsibility of the CSTO.
2. Effective positioning of the CSTO in the system of international relations through the development of cooperation with international organisations and third countries.
3. the priority task in the military component of the organisation is to increase the readiness of the components of the CSTO troops to carry out tasks for their intended purpose, as well as to strengthen military-technical cooperation.
4. Building up the institutional capacity of the CSTO in the information and analytical sphere.

Events proposed by Minsk for holding during the chairmanship of the CSTO

- ♦ Holding a high-level international conference on the problems of Eurasian security with the invitation of senior officials of the secretariats of the UN, SCO, CIS and other international organisations.
- ♦ Minsk intends to initiate a "CSTO-China Strategic Dialogue" (possibly India) by organising meetings in Belarus of representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, defence, security councils of the CSTO member states and relevant states.
- ♦ Planning and holding on the territory of Belarus in 2023 a number of joint exercises with command and control bodies and formations of forces and means of the collective security system.
- ♦ It is proposed to develop a coalition military-technical component (which largely depends on the conduct by the member states of the organisation of a coordinated military-technical policy) based on the accumulated Belarusian-Russian experience.
- ♦ Formation of a network of national analytical institutes for strategic studies of member states. Holding in Minsk in 2023 a meeting of the heads of national analytical institutes for strategic studies of the CSTO member states to organise systemic joint work.
- ♦ Not only to activate, but also to develop new approaches in the media positioning of the CSTO, including with the presence in foreign media.
- ♦ In addition, in order to increase coherence and strengthen interdepartmental cooperation in the field of countering transnational challenges and security threats, it was proposed to hold a number of events in Minsk under the responsibility of the relevant departments of the Member States with the possible invitation of representatives of other interested countries and specialised international organisations. The range of issues is the fight against fakes, disinformation, joint response to cyber

incidents, protection of the territories of the CSTO countries from illegal drug imports, international cooperation in the field of protecting critical infrastructure, including nuclear facilities, and biological security.

Fundamentally and to the point

From the speech of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the plenary session of the CSTO Collective Security Council in Yerevan, "Belarus is taking over the chairmanship of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation during a systemic crisis in international relations. There is an unprecedented aggravation of the military-political situation on the Eurasian continent, a further polarization of approaches to the matter of a new world order. Western countries are persistently trying to return to a unipolar world order, imposing their own rules of the game. The norms of international law were replaced by the dictatorship of force and the practice of sanctioning 'recalcitrant' countries. We may see it even in the incessant sanctions pressure against Belarus and Russia.

The current crisis in the architecture of international and regional security is directly reflected in our organisation, the CSTO, which is exposed to diverse challenges and threats, both of a transnational nature and related to interstate contradictions. These are modern geopolitical realities in which the CSTO is forced to exist and to which it needs to respond. Moreover, both on the internal and on the external contours. In the current conditions, we see the following fundamental goals during the Belarusian presidency. This is customary according to our rules: the country taking over the chairmanship schematically outlines its priorities for the coming year. On the inner contour there is increasing the cohesion of the CSTO member states (these are fundamental goals), reducing the level of tension and resolving contradictions between them in order to strengthen the organization itself, ensure security and stability in its area of responsibility. On the outer contour of the goal is to strengthen the role and significance of the CSTO in the system of international relations. As well as the comprehensive compliance of the organisation's activities with the context of regional and global security.

The Belarusian chairmanship will make all possible diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions, reducing the potential for conflict, as well as increasing the level of mutual trust through joint actions of the CSTO member states. This will allow fixing the leading role of the organisation in matters of ensuring and strengthening regional security in our area of responsibility. Our joint efforts should also have a beneficial effect on the situation in the CSTO area of responsibility, including in the Eastern European region.

In order to effectively respond to a wide range of crisis situations that arise in the area of responsibility of the organisation, we intend to concentrate our efforts on improving the legal framework of the organization and national legal acts. This should ensure prompt decision-making on the use of forces and means of collective security. It is planned to pay special attention to the simplified procedure for the transit of



■ Priorities of Belarus' chairmanship in the CSTO

Settlement of crisis situations and prevention of further destabilisation in the area of responsibility of the CSTO. Effective positioning of the CSTO in the system of international relations through the development of cooperation with international organisations and third countries.

One of the priority tasks in the military component of the organisation is to increase the readiness of the components of the CSTO troops to carry out tasks for their intended purpose, as well as to strengthen military-technical cooperation.

Building up the institutional capacity of the CSTO in the information and analytical sphere.

contingents with weapons and military equipment through the territories of the Member States.

Anti-crisis mechanisms that do not require the use of the forces and means of the collective security system require further development and increase in the effectiveness of their application. Mechanisms without military force. So far, we have not fully worked out the issue of using flexible 'political' tools, or, if you like, the so-called soft power (it is customary to say so), which is actively used by Western countries — mechanisms for consultations, monitoring, and observation on the ground.

In order to increase coherence, strengthen interdepartmental interaction of the CSTO member states in the field of countering transnational challenges and security threats, we intend to initiate a number of events in Minsk under the responsibility of the relevant departments of the member states with the possible invitation of representatives of other interested countries and specialised international organisations. Range of issues: combating fakes, disinformation, joint response to cyber incidents, protecting the territories of the CSTO countries from illegal drug imports, international cooperation in the field of protecting critical infrastructure, including nuclear facilities, biological security. In the context of the growing relevance of biological safety issues, we propose to hold a meeting of the relevant Coordinating Council of the authorised bodies of the member states of the organisation in Belarus.

The effective positioning of the CSTO in the system of international relations through the development of cooperation with international organizations and third countries is a key factor in the involvement of our organization in the most pressing problems of the international agenda. The Organisation must be at the forefront of international life and meet the ever-changing challenges of regional and global security. We see

a broad discussion of the international agenda in the context of the interests of the CSTO on the sidelines of a high-level international conference on Eurasian security issues with the invitation of senior officials of the secretariats of the UN, the SCO, the CIS, and other international organisations. We plan to hold the event in Minsk next year. The conference is designed to emphasise the role and place of the CSTO in regional and global security, the peace-loving factor of our association, its focus on creating the necessary military-political conditions for an effective solution to sustainable development. The event will also strengthen support for the positions of like-minded states in the fight against the policy of unilateral coercive sanctions at the international level.

The strengthening of the organisation's position in the international arena will be facilitated by the expansion of partnerships with global players such as, for example, China. Why not? To this end, the Belarusian Chairmanship intends to initiate a "CSTO-PCR Strategic Dialogue" (maybe India, we'll work on it) by organising meetings in Belarus of representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, defence, security councils of the CSTO member states and the relevant states. Like China, for example.

The military component of the CSTO is an integral component of the organisation, around which, in fact, it was created 20 years ago. We see the priority tasks in this area as increasing the readiness of the components of the CSTO troops to carry out tasks for their intended purpose, as well as strengthening the military-technical cooperation of the member states.

The successful fulfilment of the assigned tasks by the troops of the organisation is associated with their comprehensive training and equipping with modern weapons and special equipment. You know, it's embarrassing to even talk about it. This problem must

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be solved once and for all within a year. Throw in already — these pennies — and arm our guys, whom we will use in peacekeeping and other missions. And to show that we can provide for our guys no worse than NATO. To this end, a number of joint exercises will be planned and conducted on the territory of Belarus in 2023 with command and control bodies and formations of forces and means of the collective security system.

The development of the coalition military-technical component largely depends on the implementation by the member states of the organisation of a coordinated military-technical policy. We have accumulated serious experience with the Russian Federation (a blessing in disguise) in intensifying military-technical cooperation and creating conventional and advanced weapons systems.

The Belarusian presidency intends to pay special attention to intensifying efforts to develop common approaches in the field of standardisation and cataloguing of defence products and the development of cooperation between enterprises in the production of promising military products. That is what we are doing, Vladimir Vladimirovich, now in cooperation with Russia. All this in the future should ensure the joint development and production of modern weapons and military equipment. And as the conflict in Ukraine shows, we should not forget our old weapons. Grads, Tornados, Hurricanes and others — the weapon is still something.

At the meeting of the leaders of the CSTO member states on May 16th in Moscow, I spoke about the importance of the analytical and forecast component in the activities of the organisation. Therefore, we intend to focus on building up the institutional capacity of the CSTO in the information and analytical sphere. We see this as a guarantee of a qualitative strengthening of the organisation and a more effective response to emerging security challenges and threats.

At the same time, as I read this paragraph, I think about the information and psychological operations that the West, and above all NATO, are betting on in the information war in the territory of Ukraine. We see it very well and are doing it. I think the Russian Federation too. We need to be able to do this in order to respond to their attacks. Because there are fakes, fakes, starting from this Bucha and ending with recent events.

An important component is the media positioning of the CSTO, including the presence in foreign media. We believe that there is a need not only to intensify information work, but also to develop new approaches. I think that Russia should play the main role here with that powerful mass media apparatus. They certainly have more options here.

Of course, the implementation of the indicated proposals is possible only with the support of all the CSTO member states. Let me tell you straight up: we are counting on it. You know, recently in the media (this will be developed — thesis) life, the fate of the CSTO depend on the operation of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. If Russia wins, the CSTO will live; if, God forbid, it does not win, the CSTO will not exist. And in our countries, too, many hotheads began to discuss this problem. I feel that we have come to a common opinion that if, God forbid, Russia collapses, then under these rubble is our place. Therefore, we must not only

protect each other, but understand (as we always said in ordinary times), “Russia, Russia, its main role...” So there should not even be such conversations. We are not going to leave the military-political arena. The CSTO will exist, and no one will collapse anywhere. But we need unity.

For its part, Belarus will make every effort to ensure that its initiatives and proposals contribute to the further development of the organisation, increase the efficiency of all its mechanisms, and also benefit our states.”

A speech that touched the nerve

Aleksandr Lukashenko’s speech at the CSTO summit in Yerevan stirred up the media space. Frank messages about the current state of the association, voiced by the President of Belarus, were picked up by political scientists, analysts and scientists.

Thus, Vladimir Kireyev, Head of the Russian Analytical Department of the International Eurasian Movement, Deputy Director of the Centre for Social and Integration Studies on the Union State and Eurasian Integration, Candidate of Philosophical Sciences, remarked on television that Belarus, being a strong outpost on the western borders of the CSTO, plays a reference role in matters of ensuring collective security and maintaining peace and stability in the area of responsibility of the organisation. According to the expert, active participation in the resolution of the Kazakhstani crisis, a clear position on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem confirm the confident course of Belarus as a peacekeeping country, “The position of Belarus and its role within the CSTO is a reference model of how a country should behave as a member of this defensive alliance. Perhaps such a position is lacking in other CSTO member countries. The President of Belarus speaks directly about the common interests and goals of our countries, and most importantly, what are the threats. Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about this even when there was a difficult situation in Kazakhstan. By the way, then the Belarusian peacekeepers were among the first to take part in the operation to protect the constitutional order in this country.”

The political scientist is sure that the CSTO members need to actively participate in the activities of this organisation, “And not only to wait for support from Russia, but also to make a contribution ourselves.”

The First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee of the Russian Federation for CIS Affairs, Eurasian Integration and Relations with Compatriots Konstantin Zatulin, on the Moscow Speaking radio, expressed his conviction that Aleksandr Lukashenko’s phrase that ‘the fate of the CSTO depends on the success of the special operation in Ukraine’ is, certainly true, since the fate of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and other countries depends on the outcome of ongoing hostilities, “I absolutely agree with this. As for pushing for peace talks. Actually, from the very beginning of the operation, in our statements, it was recurrent theme that we are ready to negotiate. From time to time, Ukraine either declares that it is ready for negotiations, or Zelenskyy signs his own decree that he will never personally sit down at the negotiating table with Putin. That is, it sets unacceptable conditions.”

Taisiya Marmontova, a Kazakh professor of the Higher School of Social Sciences and Humanities, an expert of Eurasian Monitoring Analytical Research Centre, Candidate of Historical Sciences, comments on the position of Aleksandr Lukashenko, which he voices at all major political summits, “I agree with the need to maintain allied relations. And I think that this is a matter of equal relations. And it does not concern the involvement of partners in conflicts. I mean the moment connected with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Here very often there is a message towards Kazakhstan. In favour of the fact that during the January events the CSTO supported the situation, and we understand that most of the CSTO is the Russian Federation. But speaking of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, we must understand that there should be no talk of the participation of the CSTO, since this does not correspond to the spirit of partnership. I also agree that the CSTO is the most important support tool in Eurasia. Now we need to think

about ending the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. And then the issue of what function the CSTO should perform will be removed.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko, during his speech, outlined the main goals on the external contour that the organisation faces: strengthening the role and significance of the CSTO in the system of international relations, as well as the comprehensive compliance of the organisation’s activities with the context of regional and global security. In developing this idea, Khachik Galstyan, Doctor of Political Science, professor from Armenia, is convinced that the challenges and problems that societies face will help determine the most effective mechanisms and models that can ensure a more efficient functioning of the CSTO, “I am sure that we will move in this direction. Because if there is no collective and political will, then our sworn friends or enemies who are waiting for the right moment will simply tear us to pieces.”

What other leaders of the CSTO countries talked about at the summit



Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Armenia, “The period of Armenia’s chairmanship in the CSTO was very eventful. I should note our successful actions, bearing in mind the prompt reaction of the CSTO to the appeal of the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Tokayev, to support them in restoring law and order in the country in January of this year. In this case, we resolved the issue overnight, which allowed Kazakhstan to avoid domestic chaos.”



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kazakhstan, “The search for ways to resolve the situation in Afghanistan is one of the basic factors for ensuring security on the southern borders of the CSTO. Kazakhstan aims to continue practical cooperation with the Afghan leadership to solve the country’s acute socio-economic problems... We are all interested in normalising relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We hope that the peacekeeping efforts of the Russian side will make it possible to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict exclusively through political and diplomatic means and bring the parties to the signing of a peace treaty.

As for Ukraine, I believe that the time has come for a joint collective search for a formula for peace. Any war ends with peace negotiations. Every chance should be used to achieve at least a truce.”



Sadyr Japarov, President of Kyrgyzstan, “In a period of complex and total changes in the global security system, when a wide range of political, economic, informational, military methods and means are used, it is necessary to consistently intensify cooperation to ensure a timely response to a changing situation. Kyrgyzstan is interested in strengthening the potential of the CSTO as a multifunctional regional structure for maintaining security and stability in the region. Joint training of command and control bodies and formations of forces and means of the organisation’s collective security system should be aimed at anti-terrorist topics.”



Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, “It can be noted with satisfaction that the very valuable practical experience gained during the peacekeeping operation in Kazakhstan was analysed by us, the secretariat of the organisation, and Russia, of course, supports the important decision submitted for our approval to equip the peacekeeping forces of the organisation with modern weapons, military and special equipment, as well as special tools. And of course, we are all truly united by the work of preserving the memory of the common history of our states, that our peoples together won the Great Patriotic War. We are constantly working on this together, and, in my opinion, we are paying the necessary and necessary attention to these issues.”

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■ “Lukashenko, who spoke about the dependence of the fate of the CSTO on the situation in Ukraine, only said what was on the minds of all participants in the summit. Aleksandr Lukashenko’s statement is a look at the reality of a person with an excellent sense of danger,” wrote the author of the popular Russian telegram channel General SVR.

CSTO: unity test

In the information field, an active discussion of the results of the CSTO summit, which took place in Yerevan, continued for a long time. The context of the negotiations was dictated by the current geopolitical situation: the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, protests in Kazakhstan at the beginning of the year, the ongoing military operation in Ukraine and, finally, military tension along the Belarusian borders. On the one hand, the very holding of this summit showed that the ties of the CSTO member states are strong, and on the other hand, it exposed the issue of their strengthening in the face of external threats. Yes, the mechanisms for responding to these threats, not only external, but also internal, were announced by the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko. Here is an assessment of the proposed mechanisms on the air of a socio-political talk show on Alfa Radio, given by political scientist Aleksei Belyaev, “As the President of Belarus said at the summit, the CSTO mechanisms should be much broader than exclusively military assistance, since the organisation’s peacekeeping forces are not so large,” the expert draws attention. “Within the framework of its presidency, Belarus intends to expand these instruments.” Aleksandr Lukashenko said that ‘soft power’ should appear in the CSTO. I think that the experience of Belarus as a ‘security donor’ in Eastern Europe will be transferred. That is, the national Belarusian experience can be implemented in relationships within the entire organisation.

Aleksei Belyaev drew attention to another thesis of the Head of State that the role of the CSTO as an international organisation should be strengthened, “Now they (Western countries) do not want to make contact, they ignore the CSTO in every possible way and try to show that the organisation for them is not a partner, a negotiating party, a significant actor in the political process. This needs to end, and very quickly...”

The expert also spoke about what to expect from Belarus’ chairmanship in the CSTO. According to Aleksei Belyaev, the Belarusian leadership clearly understands national interests, as well as responsibility within the framework of international organisations, “We are not following the path of escalation of conflicts, on the contrary, we are trying to stop them. This is the main task set by Lukashenko. Even in the most difficult situations, Belarus is aware of its allied obligations and does not refuse them, on the one hand. On the other hand, it understands its own national interests and tries to observe them as much as possible, unlike Western Europe. The European Union completely ignores its national interests at the moment. Part of the political elite of the EU, apparently, is either deliberately bribed, or is an instrument of US influence, which torpedoes the interests of Europeans.”

Another important aspect of Belarus’ chairmanship in the CSTO, highlighted by the guest of the studio, is the possibility of using the accumulated experience and contacts within other international organisations. In particular, in his opinion, the CSTO should contact more closely with those who really want it. As an example, the political scientist cited the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, of which Belarus will become a member next year.

“One of the primary tasks of this organization was to ensure security in the region, and it was thanks to the SCO that many conflicts in Central Asia were almost brought to naught,” Aleksei Belyaev emphasised. “Just interaction with similar organisations that can and are able to do this will be very useful for the CSTO. And Belarusian diplomats and politicians, in turn, in the process of speaking in the SCO could simultaneously promote the CSTO agenda.”

Vladimir **Velikhov**

EURASIAN VECTOR COMES TO THE FORE

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko took part in the EAEU summit in Bishkek

The leaders of the EAEU countries met in the capital of Kyrgyzstan in the first third of December. The last time the meetings of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council were held in person three years ago, all the subsequent time the summits were held online. I must say that this conversation took place against the backdrop of a restructuring of the global economic architecture and was a good opportunity to discuss plans for the future in detail.



New approaches needed

It should be noted that the creation of the Eurasian Economic Union, which today includes Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, was intended to ensure the freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and labour, as well as the implementation of a coordinated or unified policy in the sectors of the economy. And the members of the union strive to follow this path consistently. For example, last year the EAEU recorded a record volume of mutual trade — \$73.1 billion. This is almost a third more than in 2020. However, due to the unprecedented sanctions pressure, the EAEU countries began to take measures to protect their domestic markets. And in order to move forward, new approaches are needed to

remove the remaining obstacles. Mikhail Myasnikov, Chairman of the EEC Board, considers the creation of joint companies as one of the options for solving the problem, “We have come to the point that it is necessary to motivate the creation of joint companies, since some have intellectual capabilities, others have raw materials, and we need to combine efforts. We believe that serious subsidising of interest rates on loans is needed.”

On the eve of the summit, Mikhail Myasnikov on the air of the Belarus 1 TV channel also outlined the key areas for the development of cooperation within the EAEU, “First of all, this concerns joint investment activities. Now we are considering a lot of issues on microelectronics. Belarus and Russia have the relevant

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BACKGROUND

The Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union was signed by the Presidents of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan on May 29th, 2014 in Astana. The agreement entered into force on January 1st, 2015. On January 2nd, 2015, Armenia became a member of the union, on August 12th, 2015 — Kyrgyzstan.

On January 1st, 2018, the EAEU Customs Code came into force.

Observer states in the EAEU: Moldova, Uzbekistan, Cuba.

EAEU free trade zone: Vietnam, Iran, Singapore, Serbia.

An agreement on trade and economic cooperation was signed with China.

Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, India, Mongolia, Syria and many other states are also showing interest in partnership with the EAEU.

competencies, it is necessary to unite and create powerful clusters for the development of this area.”

The second direction is the production of medicines.

“Despite the fact that the pharmaceutical companies of all five countries feel quite confident, we believe that it would be possible to create new factories for the production of medicines that will be both import-substituting and export-oriented,” said the Chairman of the EEC Board.

Another promising area is the aircraft industry, “This is a high-tech industry that is attractive to many. We have worked out relevant proposals regarding what components our countries can make.”

The Eurasian Economic Commission also insists on the wider use of national currencies in settlements between the EAEU countries.

“We already have about 75 percent (of settlements) in national currencies,” said Mikhail Myasnikovich. “At the same time, this figure is much higher between Russia and Belarus, however, for Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan it is 50—60 percent on average. We are actively pursuing a policy to ensure that national currencies are also the currency of contracts. That is, for pricing to be laid down, formed in national currencies. Then in terms of volatility there will be less shocks.”

Work continues on a common strategy for the development of the Eurasian Economic Union. Here is what Sergey Glazyev, Member of the Board (Minister) for Integration and Macroeconomics of the EEC, said about this, “We managed to complete, in fact, the formation of a common market. This common market is now controlled by the Eurasian Economic Commission not only in the field of technical regulation, standards, but also in the field of tariff policy, non-tariff restrictions, public procurement. Now the main thing on the agenda is to create conditions for rapid economic development based on a new technological order, modernising the economy based on promising technologies.”

Big steps towards new goals

There were about two dozen items on the agenda of the current EAEU summit. The leaders of Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan discussed the development of cooperation projects in industry, the formation of common markets, work to

remove obstacles and barriers in mutual trade, the main directions of international activity for 2023 and other issues. Aleksandr Lukashenko voiced Belarus’ proposals on strategic directions for the development of the Eurasian Economic Union, concerning the further deepening of integration in the EAEU space and ensuring the sustainability of national economies.

From the speech of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko at the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in Bishkek,

“I believe that today’s conversation will be a logical continuation of the dialogue that took place at the sites of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the CIS. We see that the collective west’s primitive stamping of thoughtless package economic sanctions against Belarus and Russia is beginning to subside. Everything that could be banned and limited, even to their own detriment, our counter-partners have already banned. Now it’s time for them to realise and evaluate the consequences. Words about the energy and food crises are already being heard from all stands. One does not have to be a visionary to assume that soon in some countries these two crises may be joined by a third one, a political one. The symptoms are there. Internal critical assessments, primarily from the population and business, are being heard more and more loudly in a number of Western states. Statements about almost an economic collapse in our countries have been replaced by sober judgments of observers, analysts, and individual politicians that the sanctions hit the initiators themselves much more. Of course, we look at things realistically and do not expect that this rebound will weaken in the near future (tomorrow).

We have already been ‘tempered’ to a certain extent. Most importantly, we have not allowed a drop in the level of well-being of citizens. This was achieved, among other things, thanks to our joint measures to counteract external pressure and ensure the sustainability of the national economies of the EAEU. The decisions taken within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union made it possible to significantly reduce the negative effect of sanctions pressure and support important sectors of the economy. However, we should not stop. Taking into account the fundamental changes in the world, along with the solution of current tasks, we need to pay close attention to the strategic directions of the development of the union. In this regard, I want to emphasise the paramount importance of further deepening intra-union integration and the need for the international positioning of our union.

As for the strategic tasks, it is necessary, **first of all**, to provide a real implementation of joint projects to create modern production facilities as soon as possible. In fact, the production of the future. This is an essential element of our economic sovereignty. Today

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we will take another step in this direction: we are considering the issue of empowering the bodies of the union with the authority to financially assist industrial cooperation at the expense of the EAEU budget. The possibility of subsidising interest rates on loans will bring the financing of specific industrial projects by the Eurasian Development Bank to a qualitatively new level.

Second. It is necessary at all costs to improve the circulatory system of our union. I'm talking about finance. It is already clear to everyone that the era of dollar dominance is ending. The future belongs to trading blocks, settlements in which will be made in national currencies. Belarus and Russia have already moved away from the dollar in basic settlements. It is important that other partners are actively involved in this process.

Third. At a meeting of the Supreme Council in May of this year, we agreed to substantively consider the issue of removing obstacles in the internal market of the EAEU. I think that we should not have any barriers in mutual trade in general. This is the essence of the organisation of our union. This will solve two main tasks: to provide national markets with goods of critical import and to coordinate actions in the export of strategically important goods, primarily food. Nevertheless, today the reality is that we still continue to struggle with the consequences of decisions taken unilaterally at the national level: sometimes we can't export timber, sometimes we don't let international road carriers through. At the same time, the search for mutually acceptable solutions to problematic issues drags on for many months. Sometimes there are many meetings, but few decisions. I think that the commission should intensify the work in this direction as much as possible.

Fourth. It is also necessary to give priority to increasing the international prestige and competitiveness of our union. Recent events have shown that not everyone agrees with the continued existence of a unipolar world. As a result, the role of such integration associations as the SCO and BRICS is growing. And

our union — the EAEU — must keep pace with them. Moreover, I think the time has come for a summit of the member countries of the EAEU, the SCO and the BRICS. These countries share our approaches about the need to respect different cultures, views, political systems. Perhaps individual ASEAN states would like to participate in such a meeting.

The core items on the agenda of the summit could be issues of economic cooperation (for example, the formation of regional trade blocs, the use of national currencies), as well as energy and security topics. This issue is relevant, especially in terms of the fact that next year the Russian Federation will take over the chairmanship. I think it will be easier to organise such an event under Russia's chairmanship.

It is necessary to clearly and consistently declare our presence on the world map and through the further expansion of free trade zones with those states that are interested in this. Today we decide to start negotiations on a free trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates. For our union, this is, first of all, a landmark political step. While they are trying to split and isolate us, we are systematically expanding trade cooperation with our partners. Negotiations on free trade zones with Iran and Egypt are already at the final stage. The beginning of negotiations with Indonesia and Mongolia is on the way. The conclusion of such agreements, in addition to economic bonuses, demonstrates the futility of the attempts of the collective west to strangle us with sanctions.

The development of Eurasian economic integration involves overcoming a number of difficulties and obstacles. But it is all the more gratifying to note that the current year has been very productive. And a great merit in this belongs to all of us. I would like to wish success to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, who today is taking over the chairmanship for next year. We will all try next year to make our union take big steps towards the goals that we have set for ourselves."

What did the leaders of the EAEU countries talk about at the summit in Bishkek



Sadyr Japarov, President of Kyrgyzstan, *“As a result of joint coordinated measures to ensure the food security of the countries of the union this spring, we managed to avoid food shortages. An important step taken by us to maintain overall financial stability was joint measures to increase settlements in national currencies in mutual trade. Progressive movement in this direction made it possible to transfer more than 75 percent of mutual settlements to national currencies, as well as provide access to Russian currency trading floors. We believe that this prospect will allow not only diversifying our currency portfolios, but also reducing the pressure of imported inflation.”*

Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Armenia, *“The Armenian side considers the consistent implementation of the agreements aimed at creating common energy markets a priority. We are ready to show flexibility in order to achieve consensus and ensure a balance of all EAEU member states on outstanding issues in order to use the advantages and potential of the union's common gas market to the fullest. An important element of economic integration in the Eurasian space is industrial cooperation. In this context, we are launching a new mechanism for financial support of industrial cooperation. I am convinced that this financing instrument will contribute to the technological development of our states.”*



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kazakhstan, *“It is necessary to ensure the free transit of goods through the territory of the EAEU member states, to eliminate all cases of restriction of movement, quotas and detention of goods in transit through our common customs territory. Such restrictions do not correspond to the purpose and spirit of economic cooperation in the EAEU. There can be no question of any slowdown of integration processes by Kazakhstan. Some issues are extremely sensitive for the parties — pragmatism and detailed study of each step should prevail over the desire to meet the planned deadlines. I consider it absolutely right to approach the implementation of the strategy in stages, taking into account the national interests of all participating countries.”*

Abdulla Aripov, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan (is an observer country in the EAEU), *“Uzbekistan stands for further deepening of cooperative ties with the EAEU states. Today, a number of major projects are being successfully implemented with the countries of the association, industrial technoparks and clusters, centres of industrial cooperation are being created, infrastructure is being modernised. Since the beginning of the year alone, over a thousand new enterprises have been created in Uzbekistan with investments from the EAEU countries. And their total number approached five thousand. An important task is the formation of new sustainable production chains that will contribute to the stable industrial development of our countries. In this context, it is necessary to accelerate the development and adoption of a joint roadmap to support cooperative ties and deepen localisation. The most relevant issues are the diversification of transport routes, the simplification of procedures and the digitalisation of transportation, the development of new logistics networks.”*



Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, *“This year, the EAEU adopted a number of fundamental decisions aimed at removing the remaining customs and administrative barriers. I cannot but agree with Aleksandr Grigoryevich when he says that we need to work more effectively to remove these barriers: it is true, they interfere with free trade between our countries, and we must work on this more vigorously. Work has accelerated on the transition to national currencies in mutual settlements (Aleksandr Grigoryevich is right here too), as well as the process of creating a common payment infrastructure and integrating national systems for transmitting financial information. The states of the ‘five’ closely cooperate in the field of transport and logistics, the volumes of mutual cargo transportation are growing... Within the framework of the EAEU, a number of integration infrastructure projects are currently being implemented aimed at creating and effectively using the main international corridors East-West and North-South. Many interested countries are showing up and wanting to join these projects.”*

New effective action page

The EAEU summit held in Bishkek showed how important it is to resolve topical issues in person. And how to vitally support and deepen allied integration. Especially in the context of global economic turbulence. Removing obstacles in the domestic market, financing industrial cooperation projects, expanding cooperation with friendly countries — these and other topics were the focus of attention of the leaders of the countries participating in the union at a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council.

Returning to the important agreements, it is necessary to note, first of all, the fundamental decision on the sources and mechanisms for financing industrial cooperative projects within the union. The President of Kyrgyzstan, Sadyr Japarov, following the results of the summit, assessed this decision as follows, “We have laid the foundation for financing industrial cooperation, instructed to develop relevant acts.”

The details were told to Belarusian journalists on the sidelines by Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko, “The Eurasian Economic Commission will be entitled to use 10 percent of anti-dumping

and other countervailing duties to subsidise the interest rate on loans received under our joint projects. This is such a real financial instrument that will allow developing industrial cooperation and supporting joint programmes within the EAEU.”

According to Mikhail Myasnikov, Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, the decision is a new page in Eurasian integration. Measures to support integration projects have been taken primarily in high-tech industries, where the EAEU countries have a high level of their own competence.

“We have selected 158 projects, 25 industries for a total of \$270 billion,” the Chairman of the EEC Board announced the figures. “This is a serious support for the real sector of the economy, we will grow with new projects and new industries, which the Eurasian Economic Union needs today.”

The head of the EEC stressed that this is actually the start of the Union’s investment policy, “The 2014 agreement is basically a trade agreement. Now we are entering the process of innovation and investment development in an evolutionary way.”

Another agreement of the summit is the negotiation process to conclude a free trade agreement between the EAEU and the UAE. According to Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko, this is a beneficial solution both for the entire union and for bilateral cooperation between Belarus and the United Arab Emirates, “We plan to increase the trade turnover (between Belarus and the United Arab Emirates) by tariff groups by about \$14 million (export component), i.e. by 17 percent.”

At the summit in Bishkek, the heads of state also agreed on the budget of the Eurasian Economic Union for 2023. It will amount to more than 8.7 billion Russian roubles and will be about 10 percent higher than in 2022. These funds will be used to develop digitalisation, as well as other joint projects.

Work to remove existing barriers has become one of the central issues at the summit in Bishkek.

“We will continue to develop mechanisms to prevent these barriers. The key aspect here is equal approaches to the main elements: a single gas market, a single market for oil and oil products, and a single electricity market. As soon as we develop common approaches in the basis, then all other aspects will disappear by themselves,” summed up the Deputy Prime Minister.

So, the chairmanship of the EAEU is transferred from Kyrgyzstan to Russia. Therefore, the next summit of the leaders of the countries participating in the union will be held in the territory of the Russian Federation. It is scheduled for May 24th — 25th, 2023. The meeting place will be determined in due course. However, Vladimir Putin has already invited his colleagues to an informal New Year’s Eve summit of the Commonwealth states in St. Petersburg.

Meanwhile, this is how President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko answered the questions of Russian journalists on the sidelines of the summit in Bishkek.

“If you want peace, you need to sit down at the negotiating table”

The journalists asked if the President of Belarus, in a conversation with Vladimir Putin, discussed issues of specific territories, in particular, Kherson, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporozhye. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that at meetings with the Russian President,

the discussion was always primarily about the need to negotiate to end the conflict in Ukraine, “We have always talked about a treaty, about ending the war, about stopping this war. We have always talked about this in general. Remember both my statements and his that Zelenskyy is simply not allowed to do this. In this context, we talked. But they never discussed specific territories: Kherson, Luhansk, Donetsk, and so on, who should liberate whom... If the President of Ukraine now demands that Russia withdraw from the territories of Kherson, Zaporozhye, Luhansk, Donetsk, this means that there will be no negotiations.” Aleksandr Lukashenko is sure, “This is a precondition, which is unacceptable for Russia. At this stage, it seems to me that Russia may not accept these conditions at all: leave Zaporozhye, Kherson, and so on. Such demands cannot be put forward to the Russian Federation. For many reasons.

If you want peace, you need to sit down at the negotiating table and there, in silence and calmness, discuss all the questions: who should liberate what — either Russia or Ukraine. If there are no such steps, it means that they do not want these negotiations and conversations.”

“The main thing is equal conditions”

Media representatives also asked about the progress of negotiations on the formation of a single gas market. The President of Belarus noted that gas and energy issues were raised, among other things, at the EAEU summit. All parties expressed their position. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that in 2025, the EAEU partners should enter the common energy markets, including for gas, “Well, we agreed that we will calmly go, we are not capable of more. And not only Russia, as it turns out, is not ready for such drastic movements, but almost all countries that today produce or buy, for example, gas. Therefore, we agreed that in a bilateral format (at this stage, relevant issues will be resolved). We agreed, since the market will work from 2025: let’s not torment each other here, but settle this issue on a bilateral basis.”

In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that the main thing is the price of Russian gas and whether it suits Belarus, “The issue is not what prices we have. The issue, while we have already gone for deep cooperation with Russia (just the reason for this is the fury in the world, and wars, and the pandemic, and so on), is that with our closest integration there will be equal opportunities for business entities.”

“We are satisfied with the Russian rouble”

The next question to the Head of State concerned the refusal to use the dollar in settlements between countries. The President of Belarus remarked that this decision was prompted by circumstances and it was a forced step. However, Aleksandr Lukashenko does not see any problems in this regard, “When we were forced, I said: “Well, nothing, we are satisfied with the Russian rouble.””

Moreover, the President recalled, Belarus itself initiated the transition to the Russian rouble in payments for energy resources, “We have long, if you remember, offered Russia: “Let’s trade for the Russian rouble.” “No, let’s go for a dollar.” And we had to earn this dollar no one knows where and then pay for oil and gas. Today we are satisfied with the state of settlements in Russian roubles.”

Vasily **Kharitonov**

AN EXAMPLE OF REAL COOPERATION

FROM JOINT VENTURES TO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

In the same place in Bishkek, an informal meeting between Aleksandr Lukashenko and the President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov was held. Here is what Andrey Strachko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Kyrgyzstan, said about its results and prospects for bilateral cooperation.



Relevant issue of import substitution

According to Andrey Strachko, Kyrgyzstan is a traditional partner of Belarus in Central Asia. Trade between countries is growing noticeably. Last year it reached almost \$100 million, and 80 percent consisted of Belarusian exports. Obviously, after the reorientation of part of the export from the West to the East, our deliveries to this country will increase. By the end of 2022, the volume of trade can grow by one and a half times, the ambassador predicts.

However, countries are trying not only to develop trade, but also to create joint products, especially since the topic of import substitution is more relevant than ever. The diplomat points out, “Kyrgyzstan is located in a logistics hub that allows us to promote our jointly created products to other markets.”

The key areas in this area are the creation of assembly plants for transformers together with the Minsk Electrotechnical Plant named after V.I. Kozlov and elevators with Mogilevliftmash. Andrey Strachko is convinced that despite the fact that the country is small, this market is huge.

“In Bishkek alone, we need to change about 1,500 elevators,” the diplomat specifies. “In recent years, we have been selling about 20 — 30 elevators a year. But now we have agreed with partners on joint production, there will be a state order for elevators. We plan to produce up to 200 elevators next year.”

