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# NEW REALITY SUMMITS

In the last week of the now past year, St. Petersburg hosted two large international events at once: an informal meeting of the leaders of the CIS countries was held in the city on the Neva, and the day before that, a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council was held in the northern capital of Russia. The presidents of Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Prime Minister of Armenia discussed more than two dozen issues, including key areas for the further development of integration processes in the EAEU.

**A**leksandr Lukashenko called that meeting of the leaders of the member states of the union significant to a certain extent. The fact is that this year the EAEU will celebrate its tenth anniversary. It's time not only to evaluate the results of the path travelled, but also to talk substantively about ways to improve Eurasian integration. The EAEU has already proven its effectiveness, but it is worth reaching a higher level of development without losing momentum. The President of Belarus spoke about this in an interview with journalists. In particular, he answered the question about the prospects of the EAEU as follows, "Very good. Better than other associations. There is more politics, and here there is more economics. Just what you need. And any political issue can be threaded onto an economic skewer. We are the most advanced. Neither the SCO nor the BRICS have such close ties, they do not speak the same language, like the rest of us, without translators.

And most importantly, the economy does not have this single economic space... In the conditions of the formation of a new highly competitive geopolitical environment, as a result of the implementation of all plans, I would like to see the Eurasian Economic Union, if not by 2030, then by 2045, definitely one of the main, global poles of economic attraction."

The EAEU summit was held at the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library. It is located in the centre of St. Petersburg in the historical building of the Synod on Senate Square. President Vladimir Putin, as a host, greeted his guests one by one at the Presidential Library. The leaders and reporters were waiting. Moreover, the arrival of the Belarusian leader was awaited with special impatience. Journalists prepared a lot of questions, hoping that the President of Belarus, as always, would not pass by. Well, the journalists were not deceived in their expectations. An impromptu press conference of the Head of State took place right here, on the porch of the



■ Before the meeting, Russian President Vladimir Putin warmly welcomed President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko

Presidential Library building. During the conversation the following topics were raised.

### On the prospects for Armenia's participation in the EAEU

The main question was in the air long before the start of the summit and had a certain intrigue: whether Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan would take part in the meeting. The question is not idle, because Yerevan has recently distanced itself somewhat from its allies. We remember that Nikol Pashinyan refused to participate in the November CSTO summit in Minsk, and in October he missed the CIS summit in Bishkek. Until recently, it was unclear whether he would come to St. Petersburg. He came. Hence the interest of journalists: isn't it a shame for the Belarusian leader that the Prime Minister of Armenia flew to the EAEU summit in St. Petersburg, but did not come to the CSTO summit in Minsk.

"What are you talking about?!" Aleksandr Lukashenko was sincerely surprised by this formulation of the question. "These are different formats. I knew about it. I said then that he would fly to St. Petersburg. When I talked to him, I told him: 'Nikol Vovaevich, are you coming to St. Petersburg?'. He says: 'Well, this is a different format — economic. We are offended by the military-political one — the CSTO, and this is the economy.' That's why I knew that he would fly to St. Petersburg. And I supported him in this then, and I support him now. What kind of offense is there?!"

"Will we lose Armenia from among our friends?" the reporters continued.

"If Armenia wants to die economically, then we can lose it. But I don't think that Armenians are stupid people. These are smart people. So no, I don't even think about it or worry about it. I am sure that Armenia will not go anywhere."

### On tactical nuclear weapons

The Head of State commented on the question of whether all planned Russian nuclear weapons had been delivered to Belarus.

"Long time ago. I already told you when the supply ended. Back in September, I think, or October. The last one was at the beginning of October. Everything is in its place and in good condition."

When asked when the next military exercises are, he noted, "We learn every day. Even the former Wagnerites who remain with us work today in our departments and pass on their experience."

### On the prospects for resolving the conflict in Ukraine

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that in the coming year there is a chance to make progress on this issue.

"I think it's the best chance. We will work more closely with them so that they understand that this is their only chance. If they don't use it, there will be a complete collapse."

In response to a clarifying question about what decisions we are talking about, military or political, Aleksandr



Lukashenko said, “Now it has already reached the politicians. The military is pressing. As I have always said, the military sees what is happening. The pressure is already very strong. You probably noticed from Zelenskyy’s press conference that he is beginning to understand.”

### On border security

The Head of State was also asked a question regarding security on the borders in the western direction.

“There’s no pressure from Poland?” one of the journalists asked.

“It’s okay,” Aleksandr Lukashenko reassured. “I’m an old border guard. How can I (not ensure security at the borders.”

### On Borrell’s statements

To one of the questions concerned recent statements by the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, that Russia would allegedly attack NATO after dealing with Ukraine. Aleksandr Lukashenko responded like this, “This is nonsense. This man is simply bad. He has nothing to do with politics. If he were smart, he would have thought like this, like a businessman: God please let Russia and I sort out these problems. Are we going to layer new problems on top of these problems? Anyone would think so. Do we need to have another war today? We need to deal with this (in Ukraine). Especially now, when the situation is favourable. And not only for us. But also for them, so as not to lose Ukraine. That’s how I understand it.”

### On the EAEU as a centre of gravity

According to the President of Belarus, the military operation in Ukraine taught a lot and pushes us to move further in terms of integration, “And we froze. We need to move, the base is solid. No organisation has such a base.”

The Head of State gave a specific example of the SCO, which is a powerful organisation and a good platform for bilateral negotiations. In particular, Belarus strives to gain full membership in it. Nevertheless, the policies of many major SCO participants are different, “India and China. Different policies. India is being invited to join the so-called NATO of the Pacific. One policy. China has a different one. Russia is third. But here (in the EAEU) there is more unity, there is a basis. We need to work in this regard. And we will be like the centre of attraction.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the cooperation of the EAEU with Iran. In St. Petersburg, on the sidelines of the summit, a free trade agreement was signed with this country. “This is a powerful country, with a developed trade and production base. A free trade zone was created. And we should be such a zone of attraction. But, most importantly, we must not disappoint those who come to us. I’m not talking about Cuba (an observer country in the EAEU). Think about it, this is your homework,” Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed the journalists with a smile.

The President continued the theme of economic attraction at the summit, noting that the EAEU has much more opportunities, since the SCO and BRICS have not advanced as much in the economy as this union, “They don’t have that dynamic. They have not yet reached the level of integration

that we have achieved. And the main thing now is not to lose momentum! We need to move in this direction so that we are the leading not only regional, but also global economic organisation... In the conditions of the formation of a new highly competitive geopolitical environment, the result of the implementation of all plans would be to see the Eurasian Economic Union, if not by 2030, then by 2045, definitely one of main, global poles of economic attraction.”

### Main achievement

The President also spoke about opportunities in the EAEU in his speech at the summit. The main achievement of the Eurasian Economic Union over almost ten years of its existence was the stable functioning of the common internal market and the common customs space. There are many significant facts in favour of this. The trade turnover of the union with external partners over the past seven years in absolute terms has increased by more than \$340 billion. The volume of mutual trade doubled and amounted to about \$85 billion. Belarus and Russia will have more than \$50 billion this year. The EAEU countries hold second place in the world in oil and gas production and production of mineral fertilizers, third in the production of wheat, potatoes, and livestock products, and fourth in coal production.

And one more important figure from Aleksandr Lukashenko, “At the very beginning of the functioning of the union, we had a negative foreign trade balance for food products, which in 2015 amounted to almost \$13 billion. Now, thanks to well-coordinated work within the union, the imbalance has been eliminated and the food supply is in profit. This is the most important fact. We fed our own people and provide food for other countries. A high level of food self-sufficiency has been achieved, which, for example, in Belarus is almost one hundred percent. Through our own production, we cover our internal needs for grain, pork, poultry, milk, vegetables, vegetable oils and other products.”

The Head of State emphasised that such results were achieved in very unfavourable external conditions. In this context, the President once again emphasised the relevance of the further movement of the EAEU member states in the wake of the ‘integration of integrations’ initiative, which is reflected in the Main Directions of the Union’s International Activities for 2024, “The document is succinct, correct, everything is set out in detail. However, in matters of international positioning of the union and the international activities of the commission, I would like to be more systematic. It is worth working more actively on the development of the institution of an observer state in the union, making more efforts towards the real integration of the integration potentials of the EAEU, SCO, BRICS. It is necessary to take advantage of participation in such dynamically developing associations with Russia, which works in them as one of the key founding countries. We will support the Russian Federation in every possible way in this important collective work.”



### What else did the President of Belarus talk about?

◆ Our integration association is open to mutually beneficial and equal cooperation with leading economies. We do not isolate ourselves from the outside world, no matter how much someone might want us to. We build dialogue on conditions of equality and respect for interests. The latest example is the signing of the Agreement on the Creation of a Free Trade Zone with Iran. Today it is the largest economy in the Middle East and a key element of the southern trade route with the Middle East and South Asia.

◆ At the initiative of the Russian side, a declaration was prepared defining the development goals of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2030 and the contours of integration by 2045. Today we made a decision, speaking in a narrow meeting, that in addition to the declaration, in its development, we need to adopt a road map — a specific plan for our development. It won’t be easy, but we will accept this plan. In the strict spirit of economic pragmatism, specific, understandable goals are outlined: further construction of a common Eurasian market, providing it with key goods and resources, development of cooperation, formation of a common transport and logistics space and a common financial market, active international positioning of the EAEU.

◆ Particular attention is paid to the issue of financial support for Eurasian cooperation projects in industry at the expense of the union budget. Good news. That is, we will build new enterprises together and thereby develop our economy. The decision has been made, the criteria for selecting such projects have been developed and approved.

◆ Connecting our infrastructural capabilities and implementing the potential of international organisations

## ALONG THE PATH OF INTEGRATION

and development institutions can and should ensure a solution to the task of creating a continent-wide transport, logistics, trade and economic space. A good example of such a combination of efforts is the North-South transport corridor, which is being implemented on the initiative of President Putin with the participation of Azerbaijan and Iran. This will be a breakthrough in transport logistics. It is important to give this project dynamics. Under no circumstances should it be left on paper.

### The results open up perspective

The heads of state approved the Declaration on the Further Development of the Eurasian Economic Union Until 2030 and for the Period Until 2045.

A decision was signed to approve the EAEU budget for 2024. Budget expenditures have been significantly increased to the 2023 level.

One of the decisions of the summit concerns the creation of a new legal institution in the field of customs regulation — an e-commerce operator that will provide logistics and customs clearance of transactions with goods purchased by individuals via the Internet. A corresponding memorandum on amendments to the Treaty on the EAEU Customs Code was signed.

An agreement on a free trade zone was signed between the EAEU countries and Iran. It will significantly increase the competitiveness of goods from EAEU member states and thereby increase exports to Iran. It is expected that overall trade turnover will more than double, and cooperation and investments will also intensify.

In 2024, the chairmanship of the EAEU passes to Armenia. Former Prime Minister of Kazakhstan (from 2016 to 2019) Bakytzhan Sagintayev will replace Mikhail Myasnikovich as Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission for the next four years. Vladimir Putin thanked Mikhail Myasnikovich for his significant contribution to the development of the Eurasian Economic Union. It was also decided that the next meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council will be held in May this year in Moscow.

### The recipe is well known

So, the summit of the Eurasian Economic Union acted as a kind of centre of gravity for the heads of state of the post-Soviet space. The EAEU, as the most 'advanced' formation on the territory of the former USSR after the Union State, sets the tone for connecting the economic potentials of the countries of the entire region.

However, today the topic of global security is ranked ahead of all the issues mentioned above. According to experts, in 2023 there were about two hundred regional

conflicts in the world, this is the highest figure in three decades. The political temperature on the planet is steadily rising. The post-Soviet space is located in one of the most turbulent zones, and this is without the word 'potentially'. The Azerbaijani-Armenian border conflict, the situation in Karabakh, unrest at the Makhachkala airport, the Russian military district in Ukraine, protests in Moldova, a series of street protests in Georgia — all this is in the area of responsibility of the CIS and at its borders. And all this is only 2023. Undoubtedly, Aleksandr Lukashenko had every right to speak at the Bishkek meeting of presidents about the need to unite the Commonwealth to ensure security, "Otherwise we will simply be torn apart. And first of all, ordinary people — the people of our countries — will suffer. Therefore, we — heads of state — must carry out the will of our voters. And in principle, today is the time to more critically assess the situation in our Commonwealth. We shouldn't bury our heads in the sand. We see that all the old conflicts that were thrown at us at one time inevitably come to light with very sad consequences."

Can the CIS do anything to counter the export of crises from outside and the emergence of problems within? In general, the recipe is known: economics, economics and once again economics. Creating jobs, increasing incomes and relieving social tensions. In recent years, mutual trade turnover between the CIS countries has increased by almost a third. And the seemingly paradoxical thesis that the crisis along the line 'Union State — Collective West' gave additional impetus to the development of contacts in the Commonwealth turns out to be not so paradoxical in the end.

In 2023, the CIS countries signed and ratified an agreement on free trade in services — an addition to the already operating free trade zone in goods. And this will also bear fruit. In 2024, the states of the organisation will pay additional attention to humanitarian contacts and transport and logistics connectivity. Do not forget about the seven dozen industry councils that coordinate cooperation in certain areas: at one time they became the basis for ensuring the regulatory coherence of the Commonwealth. As a result, the CIS is interpreted in a completely different way in world political science. From an instrument for arranging space on the ruins of the USSR, the organisation has moved on to an ecosystem of common Eurasian interests. The same 'multi-level and multi-speed integration' that was much talked about 10-20 years ago has today been implemented on the regulatory and spatial foundation of the CIS. And this is another new reality.

Vasily **Kharitonov**

# THERE IS NO FUTURE WITHOUT THE PAST



**It has already become a good tradition for the leaders of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to gather together at the end of the outgoing year to check integration schedule in an informal setting, exchange views and discuss tasks for the future. Last year was no exception. The President of Belarus and his colleagues from other Commonwealth countries received an invitation from the President of Russia to hold an informal CIS summit in St. Petersburg.**

## **The President is expected in Azerbaijan**

Before the summit, the presidents of the CIS countries visited a number of world-famous attractions in the vicinity of St. Petersburg, including the Pavlovsk Palace, the Tsarskoye Selo and Peterhof state museum-reserves. The President of Belarus has visited iconic historical places more than once. Therefore, the Head of State began the working day on December 26th according to his business programme.

The first item in it was a bilateral meeting with the President of Azerbaijan. The day before, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Ilham Aliyev had a telephone conversation, during which the Belarusian leader warmly congratulated his Azerbaijani colleague on his birthday. The presidents discussed the main issues of development of bilateral relations, the situation in the region and the topic of joint work within the framework of multilateral platforms. The current meeting in St. Petersburg was a development of what was discussed



in the telephone conversation. The agenda is purely work-related.

The meeting between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Ilham Aliyev lasted more than an hour. The heads of state, in particular, discussed the upcoming visit of the President of Belarus to Azerbaijan. The presidents agreed that responsible persons from the intergovernmental commission and the governments of the two countries would develop a plan of joint work for the coming years. Including joint cooperation projects in the fields of industry, agriculture, construction and the military-industrial complex.

The President of Azerbaijan confirmed Belarus' offer to take part in the modernisation and construction of infrastructure facilities in Karabakh. Naturally, we also discussed the international agenda. The Azerbaijani leader informed his Belarusian colleague in detail about the situation in the Caucasus.

### **Be even more united**

Next, the Head of State received a report from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Russia Dmitry Krutoy. The focus was on two important topics — further work in international structures with an emphasis on economic issues in the EAEU, as well as the activities of the commission on the export of Belarusian goods.

In addition to the business agenda, Aleksandr Lukashenko during the meeting drew attention to the importance of preserving historical memory. Belarus, according to the President, will be represented at a high level at events marking the 80th anniversary of the lifting of the siege of Leningrad. And the Russian side is invited to ceremonial

events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus, which will be celebrated in 2024.

The leaders of the CIS countries gathered for an informal meeting in the Konstantinovskiy Palace in Strel'na in the evening. Welcoming the guests, Vladimir Putin noted that such pre-New Year meetings in a free, friendly atmosphere provide a very good opportunity to sum up the activities of the CIS, talk about plans and prospects and discuss exciting issues on the international agenda. New political and economic realities require the Commonwealth countries to preserve and develop the integration association. This is facilitated not only by the geographical and historical proximity of the countries, but also by the geopolitical situation in the region and in the world. It is all the more important today to be even more united and strengthen our positions on all tracks of cooperation.

This year, the chairmanship of the CIS passed to Russia. According to Vladimir Putin, it is very important to continue joint efforts to preserve the memory of our common history and prevent its falsification. Young people must know the objective truth about the achievements of our peoples during the Soviet Union, about the heroic exploits of our fathers and grandfathers during the Great Patriotic War. Moreover, the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory will soon be celebrated. Let us recall that by decision of the leaders of the CIS, 2025 was declared in the Commonwealth as the Year of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the Year of Peace and Unity in the Fight Against Nazism.

### **No one is forgotten...**

It is worth keeping in mind that the second day of the Belarusian delegation's work in St. Petersburg began with



■ Sergei Aleynik and Dmitry Krutoy laid flowers at the monuments and the Eternal Flame at the Piskarevskoye Cemetery.



the laying of flowers in memory of the victims of the siege of Leningrad. On behalf of the President and on behalf of the Belarusian people, on the eve of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus, flowers were laid at the monuments and the Eternal Flame at the Piskarevskoye Cemetery by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of our country Sergei Aleynik, the Ambassador of Belarus to Russia Dmitry Krutoy, as well as the Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg Valery Moskalenko.

“We came to pay our respects at the Piskarevskoye cemetery. This is the largest mass grave in the history of mankind — a cemetery where half a million victims of the siege and military personnel who liberated Leningrad are buried,” noted Sergei Aleynik.

Yes, this coming year Belarus will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the country’s liberation, and in January 2024, St. Petersburg will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the complete lifting of the blockade. As the head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry emphasised, the symbolism of these events is obvious. This is our common memory, a common place of grief, a reminder of the horrors of war that our grandfathers and great-grandfathers went through. Of course, this historical memory must be preserved and passed on from generation to generation, “On the instructions of the President of Belarus, today we laid flowers on behalf of Belarus and the Belarusian people, bowed to the people of Leningrad in this sacred historical place. A place of memory, sorrow, courage and perseverance.”

To the sound of a metronome, flowers from Belarusians lay at the foot of the Motherland monument. The bronze sculpture represents the figure of a woman holding a garland of oak leaves and a mourning ribbon in her hands.

Behind the monument is a granite wall on which lines from the poem by the famous poetess Olga Berggolts ‘No one is forgotten and nothing is forgotten’ are carved.

The monument to students of vocational schools in Leningrad is directly connected with the fate of thousands of Belarusians. It was installed in 1996 during the visit of the President of Belarus to St. Petersburg. And this year, on the initiative of the Consulate General of Belarus in St. Petersburg, it was completely renovated. The fact is that even before the Great Patriotic War, almost 26 thousand people came to the city on the Neva from Belarus to study. During the years of the blockade, they, like adults, stood at the machines at enterprises, making their contribution to the fight against the enemy. During the blockade, about half of them died and were buried in the Piskarevskoye cemetery. These were young people aged 14 — 16 years. It was decided to evacuate some of them along the Road of Life, but many were so exhausted that they died on the way to the evacuation sites.

We remember and mourn when visiting this sacred place, said Sergei Aleynik, emphasising that the historical memory of the victims of the Great Patriotic War, the countless victims — people who laid down their lives on the altar of the Great Victory — should be a lesson for current and subsequent generations. A people cannot have a future if they do not remember the past. We remember well the lessons of our history and appreciate the feats that were accomplished during the Great Patriotic War both on Belarusian soil and here in Leningrad. We will preserve this sacred memory of our past in order to build a peaceful, creative future for our country.

Vladimir **Velikhov**

# LIGHT A CHRISTMAS CANDLE

On January 7th, Orthodox believers celebrated one of the main religious holidays – the Nativity of Christ. Festive liturgies were held in all churches of the country.



According to a long-established tradition, the Head of State also attends the Christmas service. This time they were waiting for him in the agricultural town of Shershuny in the Minsk Region. In the newly built Church of the Holy Prophet John the Baptist, Aleksandr Lukashenko lit a Christmas candle, talked with representatives of the clergy, parishioners and uttered very important motivating words, "We are moving from the Year of Peace and Creation (without peace there can be no creation) into the Year of Quality. We need to fill this peaceful, calm Belarusian life on this small island where we live today with high quality. Make people happy, make them proud of their lives... And then everything will be fine with us."

## Spiritual holidays — in minds and hearts

First, a little background. Construction of the temple in honour of the Holy Prophet John the Baptist began in Shershuny in mid-2018. And in October 2020, the new church opened its doors to parishioners. The temple turned out to be very beautiful. The building, 25 meters high with two golden domes, made in the Byzantine style, looks majestic. The temple was built on a symbolic site. There are also Soviet tank soldiers who died in the summer of 1944 during the liberation of Belarus buried nearby. So the place is really very significant.

This was not the first time that the President himself visited Shershuny. It was in October 2020, together with Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavsky, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus

Veniamin, Aleksandr Lukashenko opened the Church of the Holy Prophet John the Baptist here. People sincerely thanked the President for this. After all, there was no church in the local area for about a hundred years. And the President knew about it. The design of a specific temple was personally approved. And the Russian entrepreneur and philanthropist Mikhail Gutseriev helped the villagers fulfil their long-standing dream. At the opening of the temple, the Head of State promised parishioners that he would definitely come here again. And so, on a frosty Christmas day, Aleksandr Lukashenko again crossed the threshold of the new temple and lit a Christmas candle here.

"I promised, that's why I came to you today. I came to this bright, kind church to congratulate on my own behalf all of you and all our Belarusians, our guests, everyone who hears me, on the kindest, bright holiday - Merry Christmas," Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed the local residents.

According to the President, in the country, along with important secular dates such as Victory Day, Independence Day, spiritual holidays, like Christmas and Easter, are also widely celebrated, "They have passed through the years, they are in our minds and hearts. And, as time has shown, it is impossible to eradicate them from us. That's why they're great."

### **"Everything depends only on us"**

The Head of State stated that another year has passed and all the years of the current five-year plan, starting from 2020, have not been easy, "But the Lord probably protects and has protected us. We managed to pass through these years peacefully. And then, when you and I opened this temple, you asked for only one thing (as if anticipating that these would be difficult years): that there be peace on our land. We are capable of creating everything else in our country with our minds and hands. And so it has been. So far. God grant that it

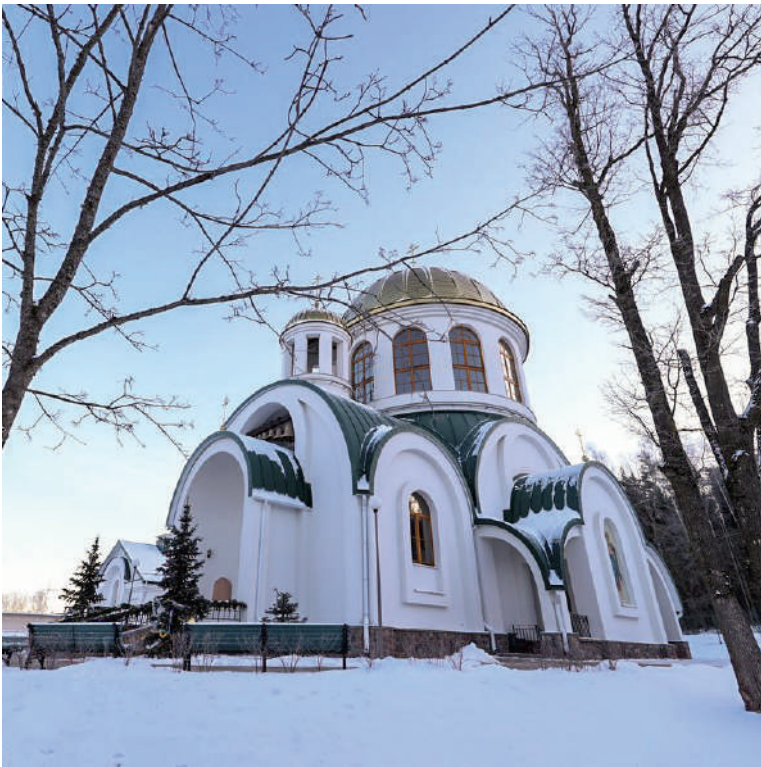


continues like this. We are moving from the Year of Peace and Creation (without peace there can be no creation) into the Year of Quality. We need to fill this peaceful, calm Belarusian life on this small island where we live today with high quality. Make people happy. Waking up in the morning and going to bed, putting your kids to bed, so that people are happy, so that they are proud of their lives. I'll say it tritely, but you will agree with me: everything depends only on us. Only from us! From me, of course, but quality life is impossible without you. Therefore, we need to add quality to this peaceful, calm, creative life. And then everything will be fine with us."

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he often sets only one main task for the Government, "Give me the economy, the rest is

up to me." This also applies to the whole society; everyone at their workplace must work hard and efficiently. The President specifies, "We need to make every effort so that we can not just produce goods (and economics means producing and selling), but also do it with high quality. So that our product can be bought even better than today."

The Head of State thanked the Primate of the Belarusian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Veniamin, and all the clergy for the acts they perform in the name of the Belarusian people, state and church, "Overall they are doing a very great job. Of course, this year too they will have to make a lot of efforts to ensure that the Year of Quality is real for every person. But for what our clergy do, they deserve respect and gratitude."



### The year promises to be difficult

The Head of State noted that we need to live the coming year with dignity, “We are standing on the threshold of a generational change, when everything that has been done, bad or good (maybe it’s not for us to judge), will soon have to be passed on to the younger generation, to our children. This year will be very difficult. They will train on us. And we need to persevere. They will train for future presidential elections. And we need to pay special attention to young people who did not see difficult times both during the Soviet period and after the collapse of the Soviet Union. They did not experience what the middle and older generations experienced. We need to tell them about this, show them so that they value what we have acquired through our labour. We need to do everything so that we live this year with dignity and, approaching the main event, show ourselves with dignity. That we are the masters of this land, we, the Belarusian people, who have suffered in our history, have the right to live according to our own laws.”

### The village is the breadwinner of the people, the foundation of the state

In communicating with parishioners, Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to another very important topic, “In this rural church, I want to say two words about the village. You see that in these difficult times we are doing a lot to preserve the village. I will not name the states of the post-Soviet period that destroyed the village. These countries have no future. If we lose the village, we will lose the state. It simply won’t exist. Therefore, I promise you that as a person who grew up in a village, knowing the life of a rural person, its difficulties, I will do everything to save our village. So that the village — the

### FACT

*Construction of the temple in honour of the Holy Prophet John the Baptist began in Shershuny in mid-2018. And in October 2020, the new church opened its doors to parishioners. The temple turned out to be very beautiful. The building, 25 meters high with two golden domes, made in the Byzantine style, looks majestic. The temple was built on a symbolic site. There are also Soviet tank soldiers who died in the summer of 1944 during the liberation of Belarus buried nearby. So the place is really very significant.*

breadwinner of our people, the foundation of our state — is strong, powerful and prosperous.

This does not mean that we will forget the cities. This is industry, without it the village cannot develop. We will do everything to develop our economy. We have everything for this, more than ever, despite difficult times.”

### Christmas greetings and gifts

Addressing parishioners and residents of all Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “On this bright holiday, I want to wish you health, health and once again health. Everything else, as I say, we will buy. If we can’t buy it, we’ll get it another way. We have enough brains, we also have enough people — kind and hardworking. Therefore, I wish you health, happiness and, most importantly, joy from your children. May they always be healthy and always a joy to you!”

Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavsky, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus Veniamin, “The Nativity of Christ is a joyful, solemn and at the same time mysterious event in the life of all humanity. The Lord gives people his great and rich mercies. To all humanity. He came to save the entire human race. In the Year of Quality, all we can do is resort to these divine gifts. Of course, put in your hard work and ensure that everything is of high quality. And not only at the industrial level. There is where we can put our efforts in the spiritual sphere. I think all this will bring good results. We believe, hope and pray about it.”

Another holiday tradition is exchanging gifts. The President donated the Sovereign (Our Lady Derzhavnaya) icon of the Mother of God to the Church of the Holy Prophet John the Baptist. It was made by masters of the icon-painting workshop of the St. Elisabeth Convent in Minsk. The work was done in the traditional style of the Belarusian school of icon painting, using a unique wax tempera technique. Church chronicles preserve numerous evidence of how the good power of this image of the Mother of God changes people’s lives. First of all, those who suffer from various ailments turn to her.

The President was presented with an icon of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. It is written on an alder board, covered with gold leaf, decorated with pearls and stones in metal frames. Saint Nicholas is one of the most revered saints. During his lifetime he was nicknamed the Wonderworker.

Aleksandr Pimenov

**This year, a truly historic event is expected for sovereign Belarus: for the first time, a girl will fly into space from our country. The President met with Belarusians who are preparing for a space mission**



## "FULL SPEED AHEAD!"

**The main participant in the upcoming space flight, Marina Vasilevskaya, and her backup, Anastasia Lenkova, arrived at the Palace of Independence on Christmas Eve. Both are currently undergoing training at the Yuri Gagarin Research and Testing Centre for Cosmonaut Training. One of them is destined to become the first cosmonaut in the history of sovereign Belarus. It is expected that the flight to the ISS will take place this coming spring.**

### **Parting words from the Head of State**

Marina Vasilevskaya and Anastasia Lenkova were selected from six candidates from Belarus who underwent a medical examination at the Cosmonaut Training Centre in December 2022. And already at the beginning of last year, the girls began to prepare for the 21st expedition to the International Space Station.

The training programme includes: studying the systems of the manned Soyuz MS spacecraft and the Russian segment of the space station, tests in a centrifuge and in a pressure chamber, numerous training sessions to practice crew actions in various situations (including actions during an emergency landing of the descent vehicle in various climatic zones), as well as many other assignments and checks. Plus

serious physical training. The schedule is incredibly tight; in February they will have to pass, in fact, the final exam as part of the main crew.

“So, shall we fly?” Aleksandr Lukashenko greeted the girls with humour.

“Let’s fly!” the girls answered confidently.

“Or have you changed your mind?”

“No way.”

“But we will wait for you here,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

To the President’s question whether the main participant and the backup are training under the same programme, an affirmative answer was given.

“The most important thing is that there is no jealousy. You won’t be lost anyway. You were chosen out of millions of girls,” Aleksandr Lukashenko admonished.

The President congratulated the space programme

“Isn’t it scary?” asked the journalists.

“No, it’s not scary. It is pride in our country. Just full speed ahead! Strength, combat determination — everything is enough. I really liked the spacesuit. And I realised that this zero gravity is my element. We had zero gravity (training during which the zero-gravity conditions are recreated), and I really liked it. We worked everything according to plan, so we are ready. The homeland greeted me warmly. New Year’s Eve with family and friends cannot be replaced. We happily enjoyed such minutes and hours. Because time flies by very quickly — at cosmic speed. It seems like we just recently arrived in Star City, but the flight is already in March.”

Another question from journalists: what can you take with you into orbit? It turns out that astronauts are allowed to take only one kilogram of personal belongings to the station.

“Of course, I’ll take my childhood family photo. Naturally, the Belarusian flag, the Olympic flag, the flag of the Academy of Sciences,” said Marina Vasilevskaya.

She will have reliable support in space. Our famous fellow countryman Oleg Novitsky was appointed crew commander. This is already his fourth flight to the ISS. Also the NASA astronaut Tracy Caldwell Dyson is serving as a flight engineer on the crew.

“We have a very well-coordinated crew,” says Marina Vasilevskaya. “And Oleg Novitsky supports and helps in everything. A very sensitive, responsible, strong and smart person. In training he is strict but fair. And it is right. It is about the chain of command. The work is very serious, because astronautics does not accept mistakes. We worked well together.”

According to the plan, the duration of the Belarusian cosmonaut’s stay in orbit will be 12 days. During this time, it is necessary to complete the scientific programme developed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Roscosmos state corporation with the participation of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In turn, the backup Anastasia Lenkova confirmed that the meeting with the Head of State inspires and motivates. She called waiting for day X the most difficult part of the preparation process, “We are charged, of course, we are in a fighting mood. We are training. We have joint crew training, where various emergency situations are simulated, physical training, theoretical training, as well as training for target programmes that are planned for the flight, and much more. We do everything as planned by the centre. We are studying, preparing.”

Journalists also asked if the astronauts had any special characteristics. There really are such things, the girls confirmed, but most of them relate to the stay at Baikonur immediately before the flight. For example, it is not customary for astronauts to give autographs before a flight.

Alexey Fedosov



■ Anastasia Lenkova and Marina Vasilevskaya.

participants on New Year and Christmas, presenting flowers and wristwatches. He added jokingly, “You might confuse the time... But I set the exact Belarusian time.”

### About superstitions, omens and pride in the country

After the meeting with the President, Marina Vasilevskaya and Anastasia Lenkova shared their impressions and plans with journalists.

“First of all, I would like to thank the Head of State for such a sincere, festive, warm welcome,” said Marina Vasilevskaya. “I am incredibly grateful that we are in this project. We are determined. We have global prospects for our country, our people, and we will do everything to solve the assigned tasks. Of course, the President supports us and helps us in everything. This is very noticeable and gives great strength. Because without the direct participation of the Head of State, this project would not have happened.”

# SPACE DISTANCES AHEAD

**By cosmic standards, no time has passed since the agreement was reached between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin to send a Belarusian to the ISS — less than two years. “I have someone to send,” said the President of Belarus in April 2022 after visiting the Vostochny cosmodrome. Later it became known that it would be a woman. And now there is very little time left before the planned sending into orbit of a crew with a citizen of our country on board. Fast? It seems so only to an ignorant person.**



Belarusians have been participating in space exploration for more than six decades. Let us remind you: natives of our republic Pyotr Klimuk and Vladimir Kovalenok visited the Earth's orbit in the 20th century, and Oleg Novitsky in the current century. Moreover, since the late 1950s, Belarusian specialists have been involved in the creation of optics, electronics and other materials and components for the space industry. Together with the Russians, they are developing promising technologies. Since 2004, the National Academy of Sciences has been involved in the coordination and state regulation of space activities; since 2015, the Space Research Agency has been operating under the NAS. And with the launch of its own Earth remote sensing satellite BKA-1 in 2012, Belarus became a space power. Furthermore: the domestic geostationary communications satellite Belintersat-1 went into low-Earth orbit, a wide range of scientific tasks in the stratosphere are carried out by university nanosatellites....

Our country is a reliable partner both on Earth and in space. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin emphasised this thesis during their visit to Vostochny two years ago. The President of Belarus then explained to journalists, “The issue is competence. It turns out that giant Russia has an interest in us in the field of creating spacecraft, in the field of controlling it (a spaceship). We have competencies, and Russia will use them.”

Today, no one doubts the competence of Belarusian female cosmonauts either. Although Marina Vasilevskaya, who was appointed to the main crew for the flight to the ISS, is a flight attendant-instructor at Belavia Airlines, and her

backup, Anastasia Lenkova, is a surgeon at the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Paediatric Surgery.

“The girls do everything well,” their experienced colleague Oleg Novitsky recently shared his impressions of the new recruits. “They are highly motivated and work-oriented. This can be seen in relation to the preparation, according to the feedback from our instructors.”

Marina and Anastasia were selected from more than two thousand applicants who submitted applications. They successfully passed a medical examination, and subsequently a number of other tests, including training in simulating weightlessness modes on an Il-76MDK laboratory aircraft, and practicing actions in emergency or emergency situations. Particular attention is paid to the scientific programme: in particular, geophysical and microbiological experiments are planned on the ISS.

Working under the guidance of specialists from the Russian Yuri Gagarin Centre for Cosmonaut Training is truly an invaluable experience. However, today we rejoice at the successes in the space field not only of Marina Vasilevskaya and Anastasia Lenkova. For example, Olga Mastitskaya, a junior researcher at the Institute of Physical-Organic Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, who on the eve of the final selection was one of the six applicants for a space flight from our country, is now taking part in the international annual ground-based isolation experiment SIRIUS-23, simulating a flight to the Moon. The test is taking place at the State Research Centre of the Institute of Medical and Biological Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

# SPIRITUAL REBIRTH IS THE REBIRTH OF THE SOUL

**On New Year's and Christmas days, the Head of State's work schedule included many events. Among them is honouring those who help preserve our traditions and origins, revive our historical and cultural heritage, strengthen true spiritual values, educate true patriots, and glorify Belarus on the world stage.**



### Cultural sovereignty is inviolable

Every year the best of the best appear on the stage of the Palace of the Republic. These are people of different ages and professions, but the country is proud of each of them, appreciating their skill and talent. Before presenting the prestigious awards, Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed the participants and guests of the ceremony, and in their person all Belarusians, emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural sovereignty, “We, Belarusians, are creators at our core. Since ancient times, we have lived by our own minds, which is why we have preserved our way of life, culture and spirituality in the most difficult periods of development. This is very important... We will not allow anyone to destroy what has been created and developed by generations of Belarusians for centuries — our traditions, our spirituality and the highest feelings are based on the past... Patriotism and spirituality are inseparable concepts. All the best things in our lives begin with love for family and friends, our small homeland, our Motherland. This is what inspires us to serve truly noble goals.”

### Become spiritually stronger

What else did the President of Belarus talk about in his speech at the ceremony of presenting the Spiritual Revival award, special prizes for art luminaries, and the special prize Belarusian Sports Olympus? About the fact that on bright holidays we meet to thank people who selflessly serve their people and country. We analyse the cultural and spiritual life

of the past year. And it brought unusually talented, sensitive, and sincerely devoted Belarusians to the stage. Thanks also to them, we achieved our goals for the Year of Peace and Creation. Thus, we became spiritually stronger and even more confident. Especially against the backdrop of the events that are happening around us. It is obvious to us: peace is the most important value for any nation. Especially Belarusian. Because we know its value.

And today, the President noted, such projects as *The Last Witnesses*, *Genocide. Without the Right to Life* are a tribute to the memory of the innocent victims and heroes of the Great Patriotic War, “We thank the team of authors of our Prosecutor’s Office, the Belarusian Telegraph Agency, the National State Television and Radio Company, who experienced all the pain and suffering of the people of the war. These films are a chronicle of terrible crimes that we will not allow ourselves and those who bear historical responsibility for them to forget. Our memory is a guarantee of peace in the future. If we forget this, as I already said, if we forget the road to the temples and monuments of that war, there’ll be another war.”

Among the laureates of the Spiritual Revival award there are military personnel of the honour guard company and the orchestra of the Minsk Military Commandant’s Office, as well as the Polotsk Cadet School, which, by the way, was the place of studies of the Hero of Belarus pilot Nikita Kukonenko, our contemporary, who, unfortunately, has passed away. We know, remember and honour our heroes of the past and present. These are people, as the President said, with a pure heart,



sincere love for their native land and their people, “In them we see the strength of spirit of the Belarusians. Patriotism and spirituality are inseparable concepts. All the best things in our lives begin with love for family and friends, our small homeland, our Motherland. This is what inspires us to serve truly noble goals. Each award list of today’s laureates contains the story of our entire lives, the history, if you like, of the country.”

### **A matter of national dignity**

Aleksandr Lukashenko is confident that today’s laureates shape the future of Belarus, preserving its cultural heritage, reviving ancient traditions of folk craftsmanship and creativity in festivals and holidays, giving new life to masterpieces of high art, welcoming the first babies born, educating the younger generation on primordial spiritual values, showing mercy and taking part in the fate of compatriots who need special care, rising to the sports Olympus for the glory of the Motherland, helping their students conquer this peak, highlighting the victories of our athletes in the media.

At the same time, Belarusians are open to the world, respect the customs and traditions of other peoples, and are receptive to new ideas. But on one condition: everything that comes into life must resonate, correspond to national values, the spiritual world and enrich the nation culturally. The deep respect for the native culture created by folk artists, Soviet and Belarusian classics remains unshakable. This is a matter of national dignity. In no case should we give up what we have achieved, the Head of State is categorical, “For the question will arise: what inheritance are we giving up and what will we build our future on?”

An invariable detail of the solemn ceremony is the address to the laureates and all Belarusians by Metropolitan Veniamin of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus. He noted that high awards were given to people who selflessly, with love for their neighbour and for our Motherland, carry out their work in various areas of the life of our society.

### **Memory is sacred**

So, the high award for a significant contribution to the preservation of historical memory and the truth about the Great Patriotic War and the implementation of the *Last Witnesses* and *Genocide Without the Right to Life* projects was given the General Prosecutor’s Office, the Belarusian Telegraph Agency and the National State Television and Radio Company. A joint project of the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Belarusian Telegraph Agency, the book *Last Witnesses*, was presented at the Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War in June last year. The publication includes stories of juvenile prisoners of fascist concentration camps, recorded by investigators during the investigation of the criminal case of the genocide of the Belarusian people. And the journalists’ materials, which were published on BELTA’s resources for a whole year, formed the basis of a book dedicated to the Year of Historical Memory. A joint project of the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Television News Agency of the Beltelecompany *Genocide. Without the Right to Life* is an artistic and journalistic series of films about the atrocities of the Nazis and their accomplices against civilians during the occupation of the territory of the BSSR. The project is based on materials from a criminal case into the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period.



### In full voice

Anastasia Moskvina, People's Artist of the Republic of Belarus, head of the opera troupe of the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre, was awarded the special prize for high professional excellence and achievements in the field of musical and theatrical art. At the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus, the singer performs the most complex vocal roles, and also regularly represents Belarusian opera at significant state events and international festivals.

### How songs are born

Songwriter Anna Lukashenko (Seluk) is another winner of the special prize for art luminaries. She received the high award for her great personal contribution to the development of modern musical art and the implementation of socially significant cultural initiatives. Songs based on the words of Seluk are heard on television and radio, and last year the composition *The Truth is Behind Us!* with her lyrics became Best Song of the Year. Anna is sure: the demand for patriotic themes is dictated by time. In addition, in her opinion, today, more than ever, most talented people have the opportunity to express themselves. The trends of recent years prove this.

### From generation to generation

The national brass band Vitiny of the Stolbtsy Children's Art School also received a special award from the President of Belarus for art luminaries for their significant contribution to the education of creative youth and active participation in social and cultural projects. The creative team is almost 70 years old! The director of the orchestra, Aleksandr Nichiporovich, recalls that the group had different times over the decades: they had to rehearse in small rooms,

**Abbess Anfisa of the Holy Intercession Convent (city of Tolochin), laureate of the Spiritual Revival award, "Receiving such a high award is both pleasant and significant. Today, more than ever, it is important to be compassionate. No matter how difficult the moments may be, we must do good: for the sake of ourselves and others."**

play on instruments sealed with tape, but, despite these circumstances, the group was able to win the attention of the audience. And not only domestic! At least 20 countries have heard about the Stolbtsy brass band.

### On the way to the big stage

For 9 years now, the Syabrynka pop song theatre of the MAZ Palace of Culture has been looking for and discovering new names. The goal of the team, awarded a special Presidential Prize for art luminaries, is noble: to develop and support young talents. But in essence, to give the opportunity to all talented (but still unknown to the general public) artists to try themselves on the big stage, worthily representing the group at concert venues in the country and Belarus at prestigious international competitions and festivals.

### Life's work

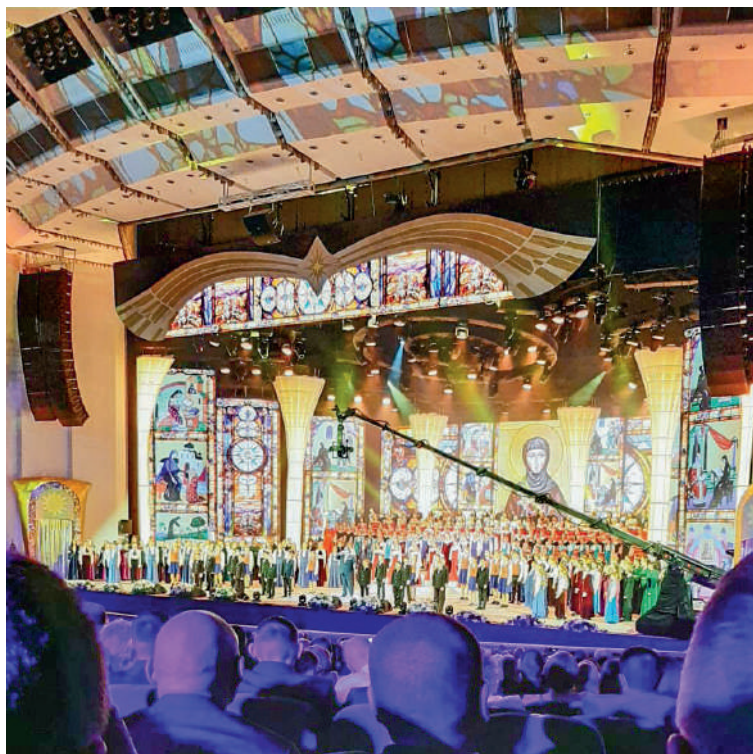
Master of folk musical instruments Ruslan Makarevich from Pinsk is called a unique person. He is the only one in the country who has perfectly mastered the making of balalaikas and domras. Over the course of 35 years, he went from an amateur to a high-class professional. He carved more than 150 plucked string instruments and resuscitated about the same number and brought them back to life. In 2019, on behalf of the Head of State, he opened a creative workshop in Pinsk. The news of the award of a special Presidential Prize for fruitful work in reviving the traditions of making musical instruments found Ruslan Makarevich in the workshop making another musical instrument.

### Open the soul of a young viewer

Serbian actress and director Ivana Žigon has long-standing creative contacts with our country. The play *The Idiot* based on the novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky on the stage of the National Academic Drama Theatre named after M. Gorky is another successfully implemented project. Prior to this, the performance became the winner of the 7th National Theatre Award in the Best Performance of the Drama Theatre category and the winner of the Grand Prix of the 21st Zolotoy Vityaz International Theatre Forum.

### Weaving is a family tradition

Many residents and guests of the city are familiar with the works of the methodologist of the Grodno Regional Methodological Centre for Folk Art Yelena Shuneyko. She is a hereditary weaver and masters a unique technique of



one-sided weaving. In her canvases she embodies the most significant scenes of the history of our country; in total, about 70 tapestries were created. Some are kept in France, Estonia, Poland, Russia and other countries, as masterpieces of folk art were exhibited in China.

One of the latest large-scale works is the tapestry *History is a Living Thread* dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Great Victory. The canvas amazes with its scope, and when you find out the details of the creation, you involuntarily say: 'Incredible!'. The size of the tapestry is almost 1.5 by 2 meters, the weavers worked on it for 151 days, using almost a kilometre of wool and cotton threads!

### Pastry like in childhood

Anyone who has never been to the President's Loaf fest in the city of Svisloch, Grodno Region and has not tried the baked goods baked according to the unique recipe of local bakers should definitely do so. A braided loaf with confectionery topping is not only a delicacy, but now also a brand of the region. Baking is the main character of the President's Loaf festival after the President visited the bakery in Svisloch in June 2021. 'As in childhood!' Aleksandr Lukashenko appreciated the taste of Svisloch bread, especially the rich braided bread. These words inspired the local leadership for a new cultural project. In 2022, a republican festival was held for the first time in Svisloch. And today they are proud that the city is associated with the festival, where folk traditions are popularised and the work of bakers is

glorified. The President's Loaves from the festival are sold in every retail outlet in Svisloch and are sold out instantly. What is the secret of taste? It contains natural ingredients: flour, yeast, milk powder, margarine, sugar. But the main thing is that the bakers cook with love. Doughmakers and moulders also participate in production. The bread has a braid shape, which means that each product is made by hand.

### United by the idea of patriotism

The honour guard company of the Minsk Military Commandant's Office is called the face of the Belarusian army. And not without reason. The soldiers of this elite unit provide all the most important events with the participation of the Head of State, meet foreign delegations, accompany mourning ceremonies of farewell to government officials, and represent our country at socio-political and cultural meetings abroad. To march like an honour guard, you need to train six hours a day. Days and hours of training instil in soldiers the confidence to handle performance anxiety. This takes up to three to four months. The presentation of the special Presidential Award to the 1st and 2nd companies of the honour guard demonstrates that their work does not go unnoticed.

The orchestra of the honour guard of the Minsk Military Commandant's Office was also awarded a special Presidential Prize. It goes to new creative heights under the guidance of a military conductor — the Head of the orchestra of the Minsk Military Commandant's Office, Captain Ilya Kupreyev.

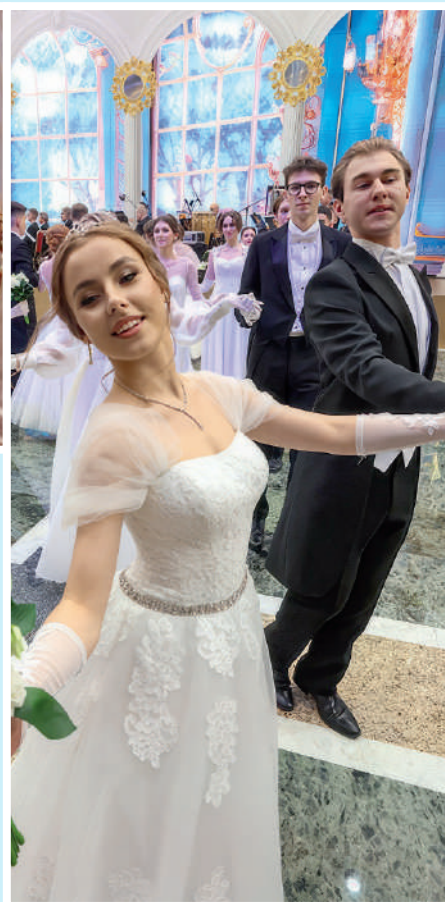
### The laureates of the special award "Belarusian Spartans Alimp" 2023 say

*Mikhail Dvoryakov, Head of the Department of Cycling, Speed Skating and Equestrian Sports at the Belarusian State University of Physical Culture, Honoured Trainer of the BSSR, "I always worked for creation. I am deeply convinced that the processes of upbringing, education and the sports component are inseparable."*

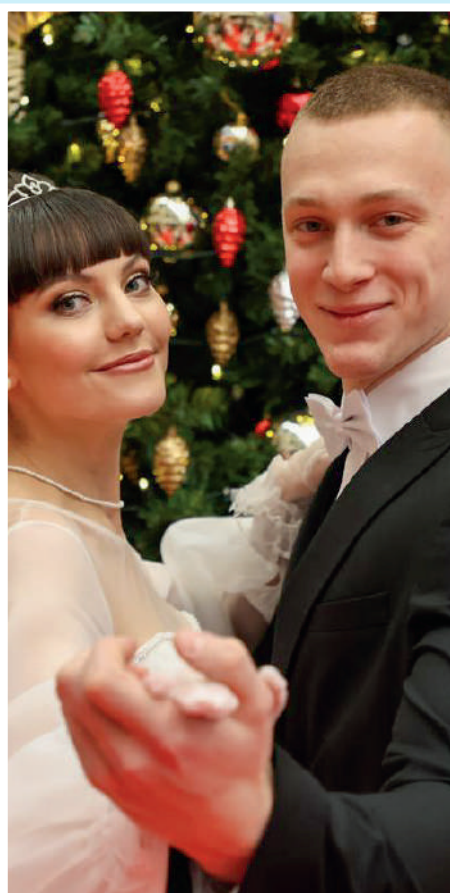
*Vanessa Kolodinskaya, Honoured Master of Sports, bronze medallist of the 2020 Olympic Games, winner and medallist of the World and European Championships in Freestyle Wrestling, "Of course, it's always encouraging when you are awarded and your sports activities are highly appreciated. It is a great honour to receive such an award. It adds responsibility: I want to confirm the high level in the future. This year will be busy for us. We will prepare for the Olympics in stages, the nearest major competition is the European Championship."*

*Anna Eismont, Special Correspondent for the Sports News Department of the Television News Agency of the National State Television and Radio Company, "Of course, it's very nice that my work was noticed and appreciated. Moreover, just recently I had a personal anniversary: 20 years on the air. So, I probably already deserves it."*

Vasily **Kharitonov**



# THE FUTURE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION



The Republican New Year's Ball was held at the Palace of Independence, which has already become a good Belarusian tradition of modern times. The President of Belarus took part in the ceremony and addressed the youth with warm wishes. However, before the start of the festive evening, Aleksandr Lukashenko especially focused the attention of young people on an important point, "Tomorrow you will perhaps step into big-time politics. You will be responsible for everything that happens in our state. And if the Palace of Independence is a symbol of our statehood, then you are a symbol of the future."





### How a new tradition was born

And the first New Year's Ball for young people was held at the Palace of Independence exactly five years ago — on December 28th, 2018. The Austrian side proposed holding the Vienna Ball in our country, the Head of State indicated. The idea, said Aleksandr Lukashenko, was to invite bright and talented young people to such a ball on December evenings before the New Year, “Today I am glad that I made the decision then. We, Belarusians, are a beautiful nation of a beautiful country. We have beautiful girls, the men will catch up and be handsome too. We will hold our own Viennese ball, and it will be called the New Year's ball.”

The holiday becomes brighter every year, but the presence of the choreographer, Honoured Artist of the Republic of Belarus Ruslan Chernetsky, remains unchanged.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also noted that this is the only day of the year when the Palace of Independence radically changes its appearance. The President shared his observation: looking at amazingly beautiful, happy young people, albeit perhaps a little shy, he thinks with gratitude about the parents, teachers, teachers who raised and educated the youth. They also taught them how to set the right goals and achieve them. And very wise advice from Aleksandr Lukashenko to the younger generation, “Remember: never be rude in front of your parents and teachers telling that this is who you are. By doing this, you just once again emphasise that they are like that for you. Great ones. Everything you have now, the youth, comes from them. But starting tomorrow you will begin to write your story with your own hand. Based on what your parents brought and presented to you. Don't forget this. You must respect those who made you this way today.”



### How dreams come true

There were no random people in the hall that evening, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised when addressing those present. Let's talk about some of them.

This is not the first time that senior sergeant Yegor Shashko, a cadet at the Border Service Institute, has visited the Palace of Independence. Last year he was here on an excursion. “Like heaven and earth,” the young man looks around the Hall of Ceremonies. He admits that the palace is completely different for him today. Getting acquainted with history is one thing, taking part in such a holiday is another.

“In principle, the Palace of Independence is beautiful and atmospheric, there is something to see,” the third-year student shares his emotions. “But New Year's decorations add a certain enthusiasm, mood, and emotions. A bright picture in a person's head leaves very clear and positive feelings.”

The ball consists of two parts — classical and free. Participants danced a polonaise, waltz, polka, quadrille, mazurka, gallop, and chaconne to the musical accompaniment of the Presidential Orchestra of the Republic of Belarus. Yegor Shashko says: they spent months learning the dances.

“I never knew how to dance in principle. But the choreographers — the organisers of the ball — taught and showed. In general, I spun in the waltz without any problems.



What was the first emotion when I was offered to participate in the ball? Misunderstanding. I couldn't imagine what a ball was. I simply wasn't interested. Although yes, I heard about it. The question immediately arose: how will all this happen? We are military people, so the fit of the uniform is important, we need to hem something, sew something, make sure everything is perfect. We present a power block, and it is the power block that should be aligned. After all, people in uniform are, of course, different from people in tails."

There was also a more informal, free part of the ball. It was accompanied by world hits of pop and jazz music and had a lighter and more relaxed character. The manager invited the guests to familiarise themselves with such dances as rock and roll, mambo, boogie-woogie, letka-enka, lambada, and twist. For fourth-year students of the Faculty of Law of Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin Polina Suzko and Adrian Trofimovich New Year's Ball at the Palace of Independence is a special gift and a dream come true. Especially considering that the guys are actively preparing for state exams and defending their theses. Therefore, taking a break from studying and getting a portion of the brightest emotions is priceless for them. They admit that the preparation for the event was colossal.

"This event is very important for each of us. We will all tell our children about him. This has been a long-time dream, and I am very grateful that there is an opportunity to be part of this magic," Polina did not hide her emotions.

The guys believe that this beautiful ballroom tradition should remain in the country in the future, "Any traditions mark the unity of our country, and the younger generation honours and appreciates this. Such events and balls not only demonstrate the continuity of traditions, but also unite us."

### "The future is in your hands"

"You are best!" the President addressed everyone present. "You are the best representatives of our youth. You have worked hard this past year. They achieved high results in studies and sports, and showed themselves in the volunteer movement, which is very important. It is for people like you (this is symbolic), active and purposeful, that these doors are open today. Today they are opened here — to the Palace of Independence, a symbol of our statehood. And tomorrow you will perhaps step into big-time politics. You will be responsible for everything that happens in our state. And if this is the Palace of Independence — a symbol of our statehood, then you are a symbol of the future. So, the future is in your hands! Those who are not yet ready for this, have not realized it — get ready! Whether you like it or not, the future is in your hands!"

Perhaps this is the only day of the year when the Palace of Independence turns into a fabulous dance floor. Polonaise and quadrille, minuet and waltz, boogie-woogie and jazz music — classics and modernity are intertwined together, and you can't take your eyes off young people in tailcoats and tuxedos and girls in ball gowns...

Aleksandr **Pimenov**

# ENSURING SAFETY IS A COMMON TASK



**At the January meeting of the Security Council, the most important strategic documents were discussed. We are talking, in particular, about the draft updated National Security Concept and Military Doctrine of Belarus.**

## **Essentially strategic documents**

We don't need someone else's, but we won't give up ours either. Over the years, these words have not lost their relevance. On the contrary, the planet has become even more restless and dangerous. Belarusians do not think about attacking anyone, but they must be able to defend their interests. From whom and how? The answers to these questions are precisely spelled out in the drafts of the updated National Security Concept and Military Doctrine of Belarus. Two of the most important strategic documents for the country were considered at the Security Council. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko once again drew attention to the peculiarities of the current moment, "Unfortunately, we have returned to a time when military force became the main argument in building interstate relations... Ensuring national security is our common task. For every citizen of Belarus."

## **Be prepared for challenges and threats**

The new edition of the National Security Concept and Military Doctrine are not just the most important strategic planning documents. For the first time in the sovereign history of the country, they will be approved at the Belarusian People's Congress. Every detail, every suggestion and remark is all the more important. Defending the Motherland is a national matter. This has always been and will be the case, which is why the updated National Security Concept was discussed, as they say, by the whole world. The President emphasised that both the concept and the Military Doctrine set out in detail the key directions for transforming modern risks, challenges and threats in the field of national security. And many of the estimates and forecasts contained there are already coming true. On the one hand, this indicates the high quality of the prepared documents. On the other hand, it forces us not to relax and be prepared for any changes in the military-political



situation. Aleksandr Lukashenko aims this at senior officials and generals and gives an example, “Look what is happening in the Middle East. This is a terrible humanitarian disaster. Please note that threats to use nuclear weapons were made almost immediately after the escalation of the conflict. And, as is usually the case, there were no sanctions from the ‘civilized’ West. Usual statements — as if nothing happened. Unfortunately, we have returned to a time when military force became the main argument in building interstate relations.”

### **The doctrine is defensive in nature**

The decision to develop a new Military Doctrine was made in February last year. The document, in force since 2016, has retained its defensive character. As the developers themselves indicate, this is a kind of continuity. The doctrine has a pronounced national character, the emphasis is on the national values of Belarusians — peace, stability, security. It especially emphasises: Belarus is a peace-loving country, we do not threaten anyone, and attempts to interfere in our internal affairs, especially the threat of using military force or aggression, will be suppressed using the full potential of the state. Meanwhile, in the new Military Doctrine, fundamental changes are taking place in the military-political situation, new military dangers are taken

into account in full, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted at the meeting, “Approaches to determining the nature of modern military conflicts have also been updated in the interests of developing adequate response measures for the armed defence of the country.”

### **Informal approach to document preparation**

The National Security Concept is another strategic document, the draft of which was discussed at the meeting. The document was adopted in 2010 and has not lost its relevance in a global sense. Moreover, the national security system built in accordance with its provisions has demonstrated its effectiveness.

The difficult periods of development, which we withstood and passed with dignity, taught us to look at many things through the prism of security. Even in the most peaceful areas — food security, demography, ecology, scientific and technological progress... As the President has repeatedly emphasized, this is precisely what determines the leading role of the state, capable of ensuring the security of all aspects of human life and society.

At the 6th Belarusian People’s Congress in February 2021, Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that it was time to update the National Security Concept. The Head of State proceeded from several points: first of all, from the



**Aleksandr Volfovich,  
Secretary of State of the  
Security Council:**



*“The President was interested in how informally we approached the preparation of a new Concept of national security, to what extent the citizens of our country understood the need for this document. — We have worked with all sectors of society, government agencies, organizations, scientists, students, labor collectives, trade unions and other public associations. Even the leaders of our main religious denominations were involved.”*

events that were unfolding in the region and the world. The second impetus was that a number of Western states, including Belarus' NATO neighbours, have already modernised their strategic documents taking into account threats and digital technologies. The President recalled that last year, following a meeting of the Security Council, a specific task was formed and set: to informally approach the preparation of a new National Security Concept. Bring it to wide public discussion with the involvement of representatives of the scientific and expert community, and the media. Discuss this document in detail, ask people's opinions. After all, ensuring national security is our common task. For every citizen of Belarus.

Aleksandr Lukashenko asked the meeting participants what specific result was obtained from the public discussion of the concept, whether the members of the Security Council agreed with the changes and additions that were proposed to be made, or whether there were other proposals.

### **Citizens were imbued with caring understanding**

After the meeting with the Head of State, Aleksandr Volfovich, Secretary of State of the Security Council, told reporters about the results of the public discussion of the draft concept and some of its innovations. He, in particular, noted that during the year about 70 discussion platforms were organised to discuss the main innovations

of the concept. For this purpose, all regions of the country were involved.

“The President was interested in how informally we approached the preparation of the new National Security Concept, how much the citizens of our country understood the need for this document,” noted Aleksandr Volfovich. “We worked with all layers of society, government agencies, organizations, scientists, students, labour collectives, trade unions and other public associations. Even the leaders of our main religious denominations were involved.”

As the Secretary of State of the Security Council emphasised, the discussion of the project aroused genuine interest. To maximise audience coverage, the draft concept was published on the National Legal Internet Portal, where over 15 thousand citizens' requests to this document were recorded. The most important thing is that feedback was received. People were interested not only in innovations, but also in the emerging military-political situation in the world and around our country.

### **It is important to take into account all the nuances**

Of course, people today are concerned primarily with peace, stability and security. In this regard, the Secretary of State, in particular, noted the outbreak of new military conflicts in the world and sometimes threats from some politicians about the possibility of using nuclear weapons. Moreover, Poland, a neighbour of Belarus, is asking

**Viktor Khrenin,  
Military  
Doctrine of Belarus:**



*“The spirit of our doctrine is the peaceful character of our people. We clearly emphasize and say that the Republic of Belarus does not consider any people as its enemy, despite the actions of their government. This is the key message.”*



to place American nuclear weapons on its territory. “Europe already hosts 150 American nuclear warheads, not counting the nuclear weapons of France and Great Britain. Some countries are still asking to be placed on their territory. It’s clear why, given their militaristic nature, aggressive statements towards our country,” noted Aleksandr Volfovich.

In this regard, the provisions of the concept are strengthened by the risks of military conflicts using nuclear weapons. Moreover, this proposal came from the citizens themselves. The State Secretary of the Security Council also said that, at the proposal of representatives of religious denominations, the Belarusian Women’s Union, and the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, the updated version of the concept places emphasis on the full protection of the institution of the traditional Belarusian family as a union between a woman and a man by birth. This excludes the various gender approaches that are promoted in the West. Proposals to strengthen the social responsibility of business and overcome disproportions in regional development are also reflected. Some provisions have been adjusted in connection with the release of laws on civil society and the people’s militia. Following the discussion, the President instructed to continue information work so that citizens of Belarus are aware of the situation developing around the country and have an understanding of the main issues that are reflected in the updated National Security Concept.

**Measures in response to risks, challenges and threats**

Military doctrine is a fundamental document that reflects the main views of the state on peace and war, on the use of military force in response to existing challenges and threats. The updated Military Doctrine of Belarus preserves and emphasises the peace-loving nature of our country, Defence Minister Viktor Khrenin said following a meeting of the Security Council and spoke in detail about the innovations of the document. The minister described the main idea of the updated document as follows, “The spirit of our doctrine is the peace-loving character of our people. We clearly emphasize and say that the Republic of Belarus does not consider any people as its enemy, despite the actions of their government. That’s the key message.”

An important feature of the document is that it is addressable. That is, it identifies the sources of threats and from which countries they come. According to the Minister of Defence, the connection between the Military Doctrine and the draft National Security Concept is strengthening, “We have clearly built and formulated the measures that the state will take when risks, challenges and threats arise. As part of the response to possible military threats, we have clearly defined and communicated the views of the Republic of Belarus on the use of tactical nuclear weapons stationed on our territory.”



In addition, a new chapter appeared in the document, which defines Belarus' obligations to its allies. Here, the developers also took into account the experience of the coup attempt in Kazakhstan in 2022.

### **The procedure for the state's actions has been determined**

The new edition of the Military Doctrine also improves the mechanisms for responding to challenges and threats in order to ensure greater efficiency. In addition, the developers moved away from the old gradation of military conflicts — into regional, local and others, the head of the defence department said, “We have now clearly defined that this can be either an interstate or an inter-coalition (conflict). That is, we have made a gradation based on the number of participants and clearly state that Belarus can independently resist threats if an interstate conflict arises, especially with neighbouring states.”

By the way, all threats are divided into internal and external. The document also defines the procedure for the state's actions when responding to internal challenges in order to localise and block them. The Minister of Defence said that based on the results of the work carried out and the meeting, the Head of State instructed to further refine

the document before submitting it for approval by the Belarusian People's Congress.

### **Everything is solved in a complex**

Let us recall that the decision to develop a draft of a new Military Doctrine was made after the approval of the new edition of the National Security Concept in February last year. The military doctrine does not provide for a radical revision of the provisions of the state's military policy; the current provisions have remained unchanged, and its defensive nature has been preserved. Emphasis is placed on such national values as peace, stability, and security. It is emphasized that Belarus does not threaten anyone. But attempts to interfere in internal affairs, and even more so the threat of using military force or aggression, will be suppressed using the full potential of the state.

According to experts, an analysis of the provisions of the draft National Security Concept of Belarus of the 2023 model, posted in the public domain, indicates that the document has been significantly expanded. In particular, the list of areas of national security has been expanded by highlighting biological security as a separate area, which reflects the experience of modern wars and armed conflicts and trends in the art of war. Innovations in the field of social

sciences and additions enshrined in the Constitution of the country in terms of the content of political, economic, social, demographic and scientific and technological security are taken into account. For the first time, the term 'electoral sovereignty' appeared in a conceptual document of this level and the mechanisms for ensuring it were revealed.

### Taking into account many components

More than two-thirds of the Concept's sections have been reasonably clarified and updated. This made it possible to reflect the trends of the modern world, clarify the national interests of our state and the list of threats to national security in various areas. Significant attention is paid in the document to national identity, historical heritage, and traditional values, which have become objects of direct operation in modern interstate confrontation. An important addition to the document is the clarification of indicators of the state of national security and the inclusion of the Belarusian People's Congress in the list of entities ensuring national security.

Indeed, issues of a spiritual and moral nature, protecting the institution of the traditional family, and increasing the efficiency of security in the demographic sphere received significant resonance and feedback in Belarusian society. They are reflected in a number of sections of the Concept. Belarus once again declares to all states that it has no complaints against anyone, is ready to build a peaceful and equal dialogue with everyone, but will not tolerate forceful dictatorship.

### Economy is at the centre of security

The President regularly sets only one main task for the Government — to develop the economy. She is the foundation. Therefore, the economy is one of the key issues in national security. In recent years, the key result of the Government's measures to support the economy has been the balanced operation of the real sector. It functions stably, and as a result, the country's food security is ensured.

The pivotal point of economic development is investment. The second driver of growth is increasing production and export reorientation. In the current conditions, special attention is paid to import-substituting products. The third important point is the development of the domestic market, when the priority is to ensure such indicators as affordability and curbing inflation. It is no secret that an increase in the growth rate of nominal wages above the inflation rate will contribute to increased demand in the consumer market. Without a doubt, the key issue is investment. They need to be increased. All this will help create new jobs, especially in the regions. It is important that the country's economy maintains a social orientation.

### Prioritising our own achievements

Today, economic security is based on technological security, when we ourselves can grow potatoes and produce chips, experts say. This means we need to improve the technological



base. In economics, those who have better and higher technology always triumph. This is why we need to care about technological security and technological sovereignty. Technologies pay off only in large spaces, and it is necessary to shape it. The core is the Union State. Joint programmes are already producing results. And we work on the principles of complementarity. We are moving from simple cooperation to mutual investment in high technology. This is especially true in the Year of Quality. After all, quality is largely achieved through high technology. You cannot make a high-quality microcircuit by hand. Everything is determined by the level of technology. And this year is the year of technology improvement.

Undoubtedly, a stable economy is one of the fundamental pillars of national security. Without it, performing other security functions becomes almost impossible. Of particular importance in modern conditions are the issues of technological sovereignty and import independence. No country in the world can completely localise the production of a high-tech product. Our task is to ensure that the key components of Belarusian branded products are produced either within the country or in states friendly to us. In addition, increasing technological independence is solved through the development of our own science and design base, as well as the acquisition of best practices in the field of technology.

This is such a difficult, but verified, with many components, path to achieving and ensuring the national security of the country.

Vasily Kharitonov

# MADE WELL CONFIRMED

**2024 declared the Year of Quality**



**There is a logic in the fact that the Head of State dedicated his first working meeting in the coming year specifically to issues of improving quality. And in the broadest sense of the word. This is not only about consumer properties, availability and reliability of goods and services. As the President stated, every person should experience the theme of the Year of Quality through changing the quality of their life.**

**T**he Head of State recalled that an ambitious goal was set in the Year of Quality: to bring quality control of goods and services produced and the country's quality of life to a higher level. In this endeavour, the President emphasised, Belarusians have something to build on. Firstly, from traditions, according to which there is something to rely on. We, Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced, have preserved the continuity of the Soviet era and that historical period gave rise to national development. And if it had not been for that time, there would not have been the most modern and new designs. It's easier to ruin everything. However, smart people preserve and develop everything that has been accumulated by previous generations.

It is well known that in the Soviet Union the economy of the BSSR was one of the most technologically advanced and developed among other union republics. Having survived the devastation of the 90s, it was not easy to preserve the quality standards created by the labour of the Soviet people, but the Belarusians were able to do it. Secondly, the image of Belarus has been formed as a successor to the best Soviet achievements. According to the President, modern challenges demonstrate the reasonableness and foresight of the choice of the people who supported such a course of political development. Thirdly, the growing demand for the values of the welfare state is obvious. And not only in the post-Soviet space — all over the world, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised. Returning to these values is a matter of people's quality of life: spiritual sphere, economic well-being, social justice. Everything here is interconnected.

### Alexander Lukashenko:



*“This year will be special for us. The tension will be incredible: everyone is preparing for the presidential elections in Belarus — both in the East and in the West. The goals are different. But we must surpass ourselves. To do this, there should be no formalism and sloppiness. With all the positive things that we have and that cannot be taken away, there should be no sloppiness and formalism (we did something for show, noted it — everything is fine). And there won't be, I promise you that. Therefore, from the first days of this year, prepare yourself for difficult, hard work.”*

### Main criteria are obvious

The conversation at the Palace of Independence was, one might say, multi-format. Leaders of the Government, both chambers of Parliament, the Administration of the President,

the Federation of Trade Unions, the National Academy of Sciences, and a number of leading enterprises of the country were invited to participate in it. Such a wide range of participants is due to the very essence of the Year of Quality. The government prepared a republican action plan for its implementation, and Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko presented it. The President insists: there should be no casual or ostentatious events this year. And not only this. Therefore, there should be no events for show. The plan should reflect the main idea of the coming year, which contains a whole range of areas — from careful use of resources to personal responsibility for the results of one's work. People need to see that this is the Year of Quality.

So, the main criteria for the high quality of domestic products, according to the Prime Minister, are the constantly growing export of Belarusian goods and services, the recognition of the national brand 'Made in Belarus', which is represented in 160 countries. Last year was also marked by growth in Belarusian exports. In 11 months, it reached \$36 billion and exceeded the 2022 figure by almost six percent. The recognition of Belarus is also in the number of people who visit it. Last year alone, over 1.6 million people from 173 countries visited Belarus. They come to us not only for tourism purposes, but also for medical and educational services, said Roman Golovchenko. Last year, 123 thousand citizens from 149 countries were treated, 25 thousand students from more than 100 countries study in Belarus. If there were no quality of education and treatment, no one would come here. But there is certainly room for growth, the Prime Minister believes.

### Depends on everyone's work

The Republican Action Plan for the Year of Quality provides for a set of economic, ideological, cultural and other events aimed at developing responsibility for one's country and understanding the role of the current generation in its destiny. The plan consists of more than a hundred activities. Conventionally, they can be divided into two directions. The first is measures to ensure the competitiveness of the national economy in the world market. The main emphasis is on strengthening economic potential, modernizing enterprises, and creating import-substituting innovative industries.

Other areas include sustainable energy and energy efficiency, careful and thoughtful treatment of resources, the introduction of modern resource-saving technologies, innovations and rationalisation ideas. We must revive the approach to healthy innovation, to the introduction of inventions and innovations by people who participate in the production process. An appropriate mechanism or toolkit will be created to increase the interest of workers in the creation and use of, as they are now called in modern terms, service-related intellectual property, the Prime Minister noted.

The second set of activities concerns improving the quality of life of people. Roman Golovchenko recalled that this year salaries in state organizations will increase due to an increase in the base rate. From February 1st, labour pensions will also increase — by an average of 10 percent. In 2024, work will continue to develop the vocational training system at the level of higher and secondary specialised education, introduce new specialties for the economy and create resource centres for the most popular specialties. To improve the quality and accessibility of medical care to the population, the Caring Clinic and Healthy Cities and Towns projects will be implemented.

In a word, the Year of Quality is not about the consumer properties of individual goods, but a much more global and important message that the prosperity of the country depends on the quality of everyone's work.