Agricultural holding with great potential

Kyrgyzstan is also interested in Belarusian meat and dairy products. Andrey Strachko also recalled that since 2020, two Belarusian stores of Belovezhsky GOSTinets have been operating in Kyrgyzstan, the products of which are very popular with local residents, “More and more buyers come here... Our

cheeses, milk, butter and sausages have gained immense popularity. We plan to talk about, perhaps, some kind of exemplary agricultural holding, as we have in Belarus, about the supply of our equipment for meat and dairy complexes. All of their production facilities are small-scale, but we suggest that it should still be a large agricultural holding with great potential, so that the products are competitive.”

Another profitable topic of bilateral cooperation is light industry. In particular, the Belarusian side is interested in working with local producers of wool, cotton and leather. Joint production can also be created in this area.

Within the framework of industrial cooperation

Kyrgyzstan is actively increasing its hydropower capacity. In particular, this year the construction of the Kambarata hydroelectric power station began, which will allow Kyrgyzstan not to import, but to export electricity. Andrey Strachko notes, “We expect that this investment project will be actively developed, and we see here the prospect of increasing the supply of our heavy trucks and other mining equipment.”

Kyrgyzstan is also interested in Belarusian electric buses. In this regard, our proposal is to create joint production, especially at the site of the industrial unit of the Eurasian Economic Commission, work has begun on the implementation of the Eurasian Electric Bus industrial cooperation project.

Another topic that the parties are actively discussing is the participation of Belarus in the design of local infrastructure projects, in particular the railway. For Kyrgyzstan, this is a hot topic: the country is a member of the SCO, and it has agreements with China on the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway.

Vladimir **Velikhov**

UNION CONTINUES TO GROW

Experts agree that, regardless of the volatility of market factors, the EAEU has already established itself as a regional economic association, and it has become a serious economic centre in the international arena. This is the mechanism by which countries can not only compensate for their losses from geopolitical and economic turbulence in world markets, but also significantly add to their development.

The EAEU has demonstrated the ability to successfully withstand and pass through global trials, including those of a non-economic nature, such as a pandemic. After all, in comparison with other regions of the world, the countries of the integration association managed to overcome a sharp drop in economic activity and quite quickly reach recovery growth. Undoubtedly, this was facilitated by the integration advantages formed at the supranational level, as notes Valery Baynev, Doctor of Economics.

The union continues to gain international prestige and develop dynamically. The issues of further international cooperation aimed at preparing an agreement on a free trade zone of the EAEU with Iran, India, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia are being worked out quite successfully. There is also a serious interest on the part of the SCO towards closer work with the EAEU. All this speaks of the recognition of the union in the international arena, the expert concludes, "According to various forecasts, the sanctions wars that flare up around the world, the growing tension between the world's largest economies will lead to the fact that each economic union will strive to close the development and production of the widest range of goods on its territory as much as possible. And it is impossible to build technological sovereignty on the basis of imported technologies and components. So far, the results of the activities of the 'five' do not correspond to the potential of integration. And if we have an alliance, and not just a trade agreement, then we need to set ourselves ambitious new, practice-oriented goals aimed at strengthening our independence, not only political, but also technological, industrial, and so on."

And here is the opinion of Anatoly Nasenya, a member of the Standing Committee of the House of Representatives on Economic Policy, "The EAEU, which today ranks first in the world in terms of area, has fully demonstrated its effectiveness."

"The member states of the union have a powerful raw material, scientific and industrial base. Today, the EAEU acts as a

kind of platform designed to complete the full-fledged common economic space in a quality and timely manner, within which the participating states will begin to pursue a common policy, industry, agriculture, transport, energy, finance, and infrastructure. In the context of unprecedented economic pressure from the countries of the collective west, this is especially true. Yes, we are able to withstand sanctions pressure, but for this it is necessary to redirect the vector to interaction with other countries, to develop import substitution. It is extremely important to stimulate domestic demand, close industrial cooperation, synchronise import substitution programmes, optimise logistics chains to expand our presence in the markets of third countries in Asian and Eastern regions. As practice has shown, the existing export potential, in which European countries tried to infringe on us, was implemented for more than 80 percent by increasing our presence in the markets of the EAEU countries.

Cooperation within the EAEU meets our national interests and, to one degree or another, allows minimising the consequences of sanctions imposed by Western countries, political scientist Vadim Borovik emphasises, "In the course of its work in the EAEU, Belarus has repeatedly advocated the development of integration processes, primarily in matters of the economy, free movement of capital, labour, and access to energy resources. Our position has always been reasonable and pragmatic, because after the collapse of the Soviet Union we inherited very interconnected industries, interdependent markets. And it was quite logical to maintain our presence in these markets and develop our presence in the markets of those countries where our products were in demand. There is an absolutely obvious benefit for the countries working within the EAEU, since some can supply energy, others can supply high-tech equipment, assist each other in building supply chains and circumventing sanctions. This is an absolutely mutually beneficial cooperation."

Aleksandr Pimenov





The EAEU has identified promising countries and industries for the development of industrial exports

At a meeting of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, the Report on the Results of the Analysis of Promising Markets and Industries for Joint Exports of the Member States of the Eurasian Economic Union was approved. The document defines the vectors of cooperation in the field of industrial cooperation and export in the format of the EAEU countries.

“The relevance of the analysis and conclusions of the report is due to the need to use the integration potential of the union to support and develop industrial production and jointly enter foreign markets for our enterprises,” the press service of the commission quotes Nikolay Kushnarev, Director of the EEC Industrial Policy Department.

According to the EEC, last year the growth rate of supplies of cooperative goods between member states exceeded 38 percent, and within trade with third countries it amounted to 37 percent. The positive dynamics was influenced by the recovery of global demand and the rise in prices for commodities.

In the structure of exports of intermediate (cooperative) goods from the Member States to third countries, the largest share fell on products of metallurgy (43.7), chemical industry (22.2), woodworking (9.2) and paper products (3.3). The EEC came to the conclusion that these industries have cooperation and export potential.

The commission also noted that in the current economic situation in world trade, characterised by the need to quickly respond to external challenges, one of the topical issues today is the reorientation of export logistics chains, including to the internal market of the union.

Based on expert approaches, a list of Top-20 priority foreign partners for cooperation was formed. **The top ten included China, India, Egypt, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, UAE, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey. The second — Azerbaijan, Serbia, Israel, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Iran, Bangladesh, Senegal, Algeria.** For these countries, goods and industries are identified that are promising for the development of exports and industrial cooperation.

“To strengthen the positions of our countries in foreign markets, we believe that it is advisable to take measures to stimulate cooperation and demand for goods with export potential. Attention should be paid to the development of green technologies in industry, the creation of conditions for the localisation of production on the territory of the EAEU, the identification and elimination of obstacles to cooperation and export, as well as the development of new mechanisms to promote the certification of industrial products in foreign markets and mechanisms for financing joint integration projects,” summed up Nikolay Kushnarev.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

IT'S TIME TO USE THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

The Eurasian Economic Union and Indonesia will start negotiations on a free trade agreement



Member of the Board (Minister) for Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission Andrey Slepnev and Minister of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia Zulkifli Hasan signed a joint statement on launching negotiations on a free trade agreement. The document, in particular, fixes the agreement to hold the first negotiating round in the first quarter of 2023. This was reported on the website of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

“The Eurasian Economic Union attaches great importance to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with Indonesia, which is one of our main trading partners in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region as a whole,” emphasised Andrey Slepnev. “It is necessary to use the remaining untapped potential: as the study showed, the liberalisation of the terms of trade can increase trade by another \$1.5 billion.”

At the same time, the EEC Minister stated that there are prospects both for agricultural products, which traditionally make up the bulk of the EAEU imports from Indonesia, and for the industrial group, which is actively traded in both directions. At the same time, in his opinion, for the effective implementation of the future agreement, it is important to promote interaction between the business communities of the EAEU and Indonesia. This will be facilitated by holding forums, trade and investment fairs, seminars, mutual assistance in finding partners.

“As one of the platforms where we could further discuss the prospects for deepening cooperation, we propose to organise a bilateral business dialogue within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Forum in the spring of 2023,” the EEC Minister for Trade informed his colleague, expressing hope that Indonesia would support the event.

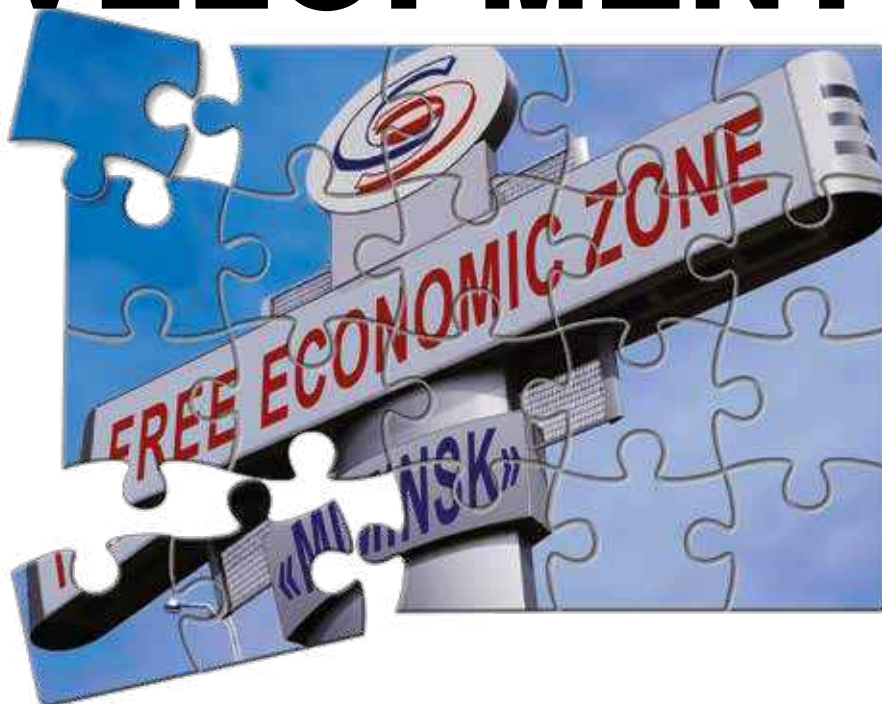
According to the EEC, in January—September 2022, the trade turnover between the EAEU and Indonesia increased by 48.4 percent compared to the same period in 2021, while exports from the EAEU increased by more than 2.5 times, imports increased by almost 16 percent.

Aleksei **Fedosov**

PROFITABLE AND SAFE

FEZS FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT

Despite modern challenges, enterprises-residents of free economic zones in Belarus are promptly taking measures to adapt their production to external conditions. The range of manufactured products is significantly expanding, new sales markets are being developed, and transport and logistics chains are being established.



An interesting fact: FEZ residents in country terms traditionally account for a quarter of FDI on a net basis and exports of goods. New businesses are also emerging. All this suggests that it is comfortable for businesses to invest in Belarus.

More and more residents

Let's take, for example, Minsk Free Economic Zone. Favourable transport and geographical position, availability of industrial and social infrastructure, preferential conditions for economic activity, transparent and simplified administrative procedures, legally guaranteed protection of foreign investment... All these factors contribute to the formation of a favourable investment climate in the FEZ and increase the competitive advantages of residents. As a result, the number of residents and investment projects is increasing every year. Thanks to the constant development of infrastructure, the construction of modern factories and adjacent territories, Minsk FEZ is a dynamically developing industrial centre of the Minsk Region. For nine months of this year, FEZ enterprises have attracted almost twice as much foreign direct investment compared to the same period of the previous year.

"The production of products by residents of the free economic zone in January—September of this year increased by 16 percent compared to the corresponding period of 2021," Anatoly Buben, Head of the Administration of Minsk FEZ, cites statistics. "Shipped innovative products worth more than one and a half billion roubles. Proceeds from the sale of products, works and services increased by twenty percent compared to nine months of last year, and the share of exports was 72 percent."

Or there are other indicative facts. Four hundred people were employed at additionally introduced jobs, while the number of employees at enterprises is 24 thousand people. Tax deductions of residents of Minsk FEZ amounted to 412.5 million roubles, which is almost forty percent more than in the nine months of last year. In January-September of this year, enterprises received a net profit of 612 million roubles.

Favourable format of cooperation

Recently, a meeting of the heads of free economic zones of Belarus was held at the site of Minsk FEZ. During the meeting, the Council of Heads of FEZ Administrations was established. It is designed to coordinate the work on developing the image

of the Belarusian free economic zones and provides for the joint development of a plan to improve the efficiency of their functioning, the organisation of educational programmes, seminars, conferences to find effective ways of interacting with international business circles and targeted promotion of national and regional branding.

“Today, new approaches are needed in the work of the FEZ, and we have come up with an initiative to create a Council of Heads of Administrations of Free Economic Zones in Belarus,” emphasised Anatoly Buben. “I am sure that such a format of cooperation will help increase the efficiency in the implementation of the tasks assigned to us to attract investment in the country’s economy, use new opportunities and overcome negative trends in the current economic conditions.”

Create something highly spiritual

Headed by artist Oleg Popelsky, the GLIVI company for the production of products from natural stone is based in the Shabany industrial zone on the territory of Minsk FEZ. For more than thirty years, fireplaces have been made here under the Belarusian brand. And what is important is that it is a mass production. The enterprise is one of the first in the post-Soviet space that has managed to declare itself as unique and gain an impeccable reputation. Today it is a modern high-tech production complex, which includes several divisions.

As a resident of Minsk FEZ, the company has existed since 2008. First of all, it is known as a manufacturer of fireplace portals and small architectural forms made of natural stone. For all the time, thousands of products have been produced and delivered here. The main consumer is the Russian market.

Since 2017, the head of the enterprise decided to significantly expand the type of activity and, in addition to fireplaces, began to develop new areas. One of them is connected with sacred art. For a short period, a collection of stone icons was created here. These are Orthodox and Catholic icons. They were produced under a written blessing from Metropolitan Pavel. Now they already own the largest collection of stone icons in the world, which has no analogues.

“There are no artificial and man-made paints in our icons — everything is natural,” Oleg Popelsky says with enthusiasm. “And the structure of the stone is the basis of the kaleidoscopic idea of the canonical image. Another distinctive feature of stone icons is that they are voluminous. But the most important thing is that they are eternal due to the nature of the stone itself.”

The first icon — Mother of God of Blachernae — was created here for eight months. Now it is in the Lyadensky Holy Annunciation Monastery. Before starting to make icons, experts study their history and iconographic features. In general, the head of the enterprise notes, each icon is the result of the work of a large team of people. The main part is handmade, although machine production is also used in stone processing. As for the stone, marble, onyx and travertine are most often used. Oleg Popelsky shared how he came to making icons. At some point, he had a need to create something highly spiritual. By that time, in addition to fireplaces, they were already engaged

in the manufacture of art objects from museum stone. One day a book dedicated to icons was brought to him. And it dawned on the artist.

Return to a past era

Creative search led Oleg Popelsky to study the masterpieces of Marc Chagall. The result was a phantasmagoric story about the Vitebsk synagogue in stone. And the passion for the work of another master — Chaim Soutine — led to the creation of homages from marble. Each homage from this collection plunges into the events of Soutine’s return to his small homeland — to the town of Smilovichi, near Minsk. The plots developed invite you to return to the beginning of the 20th century, offering you to view various historical and cultural monuments that exist to this day in Smilovichi, Paris, and Minsk. Plots from Soutine’s Parisian life are combined into a single collection of homages under the heading *Wanderings Around the Casinos of Montparnasse*. This series of homages is unique because, unlike the series *Soutine — the Legend of Atlantis of the Litvaks*, it combined the works of two friends — Soutine and Modigliani. In the works with obvious clarity, one can find the unity of the beauty of the body by Modigliani with the beauty of the soul in the poetics of Soutine’s brush.

The indicators show dynamics. Positive

Here is a comment on the development of Belarusian FEZs from Deputy Minister of Economy Alesya Abramenko, “The effectiveness of national preferential regimes remains high. In January—September 2022, the share of FEZ enterprises in republican indicators accounted for 26 percent of foreign direct investment on a net basis, 23 percent of exports of goods, 18 percent of industrial production. This year, 22 new residents have been registered with projects in woodworking, the chemical industry, medicine, logistics, agriculture and metalworking. The total investment amounted to 167 million dollars. 1,080 new jobs will be created.

The main indicators of organisations show a positive trend for nine months. Foreign direct investment on a net basis grew by 73.1 percent to \$416.8 million, and production volumes increased by 14.2 percent to 22.4 billion roubles. Revenue from the sale of products increased by 13.6 percent to 23.7 billion roubles, and exports by 2.9 percent to \$6.2 billion. Profitable sales contributed to an increase of 13.8 percent in the average monthly wages of employees and made it possible for all FEZs to reach a total net profit of 1.8 billion roubles.

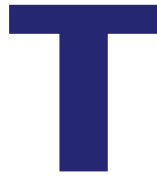
Depending on the FEZ, residents formed up to 80 percent of investments, up to 50 percent of exports of goods and up to 36 percent of industrial production in the regions.

The state will continue to create conditions for attracting new residents of the FEZ by investing in the development of the infrastructure of the territories, primarily energy. This year, a high-pressure gas pipeline was built in the Dzerzhinsk District, four electrical substations are being built in the Brest, Dzerzhinsk, Minsk and Svisloch districts.

Aleksandr Pimenov

IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO MISS NEW OPPORTUNITIES





The slowdown in inflation, the positive balance of foreign trade and the attractiveness of savings in the national currency. These important positions follow from the approved directions of monetary policy and the forecast of socio-economic development of the country for 2023

So, there is a starting point for future tense, but quite feasible and realistic plans. Namely, the President signed a decree approving the most important parameters of the forecast of the socio-economic development of Belarus for 2023. In particular, the growth of gross domestic product is planned at the rate of 103.8 percent to the level of 2022, real disposable income of the population - 104.1, investments in fixed assets — 122.3, exports of goods and services — 105.5 percent. The Head of State also signed a decree, according to which the main directions of monetary policy for 2023 were approved. Monetary policy will focus on slowing inflation to 7-8 percent and maintaining financial stability.

Based on the target task

How to get to the specified parameters is not an idle question. To begin with, we note that the development of the approved parameters of the forecast of the socio-economic development of the country for 2023 took place in difficult conditions. However, it can be stated that enterprises have already adapted to today's difficult moments and challenges to a proper extent. And first of all on the outer contour. Therefore, when preparing the forecast, the Government proceeded from the target task, which was approved by the All-Belarusian People's Assembly in the program of socio-economic development of the country. Yes, according to it, gross domestic product growth is planned at the rate of 103.8 percent to the level of 2022.

— We proceed from the fact that it is necessary to grow both at the expense of domestic demand and foreign markets, — said First Deputy Minister of Economy Yuri Chebotar.

— On the internal circuit, we prefer the possibility of growth through investment.

What is the perspective

By the way, the key source of economic growth in 2023 will be precisely the increase in investments in fixed assets. It is planned to invest in three main areas. The first is the construction of housing

and infrastructure for it in the amount of 7.7 billion rubles. 4.3 million square meters will be built. m of housing, including 1.3 million sq. m. m with state support, rental housing — at least 735 thousand sq. m.

— We will significantly add in the construction of rental housing to consolidate our personnel in the field. This is the instruction of the Head of State. The sources of financing are fully confirmed here, and we know how to move," the first deputy head of the economic department said.

The second block is the creation and development of infrastructure in the regions. Investments here will amount to 7.9 billion rubles.

— In recent years, our regions have been underinvested, including in the construction of major infrastructure facilities — social, transport, and so on, — said the First Deputy Minister of Economy. According to him, it is planned to build 17 preschool institutions, nine institutions of general secondary education, 22 sports and recreation complexes, seven swimming pools, 21 sports facilities, 46 health facilities, 22 bridges and overpasses on republican highways, 30 on local roads.

The third direction is investment in the real sector or the implementation of investment projects. 31.2 billion rubles will be invested in investment projects and technical re-equipment. It is planned to implement 129 investment projects, 14 integration projects, 51 production import-substituting projects.

— Also, enterprises are constantly in the process of modernization, updating their production facilities. On average, about 10 percent of GDP was directed to the modernization of the real sector of the economy. In previous years, this indicator was reduced to 8 percent. That's why we set a target bar: to restore it. We know which enterprises we will direct funds to — new equipment will be delivered somewhere, modernization will be carried out somewhere. The sources for this have already been agreed both with the banking sector and with support in terms of the budget, — said Yuri Chebotar.

POINTS ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH MAP

By the way, in order to achieve the projected economic growth in 2023, exports are planned in the amount of 47.7 billion dollars in equivalent at a growth rate of 105.5 percent.

"If we look at the program targets, then taking into account the two years of implementation of the five-year plan, we are going to exceed. This is due to the markets of friendly states, the EAEU countries, including the Russian Federation. In addition, the Asian region, including the People's Republic of China, has grown significantly. The task is also to maintain its presence in other markets. We have already discussed with our industry regulators where we will deliver our products," said the First Deputy Minister of Economy.

Rational rates in many respects

As for monetary policy, first of all it will be focused on slowing inflation to the level of 7-8 percent and maintaining financial stability. The control over the growth of the money supply will continue. The average broad money supply will increase by 12-16 percent in annual terms, the ruble monetary base — by 10-12. It provides for the formation of appropriate resource sources to meet the solvent demand for loans to finance investment projects. It is estimated that banks' demands on the economy will grow by 17-21 percent. In the conditions of re-equipment of existing and creation of new production facilities, the demand for imported investment goods is expected to increase, which will affect the state of foreign trade and the balance of payments in general. In 2023, the balance of foreign trade in goods and services is projected to be positive in the amount of \$1.6 billion in equivalent. The envisaged inflow of external financial resources for the implementation of investment projects will contribute to maintaining a balanced balance of payments.

Interest rates in the economy are planned to remain at a positive level in real terms. The refinancing rate is provided in the amount of 10-11 percent per annum.

Time-based priorities

The National Bank will ensure the attractiveness of savings in the national currency. The exchange rate policy will continue to be implemented in a floating exchange rate mode, which allows mitigating the impact of external factors on the economy and contributes to its effective adaptation to changing conditions. The exchange rate will continue to be determined by supply and demand in the foreign exchange market. At the same time, currency interventions will be allowed to smooth out sharp fluctuations in the exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble, as well as in order to replenish gold and foreign exchange reserves.

At the same time, the country's international reserve assets at the end of 2023 will amount to at least \$6 billion in equivalent. And in order to maintain financial stability next year, measures will be taken to limit systemic risks, ensure the stable operation of banks, non-bank credit and financial organizations, open joint stock company "Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus", non-credit financial organizations. The policy of the National Bank will be aimed at countering systemic threats to financial stability and increasing the ability of banks to provide credit support to the economy in the context of its structural transformation and adaptation of organizations to new operating conditions.

Alternative payment methods will also be developed to reduce dependence on payment systems using bank payment cards, including international ones. In 2023, it is planned to further improve the instant payment system by launching a service that allows such payments to be made between individuals within Belarus, as well as cross-border instant payments through the interaction of similar systems of the two countries.

At the same time, legislation in the field of lending and microfinance to individuals, as well as leasing activities, will be improved.

"Another important indicator is the dynamics of income of the population," said Yuri Chebotar. "The growth of real disposable income of the population is planned to be 104.1 percent. In the economy as a whole, the nominal accrued average monthly salary will be 1,938 rubles, in the public sector — 1,454 rubles. As for inflation, it already corresponds to the messages that the Head of State gave earlier — 7-8 percent. There are also appropriate measures for these indicators."

Timely review of export policy

Belarus, as you know, is an export-oriented state. Developed mechanical engineering and agriculture make it possible to work effectively in foreign markets. And not only on traditional ones. Exports were supposed to be developed according to the formula 30-30-30: a third of supplies — to the EAEU, a third — to the EU and a third — to the countries of the far arc. But the dramatically changed situation on the external circuit, the external pressure from the collective West and the restrictions imposed, which experts directly call an economic war, forced a revision of the export policy. Thanks to this, the economy has entered the trajectory of recovery growth.

Of course, the country has suffered some losses due to the closure of certain markets. According to the Minister of Economy Alexander Chervyakov, direct losses from the termination of supplies to Europe amounted to about \$6 billion in equivalent. But the competent policy of the country's leadership made it possible to effectively neutralize these consequences and promptly redirect export flows:

Alternative supply routes

Recall that Alexander Lukashenko announced specific tasks to make up for lost profits by reorienting exports in August during a meeting of the Council of Ministers on the functioning of the economy under external pressure and measures to overcome them. In this regard, Russia has provided Belarus with an allied shoulder. And today, in the conditions of the actual blockade of Belarusian exports, the neighboring country provides transshipment of a wide range of Belarusian goods to the markets of third countries. In just nine months of 2022, the transit of Belarusian cargo through Russian ports increased 2.2 times. Currently, 14 ports of the Russian Federation are involved in processing Belarusian export cargo. Schemes for the delivery of Belarusian export cargoes involving the ports of the North-Western region of Russia, the ports of the Black and Azov Seas, along land routes in the direction of China have been worked out. By the way, in September 2022, an intergovernmental agreement was signed with Russia on cooperation in the



■ — There is a systematic reorientation of transport flows from unfriendly countries to other directions. Direct losses from the termination of supplies to Europe amounted to about \$ 6 billion, but in the markets of Russia and China we have already recovered \$ 5 billion — almost 80 percent. With the departure of branded companies from Russia, niches for our manufacturers have appeared. We can take them.



development of transportation of certain types of goods through transport corridors passing through the territory of Belarus and Russia. Experts note that the implementation of the agreement will provide alternative ways of delivering Belarusian goods for export via the overland route, as well as transshipment of goods in the seaports of the Russian Federation. In addition, it guarantees the volume of transportation of exporters' products by container trains in transit through Russia to China for the period up to 2024.

on transshipment of Belarusian cargo through Russian ports. Recently it was announced that we are going to increase cargo transshipment, including through Astrakhan ports. This suggests that Russia is helping us with the infrastructure as much as possible.

By the way, the participation of Belarusian investors in the formation of infrastructure for transshipment of cargo to sea vessels in the North-Western region of the Russian Federation is being worked out. This suggests that at the moment Belarus and Russia show a high level of integration. As another example, we can recall the allocation of credit funds by Russia for projects in the

field of import substitution. The two countries have also established cooperation on increasing supplies of 104 commodity items of Belarusian exports to the Russian market to compensate for the falling volumes of exports that were previously carried out to so-called unfriendly countries.

Use the situation to advantage

By the way, about unfriendly countries. According to analysts, with the withdrawal of a number of foreign companies from the Russian market, additional opportunities of more than \$ 11 billion in integration import substitution have opened up for Belarus. For example, there is an obvious huge potential in woodworking. IKEA has left the Russian market. And this is a \$1 billion niche. The situation is similar in light industry. Timely modernization makes it possible to quickly increase the output of goods and meet the hype demand, using the situation as a plus, and proximity to the border greatly simplifies the logistics of supplies.

Vladimir **Khromov**

FIND YOUR NICHE IN A TIMELY AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER

Belarus can become a significant partner for African states. First of all, if we are talking about the agricultural sector.

There is a clear paradox in Africa today. On the one hand, this continent (in fact the only one in the world) has free land for agriculture and labour resources. On the other hand, many states of the region depend on imported food supplies and outside assistance to finance its purchase. Moreover, the money, as a rule, is allocated by the US and the EU, and the same wheat is supplied by Russia, Ukraine (before the start of the special operation), and Kazakhstan. In the current situation of the collapse of global supply chains, the poorest countries were the most vulnerable to external challenges. Meanwhile, in the new conditions, additional opportunities for cooperation with Belarus of such countries are opening up. First of all, on the supply of agricultural machinery and technologies there. In this regard, Belarus, no doubt, can take its niche on the African continent.

It is important to skilfully use the advantage

It is an undeniable fact that Belarus is a very significant exporter of food products. First of all, dairy and meat products, sugar, confectionery and a number of other goods. We supply our products to more than a hundred countries. As regards the development of production, there are undoubtedly still reserves for the introduction of new technologies and for increasing productivity. Meanwhile, in the long term, a number of barriers-restrictions are obvious in the country. They are related to the fact that almost all agricultural land in the country is already used, there are practically no empty arable lands.

Therefore, as Natalya Kireyenko, Doctor of Economics, the Head of the Department of the Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Agro-Industrial Complex of the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University, explains, it is logical to use the most competitive advantage of the Belarusian agricultural industry: the country has organised full-cycle production. A selection scientific and production base has been created and is being developed; for most key positions, we provide ourselves with both seeds and breeding stock in animal husbandry. All basic and a wide range of complex fertilizers are produced. Agricultural engineering provides our farmers with an almost complete range of equipment. Currently, work is underway to remove bottlenecks in the production of plant protection products and veterinary drugs.



In addition, in terms of the design and construction of modern livestock complexes, processing facilities, we have accumulated, to put it bluntly, almost unique competencies in the use of various technologies and equipment from a wide range of global manufacturers, Natalya Kireyenko is sure, "There are original effective solutions using equipment from different suppliers. It should be noted that this experience in the past, and especially now, is in great demand among our Russian and Kazakh colleagues. Acquiring ready-made solutions from foreign companies is also more expensive, and supplier companies are not always leaders in the entire range of equipment. Belarus also has a full-fledged personnel training system."

The customer receives everything at once

It seems that today Belarus has its own production and competencies in order to form a comprehensive proposal for the construction of turnkey agricultural enterprises, when the customer receives, as they say, everything at once: machinery, equipment, necessary seeds, fertilizers, and other materials. Plus scientific support and training of employees. Such a mechanism can allow developing the raw material base of the Belarusian agricultural industry abroad, as well as being a powerful driver for the export of domestic engineering and other products.

To some extent, many multinational agricultural corporations are developing in this way, the expert notes. Many of them both have their own production and purchase raw materials for processing or sale from independent producers, as well as place orders for the cultivation of certain crops with farmers on a processing basis. The corporation provides technology, seeds, and often the necessary machinery and equipment, while obtaining the right to harvest, in whole or in part.

Belarus could also use a similar concept. Russia is actively developing its own companies, and there will have to face serious competition. In addition, in the neighbouring country, like ours, there is a certain shortage of personnel in rural areas. China and India follow their own paradigm and try to focus on their resources. Therefore, they are unlikely to let foreign agricultural companies into their territory.

The most promising from this point of view is Africa. There is the same surplus labour market, high demand. And with many countries from this region, Belarus has already developed excellent relations, and we already supply our equipment and other goods to some of them.

The claim could be real

Yes, the main obstacle in Africa is the low level of solvency of many countries in the region. It is also obvious that we also do not have our own financial resources for a large-scale and deep entry into this market. However, Belarus can cooperate with Russian partners on such projects. For the Union State and the EAEU, cooperation with Africa can become one of the directions of the geopolitical strategy. Today in Russia there is a certain excess of investment liquidity, since investments in Western assets are difficult or completely excluded. From a financial and strategic point of view, the creation of an agricultural corporation to operate in the African market can be very attractive. Also, do not forget that the African continent is rich in a variety of natural resources. But many countries cannot fully use them, because they are under constant threat of famine, which gives rise to socio-political instability. The solution of the food problem, perhaps, will make it possible to become a key partner in other areas of activity.

Undoubtedly, such complex projects require detailed and deep study. But they can be strategic for the development of the domestic economy.

Today there is no doubt that the concept of globalisation in the format of the last century has failed. And the international economic system is moving to the rails of regional cooperation. Also gone are the principles of specialisation within the global economy. Therefore, the formation and supply of complex solutions on the market comes to the fore. And in the agricultural sector, we can provide this. For starters, an application for the supply of turnkey livestock farms and training of personnel in modern agricultural technologies could become a real one. Belarusian specialists have all the necessary base for this.

Aleksandr **Pimenov**

Place of power

Maxim Misko

We continue to talk about what the Motherland is, a sense of duty, official hierarchy and subordination with Maksim Misko, Chairman of the Board of the Belarusian Peace Fund. And we also talk about the specific affairs of the Fund and why the slogan of one of its predecessors, former front-line soldier Marat Yegorov, is still relevant today: 'voluntary donations are a kind of referendum, people's voting for peace.'

"Maksim Vladimirovich, at our last meeting you said that you maintain ties with those who studied with you at the Suvorov School. Tell us more about it."

"I not only maintain, but also fruitfully cooperate. And Suvorovites choose different paths in life. For example, there is a church in honour of the Optina Elders in Minsk, on Cosmonauts Street, and an Orthodox parish of Seraphim of Sarov. So here is Father Aleksandr, who serves there in a beautiful, wooden church, from Suvorov, also a pupil of Aleksandr Chirko. Father Aleksandr built the temple, and he is building another one. By the way, every year he recruits pilgrims on a plane that flies to Jerusalem on Easter for the Holy Fire. He took me with him twice, and Chirko flew with us. There is a special story with him: this year, Father Veniamin blessed Aleksandr Vladimirovich to enter the Theological Seminary, he has already studied for two terms. And Father Aleksandr is also responsible for the religious processions in Belarus, which take place every year. He once told me: let's think together how to attract more secular people to them. It is possible, I



believe, to build a route from temple to temple, if anyone walks with us at least a little, it already will be good."

"Who else from the former Suvorovites cooperates with you?"

"There are a lot of them. For example, Andrei Balabin, chairman of the meeting of shareholders of Patio CJSC — he has a network of electronics stores 5th Element in Belarus. Andrei Anatolyevich graduated from the school a year earlier than me, actively participates in the activities of the Belarusian Union of Suvorovites and Cadets, heads its Board of Trustees, and regularly helps financially when various military-patriotic events are held. At the volunteer Peace Fund, he is Vice Chairman for International

Affairs. The help from the 5th Element is great: for example, all the Minsk veterans' wards in hospitals are equipped at the expense of its funds. Andrei Balabin feels the need for such patriotic charity, and he does it with an open heart."

"Are the wards for war and labour veterans one of the most significant projects of the Fund?"

"In terms of the volume of investments, speaking the language of economists, it is. In total, we have already helped to equip a thousand wards across the country. We took up this business, realising that this is how we transmit to society the idea of caring for the elders, respect for them. We all have parents who will eventually need care. And let's, we decided, do everything in advance to adequately receive those who need treatment and care. And we did it! All wards for veterans are of the sanatorium type. Already in many regional hospitals in Belarus there are at least 2-3 such wards, and in Minsk there are even more."

"Huge deal! You can imagine how many people remember your Fund with a kind word, and thanks to this they produce positive energy."

"Yes, this is how, I think, the atmosphere of peace, care and tranquillity is maintained in our society. After all, it is very important that in a difficult situation the suffering of a person is not aggravated. In total, we calculated that the country needs about 2,500 such wards, and we are working in this direction. Each 'peace' chamber has a refrigerator, TV, modern comfortable beds, bedside tables,

showers. A veteran, an elderly man, got there and said: well done, we raised you well! When a person is sick, he needs comfort and convenience. Medical care in the country is already at a high level, but the state has bigger concerns: equipment, medicines, salaries for doctors... And we take on some of the common concerns. An important thesis, which we thus broadcast: everything should not be hung on the shoulders of the state. We live in the same family, so can't we help each other ourselves? We can and we help!"

"We read that cosmetic repairs in the 'peace' wards are usually done at the expense of hospital funds, and you supply new equipment?"

"This is true. They prepare the premises, it is not so expensive. In passing, I will tell you about one more interesting, in my opinion, and multifunctional project of the Fund. Six months ago, we initiated the Tree of Memory project: we proposed planting nominal trees in memory of fallen soldiers and victims of World War II. We calculated: this is about 3 million trees. A draft has been drawn up — it is now under approval 'at the top', as they say. We explained the meanings, super-ideas of the project, figured out where to plant trees. It is logical, we think,

to link to the village councils: where the people who died lived, there the memory of them will be immortalised. In squares, parks, alleys and so on. So that the memory of people lives in the trees. If our initiative is supported, then at the first stage we will create a single database of all the dead, missing, then plant trees. And it is ecologically important: green spaces reduce the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere."

"You also have another big project — Baby Houses..."

"There are 8 such houses in Belarus, and we have been helping them with equipment for 5 years. Large funds were allocated for the purchase of artificial lung ventilation devices for children who are on palliative care there. In every house there are such wards, there are such children at home care. Through the Baby Houses, ventilators are now rented to parents, and they are taught how to use them. The devices are very expensive, we collect money for them, buy them and transfer them."

"The Belarusian Peace Fund also takes on educational functions. We recently learned that, among others, the Zherebkovich Secondary School, in the Lyakhovich District of the Brest

Region, has become the School of Peace."

"We have such an innovative project: the Network of Peace Schools in the Republic of Belarus. Large-scale and, I would say, revolutionary in essence. We are implementing it together with the Ministry of Education. We have a provision on what criteria a school can be assigned this status. Every year then it will have to be confirmed by peacekeeping deeds: to equip monuments, plant squares, help veterans. There are already about 120 schools in this network, and the movement started less than a year ago. We plan to start with two Peace Schools in each region of the country, but there are more people who want to. We understand that here it is necessary to take not quantity, but quality. Of course, the more peacemakers there are, the better. Sometimes we reward people when, as they say, there is no achievement yet. And my teacher, a military officer, always advises: 'Maksim, give a soldier a medal before his leg is torn off, because after that he no longer needs it...'"