### Highest status

An important issue on the agenda of the meeting is the establishment of the State Quality Mark. What will it look like and who will it be assigned to? In total, more than 20 variants of the image of the State Mark of the Republic of Belarus were developed, and five projects were selected for final discussion. Their concepts are similar (the quality mark is depicted in the form of a pentagon, known since Soviet times), but the details are different. On one, for example, in the centre of the figure there is an image of the letter 'K' turned 90 degrees, on the other — a stork. But Aleksandr Lukashenko proposed not to deviate from traditions here either. In his opinion, there is nothing to complain about in that Soviet mark. Everything is minimal there. There is no need to artificially move away from the good. There should be no excesses. Neither the colour scheme nor the designs should overload the mark itself.

As Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko told reporters following the meeting, there is no final decision on what exactly the mark will look like. But it will be adopted in the near future, taking into account the comments made. As a result of the discussion, it was agreed that there was no need to greatly modify the mark that existed in Soviet times. Naturally, the letters of the USSR will be replaced with the name of our country, but the stylization itself, including the pentagon as a symbol of reliability, accessibility, safety, aesthetics and innovation and the inverted letter 'K', will be the simplest and most understandable option for perception. Be that as it may, we can already say with confidence that the status of the State Quality Mark will be the highest and we will have to seriously fight for it. Applicants will be carefully selected, and their products must correspond to the best domestic and global analogues. It is planned that the decision on awarding the mark will be made by the republican certification commission. And its first owners will appear at the end of this year.

## COMPLYING WITH GLOBAL STANDARDS

**Mining dump trucks and buses, combine harvesters and tractors, televisions and, perhaps, the most delicious chocolates — these and other products that Belarus produced back in Soviet times thundered throughout the USSR! They are still popular today. And not only for us and our neighbours. Belarusian brands today can be found in more than 160 countries around the world. And this is a sure indicator that our products can compete. Before the meeting, the President got acquainted with the mini-exhibition *Quality Mark: Tradition of the Past and Present*, which was organised right at the Palace of Independence.**

Heads of organisations and production veterans who were at the origins of awarding the USSR Quality Mark presented Aleksandr Lukashenko with samples that fully reflected the characteristics of products produced previously and currently.

The range of exhibits is the widest — from sweets and milk to heavy-industry equipment. Samples can be divided into two categories: products that were awarded the USSR Quality Mark, as well as those that apply for the modern State Quality Mark of the Republic of Belarus in 2024.

The first vehicle to receive the USSR Quality Mark in 1967 was the legendary BELAZ-540 mining dump truck. Later, the MAZ-53352 truck and the Belarus tractor received this award.

Now Belaz, Minsk Automobile Plant and Minsk Tractor Works, which have long become national brands, offer their products to be designated with the Quality Mark of modern Belarus. Among the contenders there are products from a number of other well-known brands.

For example, Horizont TV sets. At one time, it was the Horizont-723 model that became the first colour TV in the Soviet Union, marked with the USSR Quality Mark. By the way, it was presented at the exhibition. General Director of the Horizont holding Yuri Predko assured the Head of State: the TV is still working properly today! And at the same time he presented the newest model with OLED and 4K Ultra HD technology, which will soon go on sale. It meets all international standards, and in terms of price/quality ratio it significantly outperforms imported analogues.

Engines from the Minsk Motor Plant, products of the Integral company, Gomselmash harvesters, Kommunarka confectionery, products under the Molochny Gostinets brand, Kamvol fabrics and Svitanak clothing are also vying for the new Quality Mark.

## 2024 - THE YEAR OF QUALITY



### There will be enough applicants

At the stand of BELAZ OJSC — Management Company of BELAZ HOLDING, Acting General Director Sergei Lesin told Aleksandr Lukashenko about that legendary BELAZ-540 model. Now the company expects to receive the State Quality Mark of Belarus for the BELAZ-7513 model (with a carrying capacity of 130 — 136 tons), which has been produced since 1996. It is noteworthy that today 8 out of 10 mining dump trucks of this capacity sold in the world are BELAZ vehicles.

Deputy Prime Minister Pyotr Parkhomchik clarified that similar models are produced by all BELAZ's global competitors (including American and Japanese), but in this niche our manufacturer is the undisputed leader and beats foreign companies.

“Why are we leaders here? Because they (competitors) are leaving?” asked the Head of State.

“This model is called the ‘Kalashnikov assault rifle’. Siberians give this assessment: reliability, ease of maintenance, operation and, most importantly, efficiency in terms of productivity and low operating costs. Today it is presented in 12 modifications and 140 designs,” said Sergei Lesin.

While inspecting the exposition, the President spoke

in detail with the directors of enterprises and members of the Government. The focus is on the topic of import substitution and localisation. Especially considering the sanctions pressure, which forced companies to rebuild production chains and work with reliable partners to create their own components.

Individual clarifying questions from the Head of State essentially became instructions. In particular, this applies to the line of powerful engines for energy-intensive tractors and combines. The President was assured that everything would be completed in two years, work on this is actively underway. “The approach will be very serious. This is not for the sake of image,” emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko. At the same time, his main requirement for both current and future applicants for the State Quality Mark is to be worthy of such a high rating: “BELAZ, MTZ, MAZ and so on — they cannot but have a Quality Mark for some of their products. But this product must be unique, it must be competitive in international markets. It must be impeccable! We will check. We won't simply stamp the Quality Mark on your cab, hood or glass, otherwise we will disgrace the country.” And in this regard, an important emphasis, “If we improve the quality of our products, we will be indispensable in the



world. We have everything. And the quality is not bad. But we need to do better — up to the Quality Mark.”

General Director of the Minsk Motor Plant Aleksandr Botvinnik presented to the Head of State the D-50 engine, which received the USSR Quality Mark in 1971, and a series of new small-displacement engines, which are one and a half times lighter in weight, but the same amount of power exceeds the model of the last century and corresponds to all existing world analogues.

Today, the company has been able to replace a number of engines from famous brands that were previously purchased by our manufacturers, and is actively working to ensure that agricultural machinery manufacturers can also install Belarusian engines in their machines.

Interesting point. Aleksandr Botvinnik brought to the exhibition an entry in the Minsk Motor Plant guest book, left on September 23rd, 1994. This was the first visit by the President to a large industrial enterprise in the country. Then Aleksandr Lukashenko wrote: ‘For the first time in recent times I felt: we will break through. Convinced!’

Already during the meeting, the President will remind the participants about this photograph, “You saw the photograph there. This was one of my first visits to our giant companies. 1994. I really felt then that we would break through. Because people were focused on it. People were in such trouble that there was simply nowhere to go. We got out. Today we create the most modern models of technology. But I say frankly: the quality is still not enough.”

### Tradition since Soviet times

In the USSR this pentagon could be seen on any non-military product — from children’s toys and school

pencil cases to heavy dump trucks and large-tonnage ocean vessels. The five facets of this sign were associated with the five-pointed star, as well as the components of quality: reliability, accessibility, safety, aesthetics and innovation. Moreover, a fair portion of such products were produced on Belarusian soil. The state quality mark as a single mark in the USSR of the highest category of product quality, certified for compliance with the best world and domestic standards, was introduced on April 20th, 1967. The right to label products with a pentagon familiar to the older generation was granted based on the results of state certification, and for only two to three years. Then the high standard had to be confirmed again... The quality mark was applied directly to the goods or to their packaging, containers and shipping documentation, to labels. And it had not only a psychological, but also an economic effect: for a number of goods (mainly new types of products) produced with such a mark, in order to stimulate enterprises, premiums were provided for wholesale and retail prices.

Our republic is actively involved in the process of improving the quality of its products. And thus even contributed to what is today called ‘import substitution’. On August 4th, 1967, the newspaper *Sovietskaya Belorussia* reported, “The BelAZ-540 dump truck was the first in Belarus to receive the Quality Mark. This badge of honour will be installed on the hood of the vehicle as evidence of the great labour success of the entire team. Following the automakers, Orsha machine tool builders received a high honour: the Quality Mark was awarded to the surface grinding machine of the Krasny Borets plant. This machine provides machining accuracy down to one micron, although previously three microns were allowed. This will allow us to refuse to purchase similar machines abroad.”

The press also reported, “Five products from the Minsk meat processing plant receive the Quality Mark. Minsk factories are successfully preparing for product certification: electric refrigerators, a motor plant, a radio plant, and the Gomel Tractor Starting Engine Plant. Next year, about 30 enterprises are scheduled to undergo product certification.”

The results of that eighth five-year plan (1966 - 1970) exceeded expectations. As of January 1st, 1971, 103 types of BSSR products passed state certification in the BSSR. And seven years later, over 2,800 types of products were designated with a pentagon, of which 1,900 were consumer goods.

### The quality is worth it

At the same time, the range of noted products expanded from year to year. As follows from the Brief Encyclopedia *Belarusian SSR*, which was published in 1979, at the beginning of 1978 in the BSSR, dump trucks and

## Aleksandr Lukashenko:

*“When we talk about quality and what to do, we are waiting something (there will, of course, be a programme) — there is no need to wait for anything. If someone doesn't know where to start, start with yourself. Come to work on time and do your job very efficiently. In other words, each of us should have our own personal plan for improving the quality of life (no matter in our heads or on paper). And everyone should think about what they should do in the Year of Quality for themselves, for their family and the country in their workplace.”*

wristwatches, means of mechanisation and automation of managerial and engineering labour were ‘signature quality’. As well as radio measuring instruments, furniture sets, fabrics, food and other products of enterprises of Soviet Belarus. Moreover, since 1975, comprehensive product quality management systems have been developed in the BSSR. In 1976, the Republican Quality Commission and its industry sections were formed.

Among the enterprises that were the first to introduce integrated product quality management systems were the Minsk computer, tractor, motor, automobile plants, the Horizont production association, as well as the Gomel Agricultural Engineering Plant. It is not surprising that even today (tens of years after their release) many Soviet-made MAZs and tractors can be found in the post-Soviet space. And the Zenit camera, produced along with Krasnogorsk near Moscow in the Belarusian Vileika, can also be found in antique shops and collections in the West, where it was successfully sold.

To this day, on the forums of collectors and radio amateurs, you can find in excellent condition another product from the BSSR — Ocean-209. Produced since November 1976 at Horizont Minsk Production Association, this portable transistor radio with improved parameters and external design received the State Quality Mark on the first attempt. According to many modern radio amateurs, the Minsk Ocean-209 is one of the best Soviet household devices in terms of sensitivity and selectivity, and certainly in its class. By the way, this device, like the Zenit, cost ‘a hundred’, which was by no means cheap. But the quality was worth it...

Now, in the Year of Quality, Belarus, by right of memory and its historical foundation, must surpass itself. In November 2023, the idea of establishing a unified State

Quality Mark in our country was supported by the President. The Head of State proposed taking the Soviet quality mark, which he liked outwardly, as the basis for the modern Belarusian one, and gave the corresponding instructions to the Government.

...This mark was a kind of high production award, the same as, for example, the Red Banner. The bonus fund for the company was increased, its employees were allocated a larger number of new apartments and cars, vouchers to sanatoriums and resorts. Directors of the best productions were encouraged by state awards. The General Concept of Creating a National Brand, developed in 2023, and the need voiced by the Head of State to promote (including through national trading houses) our products on the markets of friendly countries allow us to expect that the domestic Quality Mark will appear this year. It is worth noting that the GOST system and the current system of industry standards, which are tied to the so-called ISO 9000 system — a series of international standards, are somewhat distant things for the average consumer. Consumers are more familiar and close to something that is immediately noticeable on the packaging, which carries quality indicators. The Soviet Quality Mark was a symbol that the products it marked were truly of high quality. Such a sign does not at all come into conflict with the management system, the GOST system. But it is the sign, designed for the average consumer, that carries certain analogies and continuity and therefore has great meaning.

## From the past to the future

By the way, the model of that legendary 27-ton BELAZ-540, which in 1967 became the first vehicle awarded the State Quality Mark of the USSR, today can be seen among the memorable exhibits of BELAZ OJSC. The machine





worked for a long time in the multidisciplinary structural division of BelAZstroykompleks. Today, the restored vehicle delights tourists visiting the plant, becoming a unique and attractive photo zone for plant visitors.

This interest is understandable, because the vehicle is rightfully a legend of domestic and Soviet mechanical engineering. It is not without reason that it is called a breakthrough in technological thought, which Zhodino designers once accomplished. The first heavy-duty dump truck of the BELAZ-540 enterprise was designed for work in quarries and was produced from 1965 to 1985. It was distinguished from its analogues by higher manoeuvrability, lighter weight and, importantly, greater load capacity. In addition, BELAZ-540 was the first car produced in the USSR with hydropneumatic wheel suspension, combined hydraulic systems for power steering and body lift. By 1986, the company was producing up to 6 thousand vehicles per year, which accounted for half of the world production of heavy-duty mining equipment. The vehicle was in demand in the USSR and was exported.

Hero of Belarus, Honoured Industrial Worker of Belarus Pavel Mariev, who has worked at the Belarusian Automobile Plant since 1959 (including as its general director from 1992 to 2007), calls the BELAZ-540 fateful. "There were no special conditions for its creation, it was not easy, but the first 'child' was born," he recalled. "The vehicle was already ahead of its time with its technical solutions and was competitive for many years to come. From the very first sample, a close collaboration with scientists was established; we used the most advanced scientific developments. You could say they created science themselves. Each unit was at the level of inventions that were patented and laid the scientific foundation that was used in the development of other dump trucks. Theses were presented on this machine — both candidate and doctoral theses, which speaks of the high technical level and the design approaches incorporated into that first dump truck. The team of its creators was young, but talented and, as history has shown, visionary. After all, we already understood then that the quarries would expand and the load-carrying capacity of the machines would increase."

Indeed, it was this dump truck that subsequently became the base model of the entire family of heavy-duty vehicles for the mining industry and construction with a lifting capacity of 27 to 110 tons, increasing labour productivity and reducing the cost of transportation in the quarry. Today the company produces more than 550 modifications of quarry equipment with a lifting capacity of up to 450 tons for operation in different climatic conditions.

Aleksey **Fedosov**



# ECONOMY AND LIFE ARE DIRECTLY DEPENDENT

To set the priorities straight, the economy is still the main thing. Our well-being depends on it. No one will argue that the economy directly affects our lives. That is why there is so much attention to economic aspects: not only achievements, successes, innovations, but also problems. And all because it is this approach that will help lead us to the goal in the right way.

By the way, the degree of openness of the Belarusian economy is such that exports account for most of the total volume of products and services produced in the country. Simply put, the well-being of the state, stability in the foreign exchange market and the stability of the rouble exchange rate largely depend on the dynamic promotion of products of domestic enterprises to foreign markets. Yes, it is export that is becoming a key factor in the economic security of Belarus. And here we come to the most important thing in understanding these obvious trends. The point is that only high-quality products sell well. That is why the message to turn the closest attention to quality in the fullest understanding of this characteristic term is in all respects justified, more relevant than ever, and timely. It receives special attention at all levels. There is a principled, but not biased conversation about whether all reserves are used and how to stimulate quality growth.

### ABCs can be rewritten

Another important point. Gone are the days when the reputation of the manufacturer only influenced consumer demand. Now the image of the country depends to a large extent on it. And the latter is judged not only by the undeniable quality of a number of food products and consumer goods, but also by the degree of protectability of domestic trademarks. After all, today it is not enough to create a competitive product; from a legal point of view, it is necessary to competently present it to the market and protect it from attacks by unscrupulous competitors. According to calculations by the National Academy of Sciences, the value, or economic potential of Belarus is several trillion dollars, which is capable of ensuring annual GDP growth of at least 10-15 percent for several years to come. However, when it comes to calculating the cost of trademarks, many manufacturers do not dare to give figures: either out of modesty, or out of ignorance. While all over the world, the intangible assets of companies are becoming an increasingly significant resource for sustainable development, allowing them to 'inflate' the price of the same branded T-shirts or sneakers. It has been proven that a well-used 'face' increases the cost of production by a full quarter.

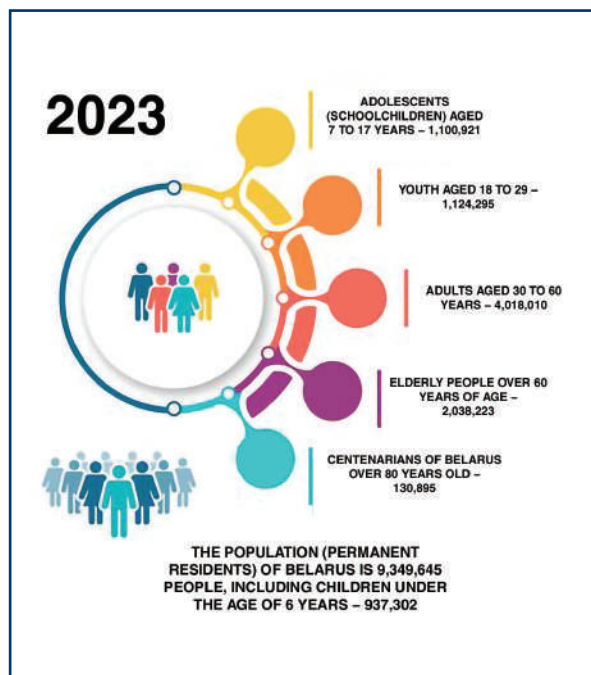
It is well known that there are truisms of economics, or rather, its ABCs. But it turns out that the ABCs of economics can be rewritten. I remembered an unexpected story about how a computer programme created by Gomel scientists made it possible to save money and energy resources. It turns out that transferring energy-intensive production processes to the night, when more favourable electricity tariffs apply, can even result in additional financial

costs for the enterprise and an increase in electricity consumption. This unexpected conclusion was reached by scientists from the Gomel State Technical University, who developed methods for energy- and resource-saving management of electricity consumption of enterprises based on a comprehensive assessment of efficiency. Using their own computer programme, young scientists analysed the situation at Tsentrolit Foundry in Gomel and at Mozyrsol OJSC and passed on their recommendations to the enterprises. Thanks to more competent management, they make it possible to increase the energy efficiency of electricity consumption by 5 percent, reduce energy costs by 12 percent and fuel consumption by more than 5 percent.

### Trends come to the forefront

Without a doubt, we have achieved a lot in various areas. But you cannot move by inertia. In order to keep up with global progress, it is necessary to set new promising and ambitious goals for ourselves: to produce high-tech products, expand sales markets, boldly introduce breakthrough developments and reach higher levels in the field of medicine, education, culture and other areas. What do we need to do? First of all, treat the matter responsibly and professionally, taking into account modern needs, requirements and trends. And then everything will work out. Consumers will definitely respond adequately to lucrative offers made to them. It's not for nothing that our chocolate, cosmetics, shoes, and clothes are actively being bought up in the renovated Belarus pavilion at VDNKh in the Russian capital.

Yes, many domestic goods, both here at home and abroad, are rightfully in high demand. And it is deserved when



enterprises are scrupulous in the production of their products. If it is Belarusian, then it must have a quality mark. Now this is a special trend and the most important message.

### Demand and high-level requirements

Our products have already gained trust around the world. Many canned milk factories are actively developing the Chinese market, although it is not easy to break into the Celestial Empire today. In conditions of increasing competition, it is the price-quality ratio that becomes one of the most important success factors. Our manufacturers take this into account and often outperform their competitors. For example, at the recently held China International Import Exhibition in Shanghai, a queue of many meters lined up for Belarusian dishes. Visitors noted that 'foreign' ice cream is full of all sorts of chemicals, but the Belarusian dessert is natural.

Yes, our products are known and appreciated in dozens of countries. And this convincingly proves its high demand. The task for this year is to maintain and strengthen our presence in traditional markets, and to more actively seek trading partners in far-flung countries, offering products that meet all consumer requirements. Particular attention is paid to the African continent. The reference points have been identified: Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea. Our food, machinery, equipment, chemical products and other goods are waiting there.

And here it is important not to miss the chance. Belarusian manufacturers need to step up and promote their product to the market using modern marketing tools. This is the creation of a branded trade network, sales of products through online stores, marketplaces, and carrying out bright advertising campaigns.

In this regard, I recalled the experience of Japan, which in a short period of time managed to become the second economy in the world. Now this place belongs to China, which is confidently moving towards championship. What is the success of these countries? Undoubtedly high quality products. It is laid down at every production stage. Today, the word 'guarantee' generally has no time limit. With the current level of progress and technology, marriage must become an anachronism. By the way, in the Eastern management model there is the word 'kaizen' - constant improvement. This is one of the key management concepts, which is based on the continuous improvement of all production processes.

### Time poses challenges

Experts note that in the Year of Quality in our country it is important to focus on the development of science-intensive and high-tech products. However, technologies with artificial intelligence are already increasingly being used in the manufacturing sector, for example, in the design of various parts and mechanisms. And this leads to a reduction in the number of defective goods. Virtual



testing of parts helps to obtain more accurate and high-quality parameters.

At the same time, the implementation of artificial intelligence is still happening in a targeted manner, although many companies have serious competencies and are able to master breakthrough technologies in various industries.

Of course, digital transformation places new demands on specialists. It is important that the education system has time to respond to modern challenges in a timely manner and prepare the specialists of tomorrow. After all, in essence, we must always keep quality at the highest level, no matter what year passes.

At the micro level, when it comes to a decent quality of life, it is customary to talk about affordable medical care, increased wages, personal security, social guarantees, and confidence in the future. At the macro level — about the rise of production, economic sovereignty, modernisation of enterprises based on the active introduction of the latest technologies. Of course, initiative is needed here. And its manifestation must be encouraged. However, everyone should develop personal responsibility for the result and the ability to do the assigned work at a high professional level. Not only the development of the country as a whole, but also the well-being of everyone depends on this.

### There are no trifles in such a matter

The conclusion suggests itself: an efficient economy works and the well-being of citizens grows. This is not an axiom, but a real truth. There is something to strive for, in a word. And in the magazine we will try to track progress in this regard. After all, there are simply no trifles in a matter where economics and life are connected. Especially nowadays.

Viktor **Mikhailov**

# "THERE IS A MARKET, WE ARE IN DEMAND"



## Aleksandr Lukashenko about the prospects for the passenger car industry in Belarus

**A fact that you can be proud of and that is undoubtedly worth cherishing: over the years of sovereignty, the country has not only preserved the industrial base of the Soviet era and made it competitive in all respects. Moreover, completely new industries have appeared in Belarus. The country went into space, built a nuclear power plant, developed its own rocket science, and made an incredible leap in the development of the agro-industrial complex. And here we cannot take away the President's ability to look beyond the horizon, see new prospects and convince everyone that this will benefit the economy and people. An example of this was the production of our own passenger car.**

It is well known that Belarus is famous for the production of passenger, cargo, agricultural, and road construction equipment. The only thing missing from this line was a

passenger car. We approached the problem more than once. However, the difficulty was that the global auto industry had stepped far forward in this direction and the competition was too great. Then a decision is made at the highest level: to unite with those who know a lot about cars, who will help create an acceptable car based on their and our technologies. The minimum task was completed, and while visiting BELGEE, Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked the company's staff for the fact that buyers lined up for cars made at the plant. The next task is to bring the level of localisation of production to the maximum possible and by January 1st, 2025, enter mass production of our own electric vehicles.

### "They want to do business with us"

Yes, it was not for nothing that Belarus was once called 'the assembly shop of the Soviet Union'. The list of industrial areas that developed on our lands during Soviet times is simply

impressive. Over the years of independence, we have not only preserved, but also increased this property. The fruits of a competent policy are obvious: even despite the sanctions, the mechanical engineering industry, for example, is showing its best performance in recent years.

And Minister of Industry Aleksandr Rogozhnik had something to report to the Head of State on the development of the engineering industry. Namely: last year all targets were met, production volumes for all types of transport increased. At the same time, export figures are the highest in the last decade.

One more fundamental point. Thanks to the President, it was possible to obtain a Russian loan for the creation of import-substituting projects. Nevertheless, Aleksandr Lukashenko is directing the Government and all manufacturers to work more actively in terms of import substitution. Moreover, in many areas of the economy — from mechanical engineering to the military-industrial complex, “There is a market, we are in demand. Foreign producers have left, Russian consumers need products. They want to do business with us. We have competencies, we have retained them. We need to take advantage of this! Anywhere we can do.”

### Production that focuses on people

It will not be wrong to think that the BELGEE plant largely determines the weather on the Belarusian car market today. This only happened in Soviet times, that people would wait in line to buy a car. Today, of course, it does not last for years, as it did then, but we have to wait three to six months for Belarusian cars. The production clearly needs more dynamics. Listening to the report, the President reasoned, “If I may say so in the popular saying, we are a bird flying, perhaps not on one wing, but on one and a half wings. We make trucks, dump trucks, buses, etc. This line is missing one thing — a passenger car, which we started making. We’re still collecting some of our own components and so on, but this line should include a passenger car.”

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that production should be focused on people, “It’s good when there are queues. They love the car. The car is not bad. But it is desirable that we meet the demand. Otherwise, if there is a gap, something will fill it, competitors will come. Therefore, it is necessary, as far as possible, to increase the production of passenger vehicles.”

The President recommends that we clearly define the brands of cars that we can promote so as not to waste resources. Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that China once started as we do now: with the assembly of cars of famous brands. The Chinese Geely, by the way, also has roots in the global automobile market. Now this brand is among the trendsetters. The Head of State indicated, “Therefore, we need to cooperate with China, learn from them and borrow everything we can. One issue remains — localisation. We need to produce more ourselves.”

## THE AGENDA

### DON'T STAY STILL, BUT ACCELERATE

**The President set the task of mastering mass production of the Belarusian electric car from January 1st, 2025**

**There has been talk for a long time about the development of a domestic electric car. However, both scientists and manufacturers have always agreed: this process is slow, there are many technical subtleties. Of course, it would still be possible to ‘hang in there’ for a long time. But the global auto industry has long been relying on cars with electric traction. Aleksandr Lukashenko understands this trend very well, and therefore, during a visit to the BELGEE plant, he set quite strict deadlines: to master mass production of the Belarusian electric car from January 1st, 2025. The fact is that the Head of State constantly demands from scientists, officials, and workers not to stand still, but to accelerate. It is symbolic that large motivational posters hang in the assembly shop of the plant. The inscription on one of them reads: ‘Not a step back, not a step in place, only forward and only all together!’**

### Everything is going according to plan

It has been determined and agreed: a domestic electric car will be created on the basis of the Belarusian BELGEE X50. Already this year, a pilot industrial batch of BELGEE EX50 electric cars will be released, they will pass all tests, and from 2025 production should become serial. As Sergei Poddubko, General Director of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, reported to the President, for an experimental model, the Ministry of Industry produced a set of traction electric drives, which consists of an electric motor, a control inverter and a gear unit. A full-size mock-up of the traction battery was made to modify the body of the base platform for its installation. In the near future, design documentation will be developed for localisable components and parts and their installation on a passenger electric vehicle. According to Deputy Prime Minister Pyotr Parkhomchik, a company will subsequently be determined that will engage in serial production of the electric vehicle. At the same time, all body work will be carried out at BELGEE in order to minimise costs.

### Technology will affect price

In a conversation with journalists, Pyotr Parkhomchik assessed the task soberly. He admitted that it had become tougher. By the deadline set by the Head of State, it is necessary to create the necessary technological capacities and certain competencies that are not available in the Ministry of Industry today. Which ones? In particular, high-precision gears for high-speed gearboxes are not produced in Belarus, the Deputy Prime Minister explained, “We can produce gears for BELAZ, MAZ, trucks, but we cannot produce gears for passenger vehicles.

By the end of the year, it is necessary to create capacities, produce a pilot industrial batch of electric vehicles this year, and complete all issues related to certification. That is, confirm all design decisions that are declared.”

Answering perhaps the most pressing question — how much our electric car will cost — Pyotr Parkhomchik said that everyone will strive for a competitive price, “We set ourselves the goal that we need to create technologies that will allow us to get a competitive price. As a guide, we can take the cost of the domestic Belgee X50, since the electric car will be based on this model, but the final price will be determined later, when the cost of the battery and other components becomes known.”

### A RETROSPECTIVE

#### IMPORTANT PAGE OF THE CHRONICLE

**The President visited the first production site of BELGEE CJSC in Borisov in May 2014. At that time, the Belarusian production of passenger cars was just in its infancy. On the basis of the Borisov plant Avtogidrousilitel a large-scale assembly of several models with a capacity of 10 thousand cars per year was organised. Aleksandr Lukashenko personally tested each model and was generally pleased with the technical characteristics of the vehicles.**

“The next step is the construction of a powerful plant near Borisov (between Zhodino and Borisov),” the Head of State announced the strategy for the further development of the large-scale project. It was discussed in detail at a meeting with the President in 2015. Aleksandr Lukashenko took personal control of all the work, delving deeply into all processes. The progress of construction of the new enterprise was strictly monitored by both the Presidential Administration and the State Control Committee. Everything was promptly reported to the Head of State. The government has developed a draft decree on organising the production of passenger cars. At that meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko stated, “We made a decision: we will have a passenger car, and we will create it together with the Chinese based on their technologies. This does not mean that we will simply copy one to one and produce a similar car. Where we can, and we can, we have experience in the assembly and production of trucks and components for passenger cars, we must use our own experience and our own developments.” In November 2017, the President was again at the BELGEE plant, but in a new, modern production facility. Aleksandr Lukashenko took part in the opening ceremony. The rhythmic and at the same time graceful work of robots on the conveyor belt was mesmerizing. It was truly a historic moment. Communicating with the factory workers, the Head of State did not hide his positive emotions, “Our friends (from China) responded to my request and helped create this wonderful plant. Moreover, they also provided loans.

Therefore, first of all, I want to say today that my dream of making my own passenger car has come true.”

The President addressed words of gratitude to the leadership of the People's Republic of China and personally to the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, who supported the project.

The beginning of a long journey had been made. But there was still a big battle ahead for a place in the market sun. After all, the supply of cars of various brands, both in Belarus and in Russia, was simply crazy back then. It was a very bold step to bring a completely new player into an overheated market. But the one who walks will master the road. Aleksandr Lukashenko suggested that factory workers extend the warranty period for their cars. He advised to actively engage in building a system for their service. All these are important components of brand promotion. Support for this process was also promised from the state, “We are thinking about what opportunities there are to help buy this car. A family needs a car. Therefore, we need to figure out how to support you. I think we will find good options. The document will be released soon.”

Such options were soon found in the form of convenient and relatively cheap credit support for the purchase of cars by the population, leasing support. This system, by the way, is still in effect today. And on the day the plant opened, the President summarised, “We created our own car, wrote another bright page in the history of our country.”

Today, the chronicle of a successful and useful enterprise for the country and people continues.

### THE STAND

#### EURASIAN ELECTRIC BUS, HYDROGEN BELAZ PROTOTYPE AND NEW MAZ PRODUCTS

**The Head of State was shown models of electric vehicles produced at enterprises of the Ministry of Industry and the National Academy of Sciences**

Among them is the first prototype of the MAZX truck tractor. This is a hybrid vehicle equipped with a diesel engine and two electric motors with a power reserve of 3 thousand kilometres. Nearby is a Eurasian electric bus model E321. The degree of localisation is 80 percent. The electronics are completely Belarusian. This year more than 70 such vehicles will be produced. Geography of supplies: Krasnodar, Sochi, Nizhny Novgorod.

The 130-ton BELAZ7513M2, powered by hydrogen, is also presented at the exhibition. Its advantages include efficiency, environmental friendliness and low noise level. The car was made last year.

Nearby is another new product — a 90-ton BELAZ7558E electric dump truck powered by lithium-ion batteries. Compared to a regular BELAZ, it allows saving about 400 thousand dollars a year due to the difference in the cost of diesel fuel and electricity.

At the UNISON enterprise, a trial batch of passenger cars of the HONGQI brand of the Chinese company FAW has already been assembled and successfully launched.

“It's a decent car,” Aleksandr Lukashenko praised.

And as a crowning achievement — a prototype of the BELGEE



EX 50 electric car. Having familiarised himself with its technical characteristics, the President turned to Deputy Prime Minister Pyotr Parkhomchik, “In general, in a year you are inviting me personally to see the car that we will produce. You have a year to start producing similar cars. If the electric car is the future, then let’s deal with that future now.”

## THE PROSPECTS

**ABILITY TO CREATE COMPETENCIES**  
In what other areas is work being done to create domestic passenger cars?

### Under the Belarusian brand

In July 2023, the BELGEE plant received a license to produce the X50 crossover under its own brand. This will extend the life cycle of the model to five years and create conditions for more efficient work on import substitution. This year it is planned to obtain a license for two more models — X70 and S50. Licenses for X50, X70, S50 will allow us to intensify work on import substitution of automotive components and ultimately create competence not only in the production of passenger cars, but also in their development and modernisation. Glass, batteries, tires, and an electronic emergency call unit have already been localised. The Ministry of Industry has organised work to expand the range of import-substituting automotive components. A plan to modernise the plant is being agreed upon to increase capacity to 120 thousand vehicles with a two-shift operating mode.

### Possible options

A new direction in the development of domestic passenger engineering is the production at UNISON of HONGQI brand passenger cars by the Chinese company FAW. An Agreement on Technical Assistance and a Manufacturing

License Agreement have been concluded, which in the future makes it possible to carry out not only large-unit, but also small-unit assembly of passenger cars with subsequent localisation of individual assemblies and components.

An Agreement of Intent for Cooperation was concluded between UNISON and FAW, according to which at the initial stage the parties agreed on the supply and assembly of cars in SKD mode.

### Regions are not lagging behind

Currently, two pilot projects are being implemented in Belarus to transfer passenger transport to electric transport in Zhodino and in the Shklov District with the development of the corresponding infrastructure. Delivery of electric vehicles is expected in the first quarter of 2024.

The goal is to gradually increase the use of electrical energy in passenger transportation, reduce the level of air pollution, and utilise the republic’s existing competencies in the production of electric vehicles and charging stations. The Minsk Automobile Plant will supply 14 electric buses for Zhodino, and 15 electric buses from Belkommunmash will go to the Shklov District.

## THERE IS A BACKGROUND, AHEAD IS PERSPECTIVE

**During his visit to BELGEE CJSC, Aleksandr Lukashenko talked with the company’s employees. He answered a number of people’s questions. But according to tradition, he began by explaining the purpose of his visit and sharing his impressions of what he saw.**

### Counting on friendly countries

The Head of State noted that since his previous visit to the enterprise in 2017, things have improved significantly here.



According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, there is not a single company in the world that produces all components in one country. Everyone works in cooperation with each other, “But due to the fact that the world has gone crazy, competition is reaching military action, we must rely primarily on friendly countries that will not let us down.”

The President noted that the main purpose of his visit to the enterprise was to decide how we would move forward in the passenger car industry, “I had a dream to build our own passenger car. It came true, with our friends. We ourselves would have had to walk for a long time. And it’s unlikely that we would have done it, because the world has moved far in car construction. Our friends helped. We should move only forward!”

One of the main global trends now is the production of hybrid cars and cars powered by clean electric energy. In Belarus, the President noted, they also decided that it was necessary to follow this path, modernising and improving existing production. Whatever components are not made at BELGEE, they will be made at other enterprises, said Aleksandr Lukashenko, “The advantage of our system is that we have almost all state-owned enterprises. Therefore, we will increase the share of Belarusian in this car as much as we can do. As long as I am President, we will not abandon this plant. This is my ‘child’ in part, we will improve it, train it, and so on. This is the mood of the people, this is the heritage of our Belarusian people. We did it and we will move forward.” The Head of State thanked the team of the enterprise, “Thank you for doing a lot at this stage to ensure that people lined up for your cars. We will support you in every possible way. Just work honestly and disciplined. Make sure that your children strive for this production. So that they grow here, become engineers, managers. We really need this.”

### The loans have served their purpose

Questions for the President. The first is about the lending programme. Will preferential loans be extended? The President recalled that an attractive lending program was adopted at one time to promote production. It is also valid this year. But as for the prospects, Aleksandr Lukashenko shared his position, “I am in favour of gradually winding it down (the preferential lending programme). Because you or those who buy take someone else’s money. In the end it comes down to the budget. Well, do we have nowhere to spend budget money, do we have rich teachers, doctors, pensioners? To create this enterprise and generate demand, I decided to provide this programme.”

Today, preferential loans for the purchase of Geely and Belgee cars are issued by Belarusbank, Belgazprombank and Belagroprombank. The maximum loan term is 10 years, during the grace period (3 years) the fixed interest rate is 7.15 — 7.88 percent depending on the bank, then 12.5 percent per annum. According to the President, the funds spent by the state are also in demand in other important areas. At the same time, today the economy can withstand this additional load.

### Rule for young people: work is the criterion for everything

Mechanical assembly mechanic Dmitry Pavlovich asked how to distract children from the Internet, where they spend a lot of free time. To this, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he himself is the same father as his interlocutor, and his youngest son Nikolai is also an active user of the network. Although there is a plus in this, “He brings me all the information.”