"Wise words..."

"Therefore, we strive to motivate children to work, to deeds, sometimes we thank them in advance, we stimulate



■ Every year the Belarusian Peace Foundation participates in the Republican charitable action «Our Children». Maksim Misko awards the winners of the contest Peace in the soul - peace in the country and gives gifts from the Foundation to children in the city of Svisloch, in the Grodno Region.

activity. And it's important for a child! Here we held the Peace in the Soul — Peace in the Country competition. We were very happy with the results. Because in the regulation of the competition the children were invited to reflect the beauty of the soul of the Belarusian people in their works. Look at compatriots through the prism of Christian values. We wrote it down, discussed what exactly we would like to see. Well, the poems, and the prose that we received from the children — it's impossible to read all this without tears. And the third book in the trilogy is the drawings Temples of the Country. Have you seen the books? (shows). Ten thousand children and teenagers took part in the competitions, the jury, which also included writers and artists, selected the best works. As a result, here are these three volumes. Temples of all regions of the country are presented, it is specified under the picture what kind of temple it is, and who is the author of the work, and who is the mentor."

"And to whom do these books fall into the hands?"

"There are such books in all Peace Schools. By the way, I opened these schools myself: I was in Malorita, Zhodino, Orsha, travelled to other regions. So much love, warmth in every meeting! They highly appreciate our attention to them in schools. Each author, whose work is in the book, also received it. A couple of months ago, we gathered all the children whose poetry is in this book at the National Library. Everyone has been found! Their parents and educators also arrived: a whole hall, all 400 seats are occupied. We brought these children to the stage, awarded them with certificates of honour signed by Father Veniamin, the Minister of Education of Belarus Andrei Ivanets, and me as the head of



the Belarusian Peace Fund. Imagine what a pride it is for a child, his parents and relatives, his teachers! There were honorary guests in the hall: all heads of confessions, chairmen of the unions of writers and artists. They went on stage, and each read the poem that he liked. These were impromptu that you can't stage in advance. But the presenter warned the children: whoever hears his work, do not be shy, get up. Father Veniamin reads the poem I will light a candle for the church... At this moment, very touching, the author, and this is a girl, enters the stage. Mufti Abu-Bekir Shabanovich then came out, saying: 'I will read a poem by an 8-year-old boy from my hometown of Iyve'. Starts reading but can't finish. Crying ... At this moment the boy rises to the stage. Abu-Bekir Yukhyanovich heartily to him: 'My dear Nikita...'. He hugged him and kissed him on the head. Half the room was crying. The children really felt: what they do, what they write about is important for us. We do not just read their poems — we empathise with

them. Member of Parliament, Senator... Everyone reads. Chairman of the Union of Writers Aleksandr Karlyukevich read the poem and said: 'Do you know, not every poet has his own book — but you already have!' So, with tears of joy, everything passed. And such a positive emotional message is very important in any work. On our site in the republican news there is a bookmark on this event, with photos. Including how the mufti hugs Nikita."

"What do you call this direction of the Fund's activity?"

"This is one of the forms of educational work, as you rightly said, among children and adolescents. There is also charity and international projects. For example, we believe that today the Belarusian Peace Fund can express the opinion of the Belarusian people on important issues. Why? Our board is large and authoritative: 80 people. It also includes the heads of confessions — and this is the primate of the Belarusian Orthodox Church Father Veniamin, the head of the Roman Catholic Church Iosif Stanevsky, the mufti of the



- Maksim Misko speaks in Minsk at a solemn event dedicated to the International Day of Peace
- Participants of the 7th Reporting and Election Conference of the Belarusian Peace Fund, which was held at the National Library on November 30. Maksim Misko was re-elected Chairman of the BPF.

“And where, to whom do you turn when making statements?”

“A few months ago, letters were sent to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, the President of France, the German Chancellor, as well as to the OSCE, the UN. We then gathered the entire board of the Belarusian Peace Fund in the National Library and discussed the issue of sanctions applied to Belarus. At the same time, we recalled the Budapest Memorandum — security assurances for a nuclear-free Belarus. Let me remind you that in 1994 the Republic of Belarus withdrew all nuclear weapons from its territory, which had remained here since the times of the USSR. And in return for this, the world community, represented by the leaders of European states, guaranteed us territorial and political independence. And economic, including security. On December 5th, 1994, at the OSCE summit in Budapest, the leaders of three countries — Bill Clinton (US President), John Major (British Prime Minister) and Boris Yeltsin (Russian President) — signed the Memorandum on Security Assurances

in connection with Belarus’ accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They personally put their signatures as guarantors of the implementation of this Memorandum. Therefore, these sanctions, which we regard as measures of economic pressure on our country, are illegal. After all, their introduction violated international law. So we took the liberty of reminding the leaders of Western countries about this and sent a letter to all recipients on behalf of the Belarusian people. And we were heard! Even some answers came. Unfortunately, not all are positive. But still, they paid attention to us.”

“As they say, whoever knocks, it will be opened to him...”

“Right. So we will continue to use the tools of public diplomacy. Sometimes they are more effective than speeches from big political stands. We really convey the opinion of the people. The question arises: for the benefit of whom are you imposing sanctions? They are harmful to the Belarusian people, we suffer from sanctions, we do not want them, and they are illegal. There is no need to ‘love’ us like that, we can do without such ‘love’. After all, it is obvious: each aggression

Muslim religious association Abu-Bekir Shabanovich, the chairman of the Jewish religious association Grigory Khaitovich, these are the leaders of all national and cultural associations of Belarus: 21 people. Worthy representatives of different diasporas living in our country. Everyone agreed with my proposal. And Aleksandr Rumak, Commissioner for Religious and National Affairs, invited me to speak to them. I spoke about our activities. Everyone unanimously expressed their desire to participate in the work of the Belarusian Peace Fund, to join us even at our board level. Now the board includes the Chairman of the Union of Writers Aleksandr Karlyukevich, the Chairman of the Union of Artists Gleb Otchik, conductor Aleksandr Anisimov, famous doctors and creative people. That is, many strata of society are represented. That is why we can make statements on behalf of the Belarusian people.”

PEACE PHILISOPHY

generates new aggression. And the formula of sanctions is not working, it leads to catastrophic consequences, which is already evident in the countries of Western Europe. Detention is possible only at the negotiating table. It is necessary to conduct a reasonable dialogue in order to stop conflicts. And the scarecrows don't work anymore. All over the world, everyone is full of weapons, there are many fears, distrust of each other and even bitterness. The situation should be resolved through diplomatic, peaceful negotiations, calm and reasonable, and not through sanctions pressure."

"Tell me, how is the process of obtaining observer status for the Belarusian Peace Fund in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations going? We heard that you have submitted such a proposal to the UN."

"Our application has been considered, unfortunately, for 4 years. At the sessions, about once a quarter, the question is raised,



we are told: everything is fine, and each time we are offered to answer a number of questions. We write a lot of answers. We see that this is the so-called 'football', but, nevertheless, as seasoned peacemakers, we take it calmly, we are slowly moving towards our goal. Because we understand that it is very important that the voice of

Belarusian civil society be heard at the UN, that our representative be there, who will be able to come to the podium and say what our citizens really think, what they feel what is happening in the country. This, of course, will not be the 'picture from Belarus' that is broadcast by various pro-Western media. For various reasons, this information passes through certain filters and prisms, and as a result, ordinary people in Western countries see something completely different from what is happening in reality, which is true."

"As far as we know, your colleague Marat Yegorov, who headed the Fund for more than 40 years, was just as persistent in his time 'pushing through' the truth about Belarus at the international level. We were lucky to meet him in the same office, we had a long talk, and as a result of the conversation, two texts came out — they are on the Internet. The conversation took place on March 9th, 2010, and in the same year, on November 29th, the veteran died..."

"Consider yourself very lucky! I learn a lot from Marat Fedorovich in absentia. I often remember his catchphrases and reasoning. And how he broke through to the podium at one major international conference. He arrived, wanted to speak, and they told him: the rules... You are not on the list of speakers, so next time. And this is a year later... And so he takes a drawing paper, writes the words Chernobyl, stands between the rows and moves to the podium. Nobody could stop him then! Veteran, front-line soldier, journalist. He made his way to the podium and spoke. During the break, all the journalists rushed to him. Yegorov was a real fighter for peace, for lofty ideals, for his people, for the health of our children. After that, the flow of humanitarian aid to the regions of Belarus affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant increased. So this was a kind of feat of Marat Yegorov. Try it, come out like this to the podium! Even if you are 'within the rules', there may be not enough energy to break through

to the consciousness of people, to their hearts. And his charisma allowed him to do such things. He really fit the job he was doing. There used to be an attitude to save the world. And now we understand: it is not just to protect, it is necessary to fight for it. And Yegorov fought. Nothing good just happens. In order for the atmosphere around us to be peaceful, we need to invest our efforts and resources in the spiritual and moral education of young people, take care of veterans, and maintain the spirit of mutual concern and collectivism



■ Former front-line soldier Marat Yegorov headed the Belarusian Peace Foundation for over 40 years

in society. Leaders at different levels must take the time to stop, pause, and just talk to the person. Listen to him, discuss problems. Figuratively, my commander tells me about this: come on, Maksim, let's rewind. That is, let's pause, exhale the tension, let's not rush. (We laugh.)"

"Yegorov was a fighter in life..."

"Yes, and a real peacemaker. We often recall the legendary phrases of Marat Fedorovich. One of them: Belarus is a peacemaker country in which everyone is fighting for peace: from a schoolchild to the President. Now we see: it really is! This is real. I am proud that we continue the good traditions of those who came before



us. Mikhail Shimansky calls me from time to time — a journalist, he used to be the deputy chairman of the Belarusian Peace Fund. We made a number of books with him. When he asks how things are at the Fund, I say: Mikhail Nikolayevich, more or less, we try not to let you down. For me personally, it is very important that we do not let down the previous generation of peacemakers with our work and continue what they started. To be remembered and honoured. As it is the custom in a good family, so it should be in our organisation. Continuity, respect for what was done before you — this is the quality of a cultural and spiritual person. I see the activities of our fund as a big river of kindness, and we add a little bit of our deeds to it.”

“Previously, the Soviet people fought for peace throughout the world, and now you are making efforts to maintain peace precisely in your native land. In Belarus...”

“So it is: the activists of the Soviet Peace Fund fought for world peace. I talked with Anatoly Karpov — and he confirmed it. (Karpov is a world chess champion, he was the chairman of the Soviet Peace Fund.) He told me a lot of things, so I

know. But now we do not hesitate to say: world peace is good, but, above all, we are interested in the well-being of our people, our country. Our concern lies in the plane of our borders in the first place. Today, the Belarusian Peace Fund acts as one of the most reliable partners of the state not only in the international arena, but also in the implementation of social policy. We position ourselves as his assistants, we really succeed.”

“It turns out that you did not become an officer, but you are still actively involved in the defence of the Motherland. You said at our last meeting that you studied at a military school in Gorky for only a year, and then returned to Minsk due to your mother’s illness...”

“Yes, in Minsk, when I returned, I entered the Belarusian Institute of Law to study. I graduated from it, worked at various metropolitan enterprises: both as a legal adviser and as a director. After that, I entered graduate school at the Belarusian State University, presented the thesis on financial law. I remained to teach at the university, eventually received the title of associate professor. In 2014-16, I ran for deputies, was elected to Parliament,

where worked as deputy chairman of the commission on legislation. And at the same time I taught at the Faculty of Law. Then I realised: the foundations of personality are laid in childhood, and the Suvorov School crystallised everything laid in me. It has given me a lot in my life.”

“Apparently, there you will learn collectivism, teamwork...”

“It really is so. There were very strong teachers, honoured teachers. We were raised as the elite of society. They gave good knowledge, taught culture. They trained us as officers.”

“Did you go home for the weekend?”

“Not all of us. If you study well, then yes. You couldn’t if you had bad marks during the week. Well, you can’t but study here. Of course you want to go home. It was a good incentive (laughs). I entered with a ‘so-so’ certificate, and I graduated with all ‘fives’, there were only a few ‘fours’. Well, plus Aleksandr Vladimirovich Chirko. Everyone loved him, and still love him, as I said. His graduates call, come, we are in touch. We love him just like a father. We have very strong traditions. Although I did not become a military man, in 2012 I got into a public organisation that deals with cadet education. It united graduates



■ The banner of the Polotsk Cadet School returned to Polotsk almost a hundred years later: in September 2015. An exact copy of the banner of the Polotsk Cadet School of the 1844 model is kept in the local Epiphany Cathedral.

of the Suvorov military schools. There were, of course, different reasons for the meetings. And in 2010, a Presidential Decree was issued on the establishment of cadet schools throughout the country. A Coordinating Council for the Development of Cadet Education under the Security Council of Belarus was established. I was included in it. I then wrote a book in collaboration with Yulia Gavrilchenko *Cadet Education*. And in 2014, it was presented at the headquarters of the Belarusian Union of Suvorovites and Cadets. There are many pages in it about the Polotsk Cadet Corps, with which I have special memories.”

“It seems that one of the documentaries was dedicated to him...”

“In Soviet times, the corps was not remembered, but now this glorious page in the history of the cadets is being restored. Well, I was involved in this: I personally initiated, took part in and successfully implemented the project to return the banner of the Polotsk Cadet Corps to their homeland. The banner was

granted to the educational institution in 1844 by the Russian Emperor Nicholas I. Today it is the oldest military relic of Belarus. The banner was taken out of Russia in 1914, after the outbreak of the First World War. Then all the cadet corps were closed, and the cadets were scattered all over the world. I learned that two Polotsk cadets saved the banner when they emigrated. And in 2013, the idea arose to find out: where is this Polotsk banner? We began to search, and I found that it was in New York, in the Znamensky Synodal Cathedral. And this, we note, is the so-called house church of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. The banner there was guarded by old Russian nobles, whose parents studied at the Polotsk Cadet Corps. The youngest among them was Prince Vladimir Golitsyn: he was then 75 years old, he had already died. And the oldest, Valentin Mantulin, was 93 years old. And it was he who in 1943 transported the banner from Serbia to America. What is the result? I am writing a letter to the guardians of the banner, and

I am going with it to Father Filaret. I tell the situation, I ask you to sign the petition: they say, bless us so that everything works out for us. He signs. The letter asks: give us the banner, in Belarus the Polotsk Cadet Corps is being revived, the traditions of the cadets are being revived, we need a banner, and so on. After some time, I get an answer: we decided to transfer all the banners to Russia, but we understand: territorially, now it is Belarus. So come and let’s talk. I buy a plane ticket and go to New York. It was 2014.”

“Did you sit down at the negotiating table?”

“Yes, and the negotiations were not easy. I remember it all as an adventure movie. In the Cathedral of the Sign, 7 elderly men met me. Both Prince Golitsyn and Mantulin stood in the ranks. I was also offered to join the ranks: there is a photo of where I stand with them. Then there was a joint prayer, other ceremonial things and, finally, the negotiations themselves. In the end, we agreed. They sewed us an exact copy

of the banner in Ufa, in the monastery, and it turned out even more beautiful than the original. We agreed to meet in Serbia. The Americans flew there on a plane with a banner, and there they held the special ceremony when the old banner is disposed of, and the new one is legitimised. Golitsyn offered to hand over the old banner to us over time, it had already crumbled. We brought a new one, made an icon case, and it is now stored in the Holy Epiphany Cathedral in Polotsk. Four years later, the original itself arrived to us. In general, everything returned to Polotsk. I am glad to remember that I was involved in this. I still remember that we were finishing the negotiations and Mantulin said to me: Maksim, you teach the cadets. First: to protect the honour of the uniform. Second: to treat every woman as if they were their mother. And the power given to the sovereign was treated as the power given to God. I paraphrased the third one like this: our sacred duty is to defend the Motherland. This is how I understand my duty. I am still a member of the Coordinating Council for Cadet Education, for me the approaches to educating young people on the principles of true love for the Motherland are close and understandable. What is Motherland? It seems clear, but it is difficult to give an answer. I chose this criterion for myself: Motherland is what the Lord handed us without our choice. We have the right to choose in different situations, but there are things that we do not choose..."

"... Including parents, and the Motherland..."

"...That's right, I also think so. The place on planet Earth where we are born is predetermined from above. Apparently, the Almighty had a plan for you. You are here, and do not look at how they live in other countries. Worse, better... Why? You were sent here 'on a mission', your mission is here. What you have should be appreciated.

Next, turn on the logic. What is the most important thing for you? Your family and the place where you were born, where your ancestors lived. This is the place of your power."

"We are close and understand your reasoning. As well as why, as you said, the Fund's activists are primarily interested in the well-being of our people, our country. And how many people work in the Fund itself?"

"In the republican apparatus, I, my deputy Aleksandr Vladimirovich, Viktoria

■ The banner of the Polotsk Cadet School is stored in the temple in a special icon case



Vitalievna Troinich, press secretary and assistant, plus an accountant. The remaining deputies work on a voluntary basis. In the regions there are still full-time positions, these are the chairmen of regional branches and accountants,

and in the regions there are volunteers. So the financial burden on ensuring the operation of the apparatus is small, the rent of the premises is preferential for us. Previously, this entire building belonged to the Soviet Peace Fund: it built it. Then it passed into state ownership, even before me. But, nevertheless, the state supports us. And all funds, voluntary donations are directed to the good deeds that I spoke about. Here we recall the words of Marat Yegorov, who said: voluntary donations in our organisation are an objective indicator of the effectiveness of work. Voluntary donations are a kind of referendum, people's voting for peace. You can't say better! Sometimes I meet peacemakers in words, and I suggest that they vote for peace in the way that Marat Yegorov bequeathed. At least three roubles! At the same time, I do not hesitate to quote his words."

"And why did you mention the three roubles?"

"It's now 10 percent of the base value. The sum is scanty, we can say: symbolic. Anyone can afford such a donation for the sake of peace. In fact, it doesn't matter how much someone contributed, because the main thing is that you 'vote for peace.'"

"And how is the money transferred to the Fund?"

"We never had membership dues. You can write an application, and you are already a member of the Belarusian Peace Fund. With statements, our volunteers used to go to enterprises, organizations, they collected and formed a fund. There are organisations, commercial and government, which provide sponsorship assistance and help in the implementation of specific projects. But now we are approaching the task not just to systematize the receipt of contributions, but to increase the personal responsibility of everyone in relation to the cause of preserving peace. Personal contributions are an important psychological part of our work. Perhaps, over time, in order to be a member of the Belarusian Peace Fund, it will be necessary to contribute at least three roubles to the fund once a year."

“You’re right! Psychologically, as well as energetically, this should work more efficiently: if there is consistency in contributions and, as you say, there will be everyone’s responsibility.”

“In addition, money can be considered a universal means of accumulating and transferring energy. It can turn under certain conditions both into the energy of happiness and well-being, comfort, and into the energy of trouble. Giving money ‘for peace’, everyone feels involved in the cause of peace. We always report where each rouble is spent. Yegorov was right: if people trust an organisation, they give money. And they trust us. We have now summed up the results for the year: the reporting and election conference was held on November 30th. About 150,000 people have submitted applications this year alone. We have about one and a half million volunteers, this is from the 10 million population of Belarus. They help both with money and with deeds, as they can. Therefore, today we are able to provide assistance to many people, to implement large projects.”

“Do our big businessmen help the Fund?”

“They do. I already mentioned The Fifth Element. The Territory Edelweiss company, director Fedor Troyan, the Conte company from Grodno helps a lot, it is headed by Valentin Valentinovich Baiko, he is also a senator now. Aversev Publishing House is also our assistant, its director Dmitry Dembovsky and editor-in-chief Aleksandr Taranda, he is also a member of the board of our fund, like Baiko. These books are their work: editing, layout, design... They do everything for us for free, they also paid for half of the book circulation. And the Buslik chain of children’s stores always prepares gifts for children for competitions. Large businessmen, seeing where their funds went, continue to cooperate with us. But in our activities, following the Slavic cultural traditions, we try not to be

intrusive. If someone addresses us, we say: look. Then, little by little, we move towards each other. Businessmen are, as a rule, good psychologists. It is not enough to just come to them and say ‘give me money’. We have other approaches. We understand that charity issues are subtle and delicate.”

“Do cultural figures cooperate with you?”

“Of course! Igor Luchenok collaborated with us, Eduard Khanok, Pesnyary, and Verasy... Singer Irina Dorofeyeva also collaborated. Now there are both artists and writers. I repeat: Gleb Otchik, Ales



Karlyukevich, Aleksandr Anisimov work on the Board of the Fund... We believe that peace and culture are one.”

“Peacemakers, as you said in the previous conversation, should be where the truth is, which is in the middle. In discussions, you shouldn’t support any party. Have you ever found yourself in situations where you agreed with something outwardly, but not immediately in your soul?”

“Of course! At one time, I repeat, I was a deputy. Difficult, responsible period. There you do not fully belong to yourself, you act in the interests of the state: whether you like something or not. In addition, we must understand the hierarchy, observe subordination, evaluate the place where we are now. If

you personally may not like something, then you can directly say about it in the kitchen. But this is your personal opinion. Besides, you can be wrong! But you must think and act in the interests of those people in whose name you are doing something. If you are a politician, then in the name of the interests of the state. There is a wise expression: it’s good that those who want to be president are already working as hairdressers. They certainly know how to run the country, and they will tell you about it while they cut your hair. But sometimes you have a special position. Then you must put the interests of society, the state, the Government, the President in the first place. This hierarchy is important if you are a public, political figure.”

“And at the same time, you are also going through a good school of humility...”

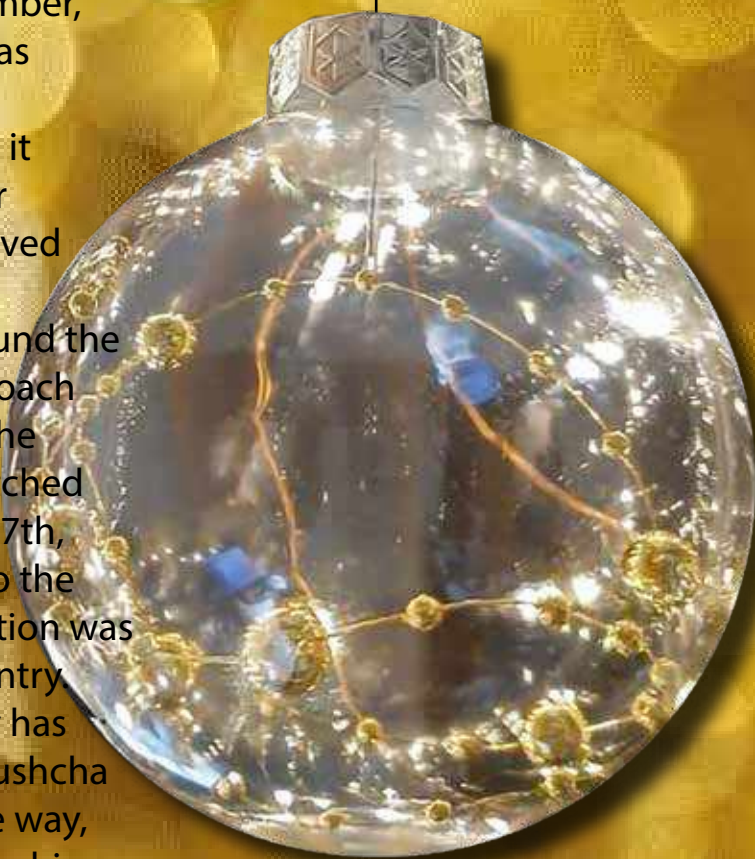
“Moreover... Sometimes I hear: oh, you changed your mind. How else! If you do not change, do not take into account the conditions of life, then you are just a fool. Even a hare turns from gray to white for the winter ...

You do not develop. And we must grow every day. New information comes, and you analyse it, change something. Plus, you still look back, draw analogies: you learn lessons from the past. As a result, you change your mind. If you are a normal, thinking person, this opinion you have about some current things can change often: life does not stand still. Everything flows, everything changes. In any situation, you need to understand your place in society, in the world. Where are you now: on vacation, or on a pilgrimage trip, in the kitchen or at an international conference. You must clearly understand: tomorrow depends a lot on what you say today. And we are responsible for this.”

Interviewed by Ivan and Valentina **Zhdanovich**

Happy NEW YEAR, peace and kindness TO YOU!

Winter is early this year. Already in November, the first snow fell in Belarus, and there was a steady minus. And at the beginning of December, there was so much snow that it seemed that Christmas and the New Year were very close, and these holidays, beloved by Minskians, which, according to a long tradition, are called Yuletide, are just around the corner. The feeling of joy from their approach intensified on December 15th, when in the evening the festive illumination was switched on in Minsk at the same time. From the 17th, Christmas trees were already delivered to the Christmas tree markets, and the illumination was turned on in other large cities of the country. And the main Father Frost of the country has been inviting guests to Belovezhskaya Pushcha since the beginning of the month. By the way, not only Belarusians and Russians write to him, but also residents of China, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, the USA and other countries.



HOLIDAYS



■ Independence Avenue shone with festive lights

A holiday, a good mood in a metropolis is hard to imagine without sparkling lights. There are high-class specialists in Minsk from the Mingorsvet operational dispatch service, who first equip everything, and then, as they say, with one click of a computer mouse, they give everyone a 'sparkling' New Year's fairy tale, which was done in the capital of Belarus, according to tradition, for the thirteenth time. (Olga Sakharova. Who and how lights the festive illumination in Minsk [electronic resource]).

This year, as Mingorsvet specialists said, 4,915 string lights, 1,446 light patterns and 227 light structures appeared on the streets of the city. On the main thoroughfare of the city — Independence Avenue — new illumination in the form of 3-meter 'chandeliers', or peculiar icicles, surprises and pleases the eyes: they are placed on outdoor lighting poles. On the section from Yanka Kupala Street to Kozlova Street, the supports are decorated with patriotic light patterns — torches and stars. On the bridge over the Svisloch River, you can admire light structures in the form of crowns with light strings. And near the building of the circus, Minsk residents and guests were pleased with a huge light figure of a clown, next to which photo shoots immediately began.

As the good magicians from Mingorsvet informed, on the holidays themselves — on Catholic and Orthodox Christmas, on the New Year and the Old New Year — the illumination will shine throughout the night.

By the holidays, 17 artificial Christmas trees were installed in the main squares of the city and regional sites. On Oktyabrskaya Square, the 30-meter Main Christmas Tree of the country is standing and volumetric light figures sparkle next to it. A

unique tree consisting of 86 light balls appeared on the square near the City Hall. The authors of this interesting project are the same designers who came up with last year's Christmas tree at the Sports Palace, recognised as one of the most beautiful in Europe. New Year and Christmas fairs were also opened there with various gifts and souvenirs — according to tradition, fairs began to work in Belarus long before the holidays.

Let us remind readers that the New Year in Belarus is a public holiday and a day off. It is celebrated by all residents of the country on the night of December 31st to January 1st, and the traditions of its celebration are deeply rooted in history.

In the old days, however, according to folklorists, the Slavs celebrated the New Year on September 1st, as a harvest year, a year of new hopes and accomplishments. Later, the celebration was moved to January 1st.

Today, the New Year for Belarusians is a day when you can get together with a company, go out into nature, to the country house or just go out into the city for a walk in order to spend the outgoing New Year together and have fun. Most Belarusians, by the way, consider the New Year the main winter holiday and prefer to celebrate it first at home, with their families. Ten minutes before the New Year, the congratulations of the President of the country are expected, then they listen to him, and at midnight, to the chimes, they raise glasses of champagne, make wishes and have fun. Well, the festive tables are sure to be set by this time. Tangerines, pastries, traditional Olivier salad and various other dishes delight lovers of delicious food on a festive night. And then Minskians take to the streets and set off fireworks. Some go to the Main Christmas Tree



- At the circus, Minsk residents and guests were pleased with a huge light figure of a clown, next to which photo shoots immediately began.
- The main Christmas tree of the country at Octyabrskaya Square
- Light composition near the Minsk City Hall
- The reflection of the light tree on the Nemiga can be seen in the Svisloch River

— to October Square, or to other places of mass celebrations. As a rule, a lot of people gather there, if, of course, the weather favours. In some neighbourhoods, children and adults go downhill on New Year's Eve. By the way, I know romantics who celebrate the New Year with friends... in the forest, by a large fire. As they say, a matter of taste.

By analogy with the capital and in the regional cities and towns of Belarus, the scheme for celebrating the New Year is similar, only on a smaller scale. In any case, the atmosphere there pleases the inhabitants. As a rule, local cultural workers prepare an interesting New Year's programme for their countrymen. Even strangers, meeting on the streets, wish each other a happy New Year and Christmas. And Catholics, by the way, celebrate Christmas on December 25th — and this is also a holiday in Belarus, a day off.

Starting from December 15th, the Republican charitable event Our Children takes place every year in Belarus, which will last until January 15th. The event is over 25 years old. The initiator of this charitable tradition was President Aleksandr Lukashenko. And today it is held under his patronage. Every year the geography of participants, who by their personal example show how responsive and kind the people of Belarus is, is expanding. Every year, on New Year's and Christmas Eve, government officials, representatives of local authorities, public associations, businessmen, athletes, theatre artists, pop stars, the military visit orphanages, foster families, hospitals to give children an unforgettable holiday. New Year events for children are held in Minsk and in all regions, which we will discuss in detail in the next issue.



As you know, children all over the world are waiting for gifts from St. Nicholas on holidays. In Belarus, according to a long Slavic tradition, this wizard is named after Father Frost.

There is a joke that the New Year's magician works the least: a day through 364. But this is just a joke. After all, say, Father Frost, who settled in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, is at his post all year round. The doors of his estate are open to visitors at any time. Moreover, the owner of the fabulous estate manages not only to communicate with tourists, but also answers letters that come to him from everywhere. Almost nine months of the year, Father Frost is in his estate. Of course, he also has assistants. But only with the advent of winter, the family of Father Frost is reunited. The Snow Maiden, Mother Winter and her daughters Stuzha, Vyuga and Metelitsa traditionally come to Belovezhskaya Pushcha on the first Saturday of December. So it was this time.

HOLYDAYS



- Santa Claus in the national park «Belovezhskaya Pushcha» at his post all year round. The owner of the fabulous estate not only communicates with tourists, but also answers letters that come to him from everywhere.
- During the presentation of gifts to children in Zelva, Grodno region
- The campaign «Our Children», which started on December 15, will last until January 15

Every day, several solid stacks of correspondence are placed on the table of the Father Frost from the Belovezhskaya Pushcha. One contains letters with wishes and requests for gifts, postcards, drawings and other cute souvenirs. Next to them are envelopes with answers, as told to us by fellow journalists who entered the estate. Children congratulate Father Frost on the holidays, tell how they behaved and what they are fond of. Boys and girls are waiting for the fulfilment of the sacred in the New Year and expect to see a welcome gift under the tree. For example, they ask Father Frost to give gadgets, something for a hobby, new toys. A letter from a graduate of one of the Minsk schools turned out to be touching. The young man thanked Father Frost for his previously fulfilled wishes and said that this was his last letter. He explained the decision by the fact that he would soon finish school and become an adult. The guy asked to make the summer interesting. A girl from Brest shared the news about her success at school and noted that she did not need anything from Father

Frost. She knows that happiness is not in gifts, but in a friendly family, peace and friendship.

“Just yesterday I was answering a letter from a four-year-old boy. Perhaps his mother helped him write. He said that dad works as a truck driver and spends a lot of time in lines at the border. The child would very much like his dad to be at home more often and to play with him longer. It touches me well, right to tears,” Father Frost shared one of the stories with our fellow journalists from the news agency BELTA, who visited his residence.

Letters to Belovezhskaya Pushcha come from all over the world. Most of them are sent by Belarusians and Russians. People from China, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, the USA and other countries send messages to Father Frost in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. And people have different wishes. Letters come not only from children, adults also willingly write. “Mostly adults ask for health. They want stability and tranquillity, a peaceful sky, friendship between people, more reasons for joy. Adults,



■ Father Frost and the Snow Maiden invite to Belovezhskaya Pushcha

it seems to me, believe in a fairy tale, in a miracle even more than children. When we communicate, they are sincerely happy about what is happening,” the owner of the Pushcha estate drew attention.

For example, for the first time this year, a 50-year-old employee of a children’s clinic in Gomel wrote to Belarusian Father Frost. She sent a very good message. According to the woman, she wanted to re-experience the special feelings of anticipation of the holiday, as once in childhood. At the end of the letter, the Gomel woman asked for peace for the Belarusian land, goodness and happiness. I wished that people would be kinder to each other. Another Belarusian sincerely wishes that his relationship with a person dear to his heart would improve. By the way, Father Frost also receives extraordinary messages. For example, once a 65-year-old woman offered to marry her, sent her photo. Unfortunately, she did not take into account that Father Frost has been happy for many years with his wife Mother Winter.

For a year, from 15 to 20 thousand letters come to the Belovezhskaya estate. They even come with the mark ‘Father Frost to the North Pole’ and without stamps. The flow of correspondence has been increasing somewhere since mid-November. Father Frost sends a response to each message. Most importantly, the sender’s return address must be accurate. By the way, all letters and gifts are carefully stored in the museum and treasury. It happens that visitors find gifts that they made to Father Frost several years ago. There are many such cases, given that the estate opened in 2003.

And on December 3rd, the Snow Maiden arrived at the estate. About 3,000 guests visited that day. They were treated to biscuits baked in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha confectionery.

By the way, Father Frost has very little time left to rest. He said that in his estate on the second floor of the house there is a bedroom with seven pillows. On the largest one, he can sleep for eight hours. When there is very little time, you have to take a nap on the smallest one for only 30 minutes. And he explained that the energy of communication with people compensates for everything. “I recharge by going out to people and giving them a fairy tale, joy, positive emotions. That kind of energy lasts for a long time.”

Mikhailina **Cherkashina**



*Счастливого Нового года
и Рождества!*

*Мира, здоровья, тепла
и уюта в новом году.
Мы всегда вам рады!*

*Happy New Year and
Merry Christmas!*

*We wish you peace, health, warmth
and comfort in the New Year!
We are always happy to see you!*

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BRILLIANT UNION OF LOVE, LABOUR AND CREATIVITY



Journalist, writer, publisher of the magazine Gaspadynya. Syameyny Chasopis, candidate of philosophical sciences, author of a large-scale project in the Belarusian journalism Postatsi (Figures) Zinovy Prigodich recalls meetings and conversations with famous people in Belarus, talks about the priorities of his life, its sharp turns. And also about creative searches and family joys, which, according to her, are a prerequisite for complete happiness.

Each of us, figuratively speaking, writes his own book of life. We write as best we can, as our talents allow us. As well as the circumstances of earthly existence, in which we are all firmly built from birth. Well, life, as you know, is a complicated thing, and by no means is it kind and supportive to everyone. So our interlocutor, in the course of the conversation, also told about his post-war childhood, and how even in those years he happened to be on the thin line between life and death three times in those years. He survived. Then the upheavals and storms of the post-perestroika era in the early 1990s threw a successful journalist and editor onto the shores of reality, simply unemployed. But the life experience of a person who knows how to love, work and create, of course, remained with him. And who, tell me, is capable of devaluing such a value?.. And a worker from Polesie, having, moreover, a strong family rear, managed to build with like-minded people, figuratively speaking, a modest ship in a raging sea of changes: the Gaspadynya magazine. In fact, this publication is the same age as independent Belarus. Even now Gaspadynya, having passed various tests, partial rebranding, confidently keeps afloat with more than 20 thousand subscribers.

There are different sections, chapters, pages in the book of the life of Zinovy Prigodich. There is persistent work, journalism, with a predominance of essays, stories about people of rural labour, since this was the journalistic specialisation at the beginning of a guy-newspaperman from the Polesie outback. There are poems and stories, stories about love — created by the heart, warmed by the sincerity and wisdom of a person who has experienced high feelings. By the way, Zinovy Kirillovich signed for us as a keepsake his recently published book of novels and short stories Charomkhavaya Khalady — ‘to my talented colleagues, good friends with gratitude for the conversation’. It is about love. We were pleasantly surprised that at a wonderful age of creative maturity, a journalist and

writer, having more than 40 different books behind him, paid tribute to the quivering and always young feeling, to which ‘all ages are submissive’. And imagine: against such a lyrical background, the book of the life of Zinovy Prigodich also contains a service (he was ‘mobilized’ three times in the apparatus of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus, and later he also worked as Deputy Minister of Information). There was also a study in the ‘elite’ institution in the Soviet times: the Academy of Social Sciences in Moscow. There he proved himself as a research scientist, wrote and presented his Ph.D. thesis in philosophy. The doctoral thesis was also ready, but he didn’t have a chance to present it: there was another service turn.

What does our interlocutor end up with? A deep knowledge of life, the ability to evaluate its phenomena both from the standpoint of a journalist, publicist, writer, and a statesman. Great respect for people of labor and creativity, which comes from great personal diligence. Plus, a rare talent to establish a confidential dialogue with eminent interlocutors, the ability to listen and hear — and not ‘give orders’, as sometimes happens with some people who have been in power. With such baggage, Zinovy Prigodich set about, perhaps, the most ambitious creative project of his life. One of his first interlocutors, by the way, was the famous Belarusian writer Vasil Bykov. It took the master more than 15 years to create, first publish the trilogy of dialogues Postatsi (Figures), which contained 30 creative portraits of famous people of literature, culture, art, and then the three-volume Creators: he included there 15 previous texts, translated into Russian, and 15 new ones. Total of 45. There has never been such a large-scale project in Belarusian journalism before.

Recently in Minsk in the House of Writers there was a presentation of these two three-volume books, and at the same time a creative evening event of Zinovy Prigodich, to which we had the honour to be invited. A full hall, beautiful faces,

characters of books in the hall and on stage, a warm atmosphere and many kind words addressed to the author. It was then that we had a desire to talk with someone who can be considered a true master of creative portraiture and lively dialogue. A few days later, as it all happened, we were already talking with the Editor-in-Chief of Gaspadynya in his small office. Preparing the text for printing, we remove the ‘scaffolding’ from our questions, remarks, reasoning in the course of the conversation and give the floor to Zinovy Kirillovich. Of course, a lot of things were not included in this text ... Perhaps, ‘touches to the portrait of the master’ will not be superfluous, they will help readers to better understand the personality of the author-creator himself. However, in the book of his life (as well as our books ...) this friendly conversation is already inscribed...

*** Sometimes people ask me when it is better to work:** in a state of peace of mind or internal tension, a passionate desire to express something? Both states for me can be suitable for creativity. Several stories, for example, were ‘brought to life’ by my parting with my first love. I was then, I confess, in a very depressed state. In order to get rid of those conflicting emotions, in order to comprehend them deeply at the same time, it was necessary to speak out. Now I know: there are such methods in psychoanalysis. So, I wrote my first story My Sorrow is Light in this state. And I think over some artistic things, I hatch the plot, sort out the details. Then I need peace of mind. Moreover, I like to write when urgent work is not waiting for me in the near future, I need a whole day for creativity, calm and measured. I write mostly in the morning. I know that among writers there are those who like to work in the evenings, this is impossible for me to do it at night. So both inner excitement, and peace, tranquility are, I will say figuratively, like two wings for a creative flight. Usually there is some kind of stimulus, the first impetus for the idea, and it can come in a tense life situation. And its implementation, writing in my

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creative method, worked out for decades, requires peace of mind.

* **There is an opinion:** a writer, no matter what he writes, he always writes about himself. As for me, if I haven't experienced something myself, haven't seen it with my own eyes, it's not available to me to create the outline of a work of art. And there are writers who create whole worlds within themselves. For example, I was well acquainted with the People's Writer of Belarus Ivan Shamyakin, whom I consider an outstanding storyteller. He made so much up! But this, as they say, is not mine. In my literary work, I mostly use autobiographical material. Which does not exclude, of course, writing out images, generalisations, typifications. At one time I wrote the story *The Night Before Sunday*, there is a biographical canvas there. Some images were written on the basis of real prototypes, including those of my relatives, fellow villagers. In the course of the story, of course, I conjectured something in accordance with the logic of life, characters, plot. This is how the characters talk to each other, what conflicts do they resolve? Yes, I had to turn on my imagination: I thought of something and wrote it. Imagine, some people recognised themselves in the images, asked: who told you this? (Laughs) There was no stranger there... But I got so into that stream of life that it seems to people: word for word, it was like that... I say: yes, I invented it all. They do not believe: noooo, someone told. This is how some other reality is born on the biographical canvas with the help of the writer's imagination and fantasy. I am always interested in how to raise everyday material to a different level of perception. You take something from a real person, you 'edit' something in him for greater persuasiveness, relief, visibility. This is how women 'make' with the help of various tricks for themselves such a face that they want, based on what is in reality... So it is here: you take the basis, you smooth something, enlarge something, generalize.

■ During an interview in the editorial office of the magazine «Gaspadynya»

*** My creative method has evolved along with me.** I worked in the editorial offices of newspapers, was at party work in the apparatus of the Central Committee, headed a department in the Republican Party School, held responsible positions in journalism, in the Ministry of Information. Here in the morning, as a rule, the active phase of life, besides, it is important to 'see reality', and not live in a fantasy world. Difficult for me, to be honest, was the party period, and, of course, not the best for creativity. However, it gave me a lot for creative growth. This is such a dialectic. First, I touched upon a very interesting sphere of life, one might say: the highest spheres of political life. And I'll clarify, I worked in the 70-80s in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus, for a long time I was an assistant to the secretary of the Central Committee of the CPB on ideology Aleksandr Kuzmin, I talked with Pyotr Masherov and other well-known personalities at that time: party, statesmen. This experience allowed me to reach a new level of understanding of life. As a journalist by that time I had mastered, written out the everyday layer of life, production. And the 'higher spheres' had to be mastered. I saw how everything is knitted and boiled, how 'issues are resolved' or, how skillfully, with the help of subtle tricks, 'are kicked back'. And how many behind-the-scenes games, flows of ideas and influences, how many bright characters... I keep a lot in my memory, I hope to write about it because we have very few such texts. As a rule, those who work 'in the system' do not master the pen enough to leave behind vivid memoirs. Another positive thing from that time: when I was Kuzmin's assistant, hundreds of the most interesting people passed through his waiting room with me. Writers, artists, scientists, philosophers... Perhaps, my ideas about creating an 'encyclopedic' series of conversations, like Postatsi, come from there. For example, since then I have started a friendly relationship with the artist Mikhail Savitsky. As a rule, Aleksandr Kuzmin

was busy, and we offered the visitor a cup of tea, our conversation with him. Sometimes not for long, and sometimes the waiting was prolonged for half an hour. So Mikhail Savitsky and I somehow got into a conversation. I knew him from his work before, but in the conversation I immediately felt what a deep personality he was, how versatile and unconventional the artist is. Later, conversations with him developed into a creative portrait for the three-volume Postatsi.

*** I was mobilised three times for the party service, in the apparatus of the Central Committee of the CPB.** A unique case: even the second time, few people got there. The first time they took me to the apparatus was in 1977. On February 23rd, as I remember, I went to work. It was very interesting to work in the Department of Culture, Literature and Cinema: seminars, creative meetings... For me, of course, all this was not new. I also attended such events while working in the editorial office of the Zvyazda newspaper. But here everything was revealed on a different level. Details that many do not know about appeared, other horizons were revealed. I worked there for a little over six months, and I received a new offer. Journalist, colleague Aleksandr Shabalin left the Central Committee for the position of editor-in-chief of the Belarus magazine. It was necessary to find someone to take his place, and he offered Kuzmin my candidacy for the position of assistant. To be honest, I did not like that position at all, although it was highly rated in the Central Committee apparatus, at the level of the head of a department or even higher. In short, I became an assistant, and worked there for more than four years. And over time, I became so tired! You arrive at 8 o'clock in the morning and rarely leave at 8 o'clock in the evening. Endless notes, articles, theses... And Kuzmin was incredibly demanding. Moreover, he usually formulated the task in an abstract way: 'We need something unusual!'. And now I'm racking my brains: what would such a thing be... More than once I had to write

an article, then rewrite it, finish it. One time, I counted as many as 14 versions! It's like an endless nightmare! There were usually no days off. 'So come tomorrow and we'll work' — such wording before the weekend was commonplace. I worked there, as they say, for wear and tear, in the end I begged the management to send me to study in Moscow: at the Academy of Social Sciences. I really wanted to break free. And there in 1981-84 I worked very fruitfully: I wrote and presented my thesis, became a candidate of philosophical sciences.

*** My second 'mobilisation' in the Central Committee happened after Moscow.** Moreover, they took me as a simple instructor in the same department of culture, with an eye on further career growth. But this, however, did not happen, and three months later I was sent as the head of the department at the Republican Party School. I worked there for more than 4 years, and in the meantime, perestroika began. I wrote my doctoral thesis, and almost finished it, and the topic was very interesting: 'Literature and Perestroika'. Back then, after all, there was so much different literature, the material for research is the richest. And then all at once, as they say, collapsed...

*** And there was a third 'mobilisation' after I was urgently summoned to his office by Valery Pechennikov, who by that time had replaced Aleksandr Kuzmin.** As it turned out later, Pechennikov read my article in the Polymya magazine, he liked it: 'We need such people. Come to work tomorrow'. And this is just on the eve of the new year 1989: on the 20th of December. I say: I'm ready to come in six months, but let me finish my doctoral thesis, present it... 'Where will your doctoral thesis go? Do you see what is happening in the country? Fire! And we are in dire need of people who would know journalism and the literary environment from the inside. Everybody! No talking! You are a communist!'. I came home, as they say, neither alive nor dead. My wife looked at me in alarm: what happened? I tell her, and she is in tears ...

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That's why I tell you about it in such detail so that you know, understand: work in the Central Committee was very difficult, we did not just 'shift papers', as it might seem to someone. I ended up there for another 9 months, and it was like working on a volcano. I'm not exaggerating. My position was as follows: deputy head of the ideological department. Let's say, there is a rally and turbulence in the Union of Artists, and I go there like an embrasure. And then go to the meeting at the Writers' Union. And what stormy meetings there were then! Nobody listens to any arguments. Already the party is no authority for them, they throw me in the face: 'You are a member of the Central Committee, a commie...'. Well, it's like I don't have the right to vote. But I, believe me, saw everything from the inside.

Many good, intelligent, educated people worked in the Central Committee. Well, some 'figures' in the wake of perestroika were so carried away by new ideas that they lost their bearings. I remember meeting with the leadership of television when the youth program Krok began to appear — the Belarusian analogue of the Moscow Vzglyad. Journalists in it sharply, sometimes excessively bitingly spoke out, did not always objectively cover topical issues. I said: we are not against different topics, but let's speak in a balanced way, evaluate facts and events, and not stir up passions in society. We discussed for two hours, and they have their own argument: if we talk insipidly, without exacerbating it, they won't even look at us. That's the whole conversation... For them, rating, noise, popularity were already more

valuable than common sense. That was my job in the cool 1989. The country was rolling into the abyss, and many unconsciously pushed it there, sincerely believing that they were 'building a new tomorrow'. Alas, the miracle did not happen then...

*** My work at the Central Committee, I repeat, provided a unique opportunity to meet amazingly interesting people who undoubtedly influenced my development as a person.** That is where the roots of my trilogies are. When I talked with the subjects of the stories, I first published, tested the texts in periodicals, then collected in the Belarusian language into the three-volume Postatsi: each of the books contains ten conversations, thirty in total. Then came the three-volume Creators. There were 45 of all conversations and essays in the books. Each of my interlocutors is a significant person, a phenomenon in Belarusian culture. But there was also a literary and journalistic project, since I had long conversations with the classics of our literature: Andrey Makayonok, Ivan Shamyakin, Maksim Tank... Boris Sachenko became my close friend, as did Yanka Sipakov. Based on those conversations, impressions, I wrote the book Literature as a Destiny. While working at the Republican Party School, I met Vasil Bykov, invited him to speak with us, and over time, using a tape recording that was then made, prepared an interesting text for the Polymya magazine. The text was included in the trilogy. I remember that a commission from Moscow came to monitor, as they say now, the situation in Belarus. Muscovites were extremely eager to meet Bykov as a prominent representative of the creative elite, but he did not want this. And I was sent for negotiations: you know him, talk to him. At first, the writer was categorical: 'I don't want to! All the same, they will do their own thing, they will twist it, they will only sully my name...'. In short, no way! But I gently, little by little, drew him into the dialogue. He said: believe me, I don't want to set you up, and I know that these people are very interesting, objective. In the end, Bykov told me: 'Okay, I'll believe you'. And he went to a meeting, and then



■ Moments of communication between Zinovy Prigodich and Valentin Elizariyev (in the photo - on the left), artistic director of the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus

said: 'Thank you, it was really a good conversation, and, I hope, useful'.

*** Working on trilogies of creative portraits, I asked all the interlocutors the question:** what, in your opinion, is the meaning of life? The answer, of course, was different. People's Artist of Belarus Maria Zakharevich said that she was looking for it in her favorite work, but over time she came to the conclusion that the most important thing for everyone is family. She confessed that she was so sorry that she had devoted herself entirely to work — in the theatre, on radio, on television, at various evenings and events, so much that she almost never went home. At the same time, children grew up without her guardianship, love. Thank God that they grew up to be worthy people. By the way, her son Andrei is a good actor, he works at the Maksim Gorky Theater. I note that I always seriously and thoroughly prepare for each conversation. I read a lot from what has already been written about the interlocutor, I think over the questions so that it would be interesting for them to answer them, with personal references. It happens that someone will tell about something personal, and then asks to omit the living details of the conversation. I agree, although it's a pity to cut!

*** For me today, the main priorities in life are my favourite work and family.** To be honest, and I really regret that I didn't give enough attention to my family and children. Although they sometimes say: well, you've been with us so much! And there are films, and there are a lot of pictures. I filmed my daughter's first steps, important stages of life: the first time in the first grade and others. By the 16th birthday of Olga, I collected photographs — her first month, three, six, nine, a year old, and then by years up to 16. The album-photo chronicle turned out to be solid, the daughter (lives in

St. Petersburg, works as a psychologist) appreciates it as a family heirloom. And for my son Yevgeny, on the occasion of his 50th birthday, I published a whole book of photographs: High Noon. He asked for something from my archives, something from their pictures: from trips abroad and others. It turned out interesting. By the way, you saw my daughter-in-law in the hall at the presentation evening. Good girl. I told her to go on stage — she was shy. There is a



■ Proceedings of Zinovy Prigodich

video recording of a creative meeting, I showed it to my wife, she liked everything so much. And she, Svetlana Grigorievna, also a journalist by education, worked as an editor at the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House. The head of the department was the People's Writer of Belarus Ryhor Borodulin, and Yanka Bryl's daughter worked there. My Svetlana also met interesting people, edited the Collected Works of Vladimir Korotkevich, books by Maksim Luzhanin and other authors.

*** I already have four grandchildren:** Olga's children are Nikolai (he is 32 years

old, IT specialist, test programmer) and Katerina. She is a journalist by education, she was professionally engaged in parachuting in group acrobatics, she was even an instructor in the training of high-level parachutists. And then the granddaughter had an interesting somersault: she entered international courses along the Moscow-London line, studied for two years and received an economic education. Now she works in a reputable company in Moscow and travels to different countries. Yevgeny's son Artem, my grandson, is still studying, getting an education at the intersection of economics and IT technologies. He already works part-time in his father's company. Artem now has a sister, Liza, who is

15 years younger than him. Charming! She is only a year old, and is already running around all rooms. Artem was calm at that age, and a little phlegmatic, and up to 10 years he spent the whole summer with me, mainly in the country. We played different games with him, did some crafts. By the way, on the basis of conversations, classes, close and warm communication with my grandson, I even wrote the book Artem's Vacations. In total, I have published 40 books, more documentaries, there are also fiction. The most significant in recent times are, of course, the three-volume books Postatsi and Creators, which, as I have already said, I have been working on for 15 years. And in parallel there were other projects — 16 more books were published, including 3 books dedicated to literature and writers. It includes texts written after conversations with Arkady Kuleshov, Maksim Tank, Yanka Bryl, detailed, long essays about Boris Sachenko, Yanka Sipakov, Gennady Buravkin... About the latter, I think, no one has written more deeply and comprehensively yet.

Interviewed by Ivan and Valentina **Zhdanovich**

SEE THE INTERLOCUTOR

In 2020, MediaMeter CJSC in the Republic of Belarus created a media measurement system that meets international standards, and the company was identified as a single national media meter

“All over the world, media metering operates on the basis of public-private partnerships, and, as a rule, there is only one media meter in a country. To exclude the affiliation of the state, it should not be state. Our regulator, the Ministry of Information, determines the requirements for a single national media meter and controls its activities on a certain range of issues,” explains Vladimir Shafarenko, Deputy General Director of MediaMeter CJSC.

As part of the project to create a media metering system, MediaMeter CJSC signed a contract with Kantar Media UK Limited (Great Britain), a global supplier of media metering technology, as well as with other companies in this group, such as Kantar Media Medya Arastirmalari Danismanlik VE Ticaret A.S. (Republic of Turkey), Kantar Tech Spain SL (Spain), for the supply of equipment, the transfer of software under licenses, the provision of technology support services.

The system of media metering used in our country is based on sample surveys of urban households. Currently, the sampling covers 550 households, which are distributed in Minsk, regional and district centres. The list is updated annually up to 25 percent, and in order to correct it, annual establishment studies are carried out based on a survey of about three thousand respondents using face-to-face technology. It should be noted that information about families in which peplemeters are installed is closed.

MediaMeter CJSC also conducts a study of the audience of Belarusian radio stations, for this the company has created its own research centre.



В 2020 году ЗАО «МедиаИзмеритель» (MEDIAMETER) в Республике Беларусь создана соответствующая мировым стандартам система медиаизмерений, а компания была определена единым национальным медиаизмерителем

«Во всем мире медиаизмерение работает на основе государственно-частного партнерства, и, как правило, в стране существует только один медиаизмеритель. Чтобы исключить аффилированность государства, он не должен быть государственным. Наш регулятор — Министерство информации — определяет требования к единому национальному медиаизмерителю и контролирует его деятельность по определенному кругу вопросов», — поясняет заместитель генерального директора ЗАО «МедиаИзмеритель» Владимир Шафаренко.

В рамках проекта по созданию системы медиаизмерений ЗАО «МедиаИзмеритель» заключен контракт с мировым поставщиком технологии в области медиаизмерений Kantar Media UK Limited (Великобритания), а также с другими компаниями этой группы – Kantar Media Medya Arastirmalari Danismanlik VE Ticaret A.S. (Турецкая Республика), Kantar Tech Spain SL (Испания) – на поставку оборудования, передачу программного обеспечения на условиях лицензий, оказание услуг по поддержке технологий.

Используемая в нашей стране система медиаизмерений основана на выборочных исследованиях домохозяйств городского населения. В настоящее время выборка составляет 550 домохозяйств, которые распределены в Минске, областных и районных центрах. Перечень ежегодно обновляется до 25 процентов, а для его корректировки проводятся ежегодные установочные исследования на основании опроса около трех тысяч респондентов по технологии face-to-face. Необходимо отметить, что информация о семьях, в которых установлены пиплметры, закрыта.

ЗАО «МедиаИзмеритель» также проводит исследование аудитории белорусских радиостанций, для этого компанией был создан собственный центр исследований.

Используемая система позволяет анализировать данные о том, кто и как смотрит телевидение и слушает радио в Беларуси. «МедиаИзмеритель» изучает рейтинги теле- и радиоканалов, охват, лояльность и предпочтения зрителей и слушателей, сравнивает спрос с предложением. При этом компания строго

УВИДЕТЬ СОБЕСЕДНИКА



The system used makes it possible to analyse data on who watches TV and listens to radio in Belarus and how. MediaMeter studies the ratings of TV and radio channels, coverage, loyalty and preferences of viewers and listeners, compares demand with supply. At the same time, the company strictly adheres to three main principles: independence, reliability and truthfulness.

“The consumers of our data are television media, radio stations, advertising agencies represented by Industrial Solutions LLC, with which we have entered into an agreement. Such a scheme of work makes it possible to exclude the dependence of the media meter on media holdings or the state,” Vladimir Shafarenko draws attention.

The data obtained is a tool for the development of TV channels and radio stations. It allows you to see what content the viewer likes, what audience consumes it. The second aspect is transparent, accurate and objective information for advertisers. MediaMeter makes it possible to check whether all paid commercials have actually been released. It also captures which audience has seen and heard them and how many times.

But most importantly, MediaMeter is constantly developing and offering a product that is in demand on the media market. This is how the partnership with the TV and radio broadcasting industry developed.

“Initially, we launched our system to study 22 TV channels. These were predominantly Belarusian media, and they occupied about 50 percent of the TV viewing pie. Later, together with our British colleagues, we found a technology that allowed us to look into the second half of the pie. In test mode, we analysed about 140 TV channels broadcast by two telecom operators. Based on the results of the analysis of the received data, 60 were selected, which occupy 97 percent of all television viewing. These TV channels were brought into our system of measurements. The information we receive is useful not only for television media and advertising agencies, but also for government agencies and telecommunication operators providing TV services to the public, as well as distributors of TV channels in the territory of the Republic of Belarus. Only we can give a country profile of watching a particular TV channel,” explains Vladimir Bobtsov, Director General of MediaMeter CJSC.



Currently MediaMeter together with Beltelecom RUE is working on a technology for processing data received from digital set-top boxes capable of transmitting data via return path data (RPD). The advantage of RPD data is that it can significantly improve the accuracy of TV audience measurements obtained with the traditional peoplemeter panel method.

Olga **Medvedeva**

придерживается трёх главных принципов: независимость, надёжность и достоверность.

«Потребителями наших данных являются телевизионные средства массовой информации, радиостанции, рекламные агентства в лице ООО «Индустриальные решения», с которым мы заключили договор. Подобная схема работы позволяет исключить зависимость медиаизмерителя от медиахолдингов или государства», — обращает внимание Владимир Шафаренко.

Полученные данные — инструмент для развития телеканалов и радиостанций. Он позволяет видеть, какой контент нравится зрителю, какая аудитория его потребляет. Второй аспект — прозрачная, точная и объективная информация для рекламодателей. «МедиаИзмеритель» даёт возможность проверить, действительно ли были выпущены все оплаченные рекламные ролики. Он также фиксирует, какая аудитория их видела и слышала и сколько раз.

Но самое главное — «МедиаИзмеритель» постоянно развивается и предлагает продукт, на который существует спрос на медиарынке. Именно по такой схеме сложилось партнерство с индустрией теле- и радиовещания.

«Изначально мы запустили свою систему для изучения 22 телеканалов. Это были преимущественно белорусские СМИ, и они занимали порядка 50 процентов в пироге телесмотрения. Позже совместно с нашими британскими коллегами мы нашли технологию, которая позволила заглянуть во вторую половину пирога. В тестовом режиме мы проанализировали порядка 140 телеканалов, транслируемых двумя операторами электросвязи. По результатам анализа полученных данных были отобраны 60, которые занимают 97 процентов от всего телесмотрения. Эти телеканалы и были заведены в нашу систему измерений. Получаемая нами информация полезна не только для телевизионных средств массовой информации и рекламных агентств, но и для государственных органов и операторов электросвязи, предоставляющих услуги ТВ для населения, а также дистрибьютеров телеканалов на территории Республики Беларусь. Только мы можем дать страновой срез смотрения того или иного телеканала», — поясняет генеральный директор ЗАО «МедиаИзмеритель» Владимир Бобцов.

В настоящее время «МедиаИзмеритель» совместно с РУП «Белтелеком» работает над технологией обработки данных, получаемых с приставок цифрового телевидения (digital set-top boxes), обладающих возможностью передачи данных по каналам обратной связи (return path data, RPD). Преимущество RPD-данных заключается в том, что они позволяют значительно повысить точность измерений телевизионной аудитории, получаемых традиционным методом пиплметровых панелей.

Ольга **МЕДВЕДЕВА**

УНП 193429066



Goldfish and romantic freediver

The record holder of Belarus in pike fishing, an entrepreneur from Minsk, Sergei Makavchik, is looking forward to spring, when the rivers and lakes of our 'blue-eyed' country will be free of ice. He is ready to continue his underwater travels. He dived into many of the Belarusian reservoirs, but there is still a lot of unknown ahead: after all, there are more than twenty thousand rivers in the country, and more than ten thousand lakes. Perhaps, in the underwater depths, Sergei will again see the 'goldfish', which he talks about so enthusiastically.

True, even in warm winters, which are not uncommon in Belarus, when water bodies are not fully covered by ice, Sergei also dives. But this year, he says, he dived only a couple of times: winter came early.

We met on vacation at the Reserved Island farmstead in the Vitebsk Region. This is not far from the famous lake Sho, where, according to the definition of Belarusian and Russian scientists, they found the geographical Centre of Europe. An attractive married couple with a teenage daughter was noticed at dinner. These three were sitting next to us at a table on which there was a snow-white cake with a candle, and were talking cheerfully about something. It turned out that Marina, Sergei's wife, had a birthday. On this occasion, he gave her a gift — a boat trip to the Island of Desires, which, by the way, was visible to us from the shore of Lake Ives: the tables of the summer restaurant of the farmstead are right by the water. And at the same time everyone was invited to the boat. Of course, we were happy to join.

There are such charismatic people who attract attention in any company. What did Sergei seem like? Strong, energetic, caring towards the family and respectful to others. It was easy for us to be convinced from the very first minutes of the trip that goodwill and openness are at the heart of the character of a new acquaintance. And yet, then we noticed that Sergei had a special gaze — studying, intent, but at the same time light, not embarrassing a person. We assumed, sitting together late at the fire, that he probably had some special profession. Or maybe a soldier? No, Sergei joked, it was my passion for diving that formed the focus and sharpness of my gaze,

“Beware of beavers! They can bite...” Yes, he does have a sense of humour. And now we remember how he made the whole group laugh, which, going out to the island, was only slightly frightened. Look, look, he exclaimed, the pikes are standing right on the shore, and the boat is sailing away! Of course, there were no pike to be seen there, and the moored longboat naturally swayed on the water, at one moment slightly moving away from the shore and approaching it at the other.

And the next day, the Makavchik family left the estate. New acquaintances went to the Berezinsky Reserve: to relax in the Plavno hotel complex and go fishing on the lake. It, as we later found out, hosted the wedding of Sergei and Marina. Sergei recommended that all tourists should visit those places: the beauty is special, and you can drink the air saturated with needles.

It turned out that Marina (market specialist) is an avid fisherwoman. If there is no fish in one place, she does not linger there, she moves to another. In the Reserved estate, according to her, the fish did not take the bait. We, having exchanged contacts with Sergei, said goodbye. Well, we could not miss the opportunity to talk with an avid diver, fisherman, and even a fan of the Belarusian water element. And if we resort to a sublime style, then let's say this: we talked with a real patriot of his native Belarus.



“Sergei, where do you get such a passion for the underwater world? We see how your face changes, it really brightens when you are immersed in thoughts...”

“Probably from childhood, like many. However, I started to really dive after a trip to the Crimea. We then visited Rybachy, Sudak, Yalta... There I dived as an amateur. After the Black Sea, I acquired a high-quality mask, snorkel, fins, and later a wetsuit. Today I have two of them: for summer diving and for autumn-winter diving. And there are special gloves and socks. After the Crimea, I visited (friends invited me) the Pskov Region, Pushkin

HOBBY

places: Lake Velye. The water in it is the purest, you can even drink it. (On the Internet we find, "Since the second half of the 20th century, the settlement and Lake Velye, as well as the historical part of the merchant village, have become part of the Mikhailovskoye Museum-Reserve of A.S. Pushkin"). That's where I fell in love with the underwater world. It was allowed to dive in the reserve for 20 minutes. That's exactly what I did. When I returned, I did not understand why they were angry with me, they say, you were gone for a very long time. And time passes more slowly underwater, that is, you feel it differently. Interestingly, in Velye underwater, I felt an extraordinary lightness in my body. The back pain that bothered me on dry land was completely gone. The underwater world struck me so much that when I returned home, the thoughts of

diving into the Belarusian lakes haunted me relentlessly. And then I continued diving, in our rivers and lakes. And I bought professional fins, and a mask with enlightenment, and a wetsuit..."

"How would you define your hobby?"

"There are divers, there are spearfishers, and I am something in-between: freediver. I don't dive with scuba gear, but hold my breath. How much you hold your breath depends on how you feel, your mood... Sometimes it lasts for thirty seconds, sometimes it lasts for a minute, or even more. On land, you try to hold your breath, and you

can't for a long time, but it's easy under water for some reason. Professionals hold their breath for three minutes, and even five. In Belarus there is the Energy of the Depth club of freedivers, I am familiar with some of its members.

As for childhood, I, of course, stayed at my grandmother's in the village Bolshaya Bykhovshchina, in the Nesvizh District, swam in the Lan River. In the same place, I caught fish with a bait: minnows,

"On the day when I see a beaver, although I am not superstitious, I do not dive. Safety precautions under water must be carefully observed. There is no one to help."



perches, crucians. Today I go there, but I don't fish, I dive. The transparency of the water in Lan was high four years ago, now it is less. You know, the reasons can be very different. As you know, Belarusian scientists monitor the state of the rivers, because water is a strategic resource. Not all countries, even the most developed, have it. It seems that only a fifth of the states on Earth are lucky with clean water bodies. I am proud that 'blue-eyed' Belarus is one of them."

"Your wife Marina, you said, an avid fisherwoman?"

"Yes, and daughter Nastya too. It's something incredible. The hobby was passed on to my wife from her father, he was a professional fisherman. I use only spinning, then Marina is a floater fisher: she catches fish with fishing rods with floats. Thanks to Marina, we always have fish. And Nastya is like me: she prefers spinning."

"What lakes of Belarus have you visited, and what impressed you there?"

"Our lakes are so different, and, as you know, there are so many of them that it is impossible to list them. First of all, the purity and transparency of the water is striking. Take, for example, Lake Polozerye in the Ushachi District of the Vitebsk Region. The closer to winter, the cleaner it is: and so it is in other lakes. In winter, if you look into the fishing hole, you can even see the beautiful bottom from five meters away. It can be different: muddy, sandy and rocky, as, for example, near Lake Chernovo, this is Vitebsk Region, Gorodok District. I have not dived into it yet, but I saw at the bottom, and the depth there is 4-5 meters, boulders and stones. Mikhailovskoye reservoir in the Pukhovichi District, three kilometres from Maryina Gorka, is also amazing. There the transparency of the water is the highest, and I saw interesting specimens of fish there, they are fabulous under water."

"So maybe you saw a 'goldfish' there?"

"No, I haven't yet. But on the Polotsk lowlands, I had the opportunity to admire the golden carp. (the Polotsk quarry, or Polotsk lowlands, in the area of former peat extraction site, in the floodplain zone

of the Western Berezina River, 16 kilometres southwest of Molodechno). The crucian carp there is unusual, round like a plate, sparkling with gold. You can watch him for a long time. Enchanting! You immediately remember Pushkin's fairy tale about the fisherman and the fish. Lake Myadelskoye is also surprising with its transparency and the amount of fish, it is to the north of the city of Myadel, and this is the third largest body of water in the Narochansky National Park. It contains eels, huge rudd. And eels, by the way, are listed in the Red Book in Belarus. When I dived there, I saw about eight pikes at the same time, right at the bottom. An impressive sight. They stand like columns, do not interfere with each other."

"Is the winter underwater world different from the summer one?"

"I guess so. With transparency, as I already said, clear outlines, very bright colours. In winter, there is less vegetation, and the beauty of some fish species, in particular, perch and pike, really opens up in clear water. On land, the fish looks completely different: paler and not so sparkling."

"Have you ever caught big pike? They say that big pikes are rare in Belarus..."

"Even a pike weighing about 8 kg is considered big in Belarus. But I was lucky to catch this predator weighing about 15 kg. To be precise, that fish weighed, the pike is also called the queen of fish, 14 kg 600 g. I caught it in the Berezina in the fall of 2011. I don't remember who I told about my luck then. After that, they began to call me from various publications... They wrote about me. Of course, I will say without false modesty, I was very happy. After all, I caught a record pike, and it was recorded. In the world, caught giant pikes are constantly recorded, including in the Guinness Book of Records. There are a



"I was lucky to catch this predator weighing about 15 kg. I caught it in the Berezina in the fall of 2011. This was recorded."

lot of legends about the pike, and many people know the Russian folk tale By the Pike's Command, in which miraculous abilities are attributed to this fish."

"Have you come across a larger fish of a different species?"

"I saw such a fish: a silver carp weighing 52 kg. Its fishermen got it from a reservoir near the city of Novolukoml. I would like to note that according to the law in Belarus, you can hunt fish under water during daylight hours in permitted reservoirs, and there are few of them in the country. Once I got lucky with a silver carp. It weighed 41 kg. By the way, there are catch rates for both underwater hunters and fishermen. I think that in matters of spearfishing and fishing, the moral and ethical moment is very important. And I'm not a big fan of spearfishing. My element is immersion in the underwater world, I admire it, relax there. I go out on land rested, somehow



"Not everything in the world comes down to food and profit! It is very important for me to have peace, joy, love, silence in my soul. So peaceful I go 'into this world' after immersion. I try to keep the exalted state on land, I share it with my relatives. And my two goldfish — my wife and daughter — are grateful to me. They are avid fisherwomen. I'm happy they got caught in my net."

enlightened. There is something mystical in this underwater world."

"At the Reserved Island, I remember, you said, or joked about beavers in the water, which can bite. Have you encountered such danger while diving?"

"I have this principle: I do not dive into the water if I do not see the bottom. There, in the dark, there may be snags, fittings, sharp objects, thrown nets. It's no secret that sometimes divers and spearfishers die... There are different reasons: Got caught on a snag, couldn't free himself from the net in time, which you don't always see... Needless to say, sad facts. Any diver has one knife hanging on a vest with loads, and the other is on his leg. I had to see how divers got nets out of the water, cut them and burned them. I admire such people, I call them orderlies of reservoirs. I have another fear underwater: beavers. It was not in vain that I told you about them at the Reserved Island. They seem to love me. In their element, despite the fact that their weight is much less than mine, they can be so defensive that they won't seem small. Beavers in the water are very dodgy,

fast. Once on the Berezina I dived with two comrades. I dive into the water, and I hear pops. By the way, the flapping of a freediver's fins is similar to the flapping of a beaver's tail. And the time was twilight, I was with a lantern. Suddenly I see how a beaver flies at me like a torpedo. I look, and there are two more nearby. At that moment, I jumped quickly ashore out of fear, I myself was surprised! Perhaps they had mating games then, or I swam close to their 'hut'. The beavers approached me three times at arm's length, I managed to get away from them. True, they say, they only attack people on land. But just in case, on the day when I see a beaver, although I am not superstitious, I do not dive. Safety precautions under water must be carefully observed. There is no one to help."

"Have you seen any unfamiliar 'monsters' under water?"

"I haven't seen monsters, but I've seen snakes."

"Did you manage to find artefacts?"

"No, I didn't. I saw sunken boats. At the bottom, in the middle of the Berezina River, I somehow found an old iron. This

is how our grandmothers ironed, hot coals were placed inside the case. Perhaps the fishermen used it as an anchor. Found old coins. And my diving friend somehow found a gun from the war years in Svisloch."

"And what do you and Marina cook from the caught fish?"

"We fry, cook fish soup, bake in the oven with vegetables... Marina is the main one for cooking fish. I once caught an asp in Pripyat. This is a predatory fish. Delicious, meaty — indescribable!"

"Does anyone, say, the owners of farmsteads, use your services?"

"I was once invited by the owner of the farmstead to take an underwater photo of various fish that he bred in a pond. But it did not work out: the water was muddy, then the farmstead was closed."

"Your whole family are fishermen. Where do you prefer to fish?"

"Well, you know from the Reserved Island: Marina loves to fish where the fish take a bait. (Laughing). We found such a 'cool place' under Maryina Gorka, whoever wants it, google it. Entrance to the territory is paid, there are various entertainments,

and you can go fishing. And you have to pay for the caught fish, but you can't release the prey back, otherwise you'll be fined. We once saw how a fisherman pulled out a huge sturgeon, about nine kilograms. The guy's hands were shaking with joy, although he was puzzled: the fish is expensive. Bought it anyway. And my wife likes fishing there: sturgeons there are actively pecking. Daughter is delighted too. I was asked to come there to dive after they set up a trout pond and, as they say, something went wrong. I dived and looked. The bottom in it was covered with a film, and straw was placed under it. It rots, as a result of rotting, gases are formed. You stand on the shore, and you see: a ball appears from the water. Now everything has been fixed."

"Of course, you have heard about the treasures of Napoleon, as if from the time of the war of 1812 they were buried either in the ground or in the reservoirs of Belarus. Would you like to find one of them?"

"I did not set myself such a goal. But I believe in the fact that during the retreat Napoleon ordered to throw into water the rich trophies captured in the Kremlin. I also read that the French managed to transport them to the right bank of the Berezina River in November 1812. And then the traces of treasures were lost. It is known that after the battle near the Berezina, only Napoleon's personal convoy went to the West. Historians are sure that Moscow relics were hidden somewhere in those places. But here's what I'll say: flat rivers change their course over time. And more than 200 years have passed since then. Berezina is no

exception. Where there was depth before, a shallow may appear. So the treasures, even if they were hidden in the Berezina, are already somewhere else. Needless to say, you can't enter the same water twice..."