According to the President, including what people write and say, what worries people. And if someone can soften the picture, then the son brings it as it is. According to the Head of State, to reduce the harmful influence of the Internet on children, you can take different paths. One of them is technical limitations, “I am not a big expert in the Internet, computers and so on, but I was recently informed that additional measures are being taken to block such sites and information that should not be accessible. We will make additional decisions... We have specialists who will offer options, and I will do anything to block what should not happen.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled China’s experience in regulating the Internet, including technical means. But their large-scale system required a lot of money, although it was worth it to save society. Our capabilities are more modest, but we also have some skills. Meanwhile, the Head of State drew attention to the fact that the phrase ‘free time’ was mentioned in the question. And this suggests that children need to be more interested in something more useful, “You yourself must show the child what he should be like. Do as I do! You are ahead, he is behind you. Do not spoil children under any circumstances. Keep them busy, keep them working... If we don’t do this, we will lose our children. No restrictions will stop them. Therefore, let them work, let them surf the Internet, but the criterion for everything is work. They must work.”



### Preserving peace is everyone's business

There was also a question in the context of the draft National Security Concept and Military Doctrine discussed recently at a Security Council meeting. Are the measures prescribed in these documents sufficient to maintain peace and tranquillity in the country? The Head of State immediately noted, "Peace is very expensive. So far, I will say frankly, our people have not felt this, this high cost." Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that he tries to keep a balance so that people have everything they need, "If in our time a person wants to earn more than he earns, he has this opportunity." The Head of State summed up this part of the conversation with words that he never tires of repeating, "Give me the economy, and I will provide peace myself."

Returning to the topic of security, the President emphasised that the Russians greatly helped in strengthening it last year. At the same time, the Head of State emphasised that he did not only mean the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, although this factor also played a role, putting everyone in their place, "As soon as nuclear weapons appeared in Belarus, all chickened out. Including our neighbours, who were stunned, and others. Although God forbid not only me, but also the new generation of politicians, think about using these nuclear weapons. This is a terrible weapon." The supply of Russian Iskander operational tactical missile systems and other missile weapons to the country, as well as the development of its own production, also played a stabilising role. The President emphasised, "We have mastered a lot of competencies, and this is a lot of money. These are expensive things that sometimes work automatically. It's fortunate that we didn't destroy our school. Integrated circuits, and so on. We had

these schools, we preserved them. It's very expensive, and the Russians and the Chinese help us a lot here. Therefore, peace is expensive, you have to pay for it, but you don't have to worry. I don't want to say that we are already so wise, great, protected... Anything can happen. But we have never been so protected, our people and our state, as they are now."

Well, in general, the matter of preserving peace is everyone's business, reminds Aleksandr Lukashenko, "How it will be, if God forbid a war breaks out, it will all depend on us. The system is built, there are Armed Forces, a mobilisation reserve — we are calling up half a million people for the war. There is territorial defence, there is a people's militia. Everything is lined up. Weapons and ammunition have been distributed and stored locally. Just press a button, and everything is launched. But it all depends on us. On me and from all of you."

As for the updated National Security Concept and Military Doctrine, the improvement of such documents, according to the Head of State, is an objective process, "The world is changing, and we must put our legislation in order, we must adapt and improve to this legislation. Because everything depends on the person."

### Gift to the President

At the end of the meeting, the factory workers presented the Head of State with a BELGEE X50 car in memory of her. Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that he learned about this gift in advance and had already ordered to think about who it could be given to. According to the President, the car can be transferred to an educational or health care institution.

Vasily **Kharitonov**



# LARGE-SCALE, BRIGHT, BEAUTIFUL. AND FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS

**Our country has many glorious traditions, initiated by the Head of State. For about 30 years now, the charity event Our Children has been taking place in Belarus, and on the eve of last year the President proposed organising another one, called From the Bottom of Our Hearts. This is how the tradition was born to provide special care and attention to the elderly on the pre-holiday and holiday days of the New Year.**



Viktor Ivanchikov

Ending and starting the year with good deeds is a Belarusian tradition, and the most important thing in it is the value of respect and care for the older generation, which we pass on to children.

The organisers of the goodness marathon were the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection together with the Ministry of Education, the Belarusian Republican Youth Union and the Belarusian Republican Pioneer Organisation. They set themselves the goal of showing maximum care for lonely elderly people and creating a festive atmosphere for them. For young people, as noted by the Ministry of Labour, this is an excellent opportunity to reveal their best spiritual and creative qualities.

Now there are more than 120 thousand lonely elderly citizens in the country, who especially feel the need for communication and attention during the New Year holidays. At the same time, about 20 thousand more elderly people live in stationary social service institutions, and for 100 thousand people, territorial social service centres organise day care and leisure activities.

Now elderly, these people lived with dignity and did everything for the country to develop. They worked, taught children, treated, restored the country from ruins after the war, and now share their invaluable life experience. The purpose of the campaign is to show care and attention to the older generation, to involve schoolchildren and students as much as possible in providing them with help and support.



Belta





"MN"



This time the campaign took place in two stages. The first is anticipation of the holidays and preparation for them, which is no less exciting and important. Therefore, on the eve of Christmas and New Year, the Ministry of Labour launched the New Year's Mood relay race back in December. "The role of 'wizards' was played by volunteers of different ages, social workers, but first of all, of course, school-age children and young people, helping to create comfort, decorate the house, and prepare the New Year's table. It is important that all the wishes of the older generation are satisfied by our joint efforts," the Ministry

said. The second stage — concerts, dance balls, creativity festivals. They lasted until January 15th. Attention was paid to everyone who needs care and support, friendly participation in the bright holidays that give a good mood and warm the soul. In Minsk alone, more than 15 thousand elderly Minsk residents were involved in the campaign.

During the *From the Bottom of Our Hearts* campaign, congratulations were held in Minsk for long-lived anniversaries. There are 84 of them in the city (8 men and 76 women), the oldest resident is 109 years old. During the event, 13 Minsk residents celebrated 100 years or more, two of them celebrated their centenary. The leadership of the capital's district administrations congratulated the heroes of the day, veterans of the Great Patriotic War at their place of residence.

The concern also affected labour veterans. "Veterans are our present and our future, because no one has cancelled the continuity of generations. And the way we take care of our veterans is how our children will subsequently take care of us," said Yelena Golubeva, Head of the Main Department for Culture and Public Work of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus. Let us note that this respected organisation also provided all possible assistance to older people: this year, due to weather conditions, more attention was paid to, for example, chopping firewood for them, clearing snow near houses and in yards, repairing fences, and bringing food. There are many lonely people and those whose children cannot come to them for a number of reasons. Each work collective reached every labour veteran and every elderly person. Social institutions were also visited, and they were also provided with technical and material assistance so that people's stay there would be comfortable, joyful and festive.

Public associations, schoolchildren, and representatives of local authorities joined the events. In particular, volunteers from the Belarusian Republican Youth Union also assisted elderly people living alone and single disabled people of groups I and II in cleaning and putting things in order in the local areas. And social workers and nurses from territorial social service centres, together with youth activists, decorated apartments and put up New Year trees for their wards.

The grand opening of the event in Minsk took place on January 3rd at the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. And on January 10th, an exhibition of arts and crafts by elderly and disabled people, *Hurry to Make Beauty*, opened at the Stolitsa Shopping Centre. On January 11th, the city Christmas ball for the elderly and disabled was held. It gathered about 200 participants. This was reported by the Committee on Labour, Employment and Social



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Protection of the Minsk City Executive Committee. The programme included dance and entertainment performances, a fashion show with age models. The ball took place at the Minsk State Palace of Children and Youth, accompanied by the Nemiga concert orchestra. Concerts, dance balls, creativity festivals lasted until January 15th. Attention was paid to everyone who needs care and support, friendly participation in the bright holidays that warm the soul.

The New Year's charity event *From the Bottom of Our Hearts* was large-scale, bright and beautiful; its participants gave a piece of their soul to elderly people during the winter holidays. This was stated by the Minister of Labour and Social Protection Irina Kostevich.

"Year after year, the social service gives warmth and care to elderly people who, for various reasons, were left alone during the New Year holidays," noted the head of the ministry. "Aimed at the older generation, the marathon of good deeds starting in 2023, on the initiative of the President, acquired a national character and was held for the second time under the slogan 'From the bottom of our hearts'."

"With songs, kind words and a charge of positive emotions, people of different professions and ages not only congratulated the elderly, but also helped in cleaning apartments, buying the necessary products for the holiday table, and preparing their favourite dishes. And they received gratitude in return — sincere and warm,

touching the heartstrings," emphasised Irina Kostevich. She noted that now the format of the event has expanded to include four thematic days. In particular, as mentioned above, these were holidays in the form of concerts. Also, in every corner of the country, the baton of art festivals took place, at which older people presented their works. Then a single day of balls and dance events took place, and volunteers of the 'silver age', together with young people, went to the recipients of the event on the eve of the Old New Year.

"How can we evaluate the campaign this year? It was massive. It was bright. It was beautiful and from the bottom of our hearts," the minister said. "Thank you to everyone who gave a piece of their soul to elderly people this New Year holidays. I would like to express special gratitude to the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education for their support and active participation in the event. We all worked as one team."

Irina Kostevich reminded: good deeds are not limited to any time of the year or date. In addition, this year marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders. "Elderly people, especially long-livers, were affected by the war. They have come a difficult and long way to restore our Blue-Eyed Motherland so that their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren can live in peace and harmony," she added. "Let caring for the elderly become our soul's need."

Inga Likhtarovich

Alok Ranjan Jha,  
**"Belarus is a wonderful  
country with very kind  
people"**



**"I was deeply touched by the friendly attitude towards India that I saw among the Belarusian people." We talked about this and other things in an interview with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic India in the Republic of Belarus Alok Ranjan Jha. We also discussed how Belarus and India continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the face of many global challenges**

India, as you know, is one of the influential countries in the world, with which Belarus traditionally strives to maintain business and friendly relations. Nevertheless, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko expects a more active growth of cooperation with India. The Head of State set new tasks for work in this direction to the recently appointed new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to this country, Mikhail Kasko. "India is a huge market, and we have been represented there, we have been working there since the times of the Soviet Union. We need to determine the main areas where we can do something, where we will, first of all, be useful to India," said the President.

When making personnel decisions, Aleksandr Lukashenko focused on the need to systematically build relationships in key areas of cooperation, and primarily in the economy.

"We must try to bring back all the good things that happened in the Soviet past, when many students studied in our country, assembly plants operated, and the widest range of equipment was supplied," the Ambassador said for his part. "We must try to restore this by focusing our efforts on two, three, four breakthrough projects." The head of the diplomatic mission also added, "We must supply there what is of interest to the Indian side, and purchase from them what is of interest to us." Well, time will tell how much new plans will be brought to life. But, as we know, favourable relations between countries are built with a mutual desire to deepen and expand cooperation. And the fact that such a desire exists was stated at a meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Sergei Aleynik and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Belarus Alok Ranjan Jha. The interlocutors summed up the results of Belarusian-Indian cooperation in 2023 in the political, trade, economic and humanitarian spheres, noted the positive dynamics of bilateral trade, and discussed plans for 2024.

"Practical steps have been outlined to build up relations between Belarus and India, including exchanging visits at various levels, holding inter-Ministry of Foreign Affairs consultations, meetings of specialised commissions and

working groups," said the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Separately, the diplomats discussed issues of interaction between the two countries in international formats, including in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS.

"Mutual readiness for further joint work was confirmed to give additional impetus to the entire range of relations between the two countries," summarised the ministry.

The fact that this is the case is confirmed by the development of interregional cooperation between Belarus and India. For example, the Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai, Aleksandr Matsukov, recently presented the consular commission to the Head of the Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India in Mumbai, Rajesh Gawande. During the meeting, where issues of bilateral interaction were discussed, diplomats noted the friendly nature of Belarusian-Indian relations.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Belarus Alok Ranjan Jha has no doubt that cooperation between the two countries will actively continue at the new stage, since the foundation for mutually beneficial cooperation has been laid strong. Here is our conversation with him."

**"Your Excellency! If you don't mind, let's start the conversation with the topic of India and Bharat, which arose at the G20 summit in New Delhi. It took place on September 9th-10th, 2023, and then Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi used a sign with the historical name of the country 'Bharat' instead of 'India'. At the same time, he literally stated the following, 'Bharat welcomes the delegates as chairman of the G20.' How would you comment on this? And how important is it for the country to change the name to which all of us are accustomed?"**

"Bharat is the Hindi name for India and has been in regular use for millennia. The Constitution of India provides for both India and Bharat as names of the country. It is completely incorrect to read any political motives into the use of Bharat to describe India."



■ Relations between India and Belarus are traditionally warm and cordial. India was one of the first countries to recognise the independence of Belarus in 1991. Official diplomatic relations were established. The Indian diplomatic mission opened in Minsk in 1992, the Belarusian one in New Delhi in 1998. Belarus also opened its Honorary Consuls in Kolkata in December 2002.



■ Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Sergei Aleynik with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Belarus Alok Ranjan Jha, during which the interlocutors summed up the results of Belarusian-Indian cooperation in 2023 in the political, trade, economic and humanitarian spheres, noting the positive dynamics of bilateral trade, and discussed plans for 2024

■ During a visit to the Gomselmash enterprise, Alok Ranjan Jha looked at the permanent exhibition of agricultural machinery, and also got acquainted with models of grain and forage harvesters, as well as potato harvesting equipment

■ During his visit, the head of the diplomatic mission, Alok Ranjan Jha, visited Grodno Azot OJSC. The enterprise has been working with Indian companies for more than 15 years.



**“As we remember, on August 15th, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated the President of India Draupadi Murmu and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the national holiday of the Republic of India — Independence Day. The congratulatory message to Narendra Modi emphasises that Belarus has always been and will remain a reliable friend and partner of India in the European region. “Over the years of our interaction, we have been able to build effective ties in the fields of economics, trade, industry, science, technology and culture, and today we are opening new areas of cooperation in addition to existing large-scale projects,” the President said. India and Belarus have good political relations, trade and economic cooperation, investment interactions are developing... We also actively support each other in international organisations. Many joint initiatives and projects are being implemented. Please tell us about them.”**

“India and Belarus share a robust, multi-faceted and time tested relationship. We have been working on joint projects in the field of pharmaceuticals wherein Indian companies are working with their Belarusian partners both in terms of research as well as production of medicines. Similarly, joint efforts have borne fruit in the field of agricultural machinery wherein world-renowned Belarusian firms have partnered with relevant Indian companies for joint production and maintenance of agricultural machinery such as tractors, harvesters etc.”

**“In the post-COVID period, which sectors have bigger potential for bilateral cooperation? As far as we know, certain difficulties associated with COVID, as well as with sanctions, have had an impact on trade...”**

“Covid-19 pandemic has had an adverse impact on all aspects of our lives including trade and commerce. Similarly, sanctions have also put several impediments in the way of enhancing bilateral trade. Two core issues related to international trade severely impacted by the pandemic and sanctions are those of logistics and international payments/fund transfers. Both our countries are working together to find sustainable solutions in this regard. In the post-COVID period, apart from the usual areas of commercial cooperation, there is a strong incentive to work in the field of medical research especially towards mitigating future pandemics. Cooperation in the production of medicines including vaccines can also be given special attention.”

**“What undertakings of your predecessors at the post of the Ambassador of India are being continued today? In particular, we know that H.E. Ms. Sangeeta Bahadur took part in the ceremony of laying the first symbolic foundation stone of a large pharmaceutical company. In what directions is joint work going today?”**

“Issues of cooperation between two countries are not dependent on individuals. In fact, these are continuous endeavours wherein each successive set of diplomats make their contribution. Last 3-4 years have been full of challenges



■ Acquaintance with the activities of the Office of Indian Culture at BSU. Alok Ranjan Jha noted the high level of the cultural component of the office and expressed hope that a unique platform would be created here to fulfil the potential of cooperation between Belarus and India in the humanitarian sphere.

■ Ambassador Alok Ranjan Jha visited Grodno State Medical University, met with the leadership of the university and Indian students who are receiving higher education there

■ Indian students during the opening of the Days of National Culture of India in 2022 in Vitebsk, in which Ambassador Alok Ranjan Jha took part

both domestic (in terms of the impact of sanctions) as well as external (pandemic and the situation in the neighbourhood). However, despite these headwinds government officials from both our countries have worked hard to keep our commercial ties on track.”

**“As you know, direct flight between the capitals of Belarus and India was launched in August, which emphasises mutual interest in strengthening bilateral contacts, and also provides additional opportunities for cooperation. According to Igor Cherginets, Director General of Belavia airline, this flight contributes to the strengthening of relations between our two countries in various areas. He also expressed his confidence that this flight will help increase transit traffic through the Minsk National Airport, and will be in demand among tourists and students who study in Belarus. How much do you think this flight will contribute to the activation of business and tourism ties between our countries?”**

“Direct connectivity plays an extremely significant role in enhancing bilateral ties. Hence, the launch of first scheduled direct flights between Minsk and Delhi is a welcome development. Apart from helping the large number of Indian students studying in Belarus these flights are also, in due course, sure to contribute towards increase in flow of tourists both to and from India. Direct flights have also encouraged several business persons from our countries to travel and explore business prospects first-hand.”

**“What are the current trends in tourism? Do Belarusians show interest in traveling around India? To what parts of India, exactly? Are citizens of your country interested in traveling to Belarus?”**

“Indians as well as people from Belarus like to travel extensively. However, the current flow of tourists between our two countries is way below its potential. There is also a severe lack of tourism-related information about each other. As a result, most Belarusian tourists are just travelling to one or two destinations in India and Indian tourists too are not visiting Belarus in significant numbers. We at the Indian Embassy in Minsk are working towards reducing this information gap through information dissemination and encouraging the concerned agencies to participate in major tourism related events both in India as well as Belarus.”

**“Indians in Belarus. Who are they? Which universities in Belarus show the most fruitful cooperation? Do you think India’s interest in the Belarusian education is high?”**

“The Indian diaspora in Belarus is rather small — just about 200 with only 102 of them having permanent residence status. There are about 900 Indian students in Belarus spread across the four Medical Universities of Minsk, Gomel, Grodno and Vitebsk. The quality of medical education in Belarus is quite high, and hence, Indian students have been coming here since the Soviet days.”



■ During the celebration of the 9th International Yoga Day in 2023. This day has been celebrated in Minsk since 2015. In recent years, Minsk residents' interest in spiritual and physical practices has been growing. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of Belarus Alok Ranjan Jha took part in the celebration, thanking the leadership of the capital for permission to hold the event and emphasised the importance of ancient practice for modern people.

**“In your opinion, what pieces of Indian literature should be translated into Belarusian?”**

“Translation of major literary works from India and Belarus into each other's languages is an area which remains largely neglected. However, it is a larger problem whereby it is not possible to find even English translations of some of the Belarusian classics (for example, no complete translation of Yakub Kolas' *The New Land* is available in English!). I can think of several Indian classics—both religious and literary—which will find appreciation amongst Belarusian readers. For instance, the Indian epics *Ramayan* and *Mahabharat* are likely to appeal to people of Belarus. I understand that some of Rabindranath Tagore's poems have been translated into Belarusian but there is a need for more. And then some of the contemporary Indian authors — Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy, Perumal Murugan, Geetanjali Shree and others — also deserve to reach Belarusian readers.”

**“How do you evaluate the activities of the Indian Cultural Centre in Belarus? It seems to us that the Centre, headed by Mr. Karan, symbolises the friendship of India and Belarus. After all, his wife Olga is Belarusian. And together they created the ‘little India’ in 2017 (as far as I remember). Please share your impressions of the Centre's work.”**

“The Indian Cultural Centre has been doing a good job of spreading information and practical knowledge about various aspects of Indian culture—yoga, Hindi language, cuisine etc.

Both Karan and Olga are deeply committed towards the functioning of the Centre and I wish them all the best for their future.”

**“As you know, we have a world-class opera and ballet — the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus. We are proud of it. By the way, this October, Valentin Elizariyev, the Artistic Director of the Bolshoi, celebrates the 50th anniversary of his creative work. Is it possible to carry out a cultural exchange in this field of art, as the language of dance is understandable without translation? We know how beautiful Indian classical dance is. This August I visited (for the third time!) Nattica Ayurvedic Centre in Kerala. I saw Indian classical dances, if I remember correctly they are called Bharatanatyam and Odissi. That was an unforgettable performance, which was organised by Nattica for its guests. Just imagine such a beauty in the language of emotions and gestures on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre...”**

“Yes, it sounds like a good idea and has been noted for future implementation at an appropriate occasion!”

**“Why do you think karma or fate brought you to Belarus? Tell us a little about yourself, about your family. Where did you study, in which countries did you work? Do you feel comfortable in our country? What places in Belarus did you manage to visit? What impressed you? What do you tell your friends when you are at home? What places**

**in Belarus would you advise your fellow Indians to visit, what to see?"**

"Well, it is not so much as my karma or fate but my profession (that of a diplomat) which has brought me to Belarus! I come from the eastern Indian province of Bihar but grew up mostly in New Delhi. I studied (and later taught) Political Science at Delhi University and at Jawaharlal Nehru University. I joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2002 and have served in France, Senegal, Switzerland and Afghanistan before taking over my present position in July 2021.

I feel completely at home in Belarus despite the fact that I do not speak Russian! It is a beautiful country with very kind people and tremendous goodwill towards India and Indians. I have visited all the six regions/major cities of Belarus, some of them more than once and several smaller towns and villages across the country. I have also visited most of your National Parks, historical and religious monuments and other tourist attractions.

I recommend Belarus as an ideal tourist destination to my friends and family back in India. I like pretty much whole of Belarus but Grodno remains my favourite city!"

**"As far as we know, the issues of ecology and land preservation are currently very relevant both for India and**

■ "I recommend Belarus as an ideal tourist destination to my friends and family back in India. I like pretty much whole of Belarus but Grodno remains my favourite city!"



for other countries. Perhaps the Belarusian experience may be of interest to you? In our opinion, in Belarus there are high standards of agriculture and fertility preservation. Besides we are proud of how our people treat their native land. Nevertheless, it's still worth drawing public attention to an effective attitude to the soil.

In this regard, it is appropriate to recall the Save Soil international movement, which was initiated by Jaggi Vasudev, or, as he calls himself, Sadhguru. You probably know that Sadhguru is one of the most influential people in your homeland, who founded a non-profit charitable organisation Isha Foundation, and advocates for world peace. Moreover, he has his own concept of world peace strengthening and preservation. The biography of Sadhguru is of interest to many people, as he devotes his life to the embodiment of the ideas of world harmony, serving people, regardless of their national and religious affiliation. By the way, he once had a talk with the famous Belarusian tennis player Victoria Azarenka on these and other issues. His talks for a wide audience in different countries cause a massive public response. Sadhguru travels much around the world, he has been to Russia. Why not invite him to come to Belarus? By the way, in a private conversation with us, Maksim Misko, Chairman of the Board of the Belarusian Peace Fund, showed his interest in this project, as well as readiness to participate in its implementation. Do you think it is possible for the Embassy to assist in organizing the visit of this unique person to our country?"

"The possibility of Sadhguru's visit to Belarus can definitely be explored in the near future."

**"Since 2022 our magazine started to be published in English (partly in Chinese, Belarusian, some publications in Russian), which is the state language for India. Do you think there are any opportunities to promote this magazine in India? Who exactly in your country may be interested in this issue?"**

"It might be difficult, at least initially, to get a wider readership for your magazine. At the outset, I presume it will be the diplomatic and expatriate community which might show interest. However, depending on the content of the magazine an attempt could be made for wider dissemination — maybe through the Cultural Wing of the Belarusian Embassy in New Delhi."

**"What would you like to say to the readers of our magazine: your question to yourself and your answer to it."**

"To your readers, and to the wonderful people of Belarus in general, I would like to express my immense gratitude for all the love, affection and respect that they have given to me, my country and my countrymen!"

Interviewed by Valentina Zhdanovich

The author expresses gratitude to the Ambassador's secretary Ekaterina Novikova for her cooperation

Photo provided by the Embassy of India in Belarus and from open sources

# THE WAR DECIDED THE FATE

Leonid Chigrin, a native of the Vitebsk Region,  
is a Russian writer from Tajikistan.

## 战争命运 决定

列昂尼德-奇格林，维捷布斯克州人，  
来自塔吉克斯坦的俄罗斯作家。

在多年的旅行中，我在世界各地与白俄罗斯人相遇时不再感到惊讶。在塔什干和阿什哈巴德、利沃夫和哈瓦那、圣彼得堡和莫斯科、阿拉木图和比什凯克。这些巧合有一定的规律性。它们与不同的历史时期有关：战争、不同的移民潮、社会和经济变革。这些意想不到的情节被命运安排在一起，孕育了生命！我们会惊叹于同胞的传记是如何被收集和编纂的。

在明斯克传统的二月书展上，我遇到了塔吉克斯坦作家和剧作家阿托-哈姆丹。他是个聪明人，精力充沛，引人注目，积极主动。我们交谈，交换书籍。其中一本是他与列昂尼德-奇格林合著的。我马上问这位来自杜尚别的客人，他的合著者是否是我们白俄罗斯同胞？

阿托先生说：“是的，祖籍白俄罗斯。”

也许来自白俄罗斯西部，格罗德诺地区？-我想企业人，我指的是斯洛尼姆作家--诗人兼当地历史学家谢尔盖-奇格林和诗人兼文学评论家伊万-奇格林。

可能来自那里，但我不确定...

我已经迫不及待地想把事情弄清楚了。就这样，我们开始了与一位我不认识的同胞的通信。是的，一个同胞，因为后来才知道，列昂尼德-亚历山德罗维奇-奇格林出生在白俄罗斯。下面是他写给我的第一封信的内容：“您对我的传记很感兴趣，我决定告诉您，如果您有兴趣的话。我的命运是战争期间许多白俄罗斯人的典型。”奇格林不是出生在格罗德诺州，而是出生在维捷布斯克州的杜布罗文斯克区。

列昂尼德-亚历山大罗维奇说：“1942年，在奥辛托夫村，我父亲在我出生前六个月被送上前线。”

奥辛托夫是维捷布斯克州的一个著名居民点。它始建于1927年，当时在奥西诺夫斯基耶泥炭丘上建造了泥炭厂，为BelGRES提供燃料。在伟大的卫国战争期间，由泥炭厂厂长格-奥梅尔琴科创建的共青团地下组织奥辛托夫在工作区开展活动。战斗小组分布在杜布罗夫诺市，在Tsentralny、1、2、3、5、6、8、11号劳动定居点，在Ozyora、Zamoski、Zapol、Sudilovich等村庄，以及在奥辛托夫战俘营。直到1942年11月，地下活动一直由游击队旅长（外号“科斯佳大叔”）康斯坦丁-扎斯洛诺夫领导。后来由斯摩棱斯克游击队第16旅旅长伊-什拉帕科夫领导。地下战士们搜集部队转移的情报，收缴武器弹药，组织战俘逃跑。他们摧毁了3个弹药库，炸毁了铁路桥，烧毁了泵站大坝和法西斯军官的休息室。这一切我都亲口告诉了奇格林。2008年秋天，我们有幸在杜尚别相遇，当时我们正受邀参加下一届独立国家联合体科学和创造性知识论坛。

我什么都不知道，我甚至不知道奥辛托夫在维捷布斯克地区。

*Over the years of travel, I have ceased to be surprised by meetings with Belarusians or people from Belarus in different parts of the world. In Tashkent and Ashgabat, Lviv and Havana, St. Petersburg and Moscow, Almaty and Bishkek... There are certain patterns in these coincidences. They are associated with different historical periods: with wars, emigration of various waves, social and economic transformations. And such unexpected plots, put together by one fate, gave birth to life!.. You're simply amazed at how this or that biography of a fellow countryman was collected and compiled.*

At the traditional February book fair in Minsk, I met the Tajik writer and playwright Ato Hamdam. A bright person, very energetic, dynamic, noticeable in everything, proactive. We talked and exchanged books. One of them was written by a Tajik writer in collaboration with Leonid Chigrin. I immediately asked the guest from Dushanbe whether his co-author was a compatriot to us, Belarusians. “Yes, with Belarusian roots,” Mr. Ato noted.

“Maybe from western Belarus, from the Grodno region?” I tried to clarify, referring to Slonim writers — poet and local historian Sergei Chigrin and poet and literary critic Ivan Chigrin.

“Probably from there... But I don't know for sure...”

And I was already impatient to clarify this issue. Thus began our correspondence with a compatriot unknown to me. Yes, compatriot, because, as it turned out later, Leonid Aleksandrovich Chigrin was born in Belarus. This is what he wrote to me in his first letter, “...You were interested in my biography, and I decided to tell you about it, if you are interested... My fate is typical for many Belarusians during the war...”

Chigrin was born not in Grodno, but in the Vitebsk Region, in the Dubrovno District.

“In 1942, in the village of Osintorf,” says Leonid Aleksandrovich, “my father was taken to the front six months before I was born.”

Osintorf is a well-known village in the Vitebsk Region. It was created in 1927, when the construction of a peat plant to procure fuel for the BelGRES began on the Osinovskiy peat massifs. During the Great Patriotic War, the Komsomol youth underground Osintorf, created by the director of the peat plant G. Omelchenko, operated in the workers' village. Combat groups were located in the city of Dubrovno, the workers' villages of Tsentralny, No.

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, in the villages of Ozyora, Zamoski, Zapol, Sudilovich, as well as in the Osintorf prisoner of war camp. Until November 1942, the underground activities were led by the commander of the partisan brigade 'Uncle Kostya' Konstantin Zaslonov. Later — commander of the 16th Smolensk Partisan Brigade I. Shlapakov. The underground members obtained information about the deployment of troops, collected weapons and ammunition, and organized the escape of prisoners of war. They destroyed 3 ammunition depots, blew up a railway bridge, burned a pumping station dam and a rest house for fascist officers. But I told Chigrin about all this myself. We were lucky enough to meet in Dushanbe in the fall of 2008 — just when we were invited to the next forum of scientific and creative intelligentsia of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"But I didn't know anything, I didn't even know that Osintorf was located in the Vitebsk Region," notes our compatriot.

No wonder. He lived in Belarus when he was very young. The mother was taken to work in Germany. She worked at the Farbindustria chemical concern plant, where explosives were produced. The boy was looked after by his grandmother. And at the end of 1945, fortunately, his mother returned. Yes, the working conditions in captivity took their toll. The girl fell ill with tuberculosis due to chemical dust and severe gas poisoning in the work premises. Doctors advised her to change the climate. Mother's elder sister lived in Tajikistan. The Chigrins — mother and son — moved there, to the city of Kanibadam. Yet nothing helped. In the fall of 1946, his mother died at the age of 23. The boy was adopted by his aunt. And Kanibadam was recorded as the birthplace of Leonid.

His father fought near Leningrad. He transported cargo along Ladoga — the Road of Life. He was then sent to Iran. He was demobilised in 1948 and immediately came to Kanibadam.

"My father is from the Tikhinichy Village Council of the Rogachev District," says Leonid Aleksandrovich. "At the end of the 1940s, construction of a plant for the extraction and processing of uranium began in Tajikistan. Dad worked as the head of a compressor station in a small town in northern Tajikistan.

The salaries were not bad. My father dreamed that he would collect money and move to Belarus, buy a house with an estate. And they will live peacefully..."

Yes, the dreams of people tortured by the war did not come true. In 1951, Aleksandr Chigrin died in a mine.

"Thus, one more tragedy has been added to many," says a writer from Dushanbe. "And in our family, my mother's



这并不奇怪。他住在白俄罗斯的时候年纪很小。他的母亲被带到德国工作。她在生产炸药的化工厂 "Farbindustria" 工作。孩子由祖母照顾。幸运的是，1945 年底，妈妈回来了，劳动条款发挥了作用。由于工作场所的化学粉尘和强烈的气体中毒，妈妈患上了肺结核。医生建议改变气候。母亲的姐姐住在塔吉克斯坦。奇格林母子俩--搬到了那里，卡尼巴达姆市。是的，后来一切都安好。1946 年秋天，23 岁的母亲去世了。男孩被一位阿姨收养。列昂尼德的出生地被记录为卡尼巴达姆。

我父亲曾在列宁格勒附近作战。我们沿着拉多加河--"生命之路"运输货物。后来他被派往伊朗。他于 1948 年复员，随即来到卡尼巴达姆。

列昂尼德说："我父亲来自罗加乔夫区的蒂基希尼奇村委会。20 世纪 40 年代末，塔吉克斯坦开始建设铀矿开采和加工厂。父亲在塔吉克斯坦北部的小镇担任压缩机站站长。"

工资还不错。父亲梦想着挣了钱就搬到白俄罗斯，买一栋房子。他们会过上平静的生活。

是的，饱受战争折磨的人们的梦想并没有实现。1951 年，父亲亚历山大-奇格林死在了矿井里。

这位杜尚别作家说："然而，在众多悲剧之外又增加了一个悲剧。在我们家，我母亲的弟弟也死于游击队。他当时只有 18 岁。我的祖父，也就是我母亲的父亲，曾在斯大林格勒参加过战斗。他从战场上回来时已经残废。他来到卡尼巴达姆，不久就去世了。"

我的养母很久没有和列昂尼德说过一句话。她害怕他对她的态度会改变。直到列昂尼德 40 岁时，她才敢说出真相。当然，他们的关系并没有改变。后来，养母在杜尚别列昂尼德-亚历山德罗维奇的家里生活了很长时间。

是的，在列昂尼德-亚历山德罗维奇-奇格林的护照上还写着他于 1942 年 5 月 29 日出生于塔吉克苏维埃社会主义共和国的卡尼巴达姆。顺便提一下我们同胞的杜尚别住址：列昂尼德-亚历山大罗维奇住在塔吉克斯坦首都，J. 拉苏拉瓦街 59/2 号，27 号公寓。就是这样——一个白俄罗斯式的地址。

我们同胞的命运如何？列昂尼德毕业于杜尚别师范学院俄罗斯语言文学系。他曾在各种刊物上担任记者和编辑。他曾长期为塔吉克信息社工作。塔吉克语成为这位未来作家的母语。他在学校和学院学习塔吉克语，并一直生活在塔吉克人中间。他从事艺术翻译工作。在杜尚别和莫斯科出版了塔吉克散文家和诗人阿托-哈姆丹、R-日达利尔、F-穆哈马迪耶夫、H-萨迪克、A-拉比耶夫等人的作品，由我们的同胞翻译成俄文。列昂尼德-奇格林是一位勤奋的电影编剧，为 100 多部纪录片和故事片撰写剧本。

奇格林与阿托-哈姆丹的合作是他创作传记的另一页。他们共同创作了大量短篇小说和 14 部历史小说。阿托-哈姆丹是塔吉克斯坦的主要作家之一。塔吉克斯坦人民作家。他创作了许多戏剧、小说和短篇小说。他曾将居伊-德-莫泊桑、铁木尔-普拉托夫、乔治-马尔科夫、亚

younger brother also died as a partisan. He was only 18 years old. My grandfather, my mother's father, fought in Stalingrad. He returned from the war disabled. He arrived in Kanibodam and soon died."

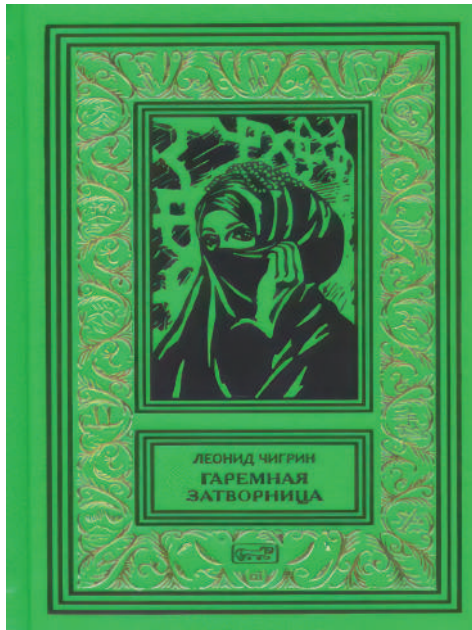
The adoptive mother did not say anything to Leonid for a long time. She was afraid that his attitude towards her would change. And only when Leonid turned 40 years old did she dare to reveal the truth. Of course, the relationship has not changed. And then the adoptive mother lived for a long time in the family of Leonid Aleksandrovich in Dushanbe...

Even further in the passport of L.A. Chigrin, it was recorded that he was born on May 29th, 1942 in the city of Kanibadam, Tajik SSR. By the way, about the Dushanbe address of our fellow countryman: Leonid Aleksandrovich lived in the capital of Tajikistan, on J. Rasulova Street, house 59/2, apartment 27... Another Belarusian literary address...

What was the fate of our compatriot? Leonid graduated from the Faculty of Russian Language and Literature of the Dushanbe Pedagogical Institute. Worked as a correspondent and editor for various publications. For a long time — at the Tajikinform agency. Tajik became the native language for the future writer. He studied it at school, at the institute and lived among the Tajiks all the time. And he immediately began to engage in literary translation. In Dushanbe and Moscow, works by Tajik prose writers and poets Ato Hamdam, R. Zhdalil, F. Mukhamadiev, Kh. Sadik, A. Rabiev and others were published, translated by our fellow countryman into Russian. Leonid Chigrin has proven himself to be a diligent film playwright, having written scripts for more than 100 documentaries and feature films.