"What is your favourite body of water?"

"Still, Lan. The name itself is beautiful! Music to my ears!"

"You are such a poet, Sergei! You should write fairy tales about fishermen and fish. And about the underwater world. Have you thought about it?"

"Maybe I'll write sometime. Here we recalled Lan ... A small river on which, I repeat, I grew up. Once it was wide, as my father told me. During the war, partisans stood near it in the forests, there are books about that, I read. The river originates in the village of Lan: there is a spring. And today it is wide downstream, on the border of the Minsk and Brest regions, where the Lan flows into Lake Laktyshi. This is the name of both a village in the Gantsevichi District and a large fish farm. I often go to those places and dive. Sometimes I see such huge flocks of fish! They seem to come up the river from the lake. All beautiful! Gudgeon, perch, rudd, pike, roach, bream... Recently I saw that in Lan there are both carp and catfish, so I became even more proud of my river. This is such a wealth we have, in Belarus!"

"And did you see a goldfish, and not the crucian carp that you told us about, in Lan?"

"All fish can be called golden! I have already said

that under water they all have a special colour, like underwater vegetation. Not a single picture conveys beauty: the colours under the water are different from those above the water. Reeds in the water is something bizarre, calamus too. You look at the underwater world, and you are filled with such gratitude to Mother Nature for creating such beauty. Yes, fish are, of course, our livelihood. But not everything in the world comes down to food and profit! It is very important for me to have peace, joy, love, silence in my soul. So peaceful I go 'into this world' after immersion. I try to keep the exalted state on land, I share it with my relatives. And my two goldfish — my wife and daughter — are grateful to me."

"Would you like to visit Egypt, say, Blue Hole? There, they say, there is a cult place for divers and free divers — a funnel in the coral with a depth of about 130 meters."

"I'm not an athlete, and I'm not going to set diving records. Moreover, there are so many unique reservoirs in Belarus. And as for the depths... Our deepest lake is Dolgoye near Miory, in the Vitebsk Region, it is connected by channels with the lakes of Sho and Sviadovo. In Dolgoye, the distance to the bottom from the surface is about 54 meters... So the underwater world of lakes and rivers of Belarus can be explored and learned endlessly."

Interviewed by
Valentina and Ivan Zhdanovich

Photo from the archive
of the Makavchik family



Лі Лянмін: зорны кітайскі перакладчык у стасунках з беларускай літаратурай

Так сталася, што творчы шлях Лі Лянміна (1919 – 1991) – аднаго з самых уплывовых кітайскіх перакладчыкаў замежнай літаратуры, які пазнаёміў кітайскіх чытачоў з культурнымі раманамі “Авадзень” Э.Л.Войніч і “Спартак” Р.Джаваньолі, мае дачыненне да Беларусі і беларускай літаратуры. Менавіта дзякуючы яго намаганням у 1950-1970-я гг. былі пераўвасоблены на кітайскую мову апавесці “Дрыгва” Якуба Коласа і “Трэцяя ракетка” Васіля Быкава.

Лі Лянмін нарадзіўся ў Чжэньхай, правінцыя Чжэцзян (цяпер раён Бэйлун, горад Нінбо) (Кітай). Падчас навучання ў сярэдняй школе ў 1937 годзе, разам са сваім братам Лі Сямінам браў удзел у “Групе антыяпонскага нацыянальнага выратавання мястэчка Хэнхэсян”, дзе яны выконвалі антыяпонскія драмы і песні. Пасля заканчэння сярэдняй школы працаваў дырэктарам пачатковай школы, загадчыкам па вучэбнай рабоце і інш. У маі 1942 года далучыўся да антыяпонскай базы ў памежным раёне Хуайбэйсувань для ўдзелу ў рэвалюцыйных дзеяннях. У 1946 годзе ён вярнуўся ў Шанхай і быў прыняты на факультэт замежных моў Універсітэта Хуцзян, праз два гады кінёў вучобу і пачаў перакладаць савецкую дзіцячую літаратуру. У межах руху за супраціў амерыканскай агрэсіі і за аказанне дапамогі карэйскаму народу Лі Лянмін нават стаў пера-

李良民:中国明星翻译家与白俄罗斯文学的接触

кладчыкам пры маршалу Пэн Дэхуаі ў Карэі. З 1953 па 1986 гг. ён працаваў у выдавецтве “Шанхай шаонянь эртун чубаньшэ”, Шанхайскім бюро перакладу і рэдагавання, аддзеле перакладу і рэдагавання “Шанхай івянь чубань” і іншых установах. Лі Лянмін пераклаў на кітайскую мову “Авадзень” Э.Л.Войніч, “Спартак” Р.Джаваньолі, “Белы раб” Р.Хільдэрэта, “Роб Рой” В.Скота, “Качубей” і “Валодзька — партызанскі сын” А.Первянцава, “Малахітавая шкатулка”, і “Зялёная кабылка” П.Бажова, “Школу” А.Гайдара, “Запіскі партызана” П.Ігнатава, “Аленяня” М.К.Ролінгс, “Снег ідзе” Л.Варанковай, “Знакамітае качаня Цім” Э.Блайтана; “Новенькая” “Гвардыі радавой”, “Ночка”, “Галоўны інжынер” Л.Панцэлева, “Хата пад бярозамі” В.Васілеўскай, “Ягорка” П.Гаўрылава, “Цудоўнае падарожжа Нільса з дзікімі гусакамі” С.Лагерлеф і інш.

Лі Лянмін пачынаў з перакладаў дзіцячай літаратуры, але ў памяці чытачоў ён застаўся “рэвалюцыйным” перакладчыкам. З

Кітайскі перакладчык і перакладчыца, які пазнаёміў кітайскіх чытачоў з культурнымі раманамі “Авадзень” Э.Л.Войніч і “Спартак” Р.Джаваньолі, мае дачыненне да Беларусі і беларускай літаратуры. Менавіта дзякуючы яго намаганням у 1950-1970-я гг. былі пераўвасоблены на кітайскую мову апавесці “Дрыгва” Якуба Коласа і “Трэцяя ракетка” Васіля Быкава.

Кітайскі перакладчык і перакладчыца, які пазнаёміў кітайскіх чытачоў з культурнымі раманамі “Авадзень” Э.Л.Войніч і “Спартак” Р.Джаваньолі, мае дачыненне да Беларусі і беларускай літаратуры. Менавіта дзякуючы яго намаганням у 1950-1970-я гг. былі пераўвасоблены на кітайскую мову апавесці “Дрыгва” Якуба Коласа і “Трэцяя ракетка” Васіля Быкава.



红海军和小黑熊》（迦甫里洛夫著）、《尼尔斯奇游记》（拉盖落芙著）等。李浪民以翻译儿童文学作品开始工作，却以“革命”翻译家的身份留在了读者的记忆中。自1952年翻译艾·丽·伏尼契的小说《牛虻》以来，李浪民一直在选择描写世界历史上英雄人物的作品：乔万尼奥里的《斯巴达克斯》、希尔德烈斯的《白奴》、

1952 г., калі ён зрабіў пераклад рамана Э. Л. Войніч “Авадзень”, Лі Лянмін выбірае творы пра гераічныя постаці ў сусветнай гісторыі: “Спартак” Р.Джаваньолі, “Белы раб” Р.Хільдэрта, “Качубей” А.Первянцава. У артыкуле “У пошуку слядоў гераічных постацяў – размова пра мой выбар тэмы для літаратурных перакладаў” сам Лі Лянмін дае такое тлумачэнне: “Га-

лоўныя героі гэтых твораў – мучанікі, гераічныя асобы, якія сфарміраваліся ва ўмовах Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, народна-вызваленчай і класавай барацьбы. Таму выбіраючы тэматыку для маіх мастацкіх перакладаў, я кіраваўся прынцыпам “жыццёвыя гераічныя постаці”... Жыццёвыя час абмежаваны, а прастор для навучання бяскрыўны. Я думаў тады так: сярод вялізнага мора замежных літаратурных твораў трэба ў першую чаргу выбіраць тыя творы, што маюць рэвалюцыйны змест і прыносяць найбольш карысці кітайскаму чытачу. У 1950-я гады адзін за адным выходзілі замежныя мастацкія творы рэвалюцыйнага зместу, якія можна было ахарактарызаваць як “железныя характары і кровапралітныя бітвы”, іх выданне выклікала чарговую хвалю цікавасці да чытання.”

Коласаўская аповесць пра падзвігі Дзеда Талаша “Дрыгва”, па меркаванні Лі Лянміна, была адным з такіх твораў, – пра “железныя характары і кровапралітныя бітвы”. У Кітаі яе пад назвай “Стары герой-партызан” выдавалі двойчы – у 1958 і 1959 гг. у выдавецтве “Шанхай вэнь чубаньшэ” (ранейшая назва – “Сінь вэнь чубаньшэ”). Упершыню арыгінальны твор быў надрукаваны ў часопісе “Полымя рэвалюцыі” (нумары 5-9, 11, 12) ў 1933 годзе. Асобнай кнігай аповесць выйшла ў 1934 г. “Дрыгва” прысвечана падзеям польска-савецкай вайны 1919—1921 гг. і партызанскай барацьбе на тэрыторыі Беларусі, на Палессі. Аповесць заснавана на рэальнай гісторыі Васіля Талаша, які стаў прататыпам літаратурнага героя – Дзеда Талаша. Сам Я. Колас так пісаў пра гэтую гісторыю: “Чым падкупляў мяне гэты расказ? Цікава была сама ідэалагічная эвалюцыя старога жыхара глухога Палесся, як ён з чалавека непісьменнага, адсталлага фармаваўся ў свядомага старонніка савецкай улады і актыўнага барацьбіта за яе, а значыць і за свае класавыя інтарэсы. Вось гэтае фармаванне новага чалавека пад уплывам розных акалічнасцей, як навала беларускай акупацыі, жорсткага расправа акупантаў з бядняцкім сялянствам, асабліва з тым, што спачувала бальшавікам, з аднаго боку, а з другога – уплыў бальшавізму,



毕尔文采夫的《柯楚别依》。李佺民先生在他的文章《探寻英雄人物的足迹——谈谈我的文学翻译选题》中做了这样的解释：“以上这些作品的主人公都是在民族解放斗争、卫国战争和阶级斗争中涌现出来的英雄或者烈士，这是我在文学翻译选题方面采取了“英烈传”作为选题原则的结果。… 人生有限，学海无涯。我当时的想法就是：在浩如烟海的外国文学作品中，应当首先选择那些具有革命内容、于我国读者最有益的作品。到了五十年代，具有“铁的人物和血的战斗”这种革命内容的外国文学作品，在我国读书界接连出版，引起了一个又一个的读书高潮。”

据李佺民先生指出，柯拉斯创造的关于塔拉西老爷的英雄行为的《沼泽》小说就是这样的作品之一，即描述“铁的人物和血的战斗”。1958年和1959年，在中国上海文艺出版社（原名新文艺出版社）以《游击老英雄》出版。1933年，原作首次刊登在《革命的烈火》杂志（5-9、11、12期）上。这部小说于1934年作为单独的书出版。《沼泽》小说讲于1919年至1921年的波苏战争事件，而在白俄罗斯波列西亚地区游击队参加的斗争。故事取材于瓦西里·塔拉西的真实故事，瓦西里·塔拉西成为了文学英雄塔拉西老爷的原型。柯拉斯自己这样说明他的选

题：“这个故事是如何吸引我的？遥远的波列希雅村的老居民的思想演变很有趣，他是如何从一个文盲、落后的人转变为苏维埃政府的自觉支持者和积极的战士，从而为他的阶级利益而战。这是在一方面，白色波兰入侵时占领者对贫苦农民的残酷迫害，特别是那些同情布尔什维克的人，另一方面，布尔什维克主义、红军和地下共产主义组织的代表的影响都导致了新人的形成。我就使其成为我的短篇小说《沼泽》的基础。但即使在这个带有游击队英雄色彩的故事中，柯拉斯也没有忘记他最喜欢的主题——白俄罗斯农民的生活和祖国的自然美景。

1965年，李佺民先生译的白俄罗斯“黄皮书”——瓦西里·贝科夫的中篇小说《第三颗信号弹》，在作家出版社上海编辑所出版。故事讲述了白俄罗斯伟大卫国战争的事件。炮兵射击组与其他队伍中断了三天。不同的人发现自己身处同一条战壕，他们必须击退法西斯的第一次坦克进攻。贝科夫思考描述了致命的危险如何揭示真实的人性。此短篇小说首次发表于1962年的《青年》杂志第2期上，《第三颗信号弹》也于1962年作为单行本出版。

“黄皮书”在中国被称为“供内部使用”的出版物，旨在让文化人士了解外国文学作品作为反例。这

种做法是在反对苏修的斗争中发生的。“黄皮书”始于1950年代，但在1960-70年代达到了高峰。这种现象因封面的浅黄色而得名，后来此类书籍开始用浅灰色或白色封面。除了颜色之外，封面上有独特的标题“供内部参考”字样。“黄皮书”实行清单发放，禁止外传。

《俄苏文学及翻译研究》一书的作者曾思艺称李佺民为白俄罗斯另一本“黄皮书”——伊万·沙米亚金的中篇小说《多雪的冬天》（上海人民出版社出版，1972-1973年）的中文译者。但在中文版中，只注明译文是由上海新闻出版系统“五七”干校翻译组译。《多雪的冬天》的中文版是在中国文化大革命期间准备和出版的，当时集体创作，因此一起承担对翻译结果的集体责任，是一个相当能理解的现象。

李佺民先生把翻译工作看作是一种社会行为，需要对翻译的目的有清醒的认识。内容，对于李佺民先生来说，必然是“铁的人物和血的战斗”，是选择翻译作品的主要因素。正是在这位著名翻译家的努力下，白俄罗斯的英雄小说《沼泽》和《第三颗信号弹》才为中国读者所熟知。

维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇（韦兰妮）
（作者）
韦兰妮、张萌萌（译者）



■ Кнігі беларускіх аўтараў ў перакладзе Лі Ляміня (В. Быкаў «Трэцяя ракета», І. Шамякін «Снежныя зімы», Я. Колас «Дрыгва»)

прадстаўнікоў Чырвонай Арміі і падпольных камуністычных арганізацый – я і палажыў у аснову сваёй аповесці «Дрыгва». Але і ў гэтай партызанскай, гераічнай па сваёй сутнасці аповесці Колас не забыўся на ўлюбёныя яму тэмы – жыццё беларускага сялянства, хараство прыроды роднага края.

У 1965 годзе ў перакладзе Лі Лянміна выйшла ўжо «жоўтая кніга» беларускага паходжання – «Трэцяя ракета» Васіля Быкава (Шанхайская рэдакцыя выдавецтва «Цзоцзя чубаньшэ»). Аповесць распавядае пра падзеі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны на Беларусі. Артылерыйскі разлік застаецца адрэзаны ад сваіх на тры сутак. У адным аcope аказаліся розныя людзі, і ім трэба адбіць першую танкавую атаку фашыстаў. В.Быкаў разважае, як смяротная небяспека выяўляе сапраўдныя чалавечыя характары. Упершыню аповесць надрукавана ў часопісе «Маладосць» №2 у 1962 годзе, асобным выданнем «Трэцяя ракета» выйшла таксама ў 1962 г.

«Жоўтымі кнігамі» ў Кітаі называлі выданні для «ўнутранага карыстання», прызначаныя для азнаямлення дзеячаў літаратуры і мастацтва з творамі замежнай літаратуры ў якасці адваротнага прыкладу. Такая практыка адбывалася ва ўлонні барацьбы супраць савецкага рэвізіянізму. «Жоўтыя кнігі» пачалі выпускаць ў 1950-я гг., але іх пік – 1960-70-я гг. Сваю назву з’ява атрымала за светла-жоўты колер вокладак, пазней такія кнігі сталі выпускаць у светла-шэрай ці белай вокладцы. Акрамя колеру адметнай вокладку рабіў і надпіс «Для ўнутранага карыстання». «Жоўтыя кнігі» распаўсюджвалі па спісках, асобнікі забаранялася перадаваць староннім людзям.

Аўтар кнігі «Даследванні рускай літаратуры і перакладу» Цзэн Сыі называе Лі Лянміна таксама перакладчыкам на кітайскую мову яшчэ адной «жоўтай кнігі» беларускага паходжання – аповесці Івана Шамякіна «Снежныя зімы» (выд. «Шанхай жэньмінь

чубаньшэ», 1972-1973). Але ў самім кітайскім выданні ёсць толькі пазнака, што пераклад выкананы групай перакладчыкаў Школы кадравых працаўнікоў «7-га мая» пры сістэме перыядычнага друку і кнігавыдання Шанхая. Кітайскае выданне аповесці «Снежныя зімы» падрыхтавана і выдадзена ў гады Вялікай культурнай рэвалюцыі ў Кітаі, калі калектыўнае аўтарства, а значыць і калектыўная адказнасць за пераклад, – даволі зразумелая з’ява.

Відавочна, што Лі Лянмінь успрымаў перакладчыцкую творчасць як пэўны грамадскі акт, які патрабуе дакладнага асэнсавання мэты перакладу. Змест, а ў выпадку Лі Лянміна абавязкова пра «пра жалезныя характары», – галоўны складнік падчас выбару твора для перакладу. І дзякуючы намаганням гэтага знакамітага перакладчыка, гераічныя аповесці «Дрыгва» і «Трэцяя ракета» знайшлі свой шлях да кітайскага чытача.

Вераніка Карлюкевіч

是六月灣地區的藝術角

Першыя пісьмовыя згадкі пра Крайск адносяцца да 1523 года – у звязку з уласнасцю дзяцей Юрыя Зяновіча, маршалка дворага пры двары вялікага князя Сігізмунда I Старога. Сам Зяновіч валодаў Смаргонню, Паставамі, Глыбокім, Вішнева... Паселішчы вядомыя, калі не скажаць, што легендарныя, багатыя на гісторыю. Уладарылі Крайскам і Ядвіга Насілоўская, яе сын Ян Осцік, які прадаў маёнтак Волчкам. У XVIII стагоддзі маёнтак, землі вакол Крайска былі падзелены паміж рознымі гаспадарамі. У выніку другога падзела Рэчы Паспалітай (1793 год) Крайск – ужо ў складзе Расійскай імперыі. Да 1838 года царква ў мястэчку была грэка-каталіцкая і называлася “Крайская”. З 1835 года метрычныя кнігі вяліся ўжо на рускай мове. У 1838 годзе святаром службу нёс Станіслаў Комар. У 1866 годзе царква згарэла... На яе месцы ў 1872 годзе была пабудавана новая прыватнаўладная Свята-Мікалаеўская царква. У 1897 годзе была

У Крайску ў 1846 годзе нарадзіўся рускі царкоўны гісторык, публіцыст, пісьменнік Рыгор Якаўлевіч Кіпрыяновіч. Закончыў урадженец Лагойшчыны Літоўскую духоўную семінарыю (1867 год). Следам паступіў у Санкт-Пецярбургскую духоўную акадэмію. У 1873 годзе наш зямляк абараніў магістарскую дысэртацыю “Жыццё Іосіфа Сямашкі, мітрапаліта літоўскага і віленскага, і ўз’яднанне заходне-рускіх уніятаў з праваслаўнай царквою ў 1839 годзе”. Тэма па тым часе надзвычай актуальная. Манаграфія двойчы перавыдавалася пры



如今，位于罗古斯克地区的克萊斯克居民并不多，约有 300 多人……这个村庄，或者用现代地名-行政语言来说，是一个农业城镇，是通往道吉納瓦、伊茲比夏、馬茨卡伊齊以及其他知名的，亦或是鮮為人知的定居點方向的道路。維利亞河的支流克萊斯克納克小溪流經克萊斯克。

克萊斯克首見于文獻可以追溯到 1523 年，與老西吉斯蒙德一世大公宮廷元帥尤里·扎亞諾維奇子女的財產有關。扎亞諾維奇本身擁有斯莫爾戈尼、波斯塔維、赫雷博卡耶、維什涅沃……該定居點都是眾所周知的，並且是具有神奇色彩和歷史悠久的地方。亞德維加·納西洛夫斯卡婭和她的兒子揚·奧斯蒂克（將莊園賣給了沃尔恰克族）也擁有克萊斯克。在 18 世紀，克萊斯克周圍的莊園和土地被不同的所有者瓜分。由於波兰立陶宛聯邦的第二次分裂（1793 年），克萊斯克已經成為俄罗斯帝國的一部分。直到 1838 年，鎮上的教堂都是希臘天主教，被稱為“克萊斯西亞”。自 1835 年以來，公制書籍一直使用俄語。1838 年，斯坦尼斯拉夫·科馬利擔任神父。1866 年，教堂被燒毀……1872 年，一座新的聖尼古拉斯東正教教堂取而代之。1897 年，墓地上又建了一座東正教教堂，

жыцці аўтара. І, як сведчаць спецыялісты, не згубіла сваёй актуальнасці да сённяшняга часу. Кіпрыяновіч выкладаў лацінскую мову ў Літоўскай духоўнай семінары, чытаў лекцыі ў Віленскай мужчынскай гімназіі. І актыўна займаўся навуковымі вышукамі. Ураджэнец мястэчка Крайск – і аўтар шэрагу іншых манаграфій, а таксама нарысаў “Іасафат Кунцэвіч” і “Да гісторыі жаночай адукацыі ў Заходняй Расіі”. Займаў Рыгор Якаўлевіч і пасаду дырэктара камерцыйнага вучылішча ў Дзвінску, дзе і памёр у 1915 годзе.

У 1918 – 1919 гг. прыватныя ўрокі ў мястэчках Крайск і Пасадазец даваў крытык, літаратуразнавец Уладзіслаў Дзяржынскі (1897 – 1974), які нарадзіўся ў Сакольскім павеце Гродзенскай губерні, на тэрыторыі сённяшняй Беласточчыны (цяпер – Польшча). У 1925 годзе Уладзіслаў скончыў этналага-лінгвістычнае аддзяленне Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта. Вучобу сумаўшаў з выкладчыцкай працай на рабфаку БДУ ў 1922 – 1924 гг. З 1922 года выступае ў друку з літаратурна-крытычнымі артыкуламі і літаратуразнаўчымі артыкуламі, рэцэнзіямі. З 1925 года – супрацоўнік літаратурна-мастацкага часопіса “Полымя”. Працаваў і ў Інбелкульце. Адначасова выкладаў у Камуністычным універсітэце Беларусі. На Дзяржынскага былі вялікія спадзяванні ў асяроддзі тагачасных удзельнікаў літаратурнага працэсу. Але ў чэрвені 1930 года ён быў арыштаваны ДПУ БССР па справе “Саюза вызвалення Беларусі”. Выслалі нашага земляка ў Казань (Татарстан) тэрмінам на 5 гадоў. Так і застаўся жыць у горадзе на Волзе. Працаваў выкладчыкам у розных ВНУ Казані. Ад літаратуразнаўчай працы пасля арышту і высылкі адыйшоў. Хаця і пражыў нямала, амаль восемдзесят гадоў. 10 чэрвеня 1988 (пасмяротна) Уладзіслаў Дзяржынскі быў рэабілітаваны.

Амаль зусім забытае імя – паэт, празаік Альфонс Петрашкевіч (1894 – 1918). Пісаў на беларускай, польскай, рускай мовах. Ёсць сведчанне, што пісьменнік скончыў у Крайску народную школу.

У вёсцы Задроздзе Плешчаніцкага (цяпер Лагойскага) раёна ў 1932 годзе нарадзіўся празаік Іван Пташнікаў (1932 – 2016). У 1948 годзе ён скончыў Крайскую сямігодку. Затым вучыўся ў Плешчаніцкай беларускай сярэдняй школе (закончыў яе ў 1951 годзе). Працаваў у плешчаніцкай раённай газеце “Ленінец”, настаўнікам Лонваўскай пачатковай школы. Затым паступіў на аддзяленне журналістыкі філалагічнага факультэта Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта. У 1958 – 1962 гг. – рэдактар аддзела прозы часопіса “Полымя”. З 1962 года – рэдактар аддзела прозы часопіса “Полымя”. Дэбют празаіка – верш “На родным полі”, надрукаваны ў 1952 годзе. Першая кніга – “Зерне падае не на камень” (1959 год). І гэтая кніга, і наступныя – раманы “Чакай у далёкіх Грынях”, “Мсціжы”, “Алімпіада”, аповесці “Лонва”, “Тартак”, “Найдорф” – выпеставаны, назбіраны праз уражанні, назіранні ў роднай лагойскай прасторы, у Крайску, Плешчаніцах, Лонве, іншых вялікіх і малых паселішчах.



■ Паэт, празаік Альфонс Петрашкевіч (1894-1918)

і святы Аляксандр...

З 1919 года, Кляскі вёска была ў складзе Беларускай Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Рэспублікі. З 1924 года вёска пераходзіць у склад Беларускай Народнай Рэспублікі. У Вялікай Айчыннай вайне вёска была ўвайшла ў склад Беларускай Народнай Рэспублікі. У 1945 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Рэспублікі. У 1954 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Рэспублікі. У 1960 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Рэспублікі. У 1990 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 1995 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2000 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2005 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2010 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2015 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2020 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2025 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі.

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1846 год, рускі гісторык, палітык, аўтар кнігі “Родныя мясціны”, надрукаваны ў 1952 годзе. Першая кніга – “Зерне падае не на камень” (1959 год). І гэтая кніга, і наступныя – раманы “Чакай у далёкіх Грынях”, “Мсціжы”, “Алімпіада”, аповесці “Лонва”, “Тартак”, “Найдорф” – выпеставаны, назбіраны праз уражанні, назіранні ў роднай лагойскай прасторы, у Крайску, Плешчаніцах, Лонве, іншых вялікіх і малых паселішчах.

1918-1919 года вёска была ўвайшла ў склад Беларускай Народнай Рэспублікі. У Вялікай Айчыннай вайне вёска была ўвайшла ў склад Беларускай Народнай Рэспублікі. У 1945 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Рэспублікі. У 1954 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Рэспублікі. У 1960 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Савецкай Сацыялістычнай Рэспублікі. У 1990 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 1995 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2000 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2005 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2010 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2015 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2020 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі. У 2025 годзе вёска была перададзена ў склад Беларускай Рэспублікі.

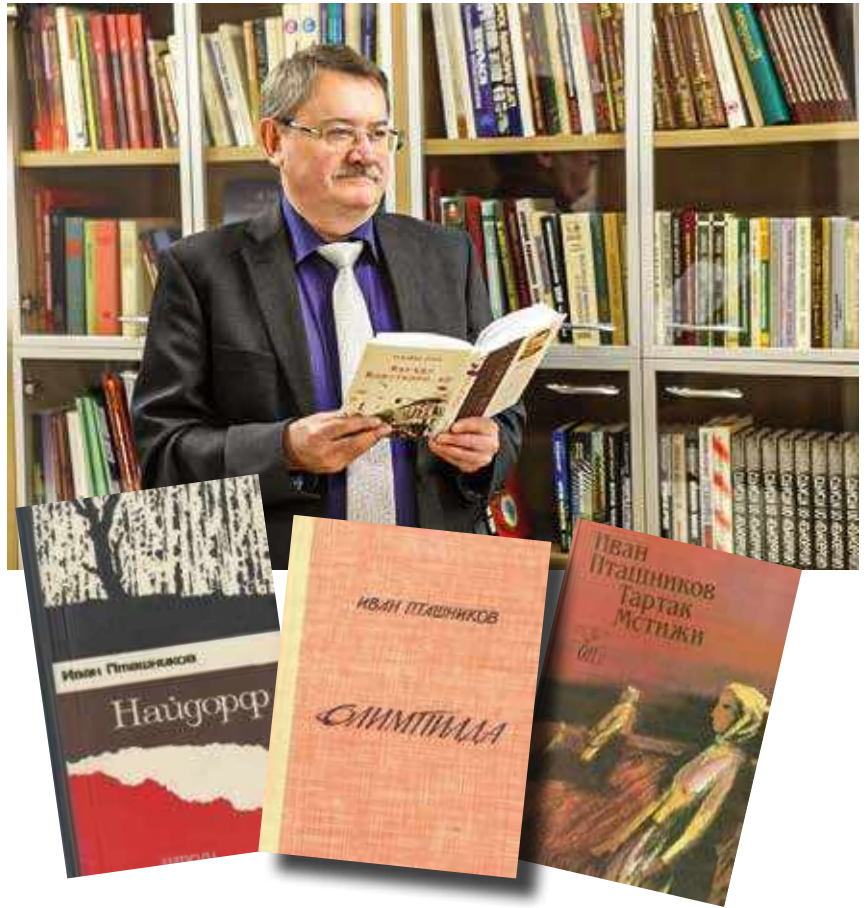
■ Письменник Алесь Кажадуб. 3 1990
года живе ў Маскве.

国国家政治保安部逮捕。他被派往喀山（鞑靼斯坦）5年。所以他一直住在伏尔加河畔的城市。曾在喀山多所大学任教。在被捕和流放后，他离开了文学工作。他的寿命很长，差不多活到八十多岁。他去世后，1988年6月10日 弗拉迪斯拉夫·扎尔任斯基被平反。

诗人、小说家阿尔方斯·彼特拉什克维奇（1894 - 1918）是一个几乎完全被遗忘的名字。他用白俄罗斯语、波兰语、俄语写作。有证据表明作者毕业于克莱斯克国民学校。

1932年，小说家伊万·帕塔什尼科夫（1932-2016）出生在普列夏尼茨基（今罗古斯克）区的扎德罗泽村。1948年毕业于克莱斯克七年制学校。然后他在普列夏尼茨基白俄罗斯中学学习（他于1951年毕业）。他曾在普列夏尼茨基地区报纸《列宁主义者》工作，在隆瓦小学任教。随后进入白俄罗斯国立大学语言系的新闻教研室。1958-1962年从事《烈火》杂志散文部编辑的工作。1962年，任《烈火》杂志散文部的主任。小说家的处女作是1952年发表的诗歌《在故乡》。第一本书是《晶粒不落在石头上》（1959）。这本书和后面的小说——长篇小说《在远方等待》、《复仇》、《奥林匹克竞赛》，短篇小说《隆瓦》、《塔塔克》、《奈多夫》——都是通过印象、观察在本地罗古斯克地区：克莱斯克、普列夏尼茨基、隆瓦以及其他大大小小的村庄……

上述讲的并不是所有我们能找到的关于克莱斯克与文学作品有关的信息……白俄罗斯和俄罗斯小说家阿列西·卡扎杜布（1952年9月27日出生于布列斯特地区的甘察维奇）从白俄罗斯国立大学语言系毕业后曾在罗古斯克地区克莱斯克村任教一段时间。阿列西·卡扎杜布的作品于20世纪70年代中期出版：他于1976年在《青年》杂志上发表了第一篇短篇小说。但是在克莱斯克，在学校任教期间，已经为未来的创造性成就奠定了基础。多年来，这个村庄一直留在作家的记忆中……这在阿列西·卡扎杜布的小说《黑鹤》中得到了证明。这本书中读到：“……我乘公共汽车来到罗古斯克。



“只有六十公里，”我想。“几乎每天都可以去莫斯科一趟。”

在区公教局，局长马上接待了我。他穿着灰色西装，打着领带，头上秃了一大片。

— 语言学家？ — 他打开了我的资料的文件夹。 — 那挺好的。你同意作为体育老师吗？

— 同意， — 我说。

出于某种原因，我确信学校体育老师的工作并不难。

— 学校也会给你安排俄语和文学老师的兼职， — 局长从他的眼镜下看着我。 — 体育课在四六年级。你能做到吗？

我耸耸肩。

— 克莱斯克村距离普列夏尼茨基只有二十公里， — 局长开始翻阅文件。 — 但是学校是新开的。老师团队很好。那么，你去吗？

— 去吧， — 我点点头。

我乘坐一辆公共汽车从罗古斯克到普列夏尼茨基，从普列夏尼茨基乘坐另一辆公共汽车到克莱斯克，直到那时

我才明白我必须工作的村庄名称的真正含义。而且，不管我的数学知识多么差，我还是把六十、二十、二十加了一遍。结果正好是一百公里，通俗地说——鬼知道在哪里。

当我告诉副校长玛丽亚谢尔盖耶夫娜我需要在图书馆工作并通过博士生基础考试时，她就这么回答： — 我们一般不去明斯克， — 道吉纳瓦也有一家商店，离普列夏尼茨基更近。

我意识到克莱斯克没有人对我的科学抱负感兴趣……”而且：“……很快就清楚了，我们的克莱斯克在这些地方不仅是世界的边缘，而且是天然的边界。直到三十九年，东西白俄罗斯的分界线在这里经过。

— 当时克莱斯克在苏联统治下，而离我们三公里的卡比尔已经是波兰， — 玛丽亚谢尔盖耶夫娜说。 — 现在名字改成了佩尔绍迈斯科。

— 人们怎么称呼它？

— 老年人还按照旧的叫法，学生们叫佩尔绍迈斯科。你很快就会明白什么是什么了。



■ Празаік Іван Пташнікаў (1932 – 2016)

我被任命为八年级“B”班的级任教师，我去佩尔绍迈斯科认识了学生的家长。白俄罗斯语言和文学老师斯坦尼斯拉夫·卡齐米罗维奇·杜巴涅夫斯基作为老户陪伴着我……”

阿列西·卡扎杜布是多本书的作者：《小镇》(1980)、《对话》(1985)、《森林人》(1987)、《通往赞奇沙的道路》(1990)、《通往莫斯科的道路》(2011)、《罗斯和立陶宛》(2011年)、《长生不老药》(2013年)等。这位作家曾获得各种著名的文学奖。阿列西·卡扎杜布自1990年以来一直住在莫斯科。

… 在罗古斯克地区、在罗古斯克村有很多地方历史公共博物馆。其中一个，在第一个城市学校，被称为 – “文学罗古斯克地区”。罗古斯克地区的文学和地方历史记忆似乎是一个无尽的旅程。而克莱斯克在这个旅程中也是一个重要的地方……我们邀请您前往这个村庄！正如阿列西·卡扎杜布所写，首先是罗古斯克，然后是普列夏尼茨基，然后才是——克莱斯克。大约一百公里，不多了……

阿列西·卡尔柳科维奇 (作者)
韦兰妮、张萌萌 (译者)

І гэта яшчэ не ўсе згадкі, не ўсе нітачкі, што яднаюць Крайск з прыгожым пісьменствам. Беларускі і расійскі празаік Алесь Кажадуб (нарадзіўся ў Ганцавічах, на Берасцейшчыне, 27 верасня 1952 года) пасля заканчэння філалагічнага факультэта Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта некаторы час настаўнічаў на Лагойшчыне, у вёсцы Крайск. Творы Алеся Кажадуба з’явіліся ў друку ў сярэдзіне 1970-х гадоў: першае апавяданне надрукаваў у “Малодасці” у 1976 годзе. Але ўжо ў Крайску, у час настаўніцтва ў школе, закладваліся асновы будучых творчых здзяйсненняў. Вёска засталася ў памяці пісьменніка на ўсе гады. Сведчыць пра тое і раман Алеся Кажадуба “Чорны бусел”. Чытаем на яго старонках: “... У Лагойск я прыехаў на аўтобусе. Усяго шэсцьдзесят кіламетраў, - падумаў я. - Можна хоць кожны дзень ездзіць у сталіцу”.

У раённым аддзеле народнай адукацыі мяне адразу прыняў загадчык аддзела. Ён быў у шэрым гарнітуры з гальштукам, на галаве вялікія залысіны.

- Філолаг? - разгарнуў ён папку з маімі дакументамі. - Гэта добра. Фізіруком працаваць пойдзеш?

- Пайду, - сказаў я.

Чамусьці я быў упэўнены, што ў працы школьнага фізірука няма ніякіх складанасцей.

- Там табе і палову стаўкі рускай мовы і літаратуры дадуць, - паглядзеў на мяне з-пад акуляраў загадчык. - А фізкультура ў чацвёртых-шастых класах. Справішся?

Я паціснуў плячыма.

- Вёска Крайск усяго за дваццаць кіламетраў ад Плешчаніц, - пачаў корпацца ў паперах загадчык. - Затое школа новая. Добры калектыў. Значыць, едзем?

- Едзем, - кіўнуў я.

З Лагойска да Плешчаніц я даехаў на адным аўтобусе, з Плешчаніц да Крайска на другім, і толькі тады мне зрабіўся зразумелы сапраўдны сэнс назвы вёскі, у якой мне трэба было працаваць. Да таго ж, якія ні мізэрныя былі мае веды ў матэматыцы, я здолеў скласці шэсцьдзесят, дваццаць і яшчэ раз дваццаць. Атрымлівалася роўна сто кіламетраў, у

перакладзе на звычайную мову – чорт ведае дзе.