A separate page of his creative biography is Chigrin's collaboration with Ato Hamdam. They are co-authors of a number of short stories and 14 historical novels. Ato Hamdam is one of the leading writers of Tajikistan. People's Writer of Tajikistan. Author of many plays, novels and short stories. He translated works of world famous writers into Tajik: Guy de Maupassant, Timur Pulatov, Georgy Markov, Aleksandr Vampilov, Satimzhan Sanbaev, Maksud Kariev. He was also awarded the honorary title of the Honoured Worker of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The series of novels that Ato Hamdam and Leonid Chigrin worked on is eloquently called *Secretes of History*. Writers, having collected rich material, engaged in artistic research of ancient centuries. In the novel *Azar Ustrumansky, or the Sword of Spartacus* — the fate of the Tajik gladiator, who was a comrade-in-arms of the legendary fighter against slavery. The book, among other things, has been translated



into Italian. *Anvar Pasha* is a novel about the contact between the history of Turkey and Tajikistan. Another book, *The Life of Zhang Tian, or the Great Silk Road*, was published in China.

When we met with Leonid Chigrin in the office of the director of the Adib publishing house, I gave my compatriot a loaf of Belarusian bread. Wrapped in cellophane, it survived the train ride to Moscow, the flight from the Russian capital to Dushanbe, and remained just as soft. And it seemed to me that Leonid Aleksandrovich found it especially warm and pleasant. Saying goodbye, he only said, "I'll take some bread to mom as soon as possible. She knows about your arrival..." *Fate separated the Chigrin family from Belarus. The Great Patriotic War brought a lot of drama into their biography. And yet the home page remained in the memory for a long time, alarmed and shocked even after many decades.*

*After meeting Leonid Aleksandrovich in 2008, we corresponded for a long time. The Belarusian magazine Nyoman managed to publish several works by the Russian writer from Tajikistan. In particular, in the twelfth issue for 2015 there is a story Mutiny. In 2016, we handed over to Tajikistan the badge of the Writers' Union of Belarus 'For a Great Contribution to Belarusian Literature', which was presented to Leonid Aleksandrovich Chigrin at the Plenum of the Writers' Union of Tajikistan on May 20th, 2016. This is what our compatriot wrote in Minsk on May 21st, 2016, "... Presented by the State Advisor to the President in a solemn atmosphere. I was amazed and delighted, in Tajikistan for all the years of my creative work I had not heard a kind word, but here was such an award, and even from my ethnic homeland... <...> and there are no words to express my sincere gratitude. Truly, the Almighty himself sent... <...> as compensation for an unsuccessful biography..."*

*And this is a letter from L.A. Chigrin from 2009 (I quote it in its entirety in order to try to convey the heavy atmosphere in which our talented fellow countryman made his way to the reader with his works): "Ales, salom alaikum!*

*I am glad that our correspondence has gained the running speed of a good Arabian horse.*

*I answer the questions in order.*

*Ato Hamdam and I have the following novels unpublished and ready for printing:*

**1. Creation of Fire.** A book about the fight against the Basmachi in the 20s of the last century. The main character is the Turkish general Enver Pasha, who led the war in Tajikistan against units of the Red Army. The novel is being prepared for publication in Turkey.

**2. Under the Banner of Abumuslim.** A book about the resistance of the Tajik people to the Arab invasion in the eighth century AD. Abumuslim, a Tajik descended from peasants, led this fight.

历山大-瓦姆皮拉夫、萨提姆扬-桑巴耶夫和马克苏德-卡里耶夫等世界著名作家的作品翻译成塔吉克语。他还被授予 "塔吉克斯坦共和国荣誉工作者" 的光荣称号。

阿托-哈姆丹和列昂尼德-奇格林创作的长篇小说被命名为 "历史的奥秘"。他们收集了丰富的素材, 对古代进行了艺术研究。在小说《阿扎尔-乌斯特鲁曼斯基, 或斯巴达克斯之剑》中, 讲述了塔吉克斯坦角斗士的命运, 他曾是反奴隶制传奇斗士的伙伴。该书已被翻译成意大利语和其他语言。《安瓦尔-帕夏》是一部关于土耳其和塔吉克斯坦历史并置的小说。另一本书《张天的一生, 或伟大的丝绸之路》已在中国出版。

当我们在阿迪布出版社社长办公室会见列昂尼德-奇格林时, 我给了我的同胞一块白俄罗斯面包。它用透明纸包裹着, 历经了去莫斯科的火车之旅、从俄罗斯首都飞往杜尚别的旅程, 依然柔软如初。在我看来, 它对列昂尼德-亚历山德罗维奇来说特别温暖和惬意。告别时, 他只说了一句话:

我会尽快把面包带给我妈的, 她知道你来了。

命运让奇格林一家与白俄罗斯分离。伟大的卫国战争给他们的传记带来了许多戏剧性的情节。然而, 故乡的那一页却长久地留在了人们的记忆中, 甚至在几十年后的今天仍令人留恋。

2008 年与列昂尼德-亚历山德罗维奇见面后, 我们进行了长时间的通信。白俄罗斯的《Nyoman》杂志设法刊登了这位来自塔吉克斯坦的俄罗斯作家的几部作品。特别是2015年第12期--故事《叛变》。2016年, 我们向塔吉克斯坦转交了白俄罗斯作家联盟 "为白俄罗斯文学做出巨大贡献" 的徽章, 该徽章于2016年5月20日在塔吉克斯坦作家联盟全会上颁发给列昂尼德-亚历山大罗维奇-奇格林。以下是我们的同胞 2016 年 5 月 21 日写给明斯克信: "总统国务委员在庄严的气氛中颁发了这一奖项。我感到惊讶和欣喜, 在塔吉克斯坦从事创作工作的这些年里, 我从未听到过一句赞美之词, 而这里却有这样一个奖项, 甚至还是来自我的民族故乡, 我无法用言语表达我诚挚的谢意。作为对我不幸传记的补偿。"

还有这封奇格林的信--2009 年 (我把它全文带来, 也是为了表达我们这位才华横溢的同胞在艰难的氛围中试图向读者展示他的作品): "阿列斯, 致以崇高的敬意! 我很高兴我们的书信往来像一匹阿拉伯良驹一样迅速。我将依次回答您的问题。

阿托-哈姆丹和我有以下未出版的小说, 准备打印:

1. 火的创造。该书讲述了上世纪 20 年代与巴斯马奇的斗争。主人公是土耳其将军恩维尔-帕夏, 他在塔吉克斯坦领导了与红军部队的战争。该小说正准备在土耳其出版。

2. 在阿布穆斯林的旗帜下。这本书讲述的是公元八世纪塔吉克人民抵抗阿拉伯入侵的故事。塔吉克农民阿布穆斯林领导了这场斗争。

3. 塔梅尔兰的错误。中亚的塔吉克人曾八次反抗跛脚的帖木儿, 延误了其在其他国家的侵略。



4. 成吉思汗的继任者。在成吉思汗的战争中，有一千名塔吉克人，由年轻的忽德占德策-侯赛因指挥。成吉思汗把夺取的土地分成三部分，交给他的儿子们。侯赛因的勇气给成吉思汗留下了深刻印象，他打算让侯赛因担任指挥官，继续征服其他民族。在第二次出征中国时，塔吉克人站在中国人一边，与中国人一起对抗蒙古人。

5. 耶稣基督的十字架。公元八世纪，基督教拜占庭帝国与信奉琐罗亚斯德教的波斯发生战争。波斯人攻占了耶路撒冷，并将耶稣基督被钉在十字架上作为主要战利品。这个十字架被带往中亚各地，作为基督教灭亡的证据。但拜占庭击败了波斯，十字架被带回耶路撒冷。这部小说目前正在亚美尼亚被翻译成亚美尼亚语，并准备出版。

6. 伊莫姆-阿扎姆的白昼之星。这是一部关于一位生活在七世纪伊拉克的塔吉克学者-神学家的历史故事。伊莫姆-阿扎姆是逊尼派伊斯兰教的创始人，全世界有 8 亿多穆斯林信奉逊尼派伊斯兰教。塔吉克斯坦宣布 2009 年为伊莫姆-阿扎姆年。

7. 寻找希望。小说讲述了一个塔吉克男孩被骗到车臣的故事。他在武装分子沙米尔-巴萨耶夫和阿拉伯-哈塔卜的营地接受训练。他从他们那里逃了出来，躲在莫斯科的流浪汉中间，但还是设法回到了正常生活。他爱上了一个患有艾滋病的女孩，这本书就是专门讨论艾滋病问题的。

8. 命运之行。这部小说讲述了被骗到阿联酋并被卖到妓院的女孩的命运。在一个国际组织的帮助下，第一部分在这里出版。15000 册在几天内销售一空。整部小说尚未出版。

3. *Tamerlane's Mistake*. The Tajiks of Central Asia rebelled eight times against the lame Timur, thereby taking the blows upon themselves and delaying the conqueror's campaigns in other countries.

4. *Successor of Genghis Khan*. In the war of Genghis Khan there were a thousand Tajiks, commanded by the young Khujandian Hussein. Genghis Khan divided the captured lands into three uluses and handed them over to his sons. He intended to make Hussein, who impressed him with his courage, a commander so that he would continue the conquest of other nations. During the second campaign in China, the Tajiks went over to the side of the Chinese and fought with them against the Mongols.

5. *Cross of Jesus Christ*. The war of Christian Byzantium with Persia, whose population professed Zoroastrianism in the eighth century AD. The Persians captured Jerusalem and, as the main trophy, obtained the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. This cross was transported throughout Central Asia as evidence that Christianity was finished. But Byzantium defeated Persia, and the cross was returned back to Jerusalem. The novel is currently in Armenia, being translated into Armenian and being prepared for publication.

6. *Day Star of Imom Azam*. A historical story about a Tajik scholar-theologian who lived in Iraq in the seventh century. Imom Azam is the founder of the Sunni movement in Islam, which is professed by over eight hundred million Muslims around the world.

2009 has been declared the year of Imom Azam in Tajikistan.

7. *In Search of Hope*. A novel about a young Tajik guy who was tricked into joining Chechnya. He was trained in the camp of militants Shamil Basayev and Arab Khattab. He fled from them, hid in Moscow among the homeless, but managed to return to normal life. He fell in love with a girl with AIDS, the book is dedicated to the problem of AIDS.

8. *Walk Through Destiny*. The novel is about the fate of girls who were deceived and transported to the Emirates and sold to brothels. The first part was published here with the help of an international organisation. Fifteen hundred copies sold out in a few days. The novel has not yet been published in its entirety.

9. *In the Depths of Centuries*. A collection of historical miniatures telling about various episodes in the history of the Tajik people.

In addition to this, there are about a dozen stories, which simply do not make sense to list, as it would take up a lot of space.

Ales, if you are looking for a sensational fiction book, I would recommend *Walk Through Destiny*. It left a shocking impression on our readers. Our Book Trade Department could take a considerable part of your circulation. Think about it, talk to Ato Hamdam when he is in Minsk. This is for the future.

I would like you to read my story *My Shagane, Shagane*. It is in the selection of works of Tajik prose. This is a story about a Belarusian guy who fought in Tajikistan with the Basmachi in the 20s of the last century. I'm interested in your opinion... Unfortunately, I had to cut it down a lot.

In Dushanbe, fiction books are practically never published in Russian. And in general, publishing books is a big problem. You can see from the list of our novels.

Besides me, the poet Sergei Sukhoyan also writes in Russian. He has interesting poems. He is already over seventy years old and, unfortunately, has problems with his health.

Ales, is Osintorf a village, town or development? What is this? I'm starting to wade through the jungle of my biography.

With Ato Hamdam I will send you *Tales of the Peoples of the USSR*, maybe you will find something interesting.

Waiting for your response. Leonid."

Teaching journalism and drama at the Russian-Tajik (Slavic) University (he devoted more than 15 years to this work), Leonid Chigrin still felt that he was not in demand. Books had difficulty getting into print. Shortly before his death, the writer moved to the Russian Federation, where his son, a military man, lived at that time. He was engaged in creative work until the last days of his life. Leonid Chigrin died in the Rostov Region from coronavirus on October 6th, 2020. After the death of Leonid Chigrin, a huge creative legacy remained. The desire of our compatriot to reveal the history of Central Asia is impressive. Novels, stories, historical miniatures... A whole library!... Having received a hint to send his works to the Moscow electronic magazine *Kamerton*, Leonid Chigrin tried to take full advantage of it. As a result, a number of works by the historical writer were placed in the digital space. As for printed publications, something was realized with the support of the Belarusian *Nyoman*, for which the main bow goes to the then editor of the prose department Oleg Alekseevich Zhdan. And yet, apparently, it is in Belarus that even now, after the death of the writer, something worthwhile needs to be done to honour his memory. Why not publish a collection of his works in several volumes? Leonid Chigrin's novels and stories are easy to read, full of interesting information, and also contain a lot of simple philosophy of life, which is revealed by different characters at turning points in history...

And the figure, the personality of our compatriot, who has done so much in the field of literature, is worthy of a certain perpetuation. Why not name a street in Osintorf after Leonid Chigrin? Or do it in Dubrovno. Or at least make a museum room for the writer-historian Leonid Chigrin in one of the regional libraries...

Ales **Karlyukevich**

9. 在岁月深处。讲述塔吉克人民历史上各种事件的历史缩影集。

此外，还有十几部小说，列举这些作品没有意义，因为会占用很多篇幅。

阿列斯，如果你需要一本煽情的小説，我向你推荐《在命运中行走》。它给我们的读者留下了震撼人心的印象。我们的图书贸易部可以承接您的大量印数。考虑一下吧，等阿托-哈姆丹来明斯克时和他谈谈。这是为未来做打算。

我想让您读一读我的故事《沙加内，你是我的，沙加内》。它被收录在塔吉克散文作品选中。故事讲述了上世纪二十年代，一个白俄罗斯男孩在塔吉克斯坦与巴斯马奇作战的故事。我很想知道您的意见。遗憾的是，我不得不删减了很多内容。

在杜尚别几乎没有俄语小说。出版书籍也是一个大问题。您可以从我们的小说清单中看到这一点。

除了我之外，诗人谢尔盖-苏霍扬也用俄语写作。他的诗很有意思。他已经七十多岁了，不幸的是，他的健康出现了问题。

阿列斯，奥辛托夫是一个小村庄、定居点，还是由什么发展而来？它是什么？我开始涉足我的传记了。

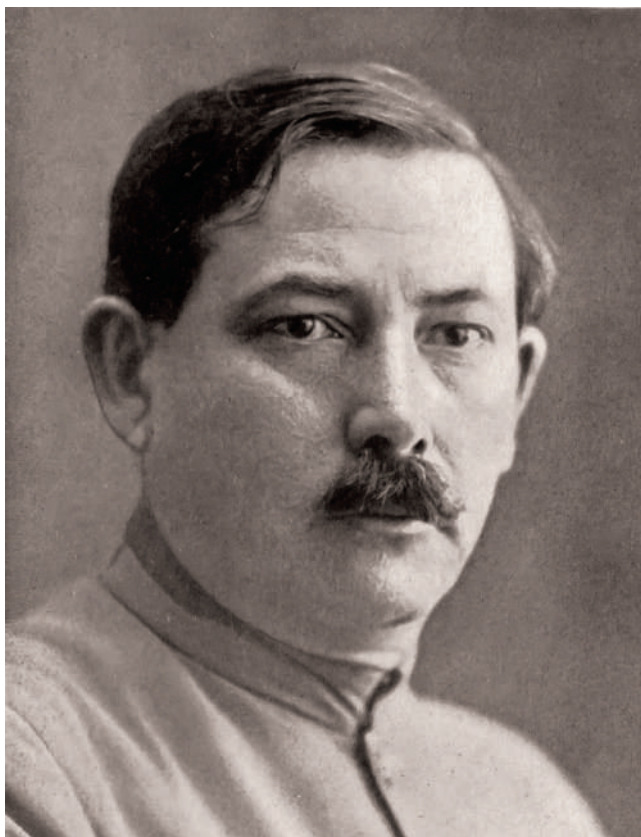
我会把阿托-哈姆丹的《苏联人民的故事》寄给你，也许你会发现一些有趣的东西。我在等你的回信，列昂尼德。

在俄罗斯-塔吉克（斯拉夫）大学教授新闻学和戏剧（他从事这项工作超过 15 年）的列昂尼德-奇格林仍然觉得自己不受欢迎。他的著作难以被印刷。在去世前不久，他搬到了俄罗斯联邦，他的儿子是一名军人，当时住在那里。他一直从事创作，直到生命的最后几天。2020 年 10 月 6 日，列昂尼德-奇格林在罗斯托夫州死于冠状病毒。

列昂尼德-奇格林逝世后留下了巨大的创作遗产。我们的同胞展示中亚历史的努力令人印象深刻。小说、中篇小说、历史缩影，整个图书馆！列昂尼德-奇格林收到了向莫斯科电子杂志《卡默顿》寄送作品的通知，他试图充分利用这一机会。结果，这位作家的许多作品被放到了数字空间。至于印刷版，则是在白俄罗斯 "Nyoman" 杂志的支持下实现的，为此他向当时的散文部编辑奥列格-阿列克谢耶维奇-日单鞠了一躬。然而，即使在作家逝世后的今天，白俄罗斯似乎也应该做一些有意义的事情来纪念他。为什么不把他的作品分成几卷出版呢？列昂尼德-奇格林的小说和故事通俗易懂，充满了有趣的信息，还蕴含着许多朴素的人生哲理，不同的人物在历史的关键时刻揭示了这些哲理。

我们的同胞在文学领域做出了巨大贡献，他的形象和人格值得永垂不朽。为什么不以列昂尼德-奇格林的名字命名奥辛托夫的一条街道呢？或者在杜布罗夫诺也这样做。或者至少在某一地区的图书馆里为作家、历史学家列昂尼德-奇格林建立一个博物馆。

**阿列斯 卡尔留什科维奇**



## 米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷：从美国到中国的政治之旅

## MIKHAIL BORODIN: POLITICAL JOURNEY FROM THE USA TO CHINA

In 1918, the leader of the world proletariat, Vladimir Lenin, wrote in his *Letter to the American Workers*, "One Russian Bolshevik, who took part in the revolution of 1905 and spent many years in your country, offered me to take upon himself the delivery of my letter to you. I accepted with great pleasure his proposal that the American revolutionary proletarians are called upon to play a particularly important role right now as the irreconcilable enemies of American imperialism, the freshest, the most powerful and the very last to take part in the world massacre of peoples over the division of capitalist profits. It is now that American billionaires, these modern slave traders, have opened a particularly tragic page in the bloody history of bloody imperialism, they have given consent — no matter directly or indirectly, openly or hypocritically hidden — to the armed campaign of the Anglo-Japanese beasts with the aim of suppressing the first socialist republic..." The article by V.I. Lenin was published in the newspaper *Pravda* on August 22nd, 1918 (and written on August 20th, 1918).



The worker and Bolshevik we were talking about is our compatriot from the Vitebsk Region, from the Vitebsk Province, Mikhail Markovich Borodin (surname at birth - Gruzenberg), born on July 9th, 1884 in the Vitebsk village of Yanovich. The boy was born into a poor Jewish family. He spent his childhood and early youth in Latvia. Since the first years of the new 20th century, he has been an active member of Social Democratic circles. Already in 1903, the young man became a member of the RSDLP. He immediately identifies himself as a Bolshevik. Both in statements and in deeds. In 1904—1905 the young man finds himself in exile in Bern.

Traditionally, there were tens of thousands of foreign citizens in Switzerland. The following statistics seem interesting. In 1910, there were 147 foreigners per 1,000 inhabitants in Switzerland. Then, as, for example, in Spain — only one person per thousand. In Russia — four, in Germany — 17, in Belgium — 31, in France — 27... A significant place among the Swiss immigrants was occupied by Russians or subjects of the Russian Empire. Switzerland was also a haven for training young revolutionaries. The Russian colony of that time was an interesting, noticeable social phenomenon. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Russian professors accounted for 13 (!) percent of positions in faculties headed by non-Swiss. So, it was not so difficult for Borodin to become saturated with revolutionary, Marxist ideas precisely in Switzerland, in Bern, where he obviously acquired his first serious political acquaintances... In 1905—1907 our compatriot was at underground revolutionary work in Riga. In December 1905, Mikhail Borodin participated in the First Conference of the RSDLP

1918 年,世界无产阶级领袖弗拉基米尔-列宁在《给美国工人的信》中写道:»一位参加过 1905 年革命并在贵国生活多年的俄国布尔什维克向我提出,让我负责给你们送信。我非常高兴地接受了他的提议,因为美国革命无产者作为美帝国主义不共戴天的敌人,作为最新鲜、最强大、最晚参与世界各国为瓜分资本主义利润而进行的屠杀的人,现在要发挥特别重要的作用。正是现在,美国的亿万富翁们,这些现代奴隶贩子,在血腥帝国主义的血腥历史上揭开了特别悲惨的一页,他们同意——仍然是直接的或间接的、公开的或虚伪隐蔽的——英日野兽武装进军,镇压第一个社会主义共和国.....» 弗拉基米尔-列宁的文章刊登在 1918 年 8 月 22 日的《真理报》上(写于 1918 年 8 月 20 日)。

我们一直在谈论的这位工人和布尔什维克是来自维捷布斯克州的同胞米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷-鲍罗廷(出生时的姓氏——格鲁岑贝格),1884 年 7 月 9 日出生。他出生在维捷布斯克的亚诺维奇镇,他出生在一个贫穷的犹太家庭,他在拉脱维亚度过了童年和青年时期。从二十世纪新纪元的最初几年起,他就是社会民主党界的活跃分子。早在 1903 年,这位年轻人就已成为俄国社会民主工党的成员。他立即将自己定义为布尔什维克,言行一致。1904-1905 年,这位年轻人流亡到伯尔尼。

瑞士历来有数以万计的外国公民。以下统计数据似乎很有趣。1910年,瑞士每1000名居民中有147名外国人。而在西班牙,每千人中只有一个外国人。俄罗斯为4人,德国为17人,比利时为31人,法国为27人。大量瑞士移民是俄罗斯人或俄罗斯帝国的臣民。瑞士也是培养年轻革命者的避难所。当时的俄罗斯殖民地是一个有趣而显著的社会现象。二十世纪初,在非瑞士人开

办的学院中，俄罗斯教授占了13%(!)。因此，正是在瑞士，在伯尔尼，鲍罗廷吸收革命和马克思主义思想并不困难，他显然是在伯尔尼结识了他的第一批政治朋友。

1905-1907年，我们的同胞参与了里加的地下革命工作。1905年12月，米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷参加了在芬兰塔梅尔福斯举行的俄共(布)社会民主党第一次会议。列宁、克鲁普斯卡娅、捷尔任斯基、列夫-加米涅夫、列昂尼德-克拉辛、朱利叶斯-马尔托夫、维克多-拉杜斯-曾科维奇、约瑟夫-斯大林。不同年代的人们已经为1917年及其后的政治事件奠定了革命的基础。1906年4月至5月，米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷参加了在斯德哥尔摩举行的俄共(布)第四次代表大会(也被称为“统一”大会)。波兰王国和立陶宛社会民主党、拉脱维亚社会民主党、联邦党以及乌克兰、芬兰和保加利亚社会民主党的代表参加了斯德哥尔摩的政党论坛。大会的大多数与会者都是孟什维克，这对大会的一些决定产生了影响。在这次大会上，审议了各种农业问题。列宁计划的实质是要求没收贵族、教堂、修道院和其他土地，并在革命胜利的情况下将所有土地收归国有。征用土地作为反对政府的一种游击战形式的问题也得到了详细考虑。列宁及其支持者允许把征用作为一种筹集革命活动资金的可能方式。

1906年底，米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷移居英国。从1907年初到1918年7月，他一直生活在美国。在那里，他找到了另一半。他的孩子在那里出生。米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷逐渐成为在美国的俄罗斯政治移民中最杰出的领导人之一。他组织了一所政治移民学校。站在今天的高度，我们很难对鲍罗廷的行为做出明确的评价。毫无疑问，他是一名布尔什维克，并按照共产党(无论是俄共(布)、全联盟共产党(布尔什维克)还是中央政治局)的目标行事。但他是否该定义为完整意义上的马克思主义者？这也是问题中的问题。毕竟，每一位伟大的主要人物——列宁、斯大林、托洛茨基——都以自己的方式评论了马克思主义。托洛茨基称米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷为准革命官僚机构的代表(但这已经指的鲍罗廷在中国的生活和活动时期)。

米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷回到苏维埃俄国后，列宁指示他作为自己信任的人，解决革命前资助布尔什维克的相关事宜。为此，鲍罗廷前往瑞典。1919年1月，他与一群布尔什维克和英国特工(瓦茨拉夫-沃罗夫斯基、马克西姆-利特维诺夫、阿瑟-兰斯等人)一起被驱逐出境。1919年，鲍罗廷被任命为苏联驻墨西哥的第一位领事。一位具有丰富政治经验的布尔什维克人发现自己是一个共产党的创始人，并为第三国际拉丁美洲局的诞生做出了贡献。共产国际(或第三国际)由列宁创建，从1919年运行到1943年。按照列宁的表述，它被称为“全世界工人在所有国家建立苏维埃政权而奋斗的联盟”。

人们有时会提到，米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷会见了墨西哥总统维努斯蒂亚诺-卡兰萨(1859-1920年)，他在1917年3月11日至1920年5月21日期间担

in Tammerfors (Finland). Among the delegates of this party event there were Lenin, Krupskaya, Dzerzhinsky, Lev Kamenev, Leonid Krasin, Yuliy Martov, Viktor Radus-Zenkovich, Iosif Stalin... People of different generations, they have already laid the revolutionary ground for 1917 and subsequent political events... And in April — May 1906, Mikhail Markovich participated in the 4th Congress (it was also called ‘unification’) of the RSDLP in Stockholm. The party forum in Stockholm brought together delegates from the Social Democrats of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania, the Latvian Social Democrats, the Bund, as well as representatives of the Ukrainian, Finnish and Bulgarian Social Democratic parties. Most of the congress participants were Mensheviks, which influenced some of its decisions. A special place at the congress was occupied by the consideration of various programmes of an agrarian nature... The essence of Lenin’s project boiled down to the demand for the confiscation of noble, church, monastic and other lands, and in the event of a victory in the revolution — the nationalisation of all land. The issue of expropriation as one of the forms of ‘guerrilla warfare’ against the government was also considered in detail. Lenin and his supporters accepted expropriation as a possible way to raise funds to finance revolutionary activities.

At the end of 1906, Mikhail Borodin emigrated to Great Britain. And from the beginning of 1907 to July 1918, he lived in the United States of America. There he found his soulmate. His children were born there. Gradually, Mikhail Markovich becomes one of the most prominent leaders of Russian political emigration in the United States. He organised a school for political emigrants. From the heights of today, it is difficult to give unambiguous assessments of one or another actions of Borodin-Gruzenberg... The fact that he was a Bolshevik, acted in accordance with the tasks set by the Communist Party (whether it was the RSDLP or the RSDLP (Bolsheviks) or the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) or CPSU) is undisputable. But was he a Marxist in the full sense of this definition...? Also a question of questions. After all, each of the great, major personalities — Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky — commented on Marxism in their own way... Trotsky called Mikhail Borodin a representative of the ‘quasi-revolutionary bureaucracy’ (but this already refers to the Chinese period of the life and work of our compatriot)... When Mikhail Markovich returned to Soviet Russia, Lenin instructed him, as a person he trusted, to resolve issues related to the pre-revolutionary financing of the Bolsheviks. For this purpose, Borodin goes to Sweden. And in January 1919, he was expelled along with a group of Bolsheviks and British agents (Vaclav Vorovsky, Maksim Litvinov, Arthur Rance and others). In 1919, Borodin was appointed the first Soviet consul in Mexico. A Bolshevik with extensive

political experience found himself at the origins of one of the communist parties and contributes to the birth of the Latin American Bureau of the Third International. The Comintern (or Third International), founded by Lenin, operated from 1919 to 1943. The so-called, according to Lenin's formulation, 'union of workers of the whole world striving for the establishment of Soviet power in all countries'. It is sometimes mentioned that Mikhail Markovich met with Mexican President Venustiano Carranza (1859 — 1920), who served as president from March 11th, 1917 to May 21st, 1920, in order to propose to the Mexican leader the idea of an anti-imperialist struggle. In Mexico, our compatriot met the Indian emigrant Manabendra Nat Roy (1887 - 1954), whom, having joined Marxism, he brought into the ranks of the Communist International. Thanks to Borodin, in the summer of 1920, an Indian revolutionary, a fighter for the independence of his native India, came to Russia. He received an invitation to speak at the Second Congress of the Comintern. After the congress, he remained in Moscow, where he worked for the Comintern for eight years. He participated in the creation in Tashkent (now sovereign Uzbekistan) of a military-political school to train revolutionary personnel for Asian countries. The Indian took an active part in the creation of the Communist Party of India. In 1922, he began publishing the magazine *Avangard*, the organ of the exile Communist Party of India. At the end of his life, Roy became an equal opponent of both bourgeois democracy and communism, and developed an alternative philosophy, which he himself called radical humanism. He wrote a corresponding manifesto, which he called the *New Manifesto*...

And our fellow countryman, whose biography by that time had already accumulated many pages with the expectation of an adventurous novel, meanwhile received new party and government assignments. Mikhail Borodin was sent as an adviser to Scotland. He didn't stay there long. After some time, Borodin was already in Türkiye. He even met Kemal Atatürk (1881—1938), the future president of Turkey (1923—1938). The Soviet government was looking for ways to recognise, develop relations, and promote Marxist, socialist ideas around the world. And such energetic, capable, courageous people as Mikhail Borodin were definitely worth their weight in gold.

Since September 8th, 1923, the native of Yanovich was a political adviser to the Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang. Founded in 1894 as the Society for the Renaissance of China, the Chinese National Party (KMT), whose ideology converged and mixed quite a lot of different things — primarily based on Chinese nationalism, sought to liberate China from the domination of imperialist powers and 'unite the various nationalities of China', primarily there were only five main ones: Han Chinese, Mongols, Tibetans, Manchus and Muslims (actually, Uyghurs). In 1901 — 1925, the head of the Kuomintang party was a bright, charismatic



任墨西哥总统，以便向墨西哥领导人提出反帝斗争的思想。在墨西哥，我们的同胞结识了印度移民马纳本德拉-纳特-罗伊（1887 - 1954 年），他坚持马克思主义，并把他带入了共产国际的行列。由于鲍罗廷的帮助，1920 年夏天，一位印度革命家、争取祖国印度独立的斗士来到了俄国。他收到了在共产国际第二次代表大会上发言的邀请。大会结束后，他留在莫斯科，在共产国际工作了八年。他参与了在塔什干（现为乌兹别克斯坦首都）建立军事政治学校的工作，为亚洲各国培养革命干部。这位印度人积极参与了印度共产党的创建。1922 年，他开始出版印度移民共产党的机关刊物《先锋》杂志。在生命的最后阶段，罗伊同样反对资产阶级民主和共产主义，并提出了另一种哲学，他自己称之为激进人文主义。他写了一份相关的宣言，被称为《新宣言》。

而我们的同胞鲍罗廷，当时他的传记已经积累了许多篇幅，有望写成一部冒险小说——同时又接到了新的党和国家任务。米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷前往苏格兰担任参赞。他在那里停留了很短时间。过了一段时间，鲍罗廷已经到了土耳其。他甚至见到了土耳其未来的总统凯末尔-阿塔图尔克（1881-1938 年）（1923-1938 年执政）。

苏联政府正在寻找在全世界承认、发展和推广马克思主义、社会主义思想的途径。像米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷这样精力充沛、有能力、有勇气的人绝对称职。

从 1923 年 9 月 8 日起，这位亚诺维奇人担任国民党中央执行委员会政治顾问。中国国民党（国民党）成立于 1894 年，前身是维新会，其意识形态以中国民族主义为基础，旨在将中国从帝国主义列强的统治下解放出来，团结中国各民族，主要是五个主要民族：汉族、蒙古族、藏族、满族和穆斯林（实际上是维吾尔族）。1901-1925 年间，国民党的领袖是一位聪明、有魅力的领导人——孙中山。顺便提一下，后来成为中将军的亚历山大-伊万诺维奇-切列帕诺夫（1895 - 1984 年）曾在中国担任苏联军事顾问。鲍罗廷设法结识了孙中山。这位苏联使者竭尽全力组织国民党和中国共产党之间的合理联盟。这在当时是可能的。但孙中山去世了。蒋介石（1887-1975 年）以国民革命军总司令的身份领导国民党，导致国民党分裂。他背叛了中国人民在苏联共产党帮助下建立起来的态度。

米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷带着他的家人（他的妻子和两个儿子与他一起在中国）和具有左翼共产主义观点的传奇美国记者安娜-斯特朗（1885-1970 年）回到苏联。作为一名战地记者，安娜-斯特朗撰写了许多支持苏联和中国的书籍和文章。这位美国人与鲍罗廷一起参与创办了《莫斯科新闻》报。米哈伊尔-马尔卡维奇曾担任过一段时间的劳动人民委员。之后，他被任命为《莫斯科新闻》报主编。1941-1949 年，鲍罗廷担任《Sovinformburo》的主编。1949 年，反对“世界主义”的斗争开始，鲍罗廷被捕。1951 年 5 月 29 日，这位布尔什维克-列宁主义者在莱福尔托沃监狱接受调查时因遭到毒打而去世。命运给了这位革命家、外交家、政治家、国家建设者 66 年的生命，而国家却出人意料地“感谢”了他。无法想象，在这六十五年的生命中，他投入了多少心血和精力！

斯大林去世后，鲍罗廷获得平反。米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷的大儿子——红军上校弗雷德-鲍罗廷（生于 1908 年）在卫国战争初期牺牲。二儿子是记者兼情报官员诺曼-鲍罗廷（1911-1974 年）。正是诺曼竭尽全力揭露了父亲的真相。顺便提一下，米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷是一位法国作家的小说《侵略者》的主人公之一的原型，这位作家早在 1928 年就创作了这部小说，他对中国也并不陌生。

今天的亚诺维奇是维捷布斯克州维捷布斯克区的一个城市型小镇。它位于维姆扬卡河畔，维姆扬卡河是卡斯普利河的左支流，位于维捷布斯克东北 38 公里处。距离利奥兹诺火车站 26 公里。根据截至 2023 年 1 月 1 日的数据，该镇共有 676 人。镇里有一座弗拉基米尔-列宁纪念碑。犹太区遗址上也有一座纪念碑。显然，米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷的许多至亲都死在那里。该镇（有自己的盾徽）的公园被称为“民族团结公园”。为民族团结而战的不是布尔什维克革命家米哈伊尔-鲍罗廷吗？

尼古拉 别列日

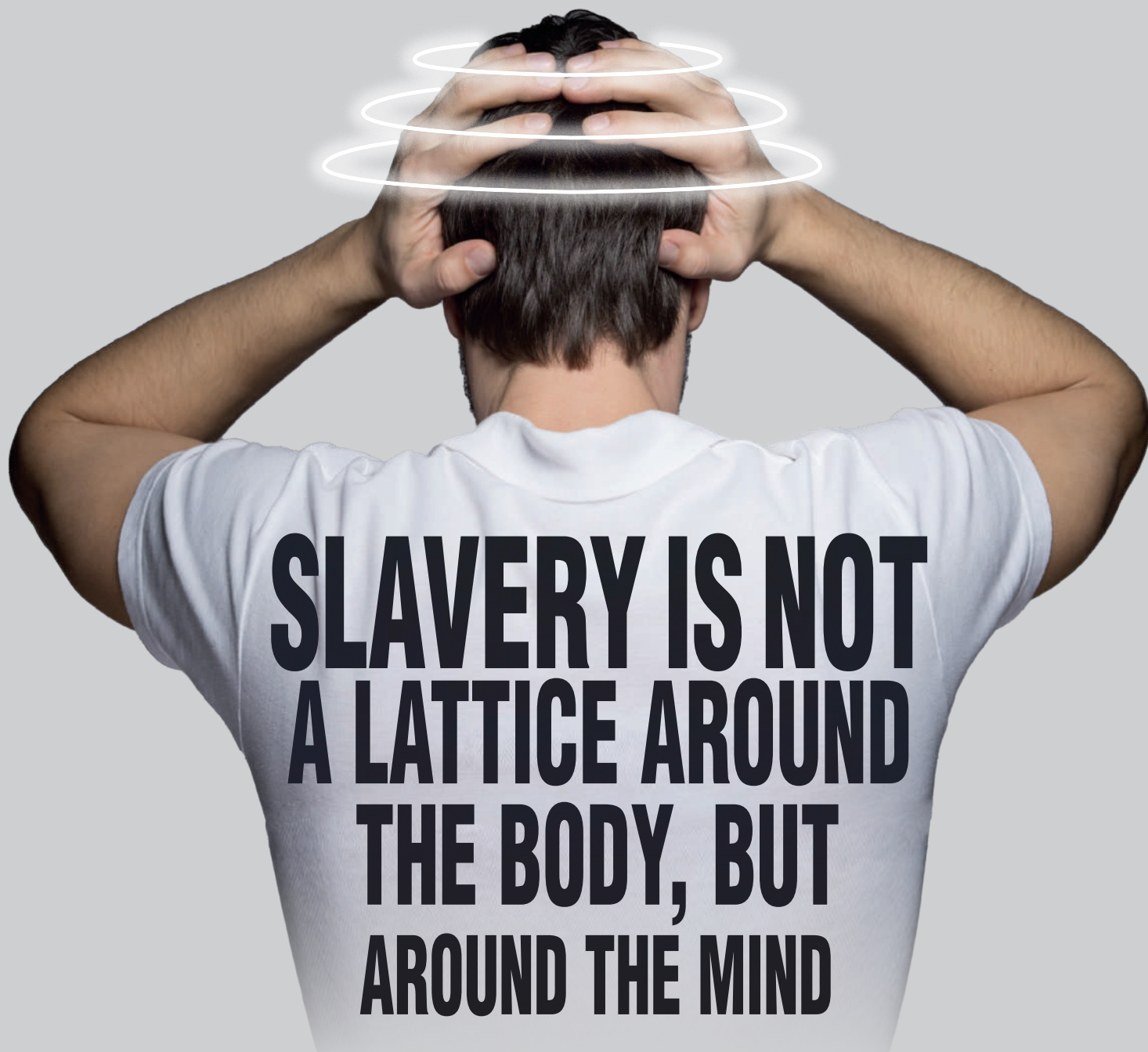
leader — Sun Yat-sen... By the way, Aleksandr Ivanovich Cherepanov (1895 — 1984), who later became a lieutenant general, worked as a Soviet military adviser in China.. Borodin managed to make friends with Sun Yat-sen. The Soviet emissary made every effort to organise a reasonable alliance between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communists. At that time, it was possible. But Sun Yat-sen died... Chiang Kai-shek (1887 - 1975), who led the Kuomintang party, took the post of commander-in-chief of the National Revolutionary Army, led the Kuomintang to a split. And he betrayed those approaches that the Soviet communists helped the Chinese people to establish...

Mikhail Markovich returns to the Soviet Union with his family (his wife and two sons were with him in China) and the legendary American journalist Anna Strong (1885—1970) of leftist, communist views. War correspondent Anna Strong wrote many books and articles in support of the USSR and China. Together with Borodin, the American participates in the founding of the Moscow News newspaper. For some time, Mikhail Markovich served as People's Commissar of Labour. And then he was appointed editor-in-chief of the *Moscow News* newspaper. In 1941—1949 Borodin was the editor-in-chief of the Sovinformburo. And in 1949, when the fight against 'cosmopolitanism' began, Borodin was arrested. The Bolshevik-Leninist died on May 29th, 1951 in Lefortovo prison during the investigation after a severe beating. Fate gave 66 years of life to the revolutionary, diplomat, politician, builder of the country, which so unexpectedly 'thanked' him... It is impossible to imagine how much and how many different things were invested in these six and a half decades of life!

After Stalin's death, Borodin was rehabilitated. One of Mikhail Markovich's sons, Red Army Colonel Fred Borodin (b. 1908), died at the beginning of the Great Patriotic War. The second son was journalist and intelligence officer Norman Borodin (1911—1974). It was Norman who did everything possible to tell the truth about his father. By the way, Mikhail Borodin is the prototype of one of the heroes of the novel *The Invaders* by a French writer, also no stranger to China, created back in 1928.

...Yanovich today is an urban-type settlement in the Vitebsk District of the Vitebsk Region. Located on the Vymnyanka River, the left tributary of the Kasplya... 38 km northeast of Vitebsk. And 26 km from the Liozno railway station. Judging by data as of January 1st, 2023, 676 people live in the village. There is a monument to Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. There is also a monument at the site of the ghetto. Apparently, many of Mikhail Markovich's closest relatives died there... The park in the agricultural town, urban settlement (the village has its own coat of arms) is called the Park of National Unity... Wasn't it the revolutionary, Bolshevik Mikhail Borodin who fought for this unity?

Nikolai Berlezh



# **SLAVERY IS NOT A LATTICE AROUND THE BODY, BUT AROUND THE MIND**

**Why is it easy to impose  
unnecessary purchases  
and other people's  
opinions on us?**

**Unnecessary purchases, other people's opinions, certain rules, lifestyle — there are many things that are imperceptibly imposed on us. Among them there is even breakfast, which is familiar to every modern person. As you know, there are various studies on the connection between morning meals and general health and the incidence of various diseases. However, most of the surveys are commissioned from large breakfast cereal manufacturing companies. Why are we so easy to deceive and are ready to believe what we are convinced of? How does our brain distort information? Why do we see what we believe in the first place and can this be corrected? We are looking into this with a neurosurgeon, a researcher at the Department of Brain Tumours of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N. N. Alexandrov, a teacher at the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Healthcare Personnel of the Belarusian State Medical University, Gumen Ghorbannijad.**



“We do a lot of things in our lives out of habit, because we believe that it’s necessary or others do it,” notes Dr. Gumen. “And we don’t think about why we do this. Moreover, this can continue throughout life. One such example is breakfast. In the morning we wake up and have breakfast, even if we are not hungry. Sometimes we don’t have time to have breakfast and get nervous because of this, although we can work fully.

If we look into history, we will not see breakfast there. In Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece, people generally ate once a day and felt good. The Indians ate only when they felt hungry or needed energy to do some work. There was no obligation to eat two or three times a day, and the body functioned normally. In the Middle Ages in Europe they ate only twice a day. The first time was around 11 o’clock, the second time was five to six hours later, when a feeling of hunger appeared. And the concept of breakfast as such did not exist at all.

When breakfast appeared in Russia, it was called ‘after the morning’; later it was renamed “breakfast”.

Historians write that Catherine the Great loved to wake up at six in the morning and feast on biscuits, cakes and other sweets. At this time, many of her followers appeared: if the empress herself had breakfast, then others should too.

In most nations, breakfast consisted either of yesterday’s lunch or leftover food. There were no special requirements that this is what you should eat for breakfast.”

**“So do we still need to have breakfast?”**

“Morning meal, as well as its absence, has positive effects. If we have breakfast, we provide ourselves with the necessary energy for the whole day and improve the functioning of the body.

However, given the fact that in the 21st century more people die from obesity than from hunger, in the absence of breakfast we will be unable to either lose weight or improve our health. A break in food intake helps cleanse cells, activates thinking processes, reduces the severity of the inflammatory process and creates favourable conditions for slowing down the aging process. In this way, autophagy is triggered (the natural process of regeneration and cleansing of the body at the intracellular level, with the help of which lysosomes are able to process unnecessary, dysfunctional components of our cells), and the body, in a sense, rejuvenates. But this is provided that we are completely healthy.”

**“So how did they force breakfast on us? How did it appear?”**

“This happened in Europe in the 18th century during the era of industrialisation. Peasants moved to the city to work in factories. The work took from 10 to 16 hours, and the workers had no time to eat. Therefore, they ate before the start of the working day, since there was no such opportunity later. On the one hand, industrialists used the workforce to the maximum, on the other, they understood that if a person was hungry at work, he would think about food instead of working. Therefore, breakfast at this time became an important element for workers.

And many companies got rich from it. At the same time, they actively used the opinions of scientists and doctors to promote their ideas. In 1944, General Foods, the corn flakes company, developed an advertising campaign with the slogan ‘Eat a Better Breakfast and Work Better’. They used the opinions of nutrition experts who believed that breakfast is the most important meal of the day and the best part of our lives. Due to this, the company earned good money.

## A PROFESSIONAL'S VIEW

Edward Bernays, one of the largest advertising and PR specialists, who was one of the creators of the modern science of mass persuasion, based not on reason, but on the manipulation of subconscious feelings and impulses, played an important role in the promotion of breakfast. He was in a sense a follower of Machiavelli, they both excluded morality in the management of people. One of Bernays's favourite techniques for manipulating public opinion in favour of his clients was the use of authority figures. He said, "If you can influence leaders, whether they realise it or not, you automatically influence the groups of people under their influence."

To stimulate bacon sales, he conducted a study that determined that Americans have a very light breakfast: coffee, a muffin and orange juice. After talking with his doctor about this, he came to the conclusion that a rich breakfast is better than a light one because the body loses energy at night and needs it during the day. He asked his doctor to write to five thousand colleagues, asking if they agreed with this opinion.

Roughly 4,500 answered 'yes', agreeing that a heartier breakfast is better than a lighter breakfast for Americans' health. Bernays then arranged for this finding to be published in newspapers across the country with headlines like: 4,500 Doctors Urge Heartier Breakfasts. It was argued that bacon and scrambled eggs should be its main components. As a result of these actions, bacon sales increased."

### **"But Bernays influenced not only the spread of breakfast..."**

"One of his most famous campaigns was promoting smoking among women in the 1920s. Bernays helped the tobacco industry overcome one of the biggest social taboos of the time: women smoking in public. Women could only smoke in designated areas or not at all. Those who violated this rule were arrested. In 1929, at the Easter parade in New York, Bernays presented models who smoked Lucky Strike brand cigarettes, calling them 'Torches of Freedom', playing along with the then gaining popularity of the movement for the emancipation of women. After the parade, women began to smoke more than ever before. It was thanks to Bernays that women's smoking became socially acceptable.

**Modern democracy, from Bernays's point of view, is when a group of people controls the actions of others and convinces them what to do and how to do it. Instead of directly wishing something, the person seems to think for himself and make a decision on his own. In any system you need to manage people, because without this it will not function. But it matters who controls. In the concept of 'free democracy' people are controlled by their feelings, and if they are influenced, it seems as if people themselves make decisions, and not someone controls them.**

As is known, in capitalist systems elements are always created that cannot be controlled, but they influence the system itself. For example, the military industry in America. It has recently been the cause of many wars on our planet."

### **"If, in your opinion, people are so easily deceived, how does this happen?"**

"If we take Ancient Greece and Ancient China, at that time they had approximately the same knowledge in astronomy, their scientists explored the Moon. Ancient Greece was even slightly ahead of China. But the Chinese saw the Moon with its depressions and elevations, and they even had names. And it's not that the ancient Greeks didn't notice craters — they simply considered the Moon to be an ideal cosmic body.

Our brain, namely the area called the hippocampus, tends to distort the real situation when we are convinced of something or when the vast majority thinks so.

And we begin to see what we believe in, and not what really is.

**In other works of Bernays, he explored the influence of the quality of education. Smart people ask a lot of questions, they are more difficult to control, and they are difficult to manage. They are also bad buyers. Therefore, the deterioration in the quality of education and the decline in mental abilities contributes to democracy: it is possible to better influence people, it is easier to convince them of something.**

A mentality is created where people consider it a great advantage that they live better than others. A consumer culture is being cultivated, when a feeling of joy arises from the fact that you live better than, for example, your neighbour. Better phone, car, TV. And if you take them away, this artificial feeling will disappear. It is formed instead of developing mental abilities and improving thinking.

Benjamin Franklin said that democracy is two wolves and one lamb voting on what to eat for dinner. Franklin was an outstanding politician and did a lot for America in his time, but if he lived now and saw what democracy had become, he would probably be shocked.

While serving on the Woodrow Wilson Administration's Committee on Public Information during World War I, Bernays promoted the idea that the American military's primary focus was 'to establish democracy throughout Europe' and convinced Americans that a state of neutrality should be moved to a state of war, since there is a threat to their sense of security. It turned out that during World War I, the Americans themselves seemed to decide that they needed this war.

Every person wants freedom and does not understand that slavery is not a lattice around the body, but a lattice around the mind. If the mind is blind, it doesn't matter what kind of vision you have. If there is no freedom of mind and you do not understand what you are doing, freedom will not give you anything.

Currently, knowledge of neurobiology is increasing, artificial intelligence has been created, these techniques are improving their impact on people and opening up new horizons. It is important that people can think independently and not fall into the traps of manipulators."

Yelena **Kravets**



**THE FAMOUS  
KALYADY  
TSARS,  
KONIKI AND  
OTHERS...**

著名的 科利亚  
德沙皇、  
科尼基 等。  
白俄罗斯各地  
都保留着 慷慨  
之夜 的传统

Different parts of Belarus have preserved their own traditions of the Shchodry Vechar (Bounteous Evening) On the eve of the Old New Year, January 13th, Bounteous Evening is celebrated (Shchadrets or Shchodrik in Belarusian). Previously, as ethnographers believe, each region had its own unique traditions. Somewhere they are lost, somewhere they have survived to this day.

### The image must be impressive

In the classic version, in the evening, guys gather in a large group, dress up as mummers (among other things, Goat, Bear and Grandfather costumes are used for this metamorphosis). In general, carol images and masks of Belarusians are a separate and very interesting topic. They cannot be compared with the Venetian ones, but they are closer to the people. In addition to the main ones already mentioned, there were masks of Horse, Stork, and Crane. Less common were such characters as the Bull (Tur), Wolf, Fox and Hare. There were also Gypsies, Pan and Panenka and many others. However, in this case, on the Bounteous Evening, the main role is played by a character called Shchadrets. Usually they choose some strong, broad-shouldered guy for this, since the image of the main character of the holiday should be impressive. They put on a shaggy sheepskin coat and a wide cape, on which bright pieces of fabric, bells, and tinsel are sewn, on him. A crown made of shiny paper is placed on the head of the Shchadrets, and a mask with a huge red nose and cheeks is placed on his face. He is given a staff decorated with ribbons. Shchadrets rides through the village on a cart, which stops near every house while singing cheerful carol songs. In other areas, instead of a guy, they chose a beautiful girl — Shchodra, who was richly dressed up, and went carolling with other people.

### See a unique holiday

The Kalyady Tsars ritual turned the village of Semezhevo, Kopyl District, Minsk Region, into a real attraction. Many tourists interested in the history and culture of Belarus come here every year to see this unique holiday. It all started three centuries ago.

In the 18th century (during the second partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth), units of the regular Russian army were stationed near Semezhevo. On winter holidays, soldiers walked around the village and carolled: they sang, danced, and put on performances. And the villagers treated them to alcohol, sausages and other 'treats'. As they say, everyone was satisfied and happy: the locals got entertainment, the service people got an increase to their meagre rations. Then the army left, but the tradition was preserved, transformed into a unique ritual.

On Bounteous Evening, seven Semezhevo boys dress up in long white shirts, cross-tied with traditional embroidered belts. The neck is decorated with bright women's scarves, and tall paper caps decorated with appliques and ribbons are placed on the head. It is worth recognising that this



在旧历新年前夕，即 1 月 13 日，人们会庆祝「慷慨之夜」或「朔德里克」(Shchodrik)。民族学家认为，早先每个地区都有自己独特的传统。它们在某个时间消失了，又在某个地方保留至今。

### 形象必须令人印象深刻

晚上，大家聚在一起，装扮成唱圣诞颂歌的人（除此之外，还使用山羊、熊和圣诞老人的服装）。总的来说，白俄罗斯人的颂歌形象是一个独立且非常有趣的话题。它们无法与威尼斯的相提并论，但却更贴近人们的生活。除了前面已经提到的主要装扮外，还有马、鹳、鹤的面具。牛（雷神）、狼、狐狸和兔子等角色的面具则不太常见。此外，还有吉普赛人、潘恩卡等。不过，在这种情况下，「慷慨之夜」的主要角色是一个叫做「慷慨人」的角色，通常会选择强壮、肩膀宽的人，因为节日主角的形象应该给人留下深刻印象。他身着毛茸茸的图鲁帕，披着宽大的斗篷，斗篷上缝制着鲜艳的布片、铃铛和彩条。他头上戴着一顶闪闪发光的王冠，脸上戴着一个巨大的红鼻子和红脸颊的面具。在他的手中，人们会给他一根饰有彩带的手杖。慷慨人坐着马车沿着村子行驶，马车在欢快的歌声中停靠在每家每户附近。在某些地区，人们会选择一位美丽的女孩来代替男孩，她会打扮得非常漂亮，并唱圣诞颂歌。

### 体验独特的假期

“科利亚德沙皇”仪式使明斯克州科皮尔区塞梅热沃村成为真正的景点。每年都有许多对白俄罗斯历史文化感兴趣的游客来到这里，一睹该独特节日的风采。这一切



masquerade outfit very vaguely resembles a hussar uniform. At the same time, the guys don't just sing carols, but put on an entire performance with references to the plot of the historical and religious drama Tsar Maximilian (hence the name of the ritual). The kings are accompanied by Grandfather (a girl in tattered men's clothing acts as him) and Grandmother (this role is played by a guy). First of all, they go around the houses of unmarried girls, where they depict funny scenes. Then they express good wishes to the hosts, and receive gifts in return. In the evening, the procession is very atmospherically illuminated by torches.

### Get on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Different regions of Belarus have preserved their own traditions of the Bounteous Evening. For example, in the Stolin District they perform a ritual called Koniki. The famous Kalyady Tsars of the village of Semezhevo, which were included in the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009, also belong to the carol cycle. And this ceremony is carried out on Bounteous Evening — January 13th.

...The carollers came up to the house and sang, "Bounteous evening! Good evening!" Then they began to 'drag out the carols' — begging the hosts for gifts, complaining that they were walking from afar and 'the goat's legs hurt'. The hosts resisted and laughed it off. Then the mummers sang, some carols contained comic threats. And in the end they got their treat. By the way, not giving anything to the carollers was considered shameful, and also a bad omen: the coming year promised failure for the greedy hosts.

### Carollers and 'sowers' were welcome in every home

Indeed, on Bounteous Evening our ancestors always had fun and carolled. They gathered in groups and went from house to house singing carols for the hosts, thereby driving away all evil spirits from the houses. For this, the mummers were thanked with treats — sweets, pies, fruits, but not money, otherwise, according to legend, it was believed that

都始于三个世纪前。

18 世纪（波兰立陶宛联邦期间），俄罗斯正规军驻扎在塞梅热沃附近。寒假里，士兵们在村子里走来走去，唱颂歌。他们唱歌、跳舞、表演。村民们请他们喝酒、吃香肠和其他“奖品”。正如他们所说，每个人都感到满意：当地人得到了娱乐，服务人员的微薄口粮得到了增加。然后军队离开了，但这个传统被保留下来，变成了一种独特的仪式。

在慷慨之夜，七个塞梅热沃男孩穿着白色长衬衫，交叉系着传统的刺绣腰带。脖子上装饰着鲜艳的女式围巾，头上戴着镶有贴花和丝带的高高的纸帽。值得注意的是，这套化装舞会服装与轻骑兵制服非常相似。

与此同时，这些人不仅唱颂歌，还参考历史宗教剧“沙皇马克西米利安”（该仪式因此得名）的情节进行了整场表演。国王由老爷爷（曾出现过穿着破烂男装的男孩）和巴巴（这个角色由一个男人扮演）相随。首先，他们绕到未婚女孩的家中，描绘有趣的场景。然后他们向村民表达美好祝愿，并收到礼物作为回报。晚上，游行队伍被火把照亮，非常有气氛。

### 将列入联合国教科文组织非物质文化遗产名录

白俄罗斯不同地区都保留着自己的《慷慨之夜》传统。例如，在斯托林希纳，人们举行名为《科尼基》的仪式。塞梅热沃村著名的《科利亚德沙皇》于 2009 年被联合国教科文组织列入非物质文化遗产名录。这一仪式恰好在 1 月 13 日举行。

唱圣诞颂歌的人走近房子，唱道《晚上好，晚上好！》然后他们开始向主人要礼物，抱怨他们走了很远的路，「山羊的腿受伤了」。主人很固执，开着玩笑。然后，无赖们唱起歌来，有些歌还包含开玩笑的威胁。最后，他们得到了他们想要的东西。顺便说一句，不给唱颂歌的人





hosts could lose their income. On this evening, it was also customary to 'take Malanka out' — a beautiful, elegant girl. She was taken from house to house, wishing well-being and good luck in the household, as well as in the field.

From midnight to dawn, in addition to the carollers, 'sowers' also came to the houses and generously sowed the house with grain. It was forbidden to sweep it up and throw it away; the seed grains were collected and stored until the new harvest. Carollers and sowers were welcome in every home, because our ancestors believed that if the mummers were not allowed on the threshold, the well-being of the entire family would be lost.

On the morning of January 14th, young people lit bonfires in the hope of scaring away evil spirits; they jumped over the fire and demonstrated their fearlessness.

### What could you do for the Old New Year?

The ancient Belarusians had many traditions and beliefs on the Bounteous Evening. So what should you definitely do to attract good luck to your home for the coming year? For the holiday, you should decorate the house with garlands, candles, spruce or pine branches, and hang banknotes on the spruce. If you didn't have time to make a wish on the night of January 1st, then you can do it on the Old New Year. Everything you wish for will certainly come true. Buy gifts for everyone and don't skimp when choosing gifts.

Go to visit friends and relatives, have fun, sing and dance. Set the festive table for the whole family, bake a prosperity pie and prepare a hearty kutya (ceremonial grain dish). Ask your family for forgiveness for all insults, wish happiness, health and prosperity at the festive table.

It is advisable to buy a new thing, then, our ancestors believed, the whole year would pass under a lucky star. On the eve of the Old New Year, the ancient Slavs burned old clothes and put on new, clean and neat ones.

任何东西都被认为是可耻的，这也是一个不好的预兆：来年会给抠门的主人带来厄运。

### 家家户户都欢迎慷慨人和播种人

是的，我们的祖先在《慷慨之夜》总是很开心。他们成群结队，带着歌声和颂歌走家串户，为主人驱走屋子里的各种邪恶。为此，人们会用糖果、蛋糕、水果来感谢颂歌者，但不允许给钱，否则根据信仰，人们会认为你会失去财富。这个夜晚还有《马兰卡》的习俗——一个打扮得很漂亮的女孩。人们带着她走家串户，祝愿家业兴旺、吉祥如意。

从午夜到黎明，除了唱颂歌的人，播种的人也会来到各家各户，慷慨地播撒谷物。播种的谷物被收集起来储存起来，直到新的收获季节。每家每户都欢迎慷慨人的播种人，因为我们的祖先相信，如果不让他们来到家门口，整个家庭的就会失去幸福。

1月14日上午，年轻人点燃篝火，希望吓退邪恶势力，并跳过火堆，展示他们无所畏惧的精神。

### 旧新年可以做什么

古代白俄罗斯人有很多关于《慷慨之夜》的传统和信仰。那么，应该怎么做才能在来年给家里带来好运呢？

在节日里，您应该用花环、蜡烛、枞树枝或松树枝装饰房屋，并在枞树上挂上钱币。如果您没有时间在1月1日晚上许愿，您可以在旧新年许愿。您的愿望一定会实现。给每个人买礼物，挑选礼物时不要吝啬。

走亲访友，尽情欢乐，载歌载舞。为全家人摆上一桌丰盛的年夜饭，烤一个富贵馅饼，准备一顿丰盛的Kutya。请求亲戚原谅一切过错，在节日餐桌上祝愿幸福、健康和繁荣。

我们的祖先认为，最好买新衣服，这样一整年都会在幸运星的照耀下度过。古代斯拉夫人在除夕夜烧掉旧衣服，换上干净整洁的新衣服。

妇女和女孩在一天中要换三次衣服，这样来年就会有好运相伴。如果她们不小心把衣服穿反了，她们相信这是生活变好的预兆。



Women and girls changed their outfits three times during the day so that good luck would accompany them throughout the next year. And if they accidentally put on clothes inside out, they believed that this was an omen of changes in life for the better.

It was believed that in order to attract good luck and prosperity, you need to throw away broken and chipped dishes and buy new ones. People also believed that if you buy a new broom on January 13th—14th, it will bring wealth.

### What not to do in the Old New Year

Belarusians have accumulated many signs associated with the celebration of the Old New Year. Some of them were invested with practical meaning and the experience of the people, and some have exclusively mystical significance.

You should not start the day with conversations before a person has washed his face, otherwise the whole year will pass in empty chatter. You cannot celebrate the Old New Year exclusively in the company of women; it is believed that then he will be unhappy and lonely. You shouldn't clean the house on this day either; you risk accidentally throwing away your luck along with the trash.

On the eve of the Old New Year, it is forbidden to borrow or lend money, otherwise you will spend the whole year in poverty. The taboo also applies to counting change. Ancient Belarusians believed that such actions would lead to tears and sadness for the whole year.

Women and girls are forbidden to look in the mirror on Bounteous Evening, so as not to convey all their beauty to it. It is forbidden to swear, use foul language, conceal or offend your family and friends and, in general, everyone who is close to you, otherwise, do not expect good luck in the coming year.

At the festive table there is a taboo on toast with the particle 'NOT'. Our ancestors did not pronounce the number '13' on Bounteous Evening and did not count to 13 — this was considered a bad sign. Also, on holiday they never sat down at the table in dark clothes.

Aleksandr Pimenov



人们相信，要想招来好运和繁荣，就应该扔掉破损的餐具，买一个新的。人们还相信，如果在 1 月 13-14 日买一把新扫帚，就会带来财富。

旧新年不能做什么

白俄罗斯人积累了许多与庆祝新年有关的谚语。其中一些谚语具有实际意义和人们的经验，而另一些则具有神秘的含义。

洗脸前不要先说话，否则一年就在闲聊中过去了。不要只在女性的陪伴下庆祝旧的新年，人们认为那样他 wouldn't be happy and lonely. 在这一天打扫房间也是不值得的，一不小心就会把好运和垃圾一起带走。

旧历除夕这天禁止借钱或放贷，否则一整年都会穷困潦倒。数零钱也有禁忌。古代白俄罗斯人认为，这种行为会带来眼泪和整年的悲伤。

禁止妇女和女孩在《慷慨之夜》照镜子，以免把美丽都给了镜子。禁止说脏话、亵渎、隐瞒和冒犯亲戚朋友以及所有与自己关系密切的人，否则来年就别指望好运了。

我们的祖先不念数字《13》，也不数到 13，因为这被认为是不好的征兆。此外，在节日里，人们从不穿深色衣服坐在餐桌旁。

亚历山大-皮门诺夫

# A SONG ABOUT BISON WITH MODERN TUNE

## What secrets does Belovezhskaya Pushcha reveal to guests?

Whoever you ask about the main attractions of Belarus, everyone will definitely mention Belovezhskaya Pushcha in the list of various interesting places. The unique and therefore famous forest not only of Belarus, but also of the whole of Europe welcomes tourists. Of course, it will not reveal its most cherished secrets to the guests. But there are enough different amazing places open to tourists to make sure that Belovezhskaya Pushcha is an extraordinary and even magical place.

Belovezhskaya Pushcha is not only a natural monument, but also a historical monument, and history from its very inception. Primitive man left his mark on this territory back in the 7th millennium BC; the first archaeological finds date back to this period. Here nature has created all the conditions for life: there is enough water, more than enough stone and wood to make tools, the forest is teeming with animals. The modern open-air archaeological museum in Belovezhskaya Pushcha is the only museum in Belarus that not only gives an idea, but actually shows the history of people from the Stone Age (9th millennium BC) to the early Middle Ages (10th century AD). Experts have carried out enormous research and archaeological work to reconstruct primitive settlements of the Stone Age. The museum presents for the first time

residential buildings made of poles covered with animal skins, layers of bark and straw. Settlements from the Bronze Age were recreated based on materials from the Trzcinets archaeological culture of the 2nd millennium BC. Museum visitors can see houses, religious and utility buildings of that time. Every 'house' has household items, tools for work, even the interiors correspond to the reality of that time, as far as we can judge about it now. A walk through the archaeological museum is like traveling in a time machine. The huts of the Stone Age are being replaced by houses that are more similar to modern ones — two rooms, a small corridor, windows. You can see how trades and crafts are developing — there are more tools, they are becoming more perfect and convenient. The creators of the museum also revealed life hacks of that time to the guests. One of them for young mothers is to cover the baby's cradle with moss. The ancestors knew that moss, which is abundant in these places, absorbs water well, and they used it as a prototype for a diaper. It is affordable and, most importantly, absolutely environmentally friendly.

As you know, the study of history begins with the history of ancient times. So distant that, reading their history from modern books or electronic media, it is difficult to imagine how things were there. The archaeological museum in



# 一首现代的欧洲野牛之歌

## 别洛韦日森林向游客透露了哪些秘密？

在白俄罗斯，别洛韦日森林是一处不可错过的旅游景点，无论你问谁，人们都会把它推荐给你。这独一无二的森林不仅在白俄罗斯，而且在整个欧洲都很受游客欢迎。当然，它不会向客人透露最深处的秘密。但是，这里有足够多的地方向游客开放，从而确保别洛韦日森林是一个非凡且神奇的地方。

Belovezhskaya Pushcha really shows how primitive people lived, what they did and what they were capable of. And such information is remembered much better. However, I would really like modern people to be able to try some of the activities of that time for themselves. Today, simply rubbing stone against stone and thereby causing fire is an unusual attraction that will bring even more unique impressions from visiting the archaeological museum.

The journey in the time machine continues through the Museum of Folk Life. The exhibition shows how Belarusians lived in the 19th — early 20th centuries. The house is furnished in such a way that after a walk in the forest, especially in winter, it seems like the most comfortable place in the world. And, perhaps, this is its charm. Guests will be told about the way of life of Belarusians two centuries ago, shown what they did, how they whiled away the long winter evenings. And here



The museum also presents the history of the Pushcha, which, like the history of every state, is full of different happy and tragic times. Belovezhskaya Pushcha has seen many 'strong people of this world'. In 1409, the Polish king Jogaila and the prince of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Vytautas, stocked up meat during a hunt for their troops, who were preparing for war with the Teutonic Order. Vytautas and Jogaila really liked the tarpan-shaped horses that lived in these forests. These were very strong, hardy animals, which, as the museum guides say, 'could get enough water with the morning dew' — it's hard to find a better assistant in war. Thus, we can say that the first brick of victory in the war with the Teutonic Order was laid in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. During the time of Russian Emperor Alexander III, Belovezhskaya Pushcha belonged to the royal family. The Emperor understood the cultural and historical significance of the Pushcha, the need for its protection and monitored its condition. But members of the royal family did not deny themselves the pleasure of hunting in these forests. True, large royal hunts were held every three years so that the number of animals had time to recover. In 1894, a royal palace was built in Belovezhskaya Pushcha, which became

众所周知，历史研究始于远古时代。距今是如此的遥远，以至于仅从现代书籍或电子媒体上阅读它的历史，很难想象当时的情况。别洛韦日森林考古博物馆真实地展示了原始人的生活方式、他们的所作所为，以及他们的能力。这些信息更容易被记住。然而，如果现代人能够亲自尝试一下当时的生活，那将是非常有趣的。今天，简单地用石头摩擦石头的方式取火是一种不寻常的表演，它将为参观考古博物馆带来更加深刻的印象。

guests are offered traditional Pushcha delicacies. To find out which ones you need to go to Belovezhskaya Pushcha.

### To visit the emperor...

It is worth going to Belovezhskaya Pushcha, first of all, to admire the unique nature. After all, this is its kingdom. Those who are not just fascinated, but also deeply interested in nature, should visit the National Park Museum of Nature. In terms of content, it is considered one of the best museums of this type in Belarus. The seven halls display the entire wealth of flora and fauna of Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Moreover, some representatives today cannot be found in any forest. The museum displays stuffed animals of extinct species. The most magnificent is the legendary aurochs. Once upon a time, these powerful bulls lived on the territory of Belovezhskaya Pushcha and were respected by hunters. The best gift was considered to be a bowl made of aurochs horn. Unfortunately, because of such great honour they became extinct.

the autumn residence of the last Russian Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II, but the palace remained in the Polish part of the Pushcha and was destroyed in the 20th century. And in Belarus only its model remains, which is kept in the Museum of Nature. But even without the palace, there is something to see in Belovezhskaya Pushcha.

The owners of the forest, the animals, especially delight tourists. You can get to know them better near the excursion enclosures. In this small forest zoo you can greet deer and roe deer, see wolves and bears, understand why Jogaila liked tarpan-shaped horses, and admire strong birds, including the white-tailed eagle. The emperor of Belovezhskaya Pushcha attracts the most attention — the bison, which he clearly likes. It's scary to imagine that this symbol of Belovezhskaya Pushcha, and the whole country, might not exist. The First World War was fatal for their population. In 1915 there were about 300 animals, then their number gradually decreased. And in 1919, the last bison was killed in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. At that time, only 52 bison remained in zoos in



时光机之旅在民俗生活博物馆继续进行。那里展示了 19 世纪和 20 世纪初白俄罗斯人的生活方式。房屋的布置让人感觉像是在森林中漫步，尤其是在冬天，这里似乎是最舒适的地方。也许这就是它的魅力所在。在这里，客人们可以了解到两百年前白俄罗斯人的生活方式，他们在做什么，如何度过漫长的冬夜。在这里，客人们还能品尝到传统的森林美食，想要知道这些美食是什么，您需要前往别洛韦日森林。

other countries, which were once taken from Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Fortunately, the restoration of this species began in Belarus in the 1920s. Work that had been suspended since the outbreak of World War II resumed after its end. In the 1950s, Pushcha giants were bred in specially created nurseries and gradually released into the wild. Currently, more than 700 bison live in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. And this is a great achievement. After all, Mikola Gusovsky wrote in the famous *Song of the Bison* that 'this animal miraculously survived under the North Star'. An interesting fact — despite its size, the bison is a rather graceful animal — experts say that it can jump over a two-meter fence from a standstill. Fortunately for tourists, he does not allow himself to do this in excursion enclosures. But he allows himself to proudly approach the guests and accept the treat through the fence, showing that although he looks menacing, he is quite sweet at heart.

### And see a fairy tale

Echoes of the bison's song can be heard literally everywhere in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. On the site of the former nursery, where the forest giant once received a second life, today there is a landmark for which every winter tens of thousands of people head to Belovezhskaya Pushcha — the estate of the Belarusian Father Frost. This year it celebrates its anniversary — 20 years since its opening. It seems that the Belarusian Father Frost has always lived in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. However, no, he received official registration only in 2023. Today, the estate of the Belarusian Father Frost is one of the most popular places in Belarus. Every year about 40 thousand letters come here from children and adults, in which they share their thoughts



and cherished desires. All letters are carefully stored in Father Frost's Treasure Box, where guests are always welcome. Visiting this place, you really find yourself in a fairy tale, meet characters you know from childhood and simply have time to make wishes — Father Frost is not greedy for miracles. And all this in an ancient forest, under the arches of centuries-old trees, because the place is located in the very centre of Belovezhskaya Pushcha. On the way to the fairy tale, guests of Father Frost meet trees that are more than three centuries old. Such trees are considered healing, so all guests of Belovezhskaya Pushcha are recommended to hug the trunk (well, as far as the girth of your arms will suffice) and stand quietly for several minutes, absorbing the energy.

Such natural anti-stress, together with the joy of communicating with animals, new interesting knowledge, and fragrant forest air will give each guest a whole set of unique impressions. We can talk endlessly about Belovezhskaya Pushcha, but it is better to see it at least once in order to understand the greatness and uniqueness of this place. Moreover, it is not so difficult. All conditions for relaxation have been created here, and guests (who come with good intentions) are always welcome.

Valeria **Stetsko**

Photo by Yelizaveta Golod

A HOLIDAY FROM THE HEART

# AND THE BALL BEGAN!

Unforgettable, long-awaited, magical... All these epithets were sounded by the mouths of the regulars of the ball, which was held for the 15th time on the Old New Year at the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus



To say that it was atmospheric, solemn, exciting means to say too little. Here and there throughout the evening one could hear the slang among young people, such as 'auf', expressing the highest degree of admiration, and also the emotional word 'cool'...

The guests of the ball — very young and those who had already entered the period of maturity — had fun. Those who chose to attend the concert that kicked off the holiday enjoyed meeting the bohemians of the past — talented, iconic people of their time, including Charlie Chaplin and Isadora Duncan. Memorable numbers were performed by opera and ballet artists of the Bolshoi Theatre, who appeared before the audience in the images of Soviet and foreign pop stars. They presented a medley on themes of Soviet and world song hits. The world famous *Time to Say Goodbye*, *Let It Snow*, *New York, New York* and *Barcelona* were played. The music that sounded that evening gave joy and inspiration, and I wanted to listen to it again and again. Despite the fact that the concert did not have many separate choreographic numbers, the ballet dancers took part in almost every one, and the directors built the entire programme as one big performance. The most important thing is that the audience saw and heard their favourite artists. As we were told at the theatre, they, in turn, also experienced great pleasure from working on this project, which we could see with our own eyes: all the performers played with inimitable inspiration.

"On this magical evening, at this special time, we were happy to meet our beloved viewers. Yes, some of them may have partially seen our programme several years ago. But we updated the concert — we added beautiful and popular works that surprised and, undoubtedly, pleased the audience," said Galina Galkovskaya, winner of the Francysk Skaryna medal, director of the concert. "And we called it: *Surprise Concert for the Old New Year*. The transformation of leading opera soloists into popular pop stars was just a surprise."

This year, everyone who purchased tickets enjoyed the ball with a new format. After the concert there was only dancing. About a hundred couples were united by their love for classical dance. Very young and older, professionals, who were not inferior to even beginners — everyone 'lit up' the dance floor. After all, they rehearsed for two whole months! Since November, choreographer and director, Honoured Artist of Belarus Yulia Dyatko, has been working with the ball participants in the theatre. "The ball has been held for 15 years, and every year something new happens. This time even the name has changed. Now this is the Old New Year's Ball. We rehearsed in advance with the participants (and they



range from 18 to over 80 years old). For me, this is the most interesting thing, and in the end we are even sad to leave," she admitted to reporters.

Chic floor-length dresses for the ladies, tuxedos, tailcoats and simply elegant suits for the gentlemen — a traditional and well-established dress code that does not cause surprise... Nevertheless, the outfits were mesmerising, just like everything else: the ambiance of the interiors, sparkling chandeliers, the rustle of ball gowns, refined manners, perfume aromas... And, of course, enchanting music...