- А мы ў Мінск не ездзім, - сказала мне завуч Марыя Сяргееўна, калі я сказаў ёй аб неабходнасці працаваць у бібліятэцы і здаваць кандыдацкі мінімум. - Магазін і ў Даўгінаве ёсць, гэта бліжэй за Плешчаніцы.

Я зразумеў, што мае навуковыя памкненні нікога ў Крайску не цікавяць... І яшчэ: “...Хутка высветлілася, што наш Крайск не толькі край свету ў гэтых мясцінах, але і натуральнае памежжа. Да трыццаці дзевятага года тут праходзіла мяжа паміж Заходняй і Усходняй Беларуссю.

- Крайск быў пад Саветаў, а Кабылле, што за тры кіламетры ад нас, ужо Польшча, - расказала Марыя Сяргееўна. - Цяпер яно Першамайскае.

- А як людзі называюць?

- Старыя па-старому, а школьнікі Першамайскім. Хутка самі разбярэцца, што да чаго.

Мяне зрабілі класным кіраўніком восьмага “б” класа, і я пайшоў у Перашамайскае знаёміцца з бацькамі сваіх вучняў. У якасці старажыла мяне суправаджаў Станіслаў Казіміравіч Дубанеўскі, настаўнік беларускай мовы і літаратуры... ”

Алесь Кажадуб – аўтар многіх кніг: “Гарадок” (1980), “Размова” (1985), “Лесавік” (1987), “Дарога на Замчышча” (1990), “Дарога на Маскву” (2011), “Русь і Літва” (2011), “Эліксір жыцця” (2013) і іншых. Пісьменнік адзначаны рознымі прэстыжнымі літаратурнымі прэміямі. З 1990 года Алесь Кажадуб жыве ў Маскве.

На Лагойшчыне, у Лагойску працуе нямала грамадскіх краязнаўчых музеяў. Адзін з іх, у першай гарадской школе, так і называецца – “Літаратурная Лагойшчына”. Літаратурна-краязнаўчая памяць Лагойскай старонкі падаецца бясконцым падарожжам. І Крайск у ім займае далёка не апошні адрас... Запрашаем вас у падарожжа да гэтага паселішча! Як напісаў Алесь Кажадуб, спярша да Лагойска, пасля – у Плешчаніцы. І толькі затым – у Крайск. Кіламетраў сто, не болей...

Алесь Карлюкевіч

Cosmos of culture by Olzhas Suleimenov

In 2025, it will be 50 years since the publication of the book by Olzhas Suleimenov, poet, thinker, publicist, literary critic AZ i Ya.

On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the publication of the book at the Kazakh National University named after al-Farabi in June 2015, a scientific and practical conference dedicated to the significant date was organised. Literary scholars, philosophers, historians, and even political scientists gathered to talk about what then, in the 1970s, became for the Soviet space a confessional, honest book by a poet and publicist, who is looking for the truth about modernity in the past centuries. What will the conversation be about on the half-century anniversary of a creative project that has brought something new to the understanding of the ancient worldview? It remains to wait for such a conversation. The author is alive, many witnesses of his bright, large-scale penetration into one of the key Eurasian topics are alive ...

Having looked into the unique and large-scale in its completeness, truly encyclopedic reference book by the Belarusian researcher M. Bulakhov *The Tale of Igor's Campaign in Literature, Art, Science* (1989 edition), I did not even find a mention of Olzhas Suleimenov there. Meanwhile, his book *AZ i Ya* began with *The Tale...*, and the whole was imbued with a desire to understand, comprehend the great monument of ancient literature.

We read from Olzhas Suleimenov himself, "To realise the cosmos of culture, in which the word floats like a core, is the science of reading. Without mastering it, it is impossible to write on your own." And further, "One of these reading textbooks was for me *The Tale of Igor's Campaign*. *The Tale...* shaped my worldview," wrote a well-known poet already then, whose first book of poetry was published in

1961, and the first poem about space was published on April 12, 1961, on the day of Yu. Gagarin's flight. So it happened.

The editor-in-chief of one of the Kazakh newspapers knew that such an event was to take place — a man's flight into an unknown space world. And he asked the poet to respond to him in advance with a poem. Write with the expectation that the publication on the newspaper page by date would coincide with the event itself.

Guess:

Why do people reach for the stars!

Why in our songs

Is the hero a falcon?

Suleimenov, inspired by the atmosphere around Yuri Gagarin, instantly wrote a poem about the first flight into space.

Already the second book of the talented young master was noticed and highly appreciated by the patriarch of Soviet poetry Nikolai Tikhonov. But after the release of *AZ i Ya*, problems began that grew into such terrible forms, acquired such a scale that there was an opinion: the whole Soviet world went to war with the Poet from God. After the negative reviews from Moscow, Suleimenov simply stopped publishing. This went on for eight long years.

However, the poet recalled our eternal right, "I have the right to make mistakes and admit, and look for my new solutions." Olzhas Suleimenov refused in his searches from the topic "Turkisms in *The Tale...*" He moved away from narrow specialisation, realising that in human studies it only serves as a hindrance. He was convinced that *The Tale...* should not be read by the team 'We' (Slavist, Turkologist, Historian, Poet, etc.), but

A WORD ABOUT A WRITER

by the team 'I'. The same characters, but united in one person.

His natural bilingualism, knowledge of cultural relationships, as he put it, between Rus' and the cuman people helped him read The Tale of Igor's Campaign.

The years have gone. Time chose Olzhas Suleimenov and, despite all the difficulties, despite the contradictory claims to the great Artist, the real Thinker, put everything into perspective. Facts from the past have become the engine of many real thoughts of the Eurasian construction. And Olzhas Suleimenov is a bright representative of it, a bright personality in sovereign, independent Kazakhstan. The great poet, whose old lines are still heard today:

*There is no East and there is no West.
The sky has no end.
There is no East and there is no West.
The father has two sons.
There is no East, and there is no West,
There is sunrise and sunset
There is a big word — Earth!*

A few years ago, the Union of Writers of Belarus invited the poet and publicist, literary critic to a meeting with readers. There were countless questions to Olzhas Suleimenov. There were many people who remembered his words, "The word should not be a means, as, indeed, literature and science in general... You must be extremely free in evaluating the work of your teachers. An axiom that does not require hourly proof of practical creative life."

Today, probably, in the new Belarusian edition of the reference

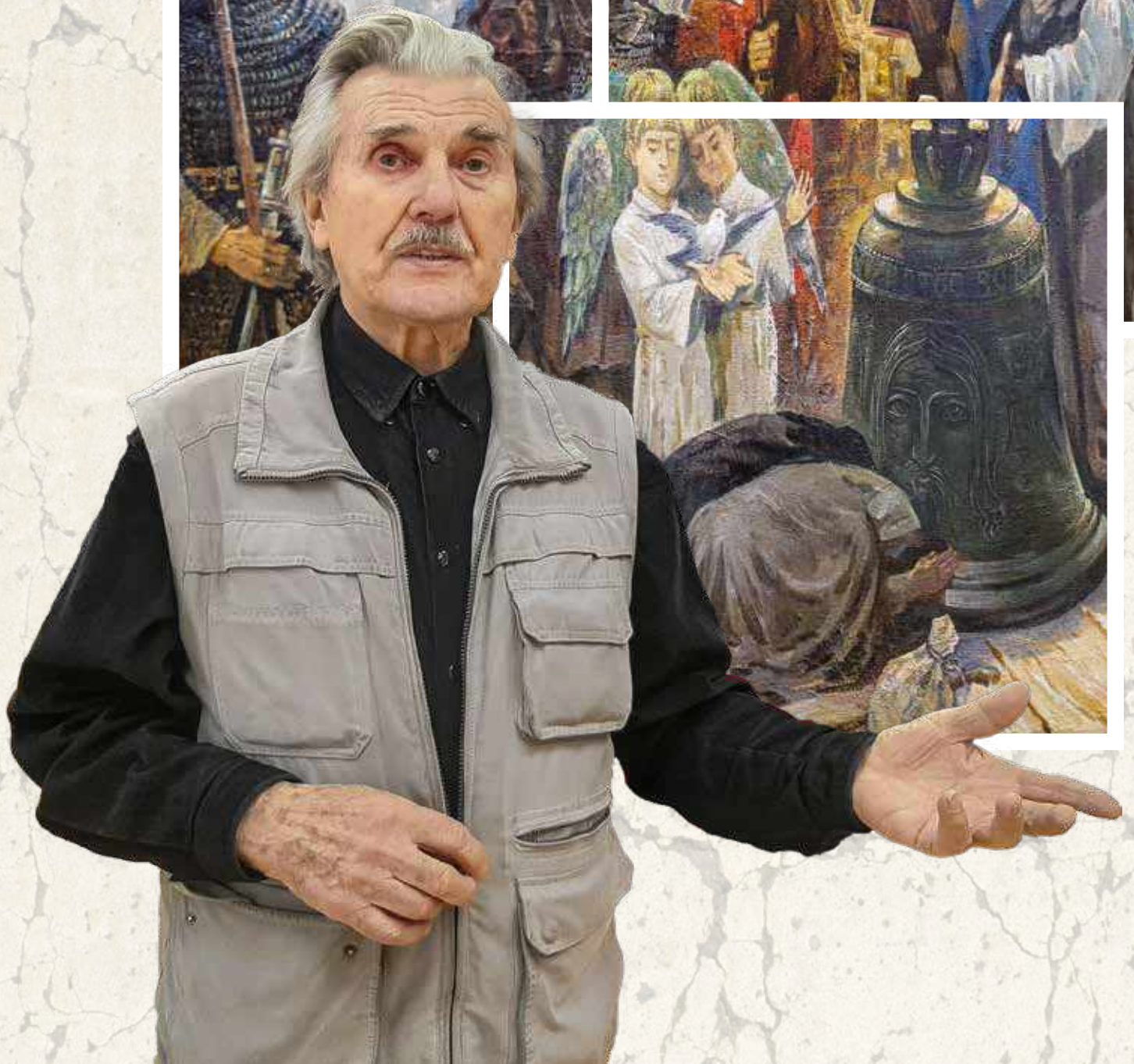
book, similar to the mentioned edition of M. Bulakhov, there would be a place for O. Suleimenov. For example, the fifteenth volume of the Belarusian Encyclopaedia tells about him. And the poems of the author of the book AZ I Ya were translated into Belarusian: several decades ago by the people's poet of Belarus Rygor Borodulin. And relatively recently by the winner of the State Prize of the Republic of Belarus Mikola Metlitsky.

Ales **Karlyukevich**



"The word should not be a means, as, indeed, literature and science in general ... You must be extremely free in evaluating the work of your teachers ..."

PERSONALITY IN ART





EVERYTHING COMES FROM THE HEART AND SOUL

The work of Nikolai Opiok — courageous and at the same time poetic — attracts with the breadth of coverage of the history of the Belarusian people and significant events of modern life. War and peace, the fate of man, historical figures, rural life — all this is the content of the paintings of the famous artist.

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Nikolai Opiok was born in 1935 in the village of Makarovka, Dubrovno District, Vitebsk Region. In 1957 he graduated from the Minsk Art College, in 1964 - the Belarusian State Theater and Art Institute. Since 1966 he has been a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists. In 2003 Nikolay Opiok became the head of the studio of military artists. Works in easel painting in the field of thematic painting, portrait, landscape and still life.

Nikolai Opiok's works are distinguished by the complexity of compositions, the author's vision, bright colouring, philosophical analysis of what is depicted, imagery of thinking on canvas. With all that, perhaps, the main place in the artist's work is occupied by the fate of a person in the historical annals of the Motherland.

Topics appear on their own

The characters of his works are outstanding figures of Belarusian history and culture, whose names are forever included in the annals of Belarus: *Usiaslau the Sorcerer, The Cross of Euphrosyne of Polotsk, Portrait of Dunin-Martsinkevich*. However, Nikolai Opiok finds images of his characters not only in the past, but, of course, among his contemporaries. In portraits, for example, he depicted sports heroes Aleksandr Medved and Daria Domracheva, outstanding actors of the Belarusian stage Stefania Stanyuta and Valery Raevsky, talented musicians Igor Luchenok and Vladimir Mulyavin.

One of the central themes in the artist's work is the theme of the Belarusian village. In his works, Nikolai Opiok sings of the life

of a working man: *Collectivization. Year 1929, Scytheman, Zhneya, Battle for Bread, Village Workers*, and his landscapes are imbued with great love for their land.

The theme of memory and heroism of the defenders of the Motherland runs through all the artist's work. These are dozens of thematic paintings, where there is tragedy, courage and faith in victory. The cycle *The Great Patriotic War* is devoted to this topic: *Memories. May 9, My Baptism, Meeting of the Winners, Lord, Save Us, Muses in the Ranks*.

Nikolai Opiok is an Honoured Art Worker of the Republic of Belarus, holder of the Order of Francysk Skaryna, laureate of the special award of the President of the Republic of Belarus for spiritual revival. He is an Honorary Member of the Russian Academy of Arts. The Presidium of the Academy unanimously decided to award this high title to the Belarusian artist for many years of fruitful activity and a great contribution to the development of contemporary art. In general, the Academy attracts only the best of the best to its ranks, and Nikolai Opiok found himself in a very worthy company: at

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one time Lomonosov and Diderot, Rastrelli and Falcone became honorary academicians. Zurab Tsereteli himself presented Nikolai Opiok with a diploma, a medal and a mantle of an honorary member of the Academy. As the artist admitted, it was a special day for him, an event in his creative life.

“This is not only my achievement, but the achievement of the entire community of Belarusian artists,” he stressed.

“Painting requires feeling...”

Particularly significant in his creative biography was the Ways of Time exhibition, dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the master. It gives a reason to talk with the artist about painting and Belarusian history. Actually, at that exhibition, paintings dedicated to the history of Belarus and its iconic characters were directly presented: Usiaslau the Sorcerer, Euphrosyne of Polotsk, princes Vitovt and Jagiello, Francysk Skaryna. The second part of the work was devoted to the Belarusian village. The third is related to the Armed Forces, including today's everyday life of the army, and to the theme of the

Great Patriotic War. They include the painting *Hot Summer*. 1941.

“Yes, when the Red Army retreated in the first days of the Great Patriotic War, soldiers passed through our village. They asked for directions to Smolensk, and headed there. In the evening the Germans came to the village. And in 1944, the Bagration operation stopped and froze for the whole winter precisely on the territory of our region. And guys like those soldiers, 42 thousand people died here. Maybe those guys were among them. 42 thousand to liberate the small Dubrovno District, where only 15 thousand people now live... At the memorial cemetery in Dubrovno, there are five Heroes of the Soviet Union who died during the liberation of the district.”

“You gave years to the theme of the Great Patriotic War, but you don't paint battle scenes. Is it a conscious choice?”

“I believe that the period of capturing military events has long ended. This was done by front-line artists who came from the war, and I absolutely agree with the documentary streak that was in our fine arts of the period 1945—1975. Then a new generation came — mine. I lived only five years and found out what war is,



what 'Katyusha' is, who Zhukov is, who is a fascist. We went through this period differently than the soldiers. We still had the romance of childhood. And fear. We collected the weapons of the dead Red Army soldiers and hid the machine guns in the bushes. Once, together with the boys, the three of us climbed into a German tank — they were being repaired in our village. We closed the hatch, and our mothers ran around and shouted... My first picture on the theme of the war was called *Kupalye 1941*. This holiday was celebrated in every village, but I remembered the beginning of the war not even with the dust that the Germans brought to our village, and not with the fear that they brought to our house, but because in 1941 it was no longer the same Kupalye, when boys and girls run around the fire and look for the 'paparats-kvetka' (fern flower) all night. The custom remained, but the fire was already small, because you cannot make it big when the planes are buzzing in the air. It was almost intuitive, but I did not want to repeat what participants in military battles did in painting."

"And yet you have enough memories of your own..."

"We had policemen roaming around the village. At night they were looking for partisans. One was Andrei from near

Kharkov, and the other was Vasya from Slutsk. I would recognise him today. Small in stature, with a babyish face. He seemed to be kind, he even gave us sweets twice, once he brought sweet German pudding in a plastic box: the policemen sorted out the parcels that came to the German soldiers, and often appropriated them. Soldiers were constantly dying, the front near Smolensk stood for nine months, corpses were brought from the front line. Yes, and the first winter was very frosty, by the New Year they lay dead, only their arms and legs stuck out from under the snow. And the parcels were coming... So this Vasya from Slutsk, what I remember him for and why I hated him. 1941, near the village of Krapivno on the Dnieper, about five kilometres from our Khlyustino station, a plane was shot down. They led two of our pilots from there, one in uniform, the other with a white shirt, hands behind his back. The dirt was knee-deep in the street, the whole village lined up along the roadsides along the wattle fence. And they were led precisely through the mud itself, and the sentry with a machine gun walked from above along the clean part of the street, without getting into the clay. And this Vasya was not too lazy, tore a stick out of the wattle fence and climbed into the very mud, attacked the prisoners, began to beat

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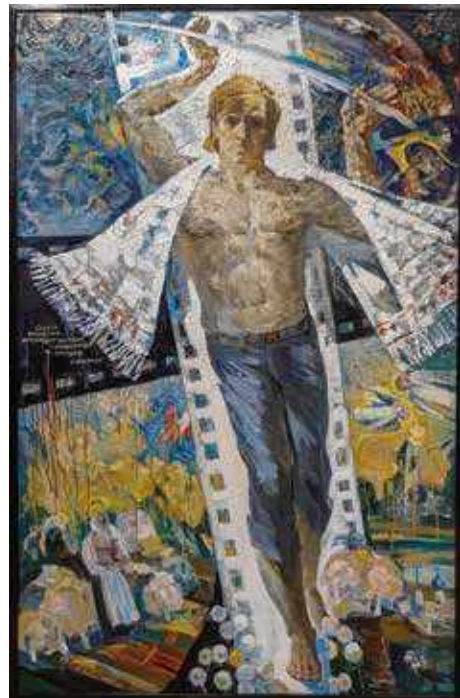
on the back of one and the second. And the Germans looked and laughed. I even told Mikhail Ptashuk (famous Belarusian film director) to make such a scene somewhere.”

“In general, your portrait gallery is rather big: musician Vladimir Mulyavin, director Mikhail Ptashuk, composer Igor Luchenok, cosmonaut Oleg Novitsky...”

“I always write from life, which means that only those whom I know personally, otherwise I can't. I met Mulyavin in 1966, when he and his brother Valera came to Grodno on tour, then the group was called Lyavony, there were no Pesniary yet. I remember that we spent three days with them then!.. Actor Arnold Pomazan came to me right in the costume of Pan Bykovsky to pose. I also have a portrait of my already departed friends — the artists Nikolai Nazarenko and Leonid Shchemelev. Every evening, at any time of the year, they made an obligatory promenade around the house on Surganova Street, where the workshops of the Belarusian Union of Artists are located. Shchemelev took his dog and they went for a walk. I exhibited this portrait once at a republican exhibition, Nazarenko came to look at the picture. Then he asked, “Well, am I such a caricature?” I answer, “Nikolai, you have been wearing this coat since 1952.” Shchemelev, even on his nightly tour around

the house, went out like a gent: shoes, a scarf... So the two of them walked and had an endless conversation about what painting is. They ended the day before, say, with Michelangelo, and the next day they continued from the same place.

What is good about Shchemelev is that he is a very sensual artist, he was a poet in painting, this is our Yesenin in fine arts. He told his colleagues, “Paint more with your soul!” I agree one hundred percent: if you paint with your head, you won't paint anything, painting requires feelings. Shchemelev himself once depicted his favourite horses as running, someone counted the legs, and there were three or four more legs than necessary. (Laughs.) They tell him, they say, your horses have extra legs, and he answered: you don't understand, I had to portray the rhythm! In the visual arts of the academic, realistic sense, a person remains a man on two legs, on two arms, but in order to convey what he thinks, God's gift is needed. A great artist is always a philosopher. And the state should be the conductor of art in society, so that it is developed and cultured.”





Events that cannot be erased from memory

Today the artist is still successfully working in the genre of figurative painting, portrait, still life. The main place in creativity is occupied by the fate of Man in the historical annals of the Motherland. His canvases are characterised by an expressive compositional, coloristic solution while preserving the traditions of the realistic school of painting. It is characterised by the search for psychological expressiveness, depth of content, it seeks to reveal all the richness and beauty of the inner world of a person.

When the Great Patriotic War began, Nikolai Opiok was a little over 5 years old. But the terrible events of that time are stored in his memory to this day. And for a long time he embodies the theme of war and peace in his paintings.

"I have a whole series of works devoted to the Great Patriotic War," says the artist. "These are 1941. *Kupalye, My Baptism, Meeting of the Winners, May. 1945* and others. I was born in 1935 in the village of Makarovka, Dubrovno District, in the Vitebsk Region. Childhood years fell on the military hard times associated with the German occupation. Fortunately, many today do not know what war is. The invaders drove our family out of the hut. I had to live in a dugout, and later in a bathhouse. From the village to the front line, the Nazis carried large copper thermoses with food, and brought back the wounded and the dead. Although I was a child, I clearly remember how a Katyusha rumbled somewhere near Orsha. By the way, the Germans also had a six-barrelled mortar, which the Soviet soldiers, by analogy with the Katyusha, called the Vanyusha. Echelons brought shells to our station for these weapons."

The artist shows his next canvas.

"In the 1950s, as a student at an art school, I decided to create a picture about the first days of the war. I showed the sketch to the supervisor, and he answered, "You need to portray social realism and mass heroism of the Soviet people, and not the retreat of the Red Army!" And my main characters are two exhausted fighters who stopped for a halt at the well. These are real characters from my childhood. It was a hot summer, the beginning of the war. Mom sent me for water. I come to the well, and there are soldiers. One drinks from a bucket, the other sits with a rifle and looks into the distance with confused eyes. I ran home to tell my mother. She gave me bread, lard and instructed me to take it to the soldiers. The idea was to designate the boy in the picture, that is, himself. But I abandoned this idea. It's too much. And I refused to draw a clear, cloudless sky. It rather needs a thunderstorm, a strong emotional impression."

Not far from *Hot Summer*, there is a painting which depicts the famous commander Marshal Zhukov. Artists depicted him in different ways: with orders, on horseback, on Red Square ... Nikolai Opiok went the other way.

"How could I not paint a portrait of Zhukov, when throughout all the war I only heard this name!" exclaims the author. "Once I read the marshal's memoirs. There was subsequently an episode widely known to many, primarily in cinema. Zhukov and several military leaders were invited to the headquarters of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, where they discussed Operation Bagration in the strictest confidence. In conclusion, Stalin said to the generals, "Everyone is free. And you, comrade Zhyukov, linger."



One of the most important events of this year in the field of fine arts was the exhibition Memory of Generations in the Republican Art Gallery. A large-scale project dedicated to the Great Patriotic War, the genocide of Belarusians during the Nazi occupation and the memory of the tragic events of the past, united both the works of the classics who have already passed away from us, and the work of subsequent generations.

In the painting by Nikolai Opioka, the commander occupies a central place at the table where the cards are laid out. And Stalin's silhouette is not so easy to find: you need to carefully search in the right corner.

The joy of meeting with the liberators

"We were under occupation for a very long time," continues the interlocutor. "What was the joy of meeting Soviet soldiers! It was a general rejoicing. Both adults and children seemed to be drunk on the word 'victory'. I named one of the paintings *May. 1945*. Trains full of soldiers passed through our station. You don't see that in the movies. They played harmonicas and sang songs. To us, boys, front-line soldiers threw trophy knives and lighters on the go. I remember the moment when the whole village shook. The train slowed down on the curve. At that moment, one soldier jumped to the ground and walked home with a suitcase. From afar the face was not visible. Therefore, every villager hoped to see a husband, father, son in a fighter. Subsequently, this story became the plot for the picture. The result was a silent scene: no one screams, no waving, everyone just stands and looks with hope."

And here is the work *My Baptism*. It also has its own backstory.

"My mother baptised me twice: before the war and during the war," says Nikolai Opiok. "Several times I was on the verge of life and death. However, which of the children at that time did not get into difficult situations. We, the village boys, had personal weapons, our own caches and even small warehouses of anti-tank mines left over from the war. Post-war children had a game: who will collect

"At this exhibition, I presented a painting dedicated to my mother," says Nikolai Opiok, head of the Studio of Military Artists. "Many of my works are biographical, based on memoirs. This is one of them. When the Germans came to our village, my mother, my brothers and sisters and I were immediately kicked out of the hut: first to a dugout, then we lived in a bathhouse, which was heated without the fumes leaving the building through a chimney stack. And constantly at night the Nazis ransacked our home, searched both my mother and us, fearing that someone might be connected with the partisans."

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the most cartridges or defuse shells. It is clear that adults did not even suspect about our hobbies. After leaving school, together with friends, I went to Vitebsk to enter an art school. There were no creative studios in our school, so I had to learn to draw myself. There were no paints either: my mother boiled beets, squeezed out the juice, and I worked...”

The works tell about the military feat

In 2003, Nikolay Opiok became the head of the studio of military artists. It included well-known masters, veterans and children of the war. Hero of Belarus Mikhail Savitsky stood at the origins of the movement. Together with the constant head of the creative team, Ivan Misko, Vladimir Urodnich, Vladimir Gordeyenko, Georgy Loiko, Leonid Dudarenko and others continue to cover the military work of the modern Armed Forces.

“The main task of our creative association was the creation and promotion of highly artistic works of patriotic themes,” says Nikolai Opiok. “Our works tell about the military feat, the defenders of the Motherland, the events of the Great Patriotic War. In Minsk, they can often be seen in the lobby of the Central House of Officers, during exhibitions at the Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery.”

You cannot remain indifferent

By the way, we met with the chairman of the Studio of War Artists Nikolai Opiok and his daughter, a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists and the Union of Artists of Russia, sculptor Natalia Opiok, just at the Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery, when an exhibition of paintings *About the Far and Near...* of the section *Tradition* was held here, dedicated to the Year of National Unity. The exposition contains more than 70 works made in a realistic manner. I wonder how important it is in the modern world to preserve traditions.

“It is no coincidence that the section has such a name, because without traditions there will be no state, family, art. A realistic vision is quite acceptable for a military theme,” assures Nikolay Opiok. “Don’t shoot the past with a gun, or the future will shoot you with a gun. This should not be tired of reminding the younger generation, which sometimes does not really like to study history and does not appreciate traditions.”





Natalia Opiok, "The topic is very urgent. The task of preserving history, tradition and realism is important. Classics is immortal, we learn from it and we can draw something new from it. Today, unfortunately, postulates are turned inside out. Artists who understand the seriousness of what is happening try to prevent art from becoming a decoration."

"What do you see as the role of an artist? Especially in difficult times."

Nikolai Opiok, "My native village is still in my heart. There was no forest nearby, and the Dnieper was seven kilometres away. There are only fields around. I was brought up against the background of human figures, faces, views. I did not look for other characters for the pictures: I still remember those. I pay a lot of attention to portraits. The canvas depicts working people. I continue the series *Actors and Roles*, where the heroes of the past look from the canvases: Euphrosyne of Polotsk, Nikolai Gusovsky... After the veterans, only we, the children of the war, can tell the story of the defenders of the Motherland. Our studio attends military exercises, from there we draw material to capture on canvas what we have seen and experienced. Art, I am convinced, can touch people's souls."

Natalia Opiok, "The role of an artist is in the position of a citizen of his country. He is obliged to respond to what is happening with the help of a brush, paints, clay, to work with the subtlest qualities of the soul. And this is a task not only for fine arts, but also for theatre and cinema... We need different views and directions in creativity, but it is important that the result of the artist's activity does not harm the soul and psyche of a person. At one time, I was delegated by the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation to participate in the All-Belarus People's Assembly. I met with representatives of the Belarusian diaspora who came from different countries. Touched

by director and actress Ivana Zhigon from Serbia. When Belgrade was bombed, she did not know how to help and support people. Ivana just went to the square and began to read poetry. Bombs fell very close, but people did not disperse. She came to Belarus to express love and support to us. At the All-Belarus People's Assembly, the President suggested thinking about a memorable sculptural composition on the theme of the unity of the people of Belarus. Returning to Moscow, I worked on sketches for a month. The starting point for me was the obelisk on Victory Square as a symbol of the unity of the people of Belarus. An idea came up (with the help of her husband, artist Aleksey Parfyonov), that a monument could be a column, as something that unites, is unshakable. And it is woven from the national ornament. History, culture, science, creation and defence of the Motherland became the foundation. Expressed them in collective images. In the centre is the image of the mother, Belarus, which protects and preserves. The column is crowned by an angel holding a wreath, the souls of our ancestors who have gone to another world. For those who have chosen the path of serving art, it is important to understand that it should not carry aggression."

"Can art and culture help the state?"

Natalia Opiok, "Sometimes people only ask for something, but you need to offer your projects, implement ideas and plans that can benefit not only the creator, but also others. Until recently, viewers turned to art to find answers to their questions. And now art is becoming more and more confusing... One must remain a real artist for the sake of the person as such. The teaching traditions must not be washed away."

Nikolai Opiok, "Creators can help with their solidarity, joint ideas, thematic works that glorify the Motherland."

Veniamin **Mikheyev**

LIFE-GIVING ELIXIR OF OPERA

A large group of opera performers in elaborate costumes are on a stage. In the foreground, an orchestra is seated at tables, looking towards the stage. The background features classical architectural elements like columns and a large arched window.

XII Minsk International Christmas Opera Forum, traditionally held at the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus, ended with a grandiose gala concert of world opera stars

So close, at the very edge of the ramp, you can see the soloists at the final bow only at a gala concert, when the orchestra pit of the Bolshoi Theatre closes, and the orchestra in full force moves to the stage. So it was this time. Here, apparently, Oksana Volkova, Honoured Artist and laureate of the State Prize of Belarus, tried her best. She not only took part in the concert with her brilliant performance of Leonora's patter song and aria from the opera *La Favorite* by Gaetano Donizetti, as well as the romance of Santuzzi in the duet of Turiddu and Santuzza from the opera *Country Honour* by Pietro Mascagni, but she was also its director. The strong, figuratively speaking, hand of

Oksana Volkova was felt during the whole festive action. Respect to her also for using the unique singing abilities of the magnificent choir of the Bolshoi Theatre to create the atmosphere of the grand finale of the Opera Forum.

The gala concert opened with the participation of the choir — the part of the choir of guests from the opera *Lucia di Lammermoor* by Gaetano Donizetti. At the end of the first part of the concert, our choir also performed the prayer from the opera *Le Villi*. Fatum by Giacomo Puccini. It was performed by People's Artists of Belarus Anastasia Moskvina and Vladimir Gromov, as well as laureates of international competitions Maria Galkina

and Taras Prisyazhnyuk brilliantly, while accompanied by the choir.

At the beginning of the second part of the gala concert, the overture to Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Tsar's Bride* was performed powerfully by the Bolshoi Theatre Symphony Orchestra. As planned by Oksana Volkova, the orchestra members sat on the steps leading up. And this is neither more nor less than 60 people. One could see the faces and instruments of almost every orchestra member. Attention was drawn to solos in the orchestra — cello, horn, clarinet, harp... Yelena Sharapova, Aleksandr Sapozhnikov, Denis Porechin and Veronika Grabovskaya, all the young



■ «Eugene Onegin», Moscow Musical Theater
«Helikon-opera»

■ Tatiana - Elizaveta Kulagina

laureates of prestigious international competitions played their parts, but both they and other artists of the orchestra seemed to breathed together. Honoured Artist of Russia Anton Grishanin conducted. In the finale, as well as throughout the concert, the stage was a masterfully organised space. Light, video content, sound — everything was thought out to the smallest detail. Behind the orchestra on a dais is the choir, on the proscenium, there were the soloists coming out to bow. It seems that Oksana Volkova was pleased with the result. The audience, standing, applauded the participants in unison, and the brilliant soloists, together with the conductor, approached the public perhaps five times, or even more. And, I repeat, so close that the rustle of the dresses of the soloists was heard from the first row, and you could, perhaps, even

touch them. All performers were awarded diplomas and bouquets of flowers. The theatre also acknowledged the permanent charming host of the opera forum Olga Kazhgaliyeva. And it is interesting that the ceremony of 'solemn awards' was held not as the final moment of the gala concert, but as a prelude to a unifying, powerful major chord, when representatives of seven countries, participants in the concert, performed a quartet with a choir from the opera *La Rondine* by Giacomo Puccini. Yes, it was already more than a quartet: all the soloists sang!

Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Uzbekistan were represented at the gala concert by soloists. Looking at them, the masters of opera, I thought: how good it is that this refined art unites different countries! It is akin to a powerful vaccine against blues, bad mood and closed hearts. One could be convinced of this by observing the audience both during the intermission, before the concert, and after it in the foyer. Positive atmosphere reigned, and the pre-holiday mood was 'warmed up' by lively smiles. People willingly took selfies at elegant Christmas trees of various sizes and formats, which we counted more than a dozen in different places, at different levels of the three-story theatrical space flooded with light and brilliance. As they say, there was something for everyone.

In the hall one could also see the Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Theatre, People's Artist of the USSR and Belarus, laureate of the State Prize of Belarus, Professor Valentin Elizariyev, as well as the elegant General Director, Doctor of Arts, Professor Yekaterina Dulova. By the way,

this was her first opera forum in such an important position.

On the opening day of the forum, Yekaterina Nikolayevna enthusiastically told reporters about how everything went well in organising the tour, "The forum is also the result of our international creative communication. I am very glad that the project of the Christmas Opera Forum has come true. I don't know what forces helped us... Negotiations both in the Moscow Helikon-Opera theatre, held with the administration of this theatre, and in the Kazakh Astana-Opera were successful. The second very important trend is related to the presentation of our two performances at the forum. *Turandot* by Giacomo Puccini is a classic that has taken root in the theatre. The opera testifies to the high level of development of the troupe, its current quality and condition. We invited our colleague from Azerbaijan, Chief Conductor and Musical Director of the Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre Ayyub Guliyev to lead the orchestra at this performance. Well, *L'Elisir d'Amore* by Gaetano Donizetti is the premiere of last season directed by our Chief Director Anna Motornaya. In the part of Dulcamara we will hear at the forum Maharram Huseynov, a guest soloist of the Mariinsky Theatre from St. Petersburg. Last year, this singer conquered the Belarusian public. He took part in the opera forum in a solo concert by Yeaterina Semenchuk, the star of the world opera. In addition, we provided the director Oksana Volkova with an opportunity to carry out the most interesting project *The Bolshoi Theatre: Moscow — Minsk. Young Voices*, which in its own way reflects both traditions and innovations. In fact, the future of two theatres and two countries, Russia and Belarus, meets in this project. We are very pleased that such creative interaction has become possible."

And here is what the famous choreographer said. People's Artist of the USSR and Belarus Valentin Elizariyev, "It so happened that I have been married to the Opera Director Margarita Izvorskaya-Elizarieva for 52 years now. Therefore,



■ A scene from the play «Silk Staircase»,
«Astana Opera» (Kazakhstan)

NATIONAL TREASURE

opera music is the most beloved in our family. Children are brought up on this music. And I, as a spectator, due to family circumstances, have been watching almost all opera performances for many years. It is worth noting that the development of opera art is undulating, as in all areas of art, and in all theatres. But the forum is something else. This is the podium where both Belarusian singers and our guests can prove themselves. In many destinies of singers, conductors, directors the opera forum has played a huge role for twelve times. For many participants, I am sure, it remains in the heart for life."

The Christmas Forum was opened with a performance by the Helikon-Opera theatre Eugene Onegin by Pyotr Tchaikovsky. The Belarusian public saw this production by the People's Artist of Russia Dmitry Bertman for the first time. In the Moscow theatre, they talk about it as the most avant-garde and creative performance. There is, perhaps, no analogue to such a production in the whole world, since only the Helikon-Opera recreated the unique performance of 1922 by the great theatre reformer Konstantin Stanislavsky. However, not word to word! Here is what Dmitry Bertman said about this project, "... our Eugene Onegin is not a dead restoration, but rather a production based on Stanislavsky; a performance in which his principles of work are revived and the external pattern of mise-en-scenes

is preserved. The filling of this drawing will follow the Stanislavsky method, but in the present day." And now the opera is on the Minsk stage. The memorandum of cooperation between the two theatres, according to the First Deputy General Director of Helikon-Opera, Honoured Worker of Culture of Russia Vladimir Gorokhov, who came to the forum, was signed in September. Then they decided to show Eugene Onegin in Minsk, on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. As the distinguished guest said, in 28 years of his practice, he has never met a manager who would organise such a tour so quickly. He joked: they say, it could not have done without the help of the powers of heaven. Everything happened quickly and quickly, in fact, in two months. This exquisite compliment, as we understood, was also addressed to Yekaterina Dulova, and it seems that she was pleased to hear it.