Polonaise, country dance, mazurka, French quadrille, Viennese waltz and polka captivated everyone who bet on the dance.

The public was delighted with both the compulsory and free programmes. At the ball, you could take a souvenir selfie in beautiful photo zones, take part in master classes on ballroom dancing from ballet soloists, and also hear your favourite opera soloists in the foyer. Photo zones, jugglers, and stilt performers accompanied the guests throughout the evening. And everyone seemed to be happy at this brilliant ball. In any case, we did not meet any sad faces.

Mikhailina **Cherkashina**  
Photos from open sources

# АПОЛЛИНАРИЙ ГОРАВСКИЙ

## **TIME DOES NOT ERASE THE EDGES OF TRUE MASTERY**

The exhibition Apollinary Garavsky. The 190th Anniversary of His Birth at the National Art Museum was worth paying attention to based on the significance of the figure of this venerable artist. In addition, his work is thematically inextricably linked with Belarus.



Apollinary Garavsky is a painter, draftsman, author of landscapes and portraits. The period of creative activity coincided with the time of radical transformations in painting, which, however, did not greatly affect the style of the master's work. The landscapes and illusory-realistic portraits he carefully and conscientiously made in accordance with all the rules of academic training inscribe the artist's legacy into the mainstream of the same academic realism of the mid-19th century.

For the first time in the last 40 years, a panorama of the works of Apollinary Garavsky was presented in Minsk in the context of artistic life of almost two centuries ago. In addition, the current exhibition has unveiled new scientific discoveries in the field of studying the artist's work and biography, as well as new attributes of his works.





By the way, the exhibition, in addition to paintings by Apollinary Garavsky, shows the works of his teachers at the Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg — works by Fyodor Bruni and Maksim Vorobyov, as well as the artist's brother, the landscape painter Ippolit Garavsky.

The exhibition is based on works from the collection of the National Art Museum. Of course, Apollinary Garavsky made a significant contribution to the culture of Belarus and Russia in the second half of the 19th century. It would seem that the legacy of this outstanding academician is quite widely represented in domestic collections: the National Art

Museum itself houses several dozen of his works. Although it is worth recognising that the artefacts available in the museum do not fully reflect the versatility of the master's talent.

It is interesting that the legendary Yelena Aladova began collecting works by Apollinary Garavsky, being the Director of the State Art Museum of the BSSR. She bought the artist's paintings for the museum in the 1950s and 1960s from private collectors from Leningrad and Moscow. The general opinion of art experts: the best of Garavsky's works were created in Belarus — landscapes with themes from his native



places are distinguished by their particular emotionality, a departure from classical academic features.

...The 'exposure' of an eminent 19th-century master took place at the National Art Museum. He received the highest medals at the Imperial Academy of Artists and selected paintings for the Tretyakov Gallery. However, Apollinary Garavsky, who comes from near Smolevichi, not far from Minsk, has been exhibiting landscapes of Belarus for a long time.

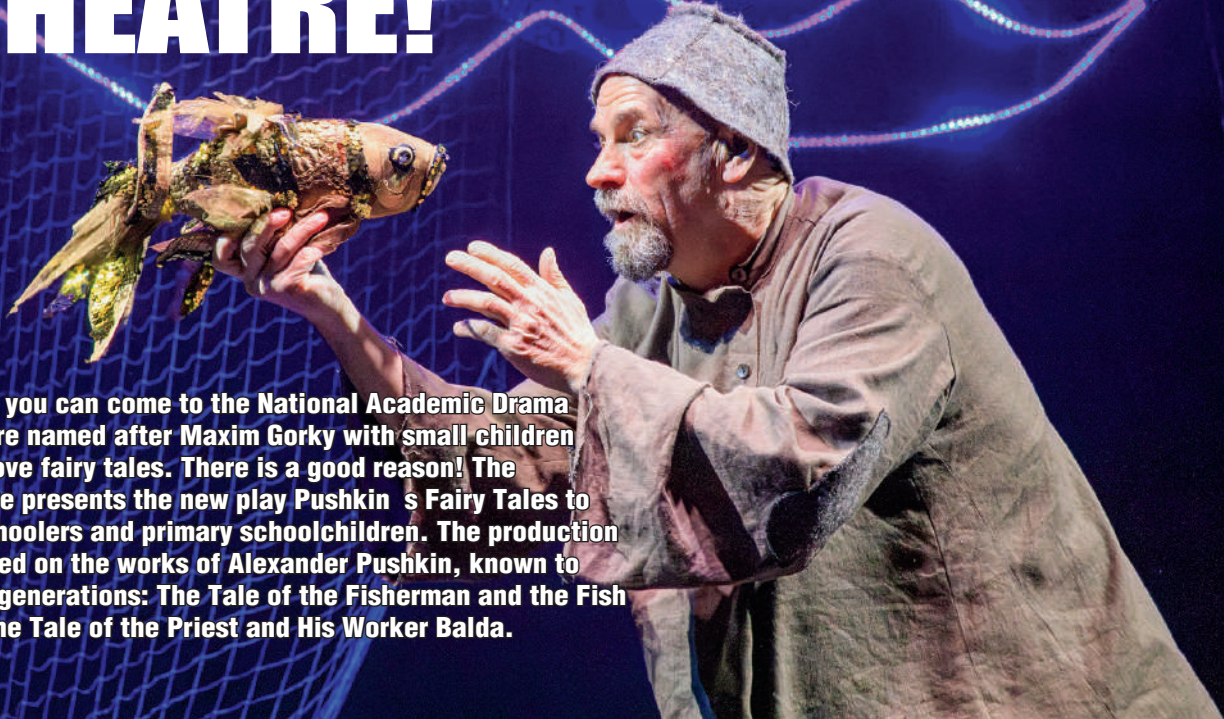
Yes, we know Garavsky more as a landscape painter and as a portrait painter. For example, one of his paintings (with Mary Magdalene) would have decorated the church in

Belynichi in 1861, but due to religious vicissitudes, the image disappeared even from Mogilev. After the war, the Director of the National Art Museum of that time, Yelena Aladova, found the painting near St. Petersburg. The canvas was shown in 1983 at an anniversary exhibition in honour of the master. And after that, most of our Garavsky will go to wait in the funds, including landscapes, which all this time were considered Belarusian.

For now, one could see them and admire the unsurpassed skill of the famous author.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

# WELL DONE, RUSSKI THEATRE!



Today you can come to the National Academic Drama Theatre named after Maxim Gorky with small children who love fairy tales. There is a good reason! The theatre presents the new play *Pushkin's Fairy Tales* to preschoolers and primary schoolchildren. The production is based on the works of Alexander Pushkin, known to many generations: *The Tale of the Fisherman and the Fish* and *The Tale of the Priest and His Worker Balda*.

With the support of the Russian Ministry of Culture and the Russian Seasons organisation, the performance was staged by the Artistic Director of the Maxim Gorky Theatre, Honoured Artist of Belarus Sergei Kovalchik.

Thus, the Russki Theatre, which we traditionally call as such, joined the all-Russian event 'Pushkin Days', which began last year on the eve of the 225th anniversary of the birth of A.S. Pushkin in 2024.

By the way, we note that in Western Europe and Hollywood, interest in the works of classics of Russian literature appeared already at the early stage of the existence of cinema. Films were made based on many of his outstanding works. Today, the poet's audio works, including fairy tales, are also popular. They are listened to most by the Turkish audience. The most popular in the world in audio format, as *Ria News* mentions, are *Little Tragedies: The Miserly Knight, The Stone Guest, Mozart and Salieri*. Mexicans and Spaniards prefer *The Captain's Daughter* and *The Queen of Spades*, and the most popular work in English is *Eugene Onegin*, which is listened to in Sweden, Norway, India, Finland, Bulgaria and Poland. But the popularity of the great Russian poet in other countries is incomparable with the love for him in Russia and Belarus. As the poet himself said about the Belarusians: this is 'a people that has been dear to us since ancient times'. By the way, monuments to Pushkin have been erected in more than forty countries around the world. But he was and remains, of course, a truly Russian poet. Centuries later, his work is relevant and in demand.

Interestingly, *Pushkin's Fairy Tales* attracted the American theatre director, set designer and playwright Robert Wilson, the most sought-after and recognised theatre director in the world, one of the largest representatives of the theatrical avant-garde of the late 20th — early 21st centuries. At one time (2015), he staged *Pushkin's Fairy Tales* at the Theatre of Nations in Moscow. On the theatre's website you can find information about the performance that Russians loved, including details about its creators. It is known that Wilson came to Moscow with his team of artists, set designers and assistants. The music for the performance was created by the famous American duo *CocoRosie*, who are adepts of the freak-folk style and have long conquered the world stage. And to create the lighting and scenographic score for the performance, Wilson conducted an enormous amount of research, in which he studied in detail not only the fairy tales themselves, but also various illustrations for them, the history of their appearance, and folklore components. However, let's return to the premiere of *Pushkin's Fairy Tales* at the Russki Theatre.

I won't be mistaken if I say that we, adults, were pleased to refresh our memory of how in our very young years we read Pushkin's fairy tales, how we empathised with the old man and how we did not want the greedy old woman to become the mistress of the sea. Watching the reaction of the children in the hall, we remembered how infectiously they laughed at the Priest and his worker Balda, and already in childhood they were not at all afraid of devils. And I thought about



## PREMIERE

this at the performance: in that unclouded time, we were able to completely immerse ourselves in the virtual world of fairy tales. And we knew only one thing: life is a game and joy. However, we managed to do this at the premiere. Why? It's simple! The performance with all its components — direction by Sergei Kovalchik, set design and costumes by Alla Sorokina, music by Timur Kalinovsky, dances by choreographer Dmitry Zalesky and talented acting — turned out to be bright, lively, light and infectious. Each character has his own part, which all the actors performing the main roles performed, one might say, at the highest level. I am happy to name their names: Old Man — Alleksandr Polozkov, also known as Priest, Old Woman — Victoria Kovalchik, Priest's Wife — Emilia Pranscute, Balda — Aleksey Kachan and Andrey Senkin in a different composition. Respect to all the other actors too. Everyone fit into the well-tailored stage action. The Old Woman's neighbours, and the male neighbours, and Popovna, and Balda's Friends, and the Devil and the Little Imp...

This is confirmed by the emotional reaction of the audience. Either infectious laughter, then tense silence, then individual exclamations of 'look!', 'come on, come on!', 'wow!'... And how the children together with the Old Man called for the Golden Fish, it had to be seen and heard! And the heroine of the fairy tale, lacy, sparkling, descended from the grate and moved her fins. The spectacle is incomparable! In the hall one could hear children's squeals with the word 'cool!' as Balda rode across the stage on a horse. Some argued whether it was alive or not...

Olga Klebanovich, People's Artist of Belarus, was offered a special role in the performance. She never appeared on stage, but nevertheless her presence was constantly felt. In the role of Alexander Pushkin's nanny, Arina Rodionovna, her voice and portrait were fascinating.

"An old man lived with his old woman by the very blue sea" the first act of the play begins with these words.

From the lips of Olga Mikhailovna we hear Pushkin's lines familiar to us all from childhood. The timbre is rich, bewitching, soft, velvety. The enchanting voice plays and soothes, and also leads to the mise-en-scenes that follow one after another. In the second act we watch *The Tale of the Priest and his Worker Balda*. And in it, as in *The Tale of the Goldfish*, her voice reveals meanings, and without the intonations of didactics about good and evil. And it's definitely valuable.

The portrait of the artist in the image of Arina Rodionovna also has an attractive effect on the audience. It immerses us in the world of Pushkin, who listened to the tales of his beloved nanny.

"We aimed at the smallest viewing audience. This dictated the main stage decisions. As a result, it turned out that, in my opinion, this performance is even more interesting for adults to watch. When you seriously do it for children, it's also interesting for adults," this is how Sergei Kovalchik, director of *Pushkin's Fairy Tales*, expressed himself about his work. And he is not far from the truth.

We, as adults, are immersed in this world. And not without pleasure. In my opinion, everyone remembered their meeting with Pushkin. Personally, I remember how, at the age of five, I read *The Tale of the Goldfish* and felt sorry for the old woman who found herself with a broken trough, how I wondered: why did she need to want to become a noblewoman, then a queen... But she could live and sing along with a new trough and in a bright hut... And I felt even more sorry for the old man when the old woman sent him to the stables. And I



didn't really like Balda, who drove the little imp to the point of lifelessness, and beat the cunning priest... Smart, resourceful — yes... But... Over the years, it has only become clear what the commensurability of our desires and capabilities is. And what is true kindness. And evil is not so clear-cut.

Retelling Pushkin is a futile task, as we know. Same goes for my childhood impressions. So it is better to watch this performance for yourself. And absorb the meanings. This is especially true for children. And there is no need, in my opinion, to dissect the texts, to focus young attention on the 'good' old man and the 'bad old woman', on the 'smart' Balda and the 'stupid' priest... Children will understand everything themselves, feel it, even at the subconscious level. After all, the fairy tale is a lie, but there is a hint in it, a lesson for good fellows. This, by the way, is also Pushkin's. From *The Golden Cockerel*. And it will show. Over the years, certainly.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo courtesy of the Gorky Theater



Usually, the National Art Museum hosts exhibitions of mature, usually already honoured, masters. This is understandable: there is a strict selection for presentation in the main museum of the country; the best of the worthy are chosen. But recently an exhibition was held here, which was somewhat different from a number of others in terms of selection criteria. We are talking about a retrospective display, moreover, on the main and, perhaps, the most prestigious museum exhibition site, of diploma works of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts. In total, this show featured about 50 paintings, sculptures and graphic works from the funds of the Academy and the collection of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus.

Strictly speaking, there is nothing surprising in the fact that this exhibition was held in the main museum of the country. Considering the fact that among the graduates of the Academy of Arts (a little earlier — the Theatre and Art Institute) there were the most famous artists and sculptors.

### Museum-worthy

Belarusian State Academy of Arts has a rich history and traditions. The history of the academy began in the post-war period, when in 1945, by order of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, the Council of People's Commissars of the BSSR and the Committee of Arts, the Belarusian State Theatre Institute was created. In 1953 it was renamed the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute. In 1991, the institute was reorganised into the Belarusian Academy of Arts, and in 2001 it was given its current name. Today the Belarusian State Academy of Arts is the largest and most authoritative higher educational institution in Belarus for training creative personnel in the field of fine arts. The academy largely shapes the development trends of the Belarusian school in this area and ensures the preservation and continuity of the traditions of the national art school. Among the teachers and graduates of the academy there are well-known artists in the country and the world, who have the highest state awards of the Republic of Belarus and



other countries and have proven themselves in prestigious international competitions and exhibition projects.

The current retrospective exhibition presented diploma works completed over more than 60 years of the academy's existence — from 1959 to 2023. Thus, the project provided an opportunity to get acquainted with the creative searches of academy graduates of different years, to trace the stages of development of the stylistic features of the national art — from traditional forms, methods and concepts to modern ones.

Of particular interest were the diploma works of those graduates who later became outstanding masters of national fine art and received wide recognition not only in their country, but throughout the world. And here, of course, it is necessary to highlight the work of academy graduate Leonid Shchemelev, later the People's Artist of Belarus. The point is also that his graduation painting *Wedding*, which was exhibited at the exhibition, is associated with many twists and turns and almost detective stories.



### Life is the basis of inspiration

A year before graduating from college, in the fifth year, the artist had to think about the topic of his diploma work. Shchemelev didn't have to think long. Of course, this would be a painting about a peasant wedding. And there were reasons for that. One winter, returning to Minsk from Vitebsk, where Leonid was visiting his mother, he turned to the village of Bogushevsk, to visit Aunt Anya, who lived there at that time. And on the same day he attended a village wedding. The wedding, as usual in Belarus, was noisy: there were a lot of toasts, food, folk songs, and dancing. But the first day of the fun feast ended in a fight, broken windows, broken stools and benches, and beaten faces.

Leonid Shchemelev later recalled in his autobiographical book, "I spent the night in some room, slept off. At dawn a teenager wakes me up: 'Uncle Lyavon! The newlyweds invite you for another round.'"

"What are you talking about, lad!" I was surprised. "There, apparently, are the police after the yesterday hubbub..."

"No, everything turned out well..."

And indeed, everyone sat at the table decorously and nobly. True, someone had a picturesque bruise under their eye, someone had a bandaged head or arm, but the whole atmosphere was warm and friendly — as if nothing had happened the day before.

To the clink of glasses, just like the day before, everyone laughed, smiled, joked, and made toasts to the newlyweds. Leonid felt like a participant in some kind of national mystery, where the world seemed eternally festive, full of vital juices. And this special spiritual concentration of people, their festive disposition towards each other, despite recent outbursts of human emotions, evoked in him good feelings and peace of mind.

On the same day he attended another wedding event. According to folk tradition, the bride had to be taken to the groom in the village. People, including groomsmen, blocked the street to collect ransom for the bride. And Leonid imagined how beautiful it could be if horses also took part in this fun event. True, the horse was present there, but, so to speak, in the singular. In his future graduation picture,



this was not enough for the composition, and he painted two horses.

But, in principle, he took all the material from life, of course, processing it in accordance with the artistic concept. Before this, Leonid already had little experience in depicting a wedding. In the 3rd year he tried to show a rustic wedding procession in a winter 'exterior', in rapid motion, but the picture did not arouse much interest among the artists. After graduating from the institute, he wanted to present it to some kind of exhibition, but the members of the exhibition committee shrugged their shoulders, "Leonid Dmitrievich, everything in your picture flies, flies, flies, but where and why is unknown...". And only two people (not artists!) supported his work then — the very young literary critic Vladimir Gnilomedov and writer Mikhail Streltsov.

In 1958, Vitaly Tsvirko became the new director of the Minsk Theatre and Art Institute. And while he was entering the complex labyrinths of administrative and economic activities for him, he entrusted the main 'supervision' of the graduates of his group to the assistant of the painting department Vladimir

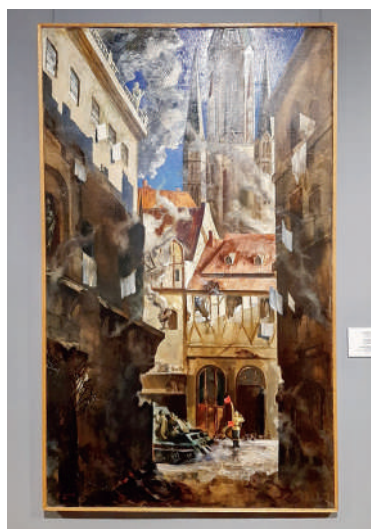
Stelmashonko (also later the People's Artist of Belarus), then a recent graduate of the Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture named after Repin.

It was to him that Leonid Shchemelev showed his first sketch of the future composition *Wedding*. Having received the go-ahead, he began to develop the plot in different variations, achieving the optimal impression. He gave one of the initial sketches, carefully executed in colour (one and a half meters on the large side), to his friend Boris Markov, who was a 3rd year student in the sculpture department of the institute. Then he found out that, it turns out, the director of the then art museum, Yelena Aladova, wanted to buy it, but it was too late: he couldn't take the gift back.

### The vicissitudes of the work presentation

The examination committee actually unanimously 'failed' Leonid Shchemelev's presentation of his work *Wedding*. The peak situation was only saved by Boris Ioganson, a representative from Moscow. After listening to the opinions of the commission members, he assessed the painting,

## ORIGINS OF INSPIRATION





■ The painting "Wedding" (1959) is a thesis by Leonid Shchemelev, later a national artist of Belarus

focusing on a 'non-stencil' approach to depicting the festive elements of people's life, and highlighted, from his point of view, the author's most successful discoveries in the plastic solution of the canvas. His summary was short: the author deserves a satisfactory rating. And all the members of the commission, hanging their heads, unanimously agreed. Shaking Leonid's hand, Ioganson said, "Don't worry. It's not a mark that makes a person an artist, but how you relate to art and life in general..."

The youth present in the hall burst into thunderous applause. A young man emerged from the crowd with a huge bouquet of chrysanthemums and roses — he turned out to be an art school student, Sasha Puteyko, a student of Shchemelev. The members of the commission even stood up — who will get such a gorgeous bouquet: Ioganson, Tsvirko? No, the flowers were handed to Leonid, which plunged the 'judges' into incredible embarrassment. Meanwhile, the applause in honour of the man who, at first glance, had suffered such a fiasco, went on and on. It was impossible to stop the young people, and no one tried. Youth, as a medium, broadcast a certain psychoenergetic cosmos of confrontation with 'adults'!

In this regard, a small remark. The fates of Isaac Levitan and Konstantin Korovin come to mind. Levitan's magnificent diploma work at the Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture, for example, was not awarded the Big Silver Medal; and, having completed his studies in 1883, he received not the title of 'class artist', but a diploma as a teacher of drawing (penmanship). When Korovin graduated from the same school in 1886, the pedagogical council did not consider it possible to award him the title of 'class artist'. He was certified only as 'unclassed', that is, having the

right to teach drawing at school. Paradox: it was during this period of the late 19th century that the 'unclassed' painter created a series of paintings that were destined to occupy an outstanding place in the history of Russian art.

From today, when at exhibitions everything is so colourful and everything is permitted, when you can no longer surprise the public with anything, it is impossible to imagine how crushing, indeed surprising, the effect of *Wedding* was. There, perhaps with some of her figurative and plastic errors, everything was different from others. Especially in comparison with his fellow graduates. Shchemelev's painting seemed to be teasing, mocking the excessive seriousness of the graduates' subject paintings, which, by the way, were mostly not bad. It seemed strange in its incomprehensible integrity. Unusually personal, permeated not with loud pathos, but with a trusting, lyrical intonation, the canvas turned out to be completely alien to that theme, strictly ordered and regulated in its canons.

Today it is clear why Shchemelev began building the castles of his painting precisely from *Wedding*. Something else needs to be explained: why this work, essentially rejected by the authorities, was a success among young people. Why did the painting seem to the new generation such a bright decoration of the horizon of painting at that time? The answer is simple: Shchemelev was bold and youthfully daring in asserting his own ideal, and he had no equal in the rapid growth of fame in youth circles.

### The intrigue is yet to come...

In 1962, the graduation picture *Wedding* again made itself felt. This almost detective story also deserves to be told. One day, a small company, which included Shchemelev and the graphic



artist Yuri Zaitsev, a graduate of the Stroganov School, who had just arrived from Moscow, was walking along the avenue in Minsk. One of the guys, the caretaker of the Theatre for Young Spectators, suggested going to the theatre production workshop, where, in his opinion, it was possible to spend a couple of hours quite culturally. The theatre was nearby, the key was in the pocket, and no one could interfere. And they had barely settled down in the studio when Leonid saw in the back of the room something very long, rectangular, covered with a large piece of tarpaulin, from under which the corner of the art frame and the edge of the primed canvas could be seen.

And what was his surprise when, having opened this unknown object, he recognised his graduation *Wedding!* How did the painting, the property of the institute (!), end up here? The caretaker vaguely chuckled that someone (he doesn't remember who) had dragged it here a long time ago and simply abandoned it without any explanation.

But one thing was clear for Shchemelev: without the knowledge of the rector's office, the work could not leave the institute's walls — after all, it was not a needle in the haystack. But if they got rid of it in this way, then why, what's the point? Unclear.

Since the painting in the theatre was not recorded by any document as a material value, the 'owner' of the premises invited Leonid, if he wished, to take it away for good. But the question arose: where to attach such a colossus? The decision



came instantly: of course, to the art museum, it's nearby. Its then leader, Yelena Vasilyevna Aladova, will figure out what and how. In extreme cases, she will advise.

The guys carefully carried the painting in a heavy frame into the courtyard and, slowly, turning from Engelsa Street to Marksa Street, headed towards the museum. It was Tuesday — a day off at the museum, but, as always, the director was there. Shchemelev told the essence of the matter and shrugged, "I don't know what to do with the painting now. It would be a pity if it disappeared..."

Aladova didn't hesitate for a long time, "Don't worry. Ask your guys to remove this bulky frame from the subframe and take it somewhere away. I'll take care of the rest..."

A couple of months later, unexpectedly for Shchemelev, Aladova gave him a fee for the painting *Wedding* — something like seven hundred roubles. For this money, the artist bought building materials, a slag machine for the foundation and, with the help of his father-in-law, built a creative workshop in the courtyard of a house on Rabkorovskaya Street in the form of a small shed with an area of 18 square meters. Inside he put a stove-stove with a pipe going out the window, so that he could work in winter...

These are the twists and turns of the plot with this work, which, without exaggeration, became the decoration of the current exhibition in the museum.

### There were enough impressions

In general, visitors to the exhibition *School of Creativity* had a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the achievements of academic art and modern artistic techniques. At the same time, other works in the exhibition were unique in their own way, demonstrating not only mastery of artistic technique, but also the originality of the authors' worldview, the ability to imaginatively and originally implement their plans.

Veniamin **Mikheyev**



# ПАДЗЕЯ ПРАДВЫЗНАЧЫЛА ЛЁС



1 студзеня 1919 года было абвешчана рашэнне I з'езда Камуністычнай партыі (бальшавікоў) Беларусі аб стварэнні Сацыялістычнай Савецкай Рэспублікі Беларусі. Гэту дату сёння гісторыкі называюць лёсавызначальнай. У прыватнасці, загадчык аддзела навейшай гісторыі Беларусі Інстытута гісторыі НАН Сяргей Трацяк заўважыў: "Без БССР не было б ні той тэрыторыі рэспублікі, ні таго народа, ні тых вялікіх дасягненняў у эканоміцы, культуры і навуцы, якія мы сёння маем". Пытанні, звязаныя са станаўленнем беларускай дзяржаўнасці, былі разгледжаны падчас рэспубліканскага круглага стала "Гістарычны шлях Савецкай Беларусі", які быў прымеркаваны да 105-годдзя абвешчання рэспублікі. Яго арганізатарамі выступілі Нацыянальная акадэмія навук Беларусі, Інстытут гісторыі і Адміністрацыя Прэзідэнта Рэспублікі Беларусь. У мерапрыемстве прымалі ўдзел беларускія і расійскія вучоныя, палітычныя і дзяржаўныя дзеячы, прадстаўнікі грамадскіх арганізацый, студэнты.



Вітальны адрас ад імя Прэзідэнта Рэспублікі Беларусь Аляксандра Лукашэнкі зачытаў намеснік кіраўніка Адміністрацыі Прэзідэнта Ігар Луцкі. "Стварэнне 1 студзеня 1919 года Сацыялістычнай Савецкай Рэспублікі Беларусі стала пачаткам станаўлення нацыянальнай дзяржаўнасці. Упершыню шматвекавое імкненне нашага народа мець уласную дзяржаву было рэалізавана на практыцы. З'яўленне ССРБ змяніла ход айчыннай гісторыі, дало старт слаўнаму летапісу краіны, дазволіла кансалідаваць нацыю, захаваць самабытную культуру. З абвяшчэннем Савецкай Беларусі грамадзяне набылі свабоду, сталі гаспадарамі на сваёй зямлі, атрымалі шанец на суверэнны шлях", – такія словы былі ў вітальным адрасе.

Ігар Луцкі звярнуў увагу на тое, што сёння многія дасягненні савецкай эпохі забываюцца, і нават бывае трактуецца ў негатыўным ключы. Варта больш гаварыць пра тое, чаго ўдалося дасягнуць за гэты час. Дзякуючы стварэнню БССР наша краіна ўпершыню на карце свету з'явілася як палітычны суб'ект. У 1939 годзе менавіта савецкая ўлада дапамагла аб'яднанню Усходняй і Заходняй Беларусі. З першых гадоў маладая рэспубліка стала на шлях індустрыялізацыі, пачалі развівацца сацыяльныя праграмы, адукацыя, медыцына, культура, архітэктура.

Менавіта ў савецкі час былі закладзены сацыяльна-палітычны, эканамічны, духоўны і культурны падмуркі, на якіх сёння стаіць наша рэспубліка. Гэта адзначалі многія ўдзельнікі круглага стала. Старшыня Прэзідыума Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Уладзімір Гусакоў нагадаў, што станаўленне маладой рэспублікі адбывалася ў складаных умовах: "Не раз узнікала пытанне быць ці не быць Беларусі... Менавіта ССРБ стала не толькі пунктам адліку практычнай нацыянальнай дзяржаўнасці, цэнтрам збірання беларускіх земляў і беларускага народа ў адзінай

дзяржаве, але і адной з рэспублік – заснавальніц СССР. Страціўшы ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны трэць насельніцтва, пераадолеўшы крывавыя жахі гітлераўскага генацыду, БССР у ліку іншых дзяржаў у пераможным 1945 годзе стала сузаснавальніцай Арганізацыі Аб'яднаных Нацый".

За кароткі час Савецкая Беларусь ператварылася ў вядучую індустрыяльную рэспубліку з моцнай сельскай гаспадаркай і адметнай нацыянальнай культурай. Былі створаны ўмовы для развіцця энергетыкі, сучаснага машынабудавання, прыборабудавання, электронікі, радыётэхнікі, нафтахіміі. Трактары і самазвалы, сістэмы для касмічных станцый, тэлевізары, халадзільнікі, станкі, мінеральныя ўгнаенні і сінтэтычныя валокны – гэтую беларускую прадукцыю ведалі больш чым у 100 краінах свету. Нацыянальныя творчыя калектывы выступалі на розных кантынентах, увагай карысталіся беларуская літаратура і мастацтва.

За кароткі час адбыўся пераход да ўсеагульнай сярэдняй адукацыі, была створана адна з лепшых у свеце сістэма дашкольнай і пазашкольнай адукацыі.

І сёння ўражвае тое, якімі тэмпамі развівалася навука. Створаны ў 1922 годзе Інстытут беларускай культуры напачатку меў усяго 15 навуковых супрацоўнікаў. Хутка была падрыхтавана матэрыяльна-тэхнічная, кадравая база для рэарганізацыі яго ў Беларускую акадэмію навук. Дарэчы, яе ўрачыстае адкрыццё было прымеркавана да 10-годдзя Савецкай Беларусі і адбылося 1 студзеня 1929 года. Цяпер Нацыянальная акадэмія навук Беларусі – гэта буйная навукова-вытворчая карпарацыя, якая аб'ядноўвае больш ста арганізацый, дзе працуюць 14 тысяч чалавек. Вучоныя Беларусі разам з замежнымі калегамі выконваюць вялікую колькасць даследаванняў у розных кірунках, у тым ліку ў вывучэнні космасу, стварэнні беспілотных

апаратаў, развіцці вылічальных і інфармацыйных тэхналогій, нана- і біятэхналогій, медыцыны. Дзякуючы іх даследаванням вырашана праблема біялагічнай, харчовай і гуманітарнай бяспекі нашай краіны.

Не застаюцца вучоныя і ў баку ад грамадскага, палітычнага жыцця краіны. Яны рыхтуюць матэрыялы па праблемах сацыяльна-эканамічнага і духоўна-культурнага развіцця, праводзяць сацыялагічныя даследаванні, арганізуюць круглыя сталы сумесна з рэспубліканскімі органамі дзяржаўнага кіравання і грамадскімі аб'яднаннямі па самых актуальных кірунках. Сёння ж адной з галоўных мэт вучоных, на думку Уладзіміра Гусакова, з'яўляецца ўмацаванне незалежнасці Рэспублікі Беларусь і кансалідацыя грамадства.

Намеснік дэкана, кіраўнік вучэбна-навуковага кірунку "Гісторыя Беларусі і беларускай дыяспары" Маскоўскага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта імя Ламаносава Аксана Салопава, заўважыла, што, як

гісторык і прадстаўнік беларускай дыяспары ў Расіі, высока ацэньвае той шлях пабудовы дзяржаўнасці, які прайшоў беларускі народ. Яна таксама адзначыла працу вучоных: "Іх даследаванні садзейнічаюць з'яднанню беларускага грамадства, адстойванню інтарэсаў гістарычнай праўды, захаванню гістарычнай памяці, яе перадачы маладым пакаленням і фарміраванню адзінай сацыя-гуманітарнай прасторы Саюзнай дзяржавы".

Дырэктар Інстытута расійскай гісторыі РАН Юрый Пятроў звярнуў увагу, што супрацоўніцтва паміж беларускімі і расійскімі гісторыкамі выйшла на новы ўзровень. З'явілася шмат новых тэм для сумесных даследаванняў. Сёлета плануецца правядзенне навуковага форуму, прысвечанага аперацыі "Баграціён", развіццё праектаў, прызначаных пасляваеннаму аднаўленню Беларусі. Была агучана ідэя аб падрыхтоўцы сумесных работ па гісторыі вядучых прамысловых прадпрыемстваў Беларусі, а таксама вывучэнні лёсаў знакавых гістарычных асоб.

## ДАКУМЕНТЫ НАГАДВАЮЦЬ ПРА ДАСЯГНЕННІ

**105-годдзю з дня стварэння Сацыялістычнай Савецкай Рэспублікі Беларусі (пазней – БССР) прысвечана і выстаўка "Старонкі гісторыі", якая ўрачыста адкрылася ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы.**

"Сёння мы можам гаварыць, што гэта быў важнейшы этап у станаўленні дзяржаўнасці на беларускіх землях, – заўважыў намеснік дырэктара па навуковай рабоце Інстытута гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук, кандыдат гістарычных навук Павел Трубчык. – Відавочна тое, што мы прайшлі вельмі складаны шлях, што тлумачыцца шэрагам фактараў, у тым ліку геапалітычным становішчам нашай тэрыторыі. Безумоўна, гэта не давала магчымасці ў поўнай меры на больш раннім этапе рэалізаваць ідэю дзяржаўнасці

на практыцы. Менавіта ў 1919 годзе быў закладзены фундамент для далейшага аб'яднання беларускіх тэрыторый у межах адной дзяржавы. Яна займела галоўныя атрыбуты – тэрыторыю, мову, культуру".

Так, з гэтага часу пачынаецца станаўленне беларускай рэспублікі, і гэта нягледзячы нават на тое, што ўжо праз некалькі тыдняў пасля абвяшчэння частка яе земляў была далучана да РСФСР. Такія рашэнні прымаліся ў складанай палітычнай сітуацыі, калі ішлі ваенныя дзеянні. Тэрыторыя маладой рэспублікі складалася ўсяго з шасці ўездаў Мінскай губерніі, але, як адзначыў вучоны, тады быў закладзены прававы фундамент і створаны ўмовы для далейшага аб'яднання беларускіх земляў у межах адной дзяржавы на савецкай аснове. Ужо ў 1924 годзе прайшло першае ўз'яднанне, калі да рэспублікі былі далучаны тэрыторыі, на якіх беларускае насельніцтва складала большасць. У 1926 годзе адбылося другое ўз'яднанне, пачалося фарміраванне БССР у межах, вядомых нам сёння, якое завяршылася ў 1939 годзе пасля даручэння Заходняй Беларусі. Нельга забывацца, што тэрыторыя, якую мы сёння маем, стваралася менавіта на савецкай аснове.

Дырэктар Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Вадзім Гігін



1 студзеня 1919 года часовы працоўна-сялянскі ўрад абвясціў маніфест аб стварэнні беларускай рэспублікі. Копію гэтага дакумента можна пабачыць на выстаўцы ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы. Гэта выдатная магчымасць з першакрыніцы даведацца, якія мэты і задачы былі акрэслены ў тым дакуменце. Як паведаміла намеснік дырэктара Нацыянальнага архіва Алена Стуканава, архівісты, якія вывучалі пачатковы савецкі перыяд, выдалі зборнік дакументаў і матэрыялаў "1 студзеня 1919 года", у які ўвайшоў і знакаміты маніфест, і другія дакументы, якія датычыліся дзейнасці часовага ўрада. Прадстаўлены ў зборніку і дакументальныя крыніцы з архіваў Расійскай Федэрацыі ды іншых дзяржаў. Дарэчы, гэтая кніга прадстаўлена на выставе ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы. Акрамя матэрыялаў, якія асвятляюць часы станаўлення і развіцця савецкай рэспублікі ў даваенны час, у экспазіцыі размешчаны выданні і фатаграфіі, якія адлюстроўваюць эканамічныя, сацыяльныя і гістарычныя працэсы, што адбываліся ў БССР у пазнейшы час, паказваюць дасягненні ў розных сферах жыцця, прысвечаны вядомым партыйным і грамадскім дзеячам, літаратарам, мастакам, касманаўтам, спартсменам. Сярод іх – Зміцер Жылуновіч, Міхаіл Фрунзэ, Аляксандр Мяснікоў, Кірыл Мазураў, Панцелеймон Панамарэнка, Пётр Машэраў, Янка Купала, Якуб Колас, Кандрат Крапіва, Максім Танк, Іван Шамякін, Іван Мележ, Міхась Савіцкі, Уладзімір Мулявін, Пётр Клімук, Аляксандр Мядзведзь ды іншыя. У экспазіцыі можна пабачыць іх фатаграфіі і выданні, дзе апісваюцца лёсы гэтых асоб. Таксама ў бібліятэцы размешчана выстаўка плакатаў, якія ствараліся да юбілейных дат, звязаных з утварэннем БССР. Іх аўтарамі былі знакамітыя творцы, члены Саюза мастакоў Беларусі. Плакаты адлюстроўвалі дасягненні тых часоў, якімі ганарылася рэспубліка, паказвалі сімвалы краіны, многія з якіх актуальнымі застаюцца і ў наш час.