We saw this amazing performance and were glad that the Belarusians 'created' this opera together with the Moscow guests: the orchestra members of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus performed flawlessly the music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky. In addition to the performers of the leading parts and all the rest, the artists of the choir were magnificent — the very famous Helikon 'chorus de ballet'. As you know, Stanislavsky did not treat the choir formally. For each artist of the choir, his own image, his own

biography was 'registered' in the score of the performance. Thanks to this, the choristers looked extremely colourful. The Chief Conductor of Helikon-Opera Valery Kiryanov was at the conductor's stand that evening. According to him, the level of the Minsk Symphony Orchestra is the highest, the maestro managed to find contact and complete mutual understanding with the musicians. Of course, the Belarusian public met and saw off the Muscovites with applause. Yelizaveta Kulagina sang reverently about her deep feelings for Onegin (Maksim Perebeinos): her Tatyana was tender, feminine and sensual. Tatyana's sister Olga (Valentina Gover) appeared as playful, light, and emotional as in Pushkin's work. Her mezzo-soprano did not at all contrast with the image of Olga, on the contrary, it added new colours to it of a passionate young nature. Both Onegin and Lensky (Igor Morozov) were good. I note that all young soloists are laureates of international competitions. We also drew attention to the magical transparency and purity inherent in the music of the great Pyotr Tchaikovsky, which seemed to fill the whole performance from the inside.

The second 'invited' performance, which arrived at the forum in full force, with an orchestra, is Gioacchino Rossini's *La Scala di Seta*, an opera-farce by the Astana Opera State Opera and Ballet Theatre. They say that this is the most demanded performance in Kazakhstan today. Its director Alla Simonishvili (Italy), together with performers and an artist from Italy (Manana Gunia) gave us an atmosphere of joy and happiness. Conducted by Ruslan Baimurzin, holder of the Kurmet Order, conductor of the Astana Opera. Interestingly, this season is an anniversary season for the Bolshoi Theatre and Astana Opera. True, Kazakhstanis are 10 years old, and our theatre is 90. But, as they say, any age is good for the high art of opera.

The creative forces of the Bolshoi were presented at the forum, as mentioned before, by the operas *Turandot* and *L'Elisir d'Amore*, in which guest soloists sang. The



■ A scene from the play «Turandot», the Bolshoi Theater of Belarus. In the center is Ivan Gyngazov, the soloist of the Helikon Opera, in the role of Kalaf



■ A scene from the play «Love Drink», Bolshoi Theater of Belarus

most difficult part of Calaf was performed by the soloist, the wonderful dramatic tenor of Helikon-Opera Ivan Gyngazov. The opera singer with Belarusian ancestral roots made his bright debut on our stage exactly a year ago in Camille Saint-Saëns' opera *Samson and Delilah* (staged by Oksana Volkova, who invited Ivan to Minsk). At this forum, a young performer Anastasia Malevich, a laureate of international competitions, made a successful debut as Turandot. The performance was conducted by the Chief Conductor and Musical Director of the Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre from Baku, a friend of the Bolshoi Ayyub Guliyev. He is very proud of the creative connections of his theatre with the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. By the way, recently Dmitry Shabetya visited Baku and successfully performed in the opera *Carmen*. According to Guliyev, Belarusian singers — Oksana Volkova, Stanislav Trifonov, Vladimir Gromov and other soloists — are adored in Baku. And Valentin Elizariyev was warmly and cordially welcomed there in September, he was awarded the highest award of Azerbaijan — the Order of Heydar Aliyev. This, we note, is not just a creative exchange, but sincere friendship and recognition.

The opera *L'Elisir d'Amore* was received with enthusiasm by the audience

of the forum. The light, bright, cheerful production of Anna Motornaya with a guest soloist of the Mariinsky Theatre with a powerful and beautiful bass-baritone Maharram Huseynov as the fraudulent doctor Dulcamara captivated the audience.

It should be noted that the tendency to invite performers from theatres of other countries to the performances of the Bolshoi, as well as Belarusian soloists to other stages, is an old world tradition that enriches both the soloists and the performances in which they sing. Figuratively speaking, such exchanges are something like a life-giving elixir, pouring into performances. There are so many examples! Take, for example, Oksana Volkova, who sang more than once in New York at the Metropolitan Opera. By the way, as Yekaterina Dulova has already said, Volkova implemented the Young Voices forum project, and she was preparing it at the time when she herself was invited to sing at the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia. It was then possible to agree on the main issues, and later the details were clarified. As a result, five young soloists came to the concert from Moscow and are actively involved in the theatre's repertoire. On the part of our Bolshoi, the director included a greater number of performers: after all, they are at home. These are repertoire artists who continue to win the

love of the public — Marta Danusevich, Taras Prisyazhnyuk, the magnificent dramatic tenor Dmitry Shabetya. Very young soloists, Daria Gorozhanka, Andrey Selyutin, Andrey Matyushonok, who had just joined the theatre, took part in the project. According to Oksana Volkova, such a concert, hopefully, will mark the beginning of a good tradition, because there is no future without the education of young people. The concert featured works that are not staged at the Bolshoi. As Oksana Volkova said, this is a big challenge for the orchestra: to rehearse two concertos in a short time. But, we are witnesses, it played them flawlessly. Light music by Donizetti, Rossini, Mozart sounded in the first part. Almost all young soloists wanted to work with such music. In the second part we enjoyed the freshness and purity of young voices and the music of Italian and French romanticism.

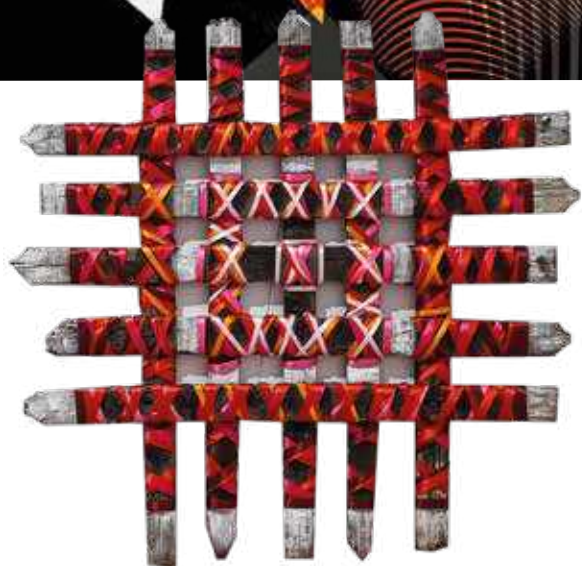
In conclusion, I will say: every day, every evening of the Minsk Christmas Opera Forum was a fest. On the eve of the New Year and Christmas, in the arms of this snowy and frosty winter, the traditional gift from the Bolshoi Theatre to fans of opera art came in handy.

Valentina **Zhdanovich**

Photo courtesy of
the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus

CREATIVITY: TRADITION AND EXPERIMENT

ART at its peak



The Palace of Arts Republican Art Gallery successfully hosted the presentation of the exhibition project of the 5th Triennial of Decorative Arts of the Belarusian Union of Artists Descartes-22. In the exposition one could see textiles, ceramics, glass, batik, metal in works created over the past three years.

However, within the framework of this project, it was possible to get acquainted not only with the general exposition, but also with the personal mini-projects of the authors presenting their experimental creative works in textiles and ceramics. Separately, mini-textiles, which are very popular in the world today, the Plast project, presenting the works of ceramic artists in planar forms, the works of anniversaries, the

oldest ceramics master from Bobruisk Valery Kaltytin and glass artist Tatyana Malysheva, were shown.

The festival was full of variety

Yes, the 5th Triennial of Arts and Crafts was held in the format of a festival at various venues in Minsk.

It also included an exhibition at the National Library of Belarus in memory of three textile workers who have passed away over the past three years: Alla Nepochalovich, Vladimir Lisavenko and Larisa Gustava. In the Art Gallery of Mikhail Savitsky, in turn, an exposition of 12 ceramic artists was shown, united by the theme of the transformation of traditional forms of this art. And in the High Place art-lounge, they

CREATIVITY: TRADITION AND EXPERIMENT



presented a project of sculptors embodying sculptural plasticity in fireclay. Within the framework of the festival, several personal projects were also implemented: textiles by Margarita Schamelova, decorative plastics by Nikolai Bayrachny and Yuri Gudinovich in the City Art Gallery of Leonid Shchemilev, as well as a textile mosaic by Lyubov Kirilova and Vera Blintsova in the Mastatsva Gallery of the Belarusian Union of Artists.

Strictly speaking, this art has grown out of creativity available to everyone. It has lived in Belarusian families for centuries, it was just so familiar that not everyone thought about it: this is a value that needs to be preserved both at the level of things, and at the level of skills, and at the level of tradition, which should be continued. Not without reason at the opening of the 5th Triennial of Arts and Crafts Descartes-22 in the Palace of Art, one way or another, they talked about the past, in which almost every Belarusian has its own artists. And it is not for nothing that the central object on the second floor of the palace was the work

of Maria Tarletskaia The Life of the People Before, which not only reminded of the connection with the ancestors, but was its living embodiment and even the voice of predecessors. The two parts of this installation were in contact with each other and they were even talking. Meanwhile, they

wanted to convince us that arts and crafts can have an unexpected sound.

It was quite possible to stand and listen to the voice of symbolic antiquity during the inspection of the exposition. And all the time he accompanied the visitors, allegedly making a kind of stop in time. It was necessary to linger in it in order to understand what was next. And you can't move on without looking back, whether you like it or not. This is art...

"For all of us, decorative and applied art is like a grandmother's craft," said Natalya Sharangovich, Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Artists. "Each of us can remember in his family people who weaved, spun, made something from ceramics, were blacksmiths. For example, my grandfather was a blacksmith, and my grandmother weaved and embroidered very beautifully."

Perhaps that is why we are so attracted to decorative art, noted the famous graphic artist Andrey Basalyga, "Apparently, it sits deep, the ability to it is transmitted at the gene level through generations, since our people have been engaged in it since ancient times. I remembered my grandmothers, who

were engaged in weaving, they made towels, bedspreads. The first thing I saw was the colours of my grandmother's bedspread. My grandfather was a cooper — this is a craft that educates artists. And the current exhibition is rich not only in traditional materials...."



CREATIVITY: TRADITION AND EXPERIMENT

“Decorative and applied art, which shows modern Belarus, has managed to do the incredible. It preserves the tradition, but also, starting from it, gives free rein to fantasy — it goes off in dreams almost to cosmic heights, trying to overcome spaces.”



Surprise from the author's fantasy

Works woven, glued or cast... From threads, fabric, clay, glass, metal, wood... Created with great respect for tradition, they declare its support and continuation. An attempt to do one's own, a little differently, developing the tradition is present: you can see unexpected forms and experiments. They also come from tradition, but carry the features of innovation. In

particular, this is how contemporary object art grows.

Apparently, our traditions are very strong, you immediately notice and celebrate them in a variety of directions and works. And there are a lot of them. Great exhibition. But the Triennial is an exhibition that takes place every three years, so there is a temptation to present artists and their works to the maximum.

A separate space of the main exposition in the Palace of Arts was allocated for art glass. These are works

created at the Neman glass factory, which emphasises the unity of artists with production workers. After all, the essence of arts and crafts also lies in the fact that it is born from everyday things familiar to everyone and can diversify our lives through the author's imagination. Tatyana Malysheva, who has worked on the Neman for more than 40 years, could tell about this with deep knowledge of the matter.

It is impossible not to include textiles, it is the most diverse. In addition to the purely artistic, which is widely known



in the form of tapestries or panels familiar to everyone, another interesting phenomenon appeared before our eyes. These were very small forms of textiles, in which the artists relied on rather bold experiments.

“We tried to make it so that the audience could see textiles from different angles: classical weaving, tapestries, and experiments, because now is the time when different directions, materials are synthesised, different techniques are mixed,” explained the project curator,

Chairwoman of the Art Textile Section Belarusian Union of Artists Olga Rednikina. “It doesn’t really matter what material you work with, the main thing is how you express your idea. As for mini textiles, we did this project for the first time at the last Triennial, and this year we decided to move away from the traditional understanding of textiles as threads or fabrics, and asked artists to ‘see’ textiles in any materials. And the results are so unexpected! One could see how glass behaves as a basis for textiles, or metal, plastic, paper...”

Keeping the tradition and boldly experimenting

Without a doubt, works of art can be made from a variety of materials: metal, threads, fabrics, leather... And in general, all possible materials can be combined with each other, forming an incredible composition that can not only decorate space, but fill it with thought or image. Essence. Denoting

CREATIVITY: TRADITION AND EXPERIMENT

Works woven, glued or cast... From threads, fabric, clay, glass, metal, wood... Created with great respect for tradition, they declare its support and continuation.



the presence of man in the world. Decorative and applied art, which shows modern Belarus, has managed to do the incredible. It preserves the tradition, but also, starting from it, gives free rein to fantasy — it goes off in dreams almost to cosmic heights, trying to overcome spaces.

Of course, this is all interesting, first of all, here and now. And many works generally ask for a house on the wall, especially in the cold — tapestries, for example. Coloured lanterns promise more light on a short day. Artistic glass fascinates

with its simplicity, but at the same time, with the fullness of the forms of such vases one does not need flowers. Forms may be mentioned, be non-obvious, but through them the authors allegedly make charades for us. Or even play hide-and-seek. It's worth walking between the different planes dividing the space in order to feel its endless possibilities and not get lost...

Arts and crafts needs space, which was provided. The Palace of Arts and other exhibition venues in the capital were seized by creators who see tradition as a ground for the development of innovative

searches. For them, the experiment is valuable because it helps traditional techniques to live and develop. There is great wisdom in this organic coexistence: there are no contradictions here, but there is mutual complementarity. Hence the general impression: there is a lot of art, and it warms, creates an atmosphere, harmonises the space. Naturally, a period of three years allows you to stock up on works and choose really the best, masterfully created and extraordinary, among which there are special art objects, installations.



In general, all possible materials can be combined with each other, forming an incredible composition that can not only decorate space, but fill it with thought or image.



Time for creative pursuits

“We organised the Triennial as a celebration of arts and crafts and artistic textiles. This large exhibition is an indicator of the current state of the direction. I am glad that the masters are in active search, new materials are being turned on, new artistic solutions can be seen,” notes Olga Rednikina. “And the textiles don’t stand still. It’s good to see how young artists work, because you can be inspired by both your older colleagues and young people. For a long time, we did not have separate mini-textile projects. But in Europe, this is quite a popular destination;

textile biennials are held regularly. We hope that we will also enter a two-year cycle and join the international movement that unites artists working in this technique. Personally, I am pleased that you can see a wide range of artistic solutions. Mini-textile is a fertile ground for testing new materials: it allows you to do it mobile, and in this format you can quickly feel unexpected solutions. Therefore, regular exhibitions are needed.”

Today it is no longer necessary to prove that arts and crafts is a self-sufficient direction, the same as easel painting, for example, or graphics. Although there were times when not everyone understood this, even in a creative environment.

“Decorative and applied art is more complex in its language, it is more generalized, not direct,” emphasises art critic Larisa Finkelstein. “And the creators of this trend have always had a broader view, they existed not in their own picturesque or sculptural cells, but in a large space of interiors, at the junction of various techniques and materials. The current exhibition is a big picture of the history of arts and crafts, which is now at its peak in our country: no other art can boast such number of experiments. This is a business card of Belarusian art, something that can proudly represent its country.”

Mikhail **Vilaminov**

Creativity with a sense of faith, hope and love for life

Margarita Schemeleva, who creates her woven paintings using the old as the world method of weaving threads on a wooden frame, writes the history of arts and crafts in her own original way

Her aesthetic preferences were largely influenced by People's Artist of Belarus Aleksandr Kishchenko, the author of the Tapestry of the Century, a friend of her father, People's Artist of Belarus Leonid Schemelev. Kishchenko visited their house, spoke with enthusiasm about the 'woolen painting' of Jean Lurçat, a reformer of tapestry weaving.

"And then I became interested in artistic textiles, went to learn this craft," says Margarita. "Lurçat's, Kishchenko's tapestry is a monumental creation. I have always strived for small pictorial forms, believing that they create an atmosphere of warmth, kindness, joy and thus form the environment that educates us."

Tapestry is the art of a long thread. It takes more than three months to weave even a small picture.

Margarita Schemeleva wove her first tapestry Celebration at the age of 24. That was her graduation work at the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute. Textiles expressed her idea of happiness, Margarita even depicted her classmates on it. Later, the master moved away from plot constructions to associative ones, and the painting Naroč can serve as an example of this, creating a complete



ESSENCE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP

feeling of summer: waves are splashing, exposing pebbles at the bottom, algae are swaying... The mood is created by colour. All colours are natural, no 'acid' ones.

As an assistant professor at the Department of Costume and Textiles of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts, the artist makes her own unique works only when the time allows. The circle of her pedagogical concerns is great, and Margarita Leonidovna does not know what is more important for her: to create a work herself or to see how her student will do it. According to art critic Larisa Finkelstein, Margarita Schemeleva, who at one time managed to escape from the charm of her father's personality, did not become his 'copy', created herself, expects the same from her students. In other words, she does not sculpt her own kind. Her pupils are the unique artist Yelena Ilkovets, fashion designer Anna Dragotsennaya, who has visited many

European cities with her collections... Now they feed the teacher with their own creativity. There is a constant exchange of energy.

But the facts are as follows: a personal exhibition of textiles by Margarita Schemeleva, NUMBERS, was presented, in the Minsk City Art Gallery of Leonid Schemelev's Works. And the project itself was prepared jointly with the Belarusian Union of Artists as part of the Decartes-22 5th Triennial of Decorative Arts.

Yes, Margarita Schemeleva is engaged in artistic weaving, works in a unique and complex technique of hand-weaving threads on a special wooden frame. And be that as it may, she combines teaching work with fruitful artistic activity: over the years of creativity, she has created dozens of bright, original works. However, the NUMBERS exhibition of author's textiles is considered an attempt by the artist to

reflect on the simultaneous loss of three close people (Margarita lost her father, mother and husband in a short period of time), to go through an extremely difficult period, to record moments of happiness and grief, as well as fear of life without loved ones.

NUMBERS presented more than 20 works by Margarita Schemeleva. Throughout her creative life, she experiments with form, colour, texture, uses various materials, which was evident from the exposition, which demonstrated textiles from different periods. And of course, one of the brightest works was once again Celebration, that first attempt, the artist's term work, which reflects the sincere joy and admiration of people for each other, expressed the idea of people's happiness. This is a traditional monumental work. At that time, as already noted, the author's passions were influenced by the People's Artist of Belarus Aleksandr



ESSENCE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP



Kishchenko. Later, Margarita Schemeleva, as already noted, moved away from large sizes. Recently, she has been striving for small pictorial forms that help to better reveal warm feelings, positive emotions, memories dear to the heart.

The artist's favourite themes are Belarusian nature, as well as scenes from everyday life. Bright contrasts and smooth transitions create concrete images and abstract compositions, the features of materials (sheep wool is more often used) affect the harmony of the melodies of the works, the play of colours and shades gives rise to the emotional richness of what was said. This is all that Margarita Schemeleva's textiles are valued for.

Our heroine carried her love for arts and crafts through the years of study and teaching at the theatre and art institute, and later at the academy of arts. Today, a talented teacher still confesses her feelings for textiles through creativity and is happy to share her unique experience with students. After all, in Belarus she is the only one who creates woven installations:

"You either can do it and it comes easy to you, or you can't at all. When the soul

asks, in my case, the tapestry is my way of expressing feelings, experiences."

Ten years ago, Khristina Vysotskaya was lucky enough to become a student of the tapestry master and representative of the famous dynasty, Margarita Schemeleva. Later, the result of the tandem of two talented artists was an exposition with the beautiful name Faith, Hope and Love.

Khristina Vysotskaya, "The idea of that exhibition was born when we decided to make a joint project, which will show the moment of continuity, school, worldview. Margarita Schemeleva has been working in this direction for more than 40 years. This is a classic tapestry, but she puts her soul into it, her vision of composition, colour, shape."

Maya Ovodinskaya, researcher at the City Art Gallery of Leonid Schemelev's Works, "Margarita Leonidovna's direction is not only tapestry, chamber tapestry, but also miniature textile works. The works are always very bright and stand out from all the others. For example, we have her beautiful, chamber tapestry. If you look at it closer, you will see that this technique of smooth

hand weaving stands out with a spot compositional solution."

No wonder Margarita Schemeleva believes that fabrics are very soft, sincere material. Colour and texture convey not only the mood and vision of the world, but also deep ideas, "When you walk through the forest and see fallen or cut down trees, it hurts very much inside. It's all alive. And I imagined how it all looks like, if there is no tree, it is cut down, but the something still soars in the air, the atmosphere that these souls are raised above us. And it's all connected. Nature is a huge organism in which everything interacts with each other."

But the miracle of her talented works is created by hand. Fibre to fibre, and the incredible soft masterpieces of Margarita Schemeleva warm the soul. However, here is how the author herself explains her creative ideas, "Everything I do is all about love, about the ties of generations, about the fact that we are all in touch, we support each other, and if someone leaves, then it's like cutting down a tree, a very strong loss. And my entire current exhibition is about the fact that without a sense of faith, hope, love for life, we will have nothing left."

Vladimir **Mikhailov**

ГОЛАС РАДЗІМЫ

Весткі з Беларусі



стар. 98



стар. 104



стар.108



стар. 112

Падчас пасяджэння прадстаўнікі дзяржаўных устаноў Беларусі сустрэліся з кіраўнікамі арганізацый беларусаў замежжа Арменіі, Латвіі, Іарданіі, Іспаніі, Германіі, ЗША, Расіі, Узбекістана, Эстоніі, Малдовы, Кыргызстана, Казахстана. Мерапрыемства праходзіла пад старшынствам намесніка Міністра замежных спраў Беларусі Ігара Назарука, які адзначыў, што Савет з'яўляецца той самай пляцоўкай, на якой адбываецца канструктыўны дыялог дзяржавы з грамадскімі аб'яднаннямі беларусаў замежжа. Ігар Васі-

паўплывала на характар узаемадзеяння дзяржавы з прадстаўнікамі беларускай дыяспары. Асабліва ўвага ўдзялялася сумеснай працы па прыцягненні ўвагі міжнароднай супольнасці да праблематыкі захавання гістарычнай памяці, недапушчэння перапісвання ўрокаў гісторыі, умацавання адзінства беларускага народа. Ігар Назарук падзякаваў прадстаўнікам дыяспары за супрацу ў гэтым кірунку.

Старшыня рэгіянальнай грамадскай арганізацыі “Нацыянальна-культурная аўтаномія беларусаў Карэліі” Святлана Барташэвіч падзялілася досведам таго, што робіць суполка для пашырэння беларускай культуры і ведаў па гісторыі нашага народа. Сімвалічна, што адзін з мастацкіх калектываў Карэліі мае назву “Добранікі” – гэта памяць пра беларускую вёску, спаленую ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, у якой нарадзілася адна з пажылых салістак калектыву. Яе, малую, калі знішчалася вёска, маці паспела выштурхнуць у акно. Дзіўна, вёскі няма, а пра яе трагедыю ведаюць людзі, што жывуць за тысячы кіламетраў ад Беларусі. “Мы пастаянна робім сацыялагічныя апытанні, чым беларусы адрозніваюцца ад іншых (а ў Карэліі беларусы па колькасці стаяць на трэцім месцы сярод нацыянальнасцяў).

Беларусаў вылучаюць працавітасць і добразычлівасць, – дзеліцца Святлана Барташэвіч. – Я лічу, Беларусь – краіна, якая заўсёды выступае за мір, за развіццё сяброўскіх адносін. І гэта мы стараемся пазіцыянаваць у сваёй дзейнасці. Мы не навязваем сваю культуру. Запрашаем выступаць на нашых канцэртах прадстаўнікоў іншых нацыянальнасцяў. Жыць мы павінны з усімі ў згодзе, ацэньваць людзей не па нацыянальных прыкметах, а па іх душэўных і духоўных якасцях”.

Асабістыя гісторыі, звязаныя з Другой сусветнай вайной, захоўваюцца ў сям'ях перасяленцаў, якіх лёс закінуў у розныя краіны. Так, будучая



РАДЗІМА Ў СЭРЦЫ

У Мінску прайшло сёмае пасяджэнне Кансультацыйнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа пры Міністэрстве замежных спраў Рэспублікі Беларусь.

льевіч заўважыў, што сёння ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь вельмі шмат робіцца для ўмацавання сувязяў з дыяспарай, данясення матэрыялаў пра традыцыі, гісторыю, культурныя каштоўнасці, якімі валодае краіна. Таксама немалая ўвага надаецца перадачы інфармацыі пра падзеі, якія адбываюцца ў краіне, каб у суайчыннікаў было дакладнае і аб'ектыўнае ўяўленне аб сучасных рэаліях.

Асабістыя гісторыі не сцерці

Тэматыка 2022 года, абвешчанага ў Беларусі годам гістарычнай памяці,



маці Людмілы Аннус, старшыні Нарвскага беларускага таварыства “Сябры”, яшчэ дзяўчынай была прымусова вывезена фашыстамі ў Германію. З дзяцінства Людміла памятае, як з класам наведвала пасёлак Ала, дзе ў 1944 годзе было спалена 1758 жыхароў, 950 з іх – дзеці. Гэта дванаццаць Хатыняў! Таму жанчына прызнаецца, што заўсёды з вялікім болей глядзіць на тое, як у Эстоніі разбураюцца помнікі, прысвечаныя Вялікай Айчыннай вайне. Але памяць немагчыма сцерці. Прадстаўнікі беларускай дыяспары з Эстоніі, калі прыязджаюць у Беларусь, заўсёды стараюцца наведаць гістарычныя мясціны. Таварыству “Сябры” ўжо 23 гады, за гэты час арганізацыя наладзіла стасункі з рознымі беларускімі суполкамі Прыбалтыкі ды іншых краін. Горадам-пабрацімам Нарвы стаў Барысаў, творчыя сувязі

■ Удзельнікі сёмага пасяджэння Кансультацыйнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа пры Міністэрстве замежных спраў

з жыхарамі якога дыяспара з Эстоніі падтрымлівае 15 гадоў. Таварыства ладзіць багата мерапрыемстваў, прысвечаных знакамітым ураджэнцам Беларусі. Сёлета адзін з самых значных праектаў быў звязаны з юбілеем Марка Шагала. Справа ў тым, што ў 1908–1909 гадах мастак прыязджаў у Нарву і стварыў там некалькі сваіх першых карцін.

Беларусы – гэта знак якасці

“Патрыятызм – дамінанта нашай працы. Ён заўсёды быў у нашай свядомасці, у крыві. І сёння гэта ідэя вельмі

запатрабаваная. Мы выступаем ініцыятарамі ў развіцці патрыятычнага турызму. У шэрагу маскоўскіх ВНУ для студэнтаў першага курса праводзіцца экскурсія «Ад Масквы да Брэста». Прасякнуцца разуменнем, што такое Вялікая Перамога, можна менавіта на беларускай зямлі, пры наведванні Хатыні, Брэсцкай крэпасці, Кургана Славы, Дзяржаўнага музея гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, мемарыяльных комплексаў на месцах канцэнтрацыйных лагераў. Гэта вельмі ўмацоўвае дух моладзі, агаляе паняцце «фашызм», падводзіць да думкі пра неабходнасць барацьбы з фашызмам, – расказвае старшыня грамадскай арганізацыі “Федэральная нацыянальна-культурная аўтаномія беларусаў Расіі” Сяргей Кандыбовіч.

На расійскай зямлі сапраўды вялікая ўвага ўдзяляецца ўшанаван-



■ Валянціна Ражанец і Сяргей Кандыбовіч

ню памяці герояў Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Можна ўзгадаць пра атласы памяці з каардынатамі помнікаў і месцаў пахавання герояў і ахвяр вайны, над якімі працуюць члены Беларускай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі Смаленскай вобласці, – ёй кіруе Сяргей Крыўка. Актывізавалася праца з гарадамі-пабрацімамі. Адзін з буйных праектаў “Радзіма подзвіга – Радзіме героя” садзейнічае наладжванню стасункаў не толькі паміж вялікімі і малымі паселішчамі Беларусі і Расіі, але таксама іншых краін. Перамогу ў Вялікай Айчыннай вайне здабывалі прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў, у баях на зямлі Беларусі, Расіі здзяйснялі подзвігі людзі, чый дом знаходзіўся ў іншых краях. Важна, каб іх імёны не былі забытыя. І такі праект увекавечвае імёны ды садзейнічае

наладжванню пабрацімскіх сувязяў паміж гарадамі, вёскамі.

Сёння ў Расійскай Федэрацыі створана больш за 80 арганізацый беларускай дыяспары. “У кожнай з іх ёсць калектывны орган кіравання ў выглядзе савета, у якім ад 10 да 20 чалавек. Вось і лічыце: каля тысячы чалавек у Расійскай Федэрацыі, хто не проста лічыцца ў арганізацыі, а хто актыўна займаецца зберажэннем культуры і традыцый. Гэта здорава. Гэта прэстыжна, значна”, – заўважае Сяргей Кандыбовіч. Такая актыўнасць прадстаўнікоў дыяспар уплывае на тое, што... колькасць беларусаў у Расійскай Федэрацыі ў апошнія гады пачала павялічвацца. Калі перапіс 1989 года паказваў, што ў РСФСР пражывалі 1 мільён 200 тысяч беларусаў, то з кожным наступным перапісам гэта лічба

значна змяншалася: 800 тысяч, 500. Патлумачыць гэту з’яву можна было беручы да ўвагі псіхалагічныя прычыны, так званую двойную ідэнтычнасць. Людзі з беларускімі родавымі каранямі ідэнтыфікавалі сябе ўжо з той зямлёй, на якой доўга пражываюць. Але дзякуючы актыўнай працы суполак, цікаўнасць да сваіх вытокаў у перасяленцаў – беларусаў ды іх нашчадкаў значна вырасла. Як вынік, перапіс насельніцтва 2021 года паказвае, што беларусаў у Расіі паболела. На некаторых сайтах ужо з’явіліся лічбы, звязаныя з апошнім перапісам. Сёння ў Расіі пражывае 860 тысяч беларусаў (а гэта рост на 43 %). Сяргей Львовіч падкрэслівае, што пакуль гэта лічба неафіцыйная. Але быць беларусам сёння ў Расійскай Федэрацыі ганарова і прэстыжна: “Калі ў Расіі пры нейкіх абставінах



■ Аксана Чамеза, кіраўнік
Культурна-асветніцкага
аб'яднання беларусаў у
Іарданіі

■ Ала Сандлер
прадстаўляла суполку
беларусаў у Вашынгтоне



кажаш, што займаешся грамадскай працай і што ты беларус, гэта заўсёды выклікае пазітыўную рэакцыю ва ўсіх колах. Да беларусаў абсалютны давер, з беларусамі камфортна і прыемна мець справу, няхай гэта дзелаваў кантакты ці культурныя. Беларусы – гэта знак якасці”.

Новыя кірункі дзеянасці

Кіраўніца Культурна-асветніцкага аб'яднання беларусаў у Іарданіі Аксана Чамеза прадстаўляе яшчэ маладую арганізацыю, якая працуе толькі чацвёрты год, але вельмі актыўную.

Сёлета, як расказала госця, актывісты суполкі асвоілі новы кірунак дзейнасці: дапамагаюць у распаўсюджванні інфармацыі пра культурны патэнцыял Беларусі. У Амане была праведзена выстаўка, прысвечаная адукацыйным паслугам. Аказалася, што ў Іарданіі многа былых выпускнікоў, якія яшчэ ў часы Савецкага Саюза атрымлівалі адукацыю ў Беларусі. З імі наладжваюцца кантакты і распрацоўваюцца новыя праекты.

Аксана Чамеза ўпэўнена, што беларусам замежжа важна наладжваць стасункі паміж сабой, прычым да гэтай справы могуць далучацца і юныя актывісты дыяспары. Каб стварыць

камунікатывную пляцоўку для дзяцей, беларусы Іарданіі распрацавалі праект “Тэрыторыя шасці поціскаў рукі”. Ужо ў анлайн-фармаце адбылося знаёмства дзяцей з іарданскай арганізацыі з юнымі беларусамі ў Эстоніі. У планах – правесці сустрэчы з беларускімі суполкамі Арменіі, Латвіі ды іншых краін, а ўлетку зладзіць анлайн-канферэнцыю для дзяцей беларусаў замежжа.

Усеіспанская асацыяцыя EsBelarus супрацоўнічае з мінскімі ўстановамі: Дзяржаўным музеем гісторыі беларускай літаратуры і Літаратурным музеем Максіма Багдановіча. Як паведаміла кіраўнік асацыяцыі Святлана Яськова, у Іспаніі нашы супляменнікі памятаюць пра юбілей класікаў беларускай літаратуры. Так, сёлета там адзначылі 140-годдзе Якуба Коласа. Арганізацыя імкнецца захоўваць і пашыраць беларускую культуру і літаратуру. Рыхтуецца пераклад на іспанскую мову “Альпійскай балады” Васіля Быкава. Прадстаўнікі дыяспары абменьваюцца кнігамі, пры сустрэчах гутараць на роднай мове. Працуе моўная школа Linguolandia. У Іспаніі ў дзетак ёсць магчымасць паралельна вучыцца па беларускіх праграмах і падручніках. Усё дзякуючы таму, што сёння яны ў вольным доступе размешчаны ў інтэрнэце.

Ала Сандлер, якая прадстаўляла на пасяджэнні Кансультацыйнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа пры МЗС суполку беларусаў у Вашынгтоне, заўважыла, што месяц назад удзельнічала ў творчай стажыроўцы, якая праходзіла ў Беларусі. Новыя веды і ўражанні, якія тут атрымала, паўплывалі на яе ідэю па аднаўленні Музея славянскіх культур у Амерыцы, які знаходзіцца ў даволі запушчаным стане. Жанчына падумала, чаму б не зрабіць гэты музей беларускім. Ала Сандлер упэўнена, што прадстаўнікі народнай дыпламатыі могуць прабіць сцяну непаразумення, якая можа ўзнікаць у стасунках паміж дзяржавамі. Часам прыватныя сустрэчы, гутаркі паміж простымі людзьмі дазваляюць дасягнуць вярхоў паспяху ў гэтай справе.

Дзмітрый Раманоўскі ўзначальвае арганізацыю “Беларускі форум” у Гер-



■ Пасяджэнне Кансультацыйнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа пры Міністэрстве замежных спраў

маніі. Ён ужо не раз удзельнічаў у пасяджэннях Кансультацыйнага савета. Арганізацыя існуе з 2014 года і ладзіць шмат розных мерапрыемстваў. У час пандэміі ў Германіі быў даволі жорсткі каранцін. Амаль два з паловай года нельга было праводзіць ніякіх мерапрыемстваў. 3 мая гэтага года пашлі паслабленні. І суполка аднаўляе свае праекты, у тым ліку скіраваныя на дзяцей. Дзмітрый Уладзіміравіч – гісторык. Шмат гадоў ён займаецца навуковай працай, звязанай з вывучэннем рознабаковых сувязяў паміж Беларуссю і Германіяй. Асабліва яго цікавіць XX стагоддзе, калі наладжваліся першыя дыпламатычныя пагадненні. Таксама ён даследуе нямецкія архівы, звя-

заныя з Першай і Другой сусветнымі войнамі. Супрацоўнічае з гісторыкамі ў Беларусі.

Крыніца натхнення

Інфармацыю пра тое, як многа грамадскія арганізацыі беларусаў замежжа робяць для зберажэння традыцый і культуры, як шануюць памяць пра падзеі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, можна былочытаць і з фатаграфій на выстаўцы ў Міністэрстве замежных спраў.

Выстаўлялася каля трох дзясяткаў здымкаў, зробленых беларусамі замежжа. Усяго ж на фотафестываль “Мы – разам! З любоўю да Беларусі” прыйшло больш за 400 работ.

Фотафестываль – сумесны праект Парламенцкай рабочай групы па справах беларусаў замежжа, Міністэрства замежных спраў, апарата Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў, Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур. Ён быў задуманы ў Год гістарычнай памяці з мэтай пашырэння інфармацыі пра Беларусь, пра супрацоўніцтва з дыяспарамі за мяжой, пра ініцыятывы, скіраваныя на ўмацаванне беларускага народа. Фестываль даў магчымасць беларусам замежжа раскажаць пра ўсе тыя конкурсы, фестывалі, сустрэчы, святы, у якіх яны ўдзельнічаюць, якія самі праводзяць.

Падвядзенне вынікаў фестывалю адбылося ў Палаце прадстаўнікоў.



■ На выстаўцы ў Міністэрстве замежных спраў былі прадстаўлены фатаграфіі, зробленыя беларусамі замежжа



Беларускі гісторыка-культурны цэнтр у Іжмэ (філіял Дома дружбы народаў Рэспублікі Башкартастан). Катэрына Калашнікова
Белорусский историко-культурный центр в Ижме (филиал Дома дружбы народов Республики Башкортостан). Катерина Калашникова

Тут удзельнікі сёмага пасяджэння Кансультацыйнага савета сустрэліся з кіраўніком рабочай групы Нацыянальнага сходу Беларусі па справах беларусаў замежжа Валянцінай Ражанец і старшынёй Пастаяннай камісіі Палаты прадстаўнікоў па правах чалавека, нацыянальных адносінах і сродках масавай інфармацыі Генадзем Давыдзькам.

Валянціна Вітальеўна заўважыла, што здымкі дазваляюць убачыць любоў да Беларусі, якую захоўваюць у сэрцах нашы суайчыннікі. Работы, часам створаныя і непрафесійнымі фатографамі, вельмі кранаюць сваёй цеплынёй, шчырасцю, перадаюць настрой тых мерапрыемстваў, якія праводзяць беларусы замежжа.

Падчас гэтай сустрэчы прадстаўнікі дыяспары выказалі гатоўнасць і надалей удзельнічаць у сумесных праектах, дзяліцца сваімі напрацоўкамі ды ідэямі.

“Вельмі хочацца, каб вы ганарыліся сваёй гістарычнай радзімай, каб адчувалі сябе яе часткай. Ніколі з нашай тэрыторыі не сыходзіла агрэсіі, мы ніколі не казалі, што лепшыя за іншых. Пляцоўка нашай краіны – перамоўная, тут ладзіцца мір. Мы хочам, каб заўсёды вы адчувалі сябе тут, як дома, каб вашы сэрцы былі адданыя гэтай старонцы”, – заўважыў Генадзь Давыдзька.

Фотавыстаўку плануецца прадставіць і на Чацвёртым фестывалі мастацтваў “Беларусы свету”, які пройдзе ў нашай краіне ў верасні 2023 года. Тэма яго будзе гучаць наступным чынам: “З любоўю да Беларусі. Беларусь у маім сэрцы”. У фестывалі паўдзельнічаюць вакалісты, харэографы, літаратары (паэты і празаікі), скульптары, мастакі, майстры дэкаратыўна-прыкладной творчасці. Для ўдзельнікаў будуць арганізаваны таксама экскурсійная і адукацыйная праграмы, падчас якіх яны змогуць сустрэцца з майстрамі і даследчыкамі культуры з Беларусі, атрымаць новыя веды.

Алена **Дзядзюля**
Фота Яўгена Пясецкага

СЯБРОЎСТВА ТРЫМАЕЦЦА НА МОЦНЫХ СУВЯЗЯХ



Цэлы месяц ва Узбекістане гучалі вершы Якуба Коласа. У Дзень нараджэння беларускага класіка да яго помніка, што знаходзіцца ў Ташкенце, былі ўскладзены кветкі. Беларускі культурны цэнтр “Світанак” правёў святочнае мерапрыемства. Але ўшанаванне памяці Песняра, безумоўна, не абмяжоўвалася адным днём. Прадстаўнікі беларускай дыяспары (прынамсі, ва Узбекістане пражывае 18 тысяч этнічных беларусаў) наведвалі навучальныя ўстановы, маладыя людзі развучвалі вершы Коласа, якія перакладзены на розныя мовы.



■ Выстаўка «Памяць народа свяшчэнная» адкрылася ў Беларускім дзяржаўным музеі гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны

Творчасць

У Ташкенце Якуб Колас падчас Вялікай Айчыннай вайны жыў два гады. Класік быў уражаны Узбекістанам. Гэтай зямлі, а таксама яе героям, якія ваявалі на фронце, ён прысвяціў не адзін верш. Тут адзначалася 60-годдзе Песняра, выйшла кніга выбраных твораў Коласа, якія на ўзбекскую мову перакладалі лепшыя мясцовыя паэты. Тут класік знайшоў новых сяброў, са многімі ўзбекскімі пісьменнікамі сувязі падтрымліваў усё жыццё. Пра гэта сведчаць шматлігія тэлеграмы, віншавальныя адрасы, лісты, успаміны ўзбекскіх пісьменнікаў, аўтографы на кнігах, якія захоўваюцца ў Дзяр-

жаўным літаратурна-мемарыяльным музеі Якуба Коласа. Як паведаміла галоўная захавальніца фондаў музея Васіліна Міцкевіч, гэтых матэрыялаў можа хапіць на асобную кнігу. Даследчыца заўважыла, што калі яе пытаюцца пра тое, дзе можна зрабіць новыя адкрыцці ў галіне коласазнаўства, яна адзначае, што трэба ехаць у Ташкент.

Пра тое, як многа беларускі класік зрабіў для ўмацавання сувязі паміж народамі, вялася гутарка падчас круглага стала «Беларусь – Узбекістан: сяброўства, правераанае часам», які прайшоў у Мінску ў Доме дружбы і быў прысвечаны 30-годдзю ўсталявання дыпламатычных адносін паміж Рэспублікай Беларусь і Узбекістанам.

Удзельнікі круглага стала адзначылі, што народная дыпламатыя трымаецца на магутным рэсурсе чалавечых зносін, на агульнай гісторыі, на добрай памяці і, натуральна, на даверы.

«Нашы народы сябравалі ў цяжкія гады вайны. Ва Узбекістане не вяліся баі, не рваліся снарады, але людзі самааддана працавалі ў тыле, прадстаўнікі ўзбекскага народа змагаліся на фронце. Мы высока цэнім намаганні беларускага народа па ўшанаванні памяці нашых продкаў. Кірункам нашага партнёрства можа стаць працяг той добрай традыцыі, якая была закладзена ў гады вайны, калі Якуб Колас жыў ва Узбекістане, сябраваў з нашымі люд-

■ Адкрыццё круглага стала «Беларусь – Узбекістан: сяброўства, правэранае часам»

зьмі», – заўважыў Дырэктар Цэнтра народнай дыпламатыі Шанхайскай арганізацыі супрацоўніцтва ва Узбекістане Кабулжон Сабіраў.

Літаратура можа стаць адным з выдатных інструментаў для таго, каб народы больш даведваліся адзін пра аднаго. Чытачы з абедзвюх краін адкрываюць для сябе як класікаў, так і сучасных аўтараў. Пра літаратурныя праекты нагадаў дырэктар Выдавецкага дома “Звязда”, старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Алесь Карлюкевіч. Адзін з такіх праектаў – “Созвучие сердец” – уяўляе сабой кніжную серыю, якая знаёміць з творамі аўтараў з краін СНД і беларускіх пісьменнікаў. На беларускую мову перакладаюцца вершаваныя творы Эркаіна Вахідава, Алішэра Наваі, Кучкора Наркамбіла.

Беларускія кнігі былі прадстаўлены сёлета на III міжнароднай кніжнай выстаўцы ў Ташкенце. Сярод іх – навінка ад Выдавецкага дома “Звязда” “Табой я жыў, табой живу...”, прысвечаная Марыі Дзмітрыеўне, жонцы Якуба Коласа, у кнізе можна знайсці ў тым ліку і матэрыялы, якія сведчаць пра лёс, што звязаў сям’ю пісьменніка з Ташкентам.

У межах круглага стала абмяркоўваліся і іншыя кірункі дзейнасці, якімі могуць займацца народныя дыпламаты. Так, сёлета Нацыянальная бібліятэка Беларусі ў межах міжнароднага праекта “Беларусь сёння” перадала Шанхайскай арганізацыі супрацоўніцтва дзве сотні кніг, якія змяшчаюць інфармацыю пра культуру, прыроду, знакамітых дзеячаў нашай краіны, а таксама мастацкія творы. Кнігі паступілі ў Залу ведаў ШАС Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Узбекістана.

У гэты час 110-я агульнаадукацыйная школа Ташкента, якая знахо-



дзіцца на вуліцы, што носіць імя Якуба Коласа, рыхтуецца да тэлемота з 36 мінскай школай, якой сёлета прысвоена імя Героя Савецкага Саюза Гуляма Якубава.

У сваю чаргу сябр Беларускага саюза мастакоў скульптар Максім Петруль, які ўдзельнічаў у біенале сучаснага мастацтва ў Ташкенце, выказаў прапанову аб арганізацыі мастацкіх выставак узбекскіх мастакоў у Беларусі, і беларускіх ва Узбекістане.

У межах круглага стала было падпісана пагадненне аб супрацоўніцтве паміж Цэнтрам народнай дыпламатыі Шанхайскай арганізацыі супрацоўніцтва ва Узбекістане і Беларускім фондам міру.

Веды

Сёння насельніцтва Узбекістана складае каля 35 мільёнаў чалавек, 60 працэнтаў з іх – моладзь. Таму ў рэспубліцы вялікая ўвага ўдзяляецца развіццю адукацыі і навукі. Прыняты адпаведныя законы і праграмы. Да 2030 года плануецца, што 40 працэнтаў студэнтаў ВНУ павінны атрымліваць інжынерную адукацыю. Пэўную ролю ў падрыхтоўцы такіх кадраў адыгрывае Беларуска-Узбекскі міжгаліновы інстытут прыкладных тэхнічных кваліфікацый, філіялы якога адкрыты ў многіх вышэйшых навучальных установах Узбекістана. На сёння гэта адзіная сумесная вышэйшая навучальная

ўстанова. “Назва сведчыць пра павагу да беларускай інжынернай школы, – заўважае доктар фізіка-матэматычных навук, дырэктар Беларуска-Узбекскага міжгаліновага інстытута прыкладных тэхнічных кваліфікацый Ігар Ганчаронак. – Мы выдаём два дыпламы. Цяпер супрацоўнічаем з 18 ВНУ Узбекістана ў розных гарадах, дзе працуюць філіялы, у якіх рыхтуем студэнтаў па сумесных адукацыйных праграмах”.

Памяць

Ва Узбекістане, як і ў Беларусі, шмат робіцца для ўшанавання памяці пра баявыя і працоўныя подзвігі люд-

зей у гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Цэнтр народнай дыпламатыі Шанхайскай арганізацыі супрацоўніцтва ва Узбекістане перадаў архіўныя кадры беларускім музейшчыкам. Іх можна пабачыць у Беларускім дзяржаўным музеі гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, дзе адкрылася выстаўка “Памяць народа свяшчэнная”.

Часовы Павераны ў справах Узбекістана ў Беларусі Рахматулла Назараў на адкрыцці выстаўкі звярнуў увагу на тое, якую ролю адыграў узбекскі народ у гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны.

Да вайны насельніцтва Узбекістана складала шэсць з паловай мільё-

наў чалавек, амаль два мільёна былі адпраўлены на фронт, больш за 600 тысяч з іх дамоў не вярнуліся. За час вайны Узбекістан прыняў больш за 1,5 мільёна бежанцаў, каля 300 тысяч з іх – дзеці. Ніхто з малых не патрапіў у дзіцячыя дамы, іх жыхары рэспублікі разабралі па сям’ях. Так, сям’я каваля Шамахбудава прыняла 15 сірот. Калі дзеці выраслі, узгадвалі, што гаспадары самі спалі на падлозе, а адзіны тапчан аддалі тым, каго прытулілі. Адзін з іх, Фёдар, так і вырас у прыёмнай сям’і. Толькі праз 45 гадоў яго знайшла родная бабуля, якой на той час было ўжо больш за сто гадоў. Фатаздымак, на якім адлюстраваны момант той горкай сустрэчы, разам з іншымі архіўнымі здымкамі таксама можна пабачыць на выстаўцы ў Дзяржаўным музеі гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны.

З архіўных матэрыялаў можна даведацца і пра герояў, многія з якіх не вярнуліся з фронту, і пра працоўныя подзвігі, якія здзяйсняліся ва Узбекістане. Сюды эвакуяваліся 100 прадпрыемстваў, паскоранымі тэмпамі было пабудавана яшчэ 280. Рэспубліка пастаўляла на фронт вялікую колькасць ваеннай тэхнікі і боепрыпасаў, гімнасцёркі, целагрэйкі, абутак для салдат, тысячы тон харчовай прадукцыі. У межах выстаўкі таксама прэзентаваўся кіначасопіс, які распаўядае пра ўклад узбекскага народа ў Перамогу над фашызмам.

Падчас урачыстага адкрыцця выстаўкі дырэктар Беларускага дзяржаўнага музея гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны Уладзімір Варапай заўважыў, што дадзеныя фатаграфіі і надалей будуць выкарыстоўвацца ў экспазіцыйнай дзейнасці: “Наш музей шматнацыянальны. Мы гаворым пра адзіную Перамогу і дасягненні”.

Ганна Трошына



ШЛЯХ ДА СВЯТЫНЯЎ

Пры развіцці рэлігійнага турызму важна думаць не пра эканамічныя выгоды, а пра магчымасці для выхавання падрастаючага пакалення, духоўны і патрыятычны складнікі, заўважыў Упадн-важаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак, калі адкрываў пасяджэнне Каардынацыйнага савета па распрацоўцы і рэалізацыі сумесных праграм супрацоўніцтва паміж органамі дзяржаўнага кіравання і Беларускай праваслаўнай царквой. Мерапрыемства прайшло на базе Рэспубліканскага цэнтра алімпійскай падрыхтоўкі «Стайкі», дзе трэніруецца Нацыянальная зборная, а таксама замежныя спартсмены.

Як падтрымаць маральны дух

Месца абрана не выпадкова. Адзін з кірункаў супрацоўніцтва царквы і Міністэрства спорту і турызму якраз датычыцца духоўнай падтрымкі спартсменаў, фарміравання ў іх пэўных маральных якасцяў, матывацыі служэння Айчыне, падтрымання высокага іміджу Беларусі на міжнароднай арэне. Перад удзелам у важных міжнародных спаборніцтвах ладзяцца сустрэчы беларускіх спартсменаў са святарамі. Прадстаўнікі царквы аказваюць дапамогу трэнерам па фарміраванні ў спартсменаў маральна-псіхалагічнай устойлівасці да экстрэмальных фізічных нагрузак, матывацыі дзеля дасягнення до-

брых вынікаў. Праводзяцца асвячэнні спартыўных мерапрыемстваў, новых спартыўных аб'ектаў.

У розных рэгіёнах краіны праходзяць спартыўныя мерапрыемствы, арганізатарамі якіх выступаюць установы спорту і структуры Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы. Калядныя турніры, спаборніцтвы, велапрабегі, сямейныя старты прывабліваюць тысячы аматараў здаровага ладу жыцця. Напрыклад, ужо стаў традыцыйным турнір па міні-футболу “Пасхальны дар”, які праводзяць аддзел спорту і турызму Аршанскага райвыканкама і Віцебская епархія Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы. А хросныя хады, якія з кожным годам збіраюць усё больш паломнікаў, сёння бываюць не толькі пешымі. Паломнікі садзяцца на ве-

ласіпеды, ці нават на байдаркі. Сёлета водны хросны ход “Шляхам свяціцеля Макарыя” па Прыпяці ладзіўся ўжо шосты раз. Арганізатарамі яго выступілі прыход Кафедральнага сабора Святога Архангела Міхаіла ў Мазыры, кіраўніцтва Нацыянальнага парку “Прыпяцкі” і аддзел адукацыі Мазырскага райвыканкама. У гэтым годзе ў Беларускім дзяржаўным універсітэце фізічнай культуры адбыўся VIII Калядны турнір па спартыўна-баявых адзінаборствах памяці Героя Беларусі Мітрапаліта Філарэта. Мэта турніру – папулярызацыя здаровага ладу жыцця, а таксама збор сродкаў для аказання дапамогі дзецям з абмежаванымі магчымасцямі.

“У аснове сумесных мерапрыемстваў Мінспорту і Беларускай пра-



■ На адкрыцці каляднага турніру па спартыўна-баявых адзінаборствах памяці Героя Беларусі Мітрапаліта Філарэта

васлаўнай царквы – фарміраванне ў спартсменаў высокай сацыяльнай актыўнасці, духоўнага стрыжня, грамадзянскай пазіцыі, любові да Радзімы”, – заўважыў намеснік міністра спорту і турызму Алег Андрэйчык.

Акрамя арганізацыі спартыўных мерапрыемстваў сумесна з Беларускай праваслаўнай царквой спартыўныя ўстановы праводзяць дабрачынныя акцыі па аказанні дапамогі адзінокім грамадзянам, ветэранам вайны і працы, былым вязням фашызму, інвалідам і дзецям з асаблівасцямі псіха-фізічнага развіцця. У галоўнай спартыўнай навучальнай установе краіны пад патранажам праваслаўных структур арганізуюцца круглыя сталы па тэме духоўна-маральнага выхавання студэнтаў.

Цікаваць да духоўных каштоўнасцяў з кожным годам расце. Пацвярджэнне таму – вялікая колькасць гасцей на фестывалях, на якіх можна паслухаць музыку, паўдзельнічаць у песнапеннях, паглыбіцца ў рэлігійную культуру. Так, фестывалі праваслаўнай культуры Свята-Елісавецкага манастыра “Кладзець” з поспехам ладзяцца ў розных гарадах Беларусі. Сёлета на базе музея-запаведніка “Нясвіж” прайшоў Першы Міжнародны фестываль хрысціянскага мастацтва “Нясвіж Хрыстовы запрашае”. Ужо прынятае рашэнне зрабіць яго пастаянным.

Турысты з задавальненнем наведваюць вечары духоўнай паэзіі і адпаведныя экспазіцыі. Тут можна ўзгадаць вечар духоўнай паэзіі “Сретенские рифмы” ў Салігорскім раёне, выстаўку “Святасць

зямлі беларускай”, прысвечаную памяці Мітрапаліта Філарэта, якая праходзіла ў рамках святкавання 1030-годдзя праваслаўя на беларускіх землях.

У розных кутках Беларусі даглядаюцца святыя крыніцы, робяцца купелі, узводзяцца каплічкі. Часта да такіх мясцін, якія ўшаноўваюцца з даўніх часоў, едуць таксама беларусы, якія сёння пражываюць за межамі краіны.

Сустрэчы ў храмах

Пагадненне паміж Міністэрствам спорту і турызму і праваслаўнай царквой было падпісана яшчэ ў 2003 годзе. Дзякуючы яму пачалі распрацоўвацца сумесныя праекты ў галіне турызму, спорту, патрыятычнага і духоўнага выхавання дзяцей і моладзі.



Пасяджэнне ў Стайках павінна паслужыць далейшаму развіццю гэтай супрацы. На ім сабраліся прадстаўнікі розных рэгіёнаў краіны, святары, кіраўнікі галоўных упраўленняў спорту і турызму, галоўных упраўленняў ідэялагічнай працы і па справах моладзі аблвыканкамаў і Мінскага гарад-

скога выканаўчага камітэта. Як заўважыў міністр спорту і турызму Сяргей Кавальчук, упершыню сустрэча праходзіць такім вялікім складам, і гэта адпаведны адказ на выклікі часу, калі пытанне фарміравання духоўна-маральных каштоўнасцяў падрастаючага пакалення становіцца надзвычай важным. Дапамагчы ў яго вырашэнні можа рэлігійны турызм, калі людзі знаёмяцца не толькі з гісторыяй, архітэктурай, помнікамі, але і звяртаюцца да духоўных каштоўнасцяў. А месцы, куды можна і важна прывозіць людзей, каб яны больш даведваліся пра беларускія святыні, ёсць у кожным рэгіёне.

За апошнія трыццаць гадоў дзякуючы падтрымцы дзяржавы было шмат зроблена для аднаўлення храмаў і манастыроў, з'явілася вялікая колькасць новых духоўна-значных аб'ектаў, якія

вартыя таго, каб сёння іх уключылі ў турыстычныя маршруты. Сінодам Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы быў падрыхтаваны спіс такіх святыняў. Яго міністру спорту і турызму на пасяджэнні Каардынацыйнага савета перадаў Патрыяршы Экзарх усяе Беларусі, Мітрапаліт Мінскі і Заслаўскі Веніямін. Уладыка звярнуў увагу, што трэба сур'ёзна падыходзіць да арганізацыі знаёмства турыстаў са святынямі, для кожнай групы шукаць індывідуальны падыход: "Раскрыццё новых ведаў і ўключэнне іх у даступнай форме ў экскурсіі пра мясціны, дзе працавалі вялікія падзвіжнікі нашай зямлі, пра праведнікаў, якія тут жылі, будзе карысным для выхавання моладзі і ўцяшальным для старэйшага пакалення".

Часам экскурсаводы могуць выдатна падаваць інфармацыю па гісторыі ды архітэктуры, але ўнутры храмаў яны пэўныя духоўныя тэмы, тэрміны, традыцыі грунтоўна не ведаюць, часам не звяртаюць увагу на



важныя моманты. І тут не абысціся без падтрымкі святароў. Таму сёння вызначаны пералік праваслаўных святынь для правядзення экскурсій, у які ўвайшлі як вядомыя аб'екты, так і многа невялікіх, так бы мовіць, нераскручаных, але вартых увагі мясцін. Складзены спіс асоб з ліку святароў праваслаўнай царквы, адказных за правядзенне экскурсій і ўзаемадзеянне з атэставанымі экскурсаводамі і спецыялістамі турызму, што дазволіць больш якасна, аўтарытэтна і кампетэнтна падаваць інфармацыю.

Паездкі ў беларускія храмы запатрабаваныя ў замежных гасцей, сярод іх ёсць і паломнікі, і тыя, хто прыязджае з пазнавальнымі экскурсіямі. Сёння Жыровіцкі манастыр стаў адной з візітных картак краіны. Сюды можна прыехаць як на гадзінную экскурсію, так і правесці ў манастыры цэлы дзень. Паломнікі і турысты могуць пабываць на богаслужэнні, больш даведацца пра цудатворны абраз Божай

Маці “Жыровіцкай”, наведаць некалькі храмаў, царкоўна-археалагічны музей і Музей гісторыі і сучаснасці манастыра, святыя крыніцы і манастырскі заасад.

“Дзякуючы ўзаемадзеянню з праваслаўнай царквой, зацікаўленасцю і адкрытасцю святароў удаецца зрабіць турыстычныя маршруты больш разнастайнымі, наладзіць экскурсійнае абслугоўванне і зрабіць рэлігійныя аб'екты адкрытымі і даступнымі нават для турыстаў з інваліднасцю”, – заўважыў Алёг Андрэйчык. Ён нават прывёў прыклады цікавых ініцыятыў, скіраваных на прыцягненне ўвагі турыстаў. Напрыклад, у Барыса-Глебскай (Каложскай) царкве ў Гродне праводзіцца квэст-гульня, разлічаная на дзяцей, каб расказаць пра гарадскую святыню на даступнай для іх мове. Ідэя аказалася запатрабаванай – сёння сюды едуць групы школьнікаў з усёй краіны. Пры храмах адкрываюцца музейныя экспазіцыі. Запатрабаваны ў турыстаў

Музей Першай сусветнай вайны пры жаночым манастыры ў вёсцы Богішы Смаргонскага раёна Гродзенскай вобласці. Пры Крыжаўзвіжанскім храме ў сталіцы створаны Музей падзвігу савецкіх ваеннапалонных у Мінскім лагеры “Шталаг-352”.

Сталічны Храм-помнік у гонар Усіх Святых ужо добра вядомы беларусам замежжа. Наведалі яго і ўдзельнікі апошняй творчай стажыроўкі, якая праводзілася Рэспубліканскім цэнтрам нацыянальных культур. У нішах Крыпты храма захоўваюцца капсулы з зямлёй з брацкіх магіл, месцаў баёў і гібелі мірных жыхароў. У 2021 годзе тут была створана пастаянная экспазіцыя “Музей Памяці”, якая распавядае пра гістарычныя падзеі, што адбываліся на беларускіх землях з XI па XX стагоддзі. За мінулы год Храм-помнік наведалі больш за 17 тысяч чалавек. Сёлета са студзеня па кастрычнік у рамках Года гістарычнай памяці тут праведзена больш за тысячу экскурсій.

Вызначаны пералік экскурсій па рэлігійнай тэматыцы, пра што можна даведацца на сайце Нацыянальнага агенцтва па турызму, ва ўпраўленнях спорту і турызме аблвыканкамаў і Мінскага гарвыканкама, на рэсурсах тураператараў. Міністэрства спорту і турызму распрацоўвае электронную карту з размяшчэннем усіх турыстычных аб'ектаў Беларусі, і вядучае месца будзе выдзелена праваслаўным аб'ектам. З мэтай развіцця турыстычнай галіны на сайце Нацыянальнага агенцтва па турызме вядзецца распрацоўка спецыяльнага анлайн-маршрутызатара. З яго дапамогай любы падарожнік (не выключэнне і замежныя госці) зможа самастойна скласці сабе маршрут і атрымаць інфармацыю пра праваслаўныя святыні і другія аб'екты.

Марыя **Ваўчкова**



Удзельнікі V Нацыянальнага форуму “Музеі Беларусі” засведчылі, як мяняюцца ўмовы іх працы, якія новыя падыходы яны сёння выкарыстоўваюць. Напрацоўкамі спецыялісты дзяліліся ў Мінску на базе Спартыўна-культурнага цэнтра Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта культуры і мастацтваў. Больш за сотню прадстаўнікоў музеяў з усёй краіны прадстаўлялі свае экспазіцыі. Многія прывезлі ўнікальныя экспанаты, падрыхтавалі відэа-прэзентацыі ды інтэрактыўныя праграмы.

Удзельнікі і госці форуму адкрывалі незвычайны музейны свет: назіралі за інсцэніроўкамі, далучаліся да майстар-класаў і заняткаў. Без пе-

рабольшвання, сёння гэтыя ўстановы ператварыліся ў культурна-адукацыйныя цэнтры. У музеях ладзяцца цікавыя сустрэчы, праходзяць мастацкія выстаўкі, створаны музычныя салоны. Супрацоўнікі ўдзельнічаюць у экспедыцыях, зберагаюць і папулярызуюць гісторыю населеных пунктаў, фальклор, традыцыі, мову. Дарэчы, тэма форуму гэтага года так і акрэслена – “Музей. Спадчына. Памяць”.

“Аснова нашага нацыянальнага гонару – культурная спадчына, глыбокія карані, якія закранаюць тысячгадовую гісторыю нашай дзяржавы, – заўважыў міністр культуры Анатоль Маркевіч на адкрыцці фору-

му. – Музейныя фонды – сапраўдная гістарычная скарбніца, невычэрпная крыніца натхнення, ведаў і каштоўнасцяў. Матэрыялы, якія маюцца ў музейнай супольнасці, дазваляюць атрымаць справядлівую інфармацыю, супрацьстаяць спробам фальсіфікацыі гісторыі”.

Узгаданыя адметнасці мястэчка

Форум – унікальная пляцоўка для абмену вопытам і наладжвання дзелавых кантактаў. У яго рамках былі падпісаны пагадненні аб супрацоўніцтве паміж музеямі Беларусі і Расіі. Прай-

шлі канферэнцыя, круглы стол. Многія ўстановы прэзентавалі ўнікальныя праекты. Так, Уздзенскі раённы гістарычна-краязнаўчы музей прадставіў экспазіцыю “Усе мы родам з мястэчка”. Старэйшы наковы супрацоўнік музея Кацярына Якубоўская распавяла, што, па даных перапісу 1890-х гадоў, ва Уздзе былі 102 яўрэйскія двары і 14 беларускіх. Таксама тут асела багата татароў, былі і прадстаўнікі іншых нацыянальнасцяў. Усе яны жылі ў згодзе, кожны народ выбіраў заняткі, якія дазвалялі ядрэнна зарабляць. Сярод татар было многа добрых гарбароў, іх вырабы са скуры высока цаніліся, яўрэі ўмелі лячыць і гандляваць, а беларусы ткалі і займаліся сельскай гаспадаркай. Такое добрасуседства паўплывала на жыццё ў мястэчку, у мясцовай гаворцы і сёння можна пачуць слоўцы, “пазычаныя” з моў розных народаў, а ў побыце людзі карыстаюцца рэчамі, якія характэрны для розных культур. На форум супрацоўнікі музея прыбылі з музейнымі экспанатамі: чаравічкамі ручной работы, татарскімі хамаіламі, куфрамі яўрэяў, з якімі тыя нямала пакалясілі па свеце ў пошуку добрай долі.

Госці форуму маглі паспрабаваць крыху больш зразумець мясцовую гаворку – узгадаць значэнні слоў, пазычаныя з моў розных народаў. У такіх невялікіх музеях часам цяжэй працаваць, чым, напрыклад, у абласных цэнтрах. Каб уразіць мясцовых жыхароў, трэба ўвесь час прыдумляць інтэрактыўныя праграмы, ладзіць майстар-класы. Дарэчы, уздзенскі музей шмат робіць для самых юных наведвальнікаў, супрацоўнічае з дзіцячымі садкамі.

Прэзентацыя магчымасцяў

Дырэктар Круглянскага раённага гістарычна-краязнаўчага музея Вія Гапаева прызнаецца, што ёй падабаецца,

калі школьнікі пазнаюць яе і завуць “музейнай цёцяй”. На форуме ўстанова прадстаўляла незвычайны праект “Музей у кожны двор”. У час летніх канікул, калі дзятва высыпае на вуліцу, супрацоўнікі музея збіраюць экспанаты ў чамадан і наўпрост ходзяць па дварах. Яны распавядаюць хлопчыкам і дзяўчынкам пра гісторыю раёна і традыцыі, якія тут зберагаюцца. А калі ўлічыць, што з сабой музейшчыкі бяруць і музычныя інструменты, не цяжка ўявіць, як весела праходзяць такія вулічныя музейныя заняткі. Пазней школьнікі самі з задавальненнем наведваюць установу. Яшчэ музей прэзентаваў “Свята лялькі”, якое ладзіцца ў Круглым. На ім звычайна праходзіць конкурс майстроў, якія робяць аўтарскія цацкі.

На балі – у палац

А вось у Ружанскім палацавым комплексе роду Сапегаў можна нават замовіць тэатралізаваную рэгістрацыю шлюбу. Вясельны картэж каля палаца будучы сустрэкаць фрэйліны, на варотах іх прапускаць стражнікі, маладых павітае сам Леў Сапега. Сама ж афіцыйная выездная рэгістрацыя шлюбу праходзіць у адной з залаў палаца.

Сёлета завяршыліся рэстаўрацыйныя работы ў Косаўскім палацы Івацэвіцкага раёна Брэсцкай вобласці. Цяпер тут можна наведаць не толькі залы першага паверха, але і паглядзець на раскошныя інтэр’еры на другім. Разынка для наведвальнікаў – рубінавая і сапфіравая залы. У палацы ладзяцца балі. Штогод тут чакаюць аматараў прыгожай музыкі на калядных вечары “У гасцях у графа Пуслоўскага”, а ў сакавіку, калі прынята адзначаць Міжнародны жаночы дзень, наведвальнікаў кліча да сябе ўжо Ядвіга Пуслоўская. На навагодняй святой залы ўпрыгожаны вялікімі ялінкамі – рубінавай, ізумруднай і жамчужна-залацістай. Дарэчы, пры палацы працуюць рэстаран і гатэль.

Балі, тэатралізаваныя экскурсіі праходзяць і ў Музеі-сядзібе Міхала Клеафаса Агінскага. Тут гучаць паланезы, якія пісаў былы ўладальнік, ладзяцца канцэрты класічнай музыкі, адноўлена шыкоўная аранжарэя.

Дакрануцца да зор

Гэты год выдаўся багатым на юбілеі класікаў. Сёлета музейныя супрацоўнікі ў сваіх праграмах звярталі ўвагу на творчасць Якуба Коласа, Янкі Купалы, Максіма Танка, Янкі Маўра, Пімена Панчанкі. Натуральна, і форумам яны скарысталіся, каб распавесці пра здабыткі нацыянальнай літаратуры і асоб, якія пакінулі гэтую спадчыну. Стэнды літаратурных музеяў прыцягнулі ўвагу многіх наведвальнікаў форуму. Самыя юныя госці збіралі пазлы, удзельнічалі ў паэтычным караоке і віктарынах, гулялі ў настольныя гульні. Напрыклад, Дзяржаўны музей гісторыі беларускай літаратуры праводзіў гульню па кнізе Крапівы “Загадкі дзеда Кандрата”. Удзельнікі гульні “Кніганоша” ўгадвалі вершы Максіма Багдановіча і знаёміліся з міфічнымі істотамі: русалкай, лесуном, балотнікам, змяніным царом, якіх паэт узгадваў у сваіх творах. А яшчэ госці спрабавалі разам з Максімам Багдановічам дакрануцца да зор – на форуме была створана адпаведная фотазона і выстаўлялася паштоўка, якая пабывала ў космасе.

На форум музейшчыкі прывезлі прадметы, якія належалі аўтарам кнігі «Я з вогненнай вёскі»: Янку Брылю, Алесю Адамовічу і Уладзіміру Калесніку. Ці калі яшчэ будзе магчымаць паспрабаваць набраць тэкст на друкарскай машынкцы Пятруся Броўкі? Таму наведвальнікі форуму пастараліся ёй скарыстацца. Самыя актыўныя госці маглі выйграць сертыфікат на новую паслугу “Музей на дваіх”, калі ў вячэрні час у пары ёсць магчымасць пабываць на романтичным спатканні ў 60-х гадах.



■ Экспазіцыя Дзяржаўнага літаратурнага музея Янкі Купалы

Сёння многія музеі супрацоўнічаюць з мастакамі, пісьменнікамі, артыстамі. На форуме Народны літаратурны тэатр Белдзяржпедуніверсітэта “Жывое слова”, які супрацоўнічае з Дзяржаўным літаратурна-мемарыяльным музеем Якуба Коласа, паказаў частку праграмы, створанай па творах Песняра.

Праспяваць “Партызанскую Кацюшу”

У Беларусі асабліва ўвага ўдзяляецца тэме Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Музейшчыкі паказвалі, як па-рознаму можна падаваць інфармацыю, звязаную з трагічнымі і гераічнымі падзеямі. Напрыклад, Жлобінскі гістарычна-краязнаўчы музей на форуме быў адзначаны спецыяльным дыпламам журы за экспазіцыю, прысвечаную дзіцячаму канцлагеру, які ў гады вайны знаходзіўся ў Чырвоным Берэзе.

Сенненскі гістарычна-краязнаўчы музей для экспазіцыі выкарыстаў архіўныя матэрыялы, успаміны віда-

вочцаў, прывёз рэчы, якія належалі ахвярам генацыду. Гэтая зямля зведала многа гора: карныя аперацыі, знішчэнне яўрэў у сенненскім гета, спаленыя вёскі, прымусовы вываз мірных жыхароў у Германію. Музей прэзентаваў на форуме дакументальны фільм “Бітва пад Сянно” і відэаматэрыялы пра танкавы бой.

Івацэвіцкі гістарычна-краязнаўчы музей прадстаўляў на форуме свой філіял – Мемарыяльны комплекс партызанскай славы “Хаваншчына”. На месцы базіравання Брэсцкага абласнога партызанскага злучэння ён быў адчынены ў 1971 годзе.

– Мы не павінны заставацца статычным музеем, важна знаходзіць новыя формы стасункаў праз інтэрактыў, невялікую тэатралізацыю, рэканструкцыю. Калі інфармацыю прапускаеш праз сваё сэрца, то абавязкова дастукаешся да сэрца наведвальніка, – упэўнена дырэктар Івацэвіцкага гістарычна-краязнаўчага музея Раіса Горбач.

Ва ўрочышчы Хаваншчына яшчэ ў 1944 годзе партызаны дамовіліся су-

стракацца кожную апошнюю нядзелю месяца. Традыцыя ніколі не перарывалася і сёння туды прыязджаюць дзеці, унукі і праўнукі людзей, якія абаранялі свой край ад захопнікаў. Па крупінках музейшчыкі збіраюць звесткі, пераказваюць гасцям мемарыяльнага комплексу запісаныя ў сведкаў гісторыі. Тут можна даведацца пра побыт партызанаў, пра лясныя школы, пра музыку, якую слухалі ў атрадах. На форуме музейшчыкі прапанавалі праспяваць “Партызанскую Кацюшу” (словы былі прыдуманы ў гады вайны і пакладзены на знакамiты матыў). Таксама супрацоўнікі дзяліліся сакрэтамі, як дзецям праз гульнявыя формы можна падаваць інфармацыю пра вайну. Так, на зімовых канікулах ва ўрочышчы Хаваншчына ладзіцца квэст “Разведка шукае партызанскага Дзеда Мароза”. Падчас яго школьнікі даведваюцца, што і ў гады вайны партызаны адзначалі свята, нараджалі ёлку.

Ганна **Трошына**
Фота Яўгена Пясецкага