■ Член Пастаяннай камісіі Палаты прадстаўнікоў Нацыянальнага сходу Беларусі па адукацыі, культуры і навуцы Сяргей Клішэвіч

“Мы ганарымся калекцыяй плакатнага мастацтва, і маем найбольш поўную калекцыю кніг, якія паказваюць гісторыю краіны”, – заўважыў падчас адкрыцця выстаўкі генеральны дырэктар Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Вадзім Гігін. Папярковыя крыніцы паказваюць, якімі хуткімі тэмпамі развівалася беларуская дзяржава. Менавіта савецкая ўлада дала магчымасці беларускаму народу для рэалізацыі творчага патэнцыялу. Гэта быў унікальны вопыт. Вадзім Гігін звярнуў увагу, што ў той час калі ішлі Грамадзянская і Савецка-Польская войны, барацьба з контррэвалюцыйнымі атрадамі, траціна бюджэту выдзялялася на адукацыю, навуку. Так, да 1917 года на тэрыторыі Беларусі амаль не было вышэйшых навучальных устаноў, а ўжо ў 1920-я гады іх працавала каля пятнаццаці. Быў створаны Інбелкульт, пазней – Акадэмія навук. У абласных цэнтрах адчыняліся тэатры. І ўсё гэта адбывалася вельмі хутка. Шпарка развівалася эканоміка. За доўгі невядомы час Беларусь, якая раней была аграрным рэгіёнам, ператварылася ў індустрыяльную рэспубліку. Пра ўсё гэта, а таксама пра трагічныя і гераічныя падзеі, аднаўленне пасля Вялікай Айчыннай вайны сведчыць выстаўка.

Як заўважыў член Пастаяннай камісіі Палаты прадстаўнікоў Нацыянальнага сходу Беларусі па адукацыі, культуры і навуцы Сяргей Клішэвіч, менавіта савецкаму перыяду гісторыі сучаснікі абавязаны тым, што сёння маюць моцную суверэнную дзяржаву: “Мы карыстаемся спадчынай папярэднікаў. Так, сацыяльная справядлівасць, абвешчаная бальшавікамі, і сёння закладзена ў Канстытуцыю. Наша эканоміка развіваецца дзякуючы таму, што працягваюць працаваць буйныя прадпрыемствы, якія пабудаваныя яшчэ ў савецкі час”. Дэпутат упэўнены, што сёння вельмі важна, каб той гістарычны перыяд вывучаўся, асэнсоўваўся, каб моладзь чула пра дасягненні БССР.

Таццяна **Бузіноўская**  
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі

# ЯКАСНЫЯ ВЫРАБЫ – ПА-ЗА КАНКУРЭНЦЫЯЙ

**У апошнія два гады таваразварот паміж Беларуссю і Казахстанам перавысіў мільярд долараў. Калі ў часы пандэміі гандаль затухаў, то пазней ён пачаў актыўна развівацца, ужо ў 2021 годзе рост склаў 10–11 працэнтаў, у 2022 годзе – 14.**



Надзвычайны і Паўнамоцны пасол Рэспублікі Казахстан у Рэспубліцы Беларусь Ерлан Байжанаў назваў узаемаадносіны паміж нашымі краінамі стратэгічным партнёрствам. “Ключавая задача Казахстана – развіццё прамысловасці, таму вялікая ўвага надаецца менавіта пытанню кааперацыі з прамысловасцю Беларусі”, – заўважыў дыпламат.

Сёння ў Казахстане ўжо рэалізуецца каля васьмі сумесных праектаў па машынабудаванні для сельскай гаспадаркі. Вырабляюцца камбайны, трактары, сеялкі. Запатрабаваныя не толькі беларускія тавары, але і тэхналогіі, вопыт, якія маюць буйныя кампаніі нашай краіны. Дзякуючы супрацоўніцтву прадпрыемстваў Казахстана развіваюць сваё машынабудаванне, напрыклад, яны ўжо вырабляюць асобныя дэталі для сельгастэхнікі. Запушчаны пілотны праект па будаўніцтве ліфтаў.

Запатрабаваная ў Казахстане і беларуская пажарная тэхніка. Кіраўнік дыпламатычнай місіі прызнаўся, што яго ўразілі тэхналогіі, якія ёсць у Беларусі. Беларуская пажарная тэхніка ўжо працуе ў Казахстане – абслугоўвае адну з паўднёвых абласцей краіны. Закуплена 29 машын. Плануецца развіваць праект, каб падобныя машыны паставіць на аўтамабільныя шасі, якія вырабляюцца ў Казахстане.

“Мы маем вялікія плошчы. Дзякуючы цалінным землям нам хапае зерня, але па некаторых іншых пазіцыях мы сябе не забяспечваем. Актыўна экспартуем харчовую беларускую прадукцыю”, – адзначыў дыпламат.

Казахстанцы вельмі любяць беларускую “малочку”, асабліва сыры, тварог. З задавальненнем купляюць і беларускія кілбасы. Запатрабаваны драўніна і мэбля. Перш за ўсё беларуская прадукцыя ў Казахстане цэнніца за добрую якасць.

Пасол падкрэсліў, што эканамічныя сувязі і гандаль паміж краінамі трэба развіваць: “Са ста працэнтаў агульнага аб’ёму гандлю 85 прыходзіцца на беларускія тавары, і толькі 15 – на казахстанскія. Нашы асноўныя экспартныя артыкулы супадаюць з расійскімі, таму нам нялёгка прабівацца на беларускі рынак і канкуруваць з расійскімі кампаніямі, якія маюць лагістычныя перавагі”.

На думку дыпламата, сёння важна развіваць супрацоўніцтва ў ІТ-галіне. Казахстан займае лідзіруючыя пазіцыі ў свеце па тэмах развіцця дзяржпаслуг, пры гэтым актыўна выкарыстоўваюцца сучасныя тэхналогіі. Праца ў такой галіне можа быць даволі прыбыткавай. Пра гэта сведчыць тое, што за апошнія пару гадоў у Казахстан прыехала працаваць багата ІТ-спецыялістаў з постсавецкіх краін.

Таксама Беларусь і Казахстан пашыраюць культурныя сувязі. Дыпламат выказаўся за недапушчэнне фальсіфікацый і скажэнне гістарычнай праўды ў дачыненні падзей Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Ён заўважыў, што сёння расце цікавасць да гісторыі. Становяцца даступнымі архівы, сучасныя даследчыкі валодаюць замежнымі мовамі і маюць маагчымасць ездзіць па ўсім свеце, адшукваць першакрыніцы, збіраць звесткі. Глыбока вывучаюцца розныя гістарычныя перыяды, асабліва Сярэднявечча і Новага часу, якія датычацца Вялікага стэпу. “Стэпавая цывілізацыя” прынесла ў скарбонку чалавечтва шмат карыснага вопыту. Новыя веды знаходзяць адлюстраванне ў кнігах і кінематографіе, а значыць, могуць быць цікавымі беларускім чытачам і глядачам.

Яўген Кручкоў

# СВЯТА ПРЫХОДЗІЦЬ ДА ЎСІХ



Кожны год у рамках дабрачыннай навагодняй акцыі “Нашы дзеці” Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак пры падтрымцы Кансультатыўнага міжэтнічнага савета наведвае дзяржаўную ўстанову адукацыі “Сацыяльна-педагагічны цэнтр Фрунзенскага раёна горада Мінска”. Для хлопчыкаў і дзяўчынак праводзіцца дабрачынны канцэрт, рыхтуюцца падарункі. Гэтым разам у госці да юных выхаванцаў сацыяльнага цэнтра разам з Упаўнаважаным прыйшлі старшыні нацыянальна-культурных аб’яднанняў армян, украінцаў, малдаван, намеснікі старшыні грамадскага аб’яднання “Кангрэс азербайджанскіх абшчын” і прадстаўнікі грамадскай арганізацыі “Беларускі фонд міру”. “Свята прыходзіць да ўсіх”, – звярнуўся да дзяцей Аляксандр Румак, і прызнаўся, што падчас такіх сустрэч дарослыя перажываюць такія ж эмоцыі, якія былі ў іх у дзяцінстве. Таму з задавальненнем госці далучыліся да дзіцячых карагодаў і гульняў каля ёлкі.



З творчымі нумарамі перад выхаванцамі сацыяльнага цэнтра выступілі калектывы нацыянальна-культурных аб'яднанняў. Салістка Мікуліч Есенія прадстаўляла Украінскае культурна-аветніцкае таварыства “Краяны” з горада Маладзечна. Артысты калектыва “Эрэбуні” не толькі падрыхтавалі танцавальныя нумары, але і развучвалі разам з юнымі выхаванцамі сацыяльна-педагагічнага цэнтра элементы армянскага танца. У канцэрце бралі ўдзел не толькі дарослыя. Наогул, у дабрачынных праграмах, якія праводзяць нацыянальна-культурныя аб'яднанні, часта выступаюць юныя таленты. Напрыклад, гэтым разам абшчыну малдаван прадставілі сёстры Юлія і Таццяна Хвашчэўскія. “Перанесціся” ў Карэю з яе старажытнымі танцамі і яркімі касцюмамі можна было дзякуючы дзяўчатам з танцавальнага калектыва “Арыранг”, якія прадстаўлялі грамадскае аб'яднанне “Асацыяцыя беларускіх карэйцаў”. Яго старшыня Кімі Ры расказала, што калектыв вельмі запатрабаваны, да пандэміі ён выступаў у краінах Прыбалтыкі, Польшчы, Італіі, Славакіі, Аўстрыі. У Беларусі на яго канцэрты збіраюцца цэлыя залы. Не сакрэт, што ў свеце сёння вельмі папулярная карэйская масавая культура, гэтай з'яве нават прыдуман тэрмін “карэйская хваля”. Захапленне сучаснай музыкай абуджае цікавасць і да традыцыйнай культуры. Нездарма ў нацыянальна-культурнае аб'яднанне звяртаюцца беларусы, якія вывучаюць танцы, музычныя інструменты, гісторыю, кухню, а таксама мову. “Гэта цудоўна, калі ёсць магчымасці для вывучэння культуры іншых народаў. Гэта тое, што збліжае людзей”, – упэўнена старшыня аб'яднання “Асацыяцыя беларускіх карэйцаў”. “Мы ўжо многа гадоў бярэм удзел у акцыі і шчыра радуемся, калі бачым, як ззяюць вочы дзяцей. Хочацца верыць, што такія дні малыя запомняць надоўга. Тым больш што падчас канцэртаў яны атрымалі



магчымасць як бы пабываць у розных краінах, пабачыць, якімі рознымі могуць быць касцюмы, танцы, спевы”, – заўважыў старшыня Кансультацыйнага міжэтнічнага савета пры Упаўнаважаным па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў і старшыня Мінскага гарадскога армянскага культурна-асветніцкага таварыства “Айастан” Георгій Егіазаран.

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# МІСІЯ ВУЧОНЫХ – ДАВЕСЦІ ГІСТАРЫЧНУЮ ПРАВДУ

**Без праектаў, скіраваных на захаванне памяці, фарміраванне гістарычнага светапогляду немагчыма выхаваць сапраўднага патрыёта. У гэтым упэўнены дырэктар Інстытута гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Вадзім Лакіза.**



Некалькі гадоў супрацоўнікі Інстытута гісторыі і вядучых ВНУ Беларусі працавалі над пяцітомнікам па гісторыі беларускай дзяржаўнасці. Работа ажыццяўлялася ў рамках Дзяржаўнай праграмы навуковых даследаванняў “Эканоміка і гуманітарнае развіццё беларускага грамадства”. Выданне ахоплівае розныя старонкі гісторыі, пачынаючы са старажытных часоў, утварэння Полацкага і Тураўскага княстваў да сучаснасці, калі Беларусь стала суверэннай дзяржавай. Яшчэ адзін з важных праектаў, у якім бралі ўдзел вучоныя – «Рэспубліка Беларусь – 25 гадоў стваральнай працы і здзяйснення». У сямі тамах раскрываецца найноўшая гісторыя краіны. Прадстаўлена больш за сто тэм, якія паказваюць дасягненні за гады незалежнасці ў дзяржаўным будаўніцтве, сацыяльна-эканамічным, духоўным і культурным развіцці. У падрыхтоўцы такога маштабнага праекта задзейнічана больш за 400 аўтараў, сярод якіх вядомыя ў нашай краіне і за яе межамі вучоныя, супрацоўнікі міністэрстваў і ведамстваў.

Як заўважыў намеснік дырэктара па навуковай рабоце Інстытута гісторыі НАН Беларусі Павел Трубчык,

сёння перад гістарычнай навукай стаіць задача максімальна даставерна даносіць інфармацыю, якая датычыцца гісторыі і сучаснасці беларускай дзяржавы. Зыходзячы з гэтага вызначаюцца і тэмы навуковых даследаванняў. Адзін з важнейшых кірункаў – асвятленне падзей Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. У наш час, калі даводзіцца супрацьстаяць спробам фальсіфікацыі гісторыі, расце патрэба ў праўдзівай інфармацыі, грунтоўных якасных выданнях. Важна данесці да сучаснага пакалення, якой была вайна, якія вялікія людскія і матэрыяльныя страты панесла наша краіна. Уласна, у час Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, паўстала пытанне аб захаванні беларусаў як нацыі. Таму даследаванню гэтага перыяду надаецца вялікае значэнне, і ў інстытуце створаны цэнтр ваеннай гісторыі Беларусі. Ужо некалькі гадоў па ініцыятыве вучоных акадэміі навук рэалізуецца праект “Народны летапіс”. У рамках яго сведкі ваенных падзей і іх нашчадкі дасылаюць каштоўную інфармацыю, успаміны, дакументы, на аснове якіх ствараюцца кнігі. Ужо пабачылі свет тры выданні “Народнага летапісу”, а людзі дасылаюць новыя сведчання. У гэтым годзе, да

святкавання круглай даты вызвалення Беларусі павінна выйсці чацвёртая кніга, а да 80-годдзя Вялікай Перамогі – пятая.

Работы беларускіх вучоных дазваляюць усебакова падысці да асэнсавання падзей Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Яны раскажваюць як пра гераізм, так і пра трагедыю, якую перажыў беларускі народ, даюць пацвярджэнні фактам генацыду. Такія праекты здзяйсняюцца ў тым ліку ў выніку сумеснай працы беларускіх і расійскіх вучоных.

Пад кіраўніцтвам акадэміка-сакаратара Аляксандра Кавалені з прыцягненнем выкладчыкаў ВНУ выдадзены дапаможнікі для навучальных устаноў, сярод якіх – вучэбна-метадычны комплекс па гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны.

Дзень народнага адзінства ў нашай краіне адзначаецца вось ужо на працягу трох гадоў. Вучонымі была праведзена каласальная даследчыцкая работа, якая тычыцца падзей, што адбываліся ў 20–30-я гады мінулага стагоддзя. У акадэміі навук праходзілі канферэнцыі, прысвечаныя тэме ўз'яднання БССР і Заходняй Беларусі, даследчыкі збіралі і вывучалі дакументы. У выніку даследаванняў пабачылі свет такія грунтоўныя выданні, як “Рыжскі мір 1921 года і Беларусь”, “Назаўжды разам”, у якіх не толькі падаюцца гістарычныя факты, але паказана значэнне 1939 года ў лёсе беларускага народа, разглядаюцца эканамічныя, сацыяльныя, культурныя, рэлігійныя, палітычныя пытанні. “У наш час немагчыма ні адна работа без вывераных ацэнак, яны робяцца з улікам нацыянальных інтарэсаў, канцэпцыі нацыянальнай бяспекі. Работы вучоных накіраваны на захаванне суверэнітэту і незалежнасці нашай краіны”, – заўважыў дырэктар Інстытута гісторыі Вадзім Лакіза.

Так, цэлы шэраг выданняў, падрыхтаваных беларускімі вучонымі, прысвечаны гісторыі XX стагоддзя. Сярод іх – калектыўная работа “Гістарычны лёс беларускай савецкай дзяржаўнасці (да 100-годдзя абвяшчэння Сацыялістычнай Савецкай Рэспублікі Беларусі). У зборніку аналізуюцца розныя аспекты рэвалюцыйных падзей і станаўлення беларускай дзяржаўнасці на савецкай аснове, разглядаюцца дыскусійныя пытанні гісторыі з 1919 па 1991 гады. Большая частка матэрыялаў у навуковы ўжытак уведзіцца ўпершыню. Сярод навінак – калектыўная работа “Савецкі вопыт. Погляд з XXI стагоддзя”, падрыхтаваная ў супрацы з расійскімі калегамі. У ёй пададзены тэмы, што разглядаліся на канферэнцыі, якую Нацыянальная акадэмія навук правяла разам з Расійскім інстытутам гісторыі і Фондам “Гістарычная памяць”.

Наогул за год толькі вучонымі Інстытута гісторыі рыхтуецца каля трох дзясяткаў выданняў па розных кірунках: археалогіі, антрапалогіі, айчыннай гісторыі, міжнародных адносінах. Асобныя работы прысвечаны дзейнасці розных устаноў, у тым ліку міністэрстваў,

ведамстваў, арганізацый. Да стагоддзя беларускай навукі была падрыхтаваная кніга “Інстытут беларускай культуры. 1922–1928 гады”, што паказвае час развіцця розных навуковых даследванняў, якія пасля працягнулі вучоныя акадэміі навук. Некаторыя выданні прысвечаны асобам, якія зрабілі ўнёсак у жыццё краіны. Напрыклад, адна з апошніх работ прысвечана палітычнаму дзеячу Дзмітрыю Прышчэпаву. У планах вучоных – падрыхтоўка навукова-папулярнага выдання “Гісторыя Беларусі ў асобах”.

Вучоныя шмат увагі ўдзяляюць вывучэнню гісторыі пэўных рэгіёнаў. З 2014 года выходзіць серыя “Беларусь праз прызму рэгіянальнай гісторыі”. У ёй ужо выйшла 24 кнігі. Так у мінулым годдзе пабачылі свет выданні, прысвечаныя Кастрычніцкаму, Сенненскаму і Лепельскаму раёнам, апошняя кніга “Дзятлава і Дзятлаўскі край” выйшла з друку восенню, а ўжо сабраны матэрыялы па Ашмянках і Талачынскаму раёну. У такіх выданнях разглядаецца гісторыя малой радзімы, падаюцца дакументы, дзе можна пабачыць назвы населеных пунктаў, вуліц, больш даведацца пра ўраджэнцаў гэтых земляў. Выхаду кніг папярэднічаюць канферэнцыі, якія праходзяць у рэгіёнах, куды разам з даследчыкамі запрашаюцца школьнікі і студэнты. Такім чынам падрастаючаму пакаленню прывіваецца не толькі любоў да малой радзімы, але і цікавасць да пошукавай, даследчыцкай работы.

На бліжэйшы час вучоныя намерзілі новыя тэмы для даследванняў. На перадзе ў іх маштабная работа над шматтомным выданнем па гісторыі Беларусі.

У 2009–2010 гадах некалькі гарадоў Беларусі былі ўзнагароджаны вымпеламі за мужнасць і стойкасць у



Фота А. Дзядзюлі



■ Намеснік дырэктара па навуковай рабоце Інстытута гісторыі Павел Трубчык



гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Супрацоўнікі Інстытута гісторыі правялі сумесную работу з Беларускім дзяржаўным музеем гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, міністэрствам абароны, у выніку якой вызначаны населеныя пункты, якія таксама заслугоўваюць такой узнгароды, і адпаведны ўказ ужо рыхтуецца. Кожнаму з гарадоў, насельніцтва якіх можна змагалася за свабоду сваёй зямлі ад нямецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў, плануецца прысвяціць навукова-папулярныя выданні.

Свой уклад у асвятленне актуальных пытанняў гісторыі робіць і выдавецтва “Беларусь”. Толькі за мінулы год тут пабачылі свет каля 20 такіх кніг. Найбольш папулярная серыя – “Генацыд беларускага народа”. Ужо выйшла з друку трэцяе выданне, якое расказвае пра карныя аперацыі, што здзяйсняліся захопнікамі ў гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Кнігі вельмі хутка разыходзяцца, што сведчыць пра запатрабаванасць падобнай літаратуры ў грамадстве. “Тэме Вялікай Айчыннай вайны ў Беларусі заўсёды ўдзялялася асаблівая ўвага. Здавалася, яна даволі шырока раскрыта, вядомы падзеі, статыстыка. Але калі Генеральная пракуратура пачала расследаванне па факце генацыду беларускага народа, сталі ўсплываць раней невядомыя факты, лічбы”, – заўважыла галоўны рэдактар выдавецтва “Беларусь” Ларыса Языковіч. За мінулы год новая кніга пра Хатынь ужо вытрымала два тыражы. У ёй таксама падаюцца раней не вядомыя звесткі. Так, у мінулым гаварылася пра 186 беларускіх вёсак, якія паўтарылі лёс Хатыні, сёння ўзгадваецца большая лічба

населеных пунктаў, якія не адродзіліся пасля вайны. Прыводзяцца звесткі пра рэканструкцыю і пра музей, які нядаўна адкрыўся на тэрыторыі мемарыяльнага комплекса.

Праект “Свяшчэнная памяць Вялікай Перамогі” прысвечаны мемарыялізацыі подзвігу, расказвае пра помнікі, усталяваныя на тэрыторыі краіны. Падаюцца дакументы, распараджэнні ўраду і ЦК кампартыі ў пасляваенныя гады, у якіх прымаліся рашэнні па ўзвядзенні, рэканструкцыі мемарыялаў.

Карысным будзе і новы дапаможнік “Беларусь у гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны: пытанні і адказы”.

Шмат гадоў даследаваннем ваеннай гісторыі займаецца Барыс Далгатовіч. У сваіх работах ён расказвае пра лёсы ўраджэнцаў Беларусі. Яго новая кніга “На Заходнім фронце летам 1941 года: людзі, падзеі, факты” расказвае пра першыя дні вайны, гераічныя абароны Брэсцкай крэпасці, Мінска, Магілёва, бітвы на Гродзенскім напрамку і пад Смаленскам, паказвае якія подзвігі здзяйсняліся ў той час.

Працягваецца работа і над даследаваннямі, што паказваюць унёсак розных народаў у Перамогу. Пабачылі свет выданні, прысвечаныя ўраджэнцам Казахстана і Узбекістана, якія змагаліся ў баях за Беларусь. Вядзецца работа па зборы інфармацыі пра ўраджэнцаў Башкартастана. У падрыхтоўцы выдання задзейнічаны Нацыянальны архіў, Беларускі дзяржаўны музей гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны, шмат дакументаў прыйшло і з Башкартастана.

Яўген **Кручкоў**

Фота з адкрытых крыніц

# У СУЛАДДЗІ З ПРЫРОДАЙ



Не заўсёды чалавек сябе лічыў вяном прыроды. “У сістэме традыцыйнага светабачання чалавек знаходзіўся побач з раслінамі, жывёламі, нябеснымі целамі, рознымі істотамі. Выбудоўвалася дакладная сістэма ўзаемаадносін. Людзі павінны былі выконваць пэўныя правілы, інакш іх магло чакаць пакаранне”, – раскрыла старажытныя сакрэты загадчык аддзела фалькларыстыкі і культуры славянскіх народаў Цэнтра даследаванняў беларускай культуры, мовы і літаратуры Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Таццяна Валодзіна падчас круглага стала, які прайшоў у рамках праекта ЮНЕСКА “Нарошчванне патэнцыялу для захавання традыцыйных ведаў, звязаных з генетычнымі рэсурсамі, і прававога рэгулявання доступу да іх у Рэспубліцы Беларусь”.

Так, нашы продкі лічылі, што нельга паказваць пальцам на сонца, каб не захварэць. Ідучы па ягады, яны маглі кланяцца лесавіку ці самому лесу, ці прыгаворваць: “Я ў лес – гад з лесу”. Усё для таго, каб не заблукаць і не пацярпець ад змяіных укусаў. Такія прыклады паказваюць, як чалавек упісваў сябе ў навакольнае асяроддзе. Паважлівае стаўленне да прыроды дапамагала нашым прашчурам. На аснове сваіх назіранняў людзі вялі гаспадарку, займаліся промысламі і рамёствамі, развівалася народная медыцына... Веды, назапашаныя ў выніку працяглай гаспадарчай і культурнай дзейнасці, перадаваліся праз пакаленні. Прычым са сваімі нашчадкамі старэйшыя пакаленні дзяліліся не толькі практычнымі навыкамі, але і ўяўленнямі аб навакольным асяроддзі.

Сёння звязаным з прыродай ведам у свеце ўдзяляецца асабліва ўвага. Іх ахова прадугледжана нават у міжнародных экалагічных праграмах, якія розныя краіны развівваюць, пасля падпісання такіх пагадненняў, як Канвенцыя аб біялагічнай разнастайнасці і Нагойскі пратакол, да якіх далучылася і наша краіна.

Традыцыйныя веды, звязаныя з генетычнымі рэсурсамі, разглядаюцца Нагойскім пратаколам у кантэксце прававога забеспячэння доступу да такой інфармацыі і абароны правоў яе носьбітаў на атрыманне выгод ад выкарыстання. У розных кутках нашай краіны ёсць людзі ці нават цэлыя супольнасці, якія захоўваюць перанятая ад сваіх дзядоў і бацькоў сакрэты па ўжыванні раслін у харчаванні, народнай медыцыне, побыце і культуры. Але ў сувязі з памяншэннем колькасці вясковага насельніцтва пытанне аб тым, каб гэта інфармацыя не была страчана, стаіць надзвычай востра.

Пра тое, што робіцца ў гэтым кірунку, як раз і вялася гаворка падчас круглага стала, арганізатарам якога выступілі Нацыянальны каардынацыйны цэнтр па пытаннях доступу да генетычных рэсурсаў і сумеснага выкарыстання выгод Інстытута генетыкі і цыталогіі НАН Беларусі і Цэнтр даследаванняў беларускай культуры, мовы і літаратуры. У сустрэчы разам з вучонымі ўзялі ўдзел прадстаўнікі ўстаноў культуры, прафесійныя медыкі, носьбіты традыцыйных ведаў.

### Спрэчкі вакол бульбы

Пра прызнанне важкасці прыродных ведаў сведчыць тое, што традыцыйныя промыслы, рамёствы, практыкі набываюць статус нематэрыяльнай каштоўнасці і трапляюць у дзяржаўны ахоўны спіс гісторыка-культурных каштоўнасцяў. Як, напрыклад, традыцыя вырабу прыпячкага чоўна, за якой стаіць цэлы комплекс ведаў: гэта і апрацоўка дрэва, і ўменне карыстацца плавучым сродкам, і веды пра жыццё чалавека побач з вадой.

У Дзяржаўны спіс гісторыка-культурных каштоўнасцяў увайшлі і традыцыі прыгатавання страў з таркаванай



бульбы. Дранікі, бульбяныя бліны, бабкі, кішкі (ці бульбяныя кілбасы) гатуюцца па ўсёй Беларусі. Для надання статусу бульбяной кухні было сабрана больш за дзве сотні рэцэптаў. Іх прадставілі каля 500 гаспадароў, якія гатуюць такія стравы. Гэта адна з нямногіх традыцый, якая з’яўляецца агульнай і для горада, і для вёскі. Менавіта з-за гэтага элемента культурнай спадчыны ўзнікла больш за ўсё спрэчак, якія не сціхаюць і цяпер. Яны датычацца і назвы страў, і рэцэптур, і наогул таго, што само слова «дранікі» ды і стравы з бульбы не такія ўжо і старажытныя. Толькі на Магілёўшчыне стравы з таркаванай бульбы называлі яшчэ і драчанамі, асянікамі, дзерунамі, таркаванцамі, драчэнікамі, картафлянікамі, ведзьмакамі і г.д. Відаць, тут нават можна рабіць асобнае даследаванне, што хаваецца за гэтымі назвамі: адная і тая ж страва ці ўсё ж ёсць і адметныя рэцэпты. Таксама трэба высветліць, якія сарты бульбы лепш падыходзяць для прыгатавання пэўных страў.

### Другая “сям’я” бортніка

Дзве ініцыятывы ад Беларусі, якія абапіраюцца на традыцыйныя веды, звязаныя з генетычнымі рэсурсамі, традыцыі саломалляцтва і бортніцтва – увайшлі ў спіс ЮНЕСКА як аб’екты сусветнай нематэрыяльнай спадчыны. Пра тое, як старыя практыкі па гадаванні пчол актуалізуюцца ў XXI стагоддзі раскажаў Іван Осіпаў. Ён не проста даследуе



культуру Усходняга Палесся, дзе распаўсюджаны гэты промысел, але і сам шмат гадоў пераймае сакрэты ў бортнікаў. Раней догляд пчол быў вельмі распаўсюджаны ў Беларусі. 500 гадоў таму з нашых земляў вывозілася больш 40 тысяч тон мёду, а колькі яшчэ ўжывалася на месцы! Цяпер на тэрыторыі Беларусі вырабляецца тры тысячы тон мёду. Сем'яў, якія займаюцца бортніцтвам, сёння набярэцца каля трох соцень, а калод, што яны даглядаюць, каля дзвюх тысяч. Дарэчы, борць, за якой глядзяць, можа прастаяць гадоў сто, закінутая – спарэхнее за кароткі час.

Пчалярская справа няпростая. Невыпадкава з'явілася прымаўка: “Каб мёду есці, трэба калод дзвесце, ды не ў адным месцы, і залезці і злезці разоў дзвесце”. Само бортніцтва ўключае элементы як матэрыяльнай, так і нематэрыяльнай культуры. Пчол гаспадар лічыць роўнымі сабе, можна нават сказаць як сваю другую сям'ю. Калі тыя не перажывуць зіму, для бортніка гэта вялікае гора. Таму ён ніколі не кажа “пчала здохла”, а толькі “памерла”. Нават да лесу ў гэтых людзей асаблівае стаўленне. Бортнікі даглядаюць дрэвы, на якіх жывуць іх пчолы, і тэрыторыю вакол.

З гэтым промыслам звязаны дзясяткі і нават сотні тэрмінаў. Для абслугоўвання борці і здабычы мёду патрэбны былі розныя прылады. Асноўная з іх – лезіва, ад слова “лезці”. Яшчэ яе называюць плець, жэнь, клець (наогул існуе калі 20 варыянтаў назвы). Пры дапамозе такога прыстасавання можна падняць наверх пудоваю калоду, інструменты, ёмістасці і самога гаспадара.

Бортнік павін быў прыкмятаць месцы і расліны, да якіх будуць лётаць пчолы, валодаць рознымі рамёствамі, напрыклад, умець працаваць не толькі з драўнінай, але і плесці вяроўкі з пянкі, ліпы ці скуры, сукаць свечкі. Прадукты пчалаводства выкарыстоўваліся ў народнай медыцыне і кухні. А яшчэ бортнік заўсёды дапамагаў людзям. Можна таму яго так паважалі, нават ставіліся як да знахара ці чараўніка.

## Які ён, любанскі квас?

Сёння традыцыйныя веды запатрабаваны на шматлікіх экалагічных фестывалях. Падчас іх можна пакаштаваць мясцовыя стравы, пачуць спевы, павучыцца танцаваць ці павучыцца ў майстроў на майстар-класах. Натуральна гэта спрыяе і захаванню культурна-матэрыяльных каштоўнасцяў, і нават генетычных рэсурсаў. Напрыклад, у Столінскім раёне праводзіцца конны фэст “Палеская ніва”, куды мясцовыя жыхары прыязджаюць на конных павозках, праходзяць розныя спаборніцтвы. Адна з мэт гэтага мерапрыемства – садзейнічаць захаванню традыцыйных парод коней.

Вялікая работа па збіранні і перадачы вясковых сакрэтаў вядзецца на Любаншчыне. Тут імкнучца зберагчы песні, танцы, казкі, рэцэпты, народную медыцыну. Традыцыя вырабу хлеба ў вёсках Жораўка і Кузьмічы ўнесена ў Дзяржаўны спіс гісторыка-культурных каштоўнасцяў у якасці нематэрыяльнай праявы творчасці чалавека.

Яшчэ ў 50-я гады хлеб на Любаншчыне пяклі ў кожнай вёсцы. Нават калі якія гаспадыні ўжо і адышлі ад такой традыцыі, на агародах яшчэ працягваюць вырошчваць чарнушку. Жанчыны прызнаюцца: “Пасыплеш ёй той жа магазінны хлеб – і пахне дзяцінствам, як у тых часы, калі тут пяклі ў кожнай хаце”.

Вёску Кузьмічы на круглым стала прадстаўляла Раіса Валькова, якая, дарэчы, не толькі хлеб пячэ, арганізоўвае святы, робіць лялькі, але і з'яўляецца адзіным ў Беларусі народным майстрам па вырабе вясельных вянкаў па народных традыцыях. Жанчына прывезла з сабой мясцовыя стравы з тварагу – рэзнікі. Скатаныя з цеста кілбаскі нааразуюцца на порцыі нажом, адсюль і такая назва ў печыва. Падзялілася гаспадыня і тым, як у вёсцы рабілі напоі. Калі падсмаленую скарынку хлеба кідалі ў кіпень – мелі гарбату. Калі ж счарсцвелы падсмажаны хлеб кідалі ў цёплую гатаваную ваду і спачатку дні тры настойвалі ў цёплым месцы, а пасля яшчэ некалькі дзён у халодным (пакуль скарынкі не апусцяцца на дно) – атрымліваўся квас.

Але на Любаншчыне квасам называюць не толькі напоі, але і іншыя стравы: агуркі ў дзежцы, яблыкі, капусту, бярозавы сок. Карацей, усё, што стала кіслым. Ужо гадоў пяць у раёне праводзіцца фестываль “У Пласток – на квасок”. Мясцовыя гаспадыні з капустнага расолу вараць суп, які таксама завецца квасам. Прычым расол бярэцца не з шынковай, а менавіта з капусты, закладзенай у дзежку цэлымі качанамі. Проста перавараны расол, капустнік, п'юць як напой. А ўжо каб зрабіць суп, кожная гаспадыня кладзе свае інгрэдыенты. Праўда, калі раней жанчыны казалі, што два грыбы на квас – занадта, то сёння гаспадыні, каб іх страва на фестывалі была прызнана лепшай, для водару і смаку могуць і дваццаць укінуць. Таксама ў такі квас кладуцца крупы, часцей пярловыя, якія варацца асобна, цыбуля,



морква. А вось з бульбай квас раней ніколі на Любаншчыне не варылі. Ёсць меркаванне, што квашаныя традыцыйныя прадукты спрыяюць захаванню здароўя. Так, у жанчын, якія выехалі жыць у Амерыку, дзе натуральнае заквашванне забаронена, часцей праяўляецца захворванне на рак малочнай залозы.

### Лекі пад нагамі

Ведалі на Любаншчыне і сакрэты лекавання зёлкамі. Уласна, іх і сёння тут можна пачуць, калі завітаць на любанскія фэсты, ці пазнаёміцца з мясцовымі носьбітамі традыцыйных ведаў, напрыклад, з загадчыцай пластоўскага сельскага клуба-бібліятэкі Сафіяй Каток. Яна дзеліцца ведамі, якія пераняла ў сваёй маці, нават адкрыла ў клубе пакой траў. Зёлкі жанчына сушыць, выкарыстоўвае ў настойках, робіць варэнне з дзьмухаўца, хваёвых пупышак і шышак.

Наогул сёння ў Беларусі ўжо багата мясцін, дзе можна даведацца пра лекавыя ўласцівасці раслін. Можна ўгадаць “Дом траўніка” ў вёсцы Стрэльна, “Аптэкарскі сад” на тэрыторыі Нарачанскага нацыянальнага парку, фітаапэку ў Рубяжэвічах, “Музей водараў траў і раслін” у Гродне, музей традыцыйнай культуры “Палеская веда” ў Мазыры. Варта завітаць і ў музей Элізы Ажэшкі ў Мількаўшчыне (пісьменніца, імя якой носіць установа, летні час праводзіла на малой радзіме, разам з мясцовымі жанчынамі збірала зёлкі, вывучала іх асаблівасці, рабіла гербарыі). У беларускім скансэне ў Строчыцах ёсць свой аптэкарскі сад, супрацоўнікі музея збіраюць зёлкі і праводзяць мерапрыемствы, прысвечаныя народнай медыцыне.

І ўсё ж з лекаваннем зёлкамі трэба быць асцярожнымі, упэўнены прафесар народнай медыцыны, фітатэрапеўт Мікалай Агрэніч, да якога за парадамі звяртаюцца

людзі з розных куткоў свету. Яшчэ яго продак служыў пры двары прафесійнага ўрача графа Шпакоўскага. Той доктар жыў у Адэсе, а на лета прыязджаў на беларускія землі нарыхтоўваць зёлкі, цюкі з якімі пасля перавозіліся воднымі шляхамі. Мікалай Агрэніч узгадаў, што лячэнне раслінамі на нашай тэрыторыі вядома са старажытных часоў. Яшчэ тысячу гадоў таму стрыечная сястра Еўфрасінні Полацкай Еўпраксія напісала кнігу “Мазі”. На жаль, рарытэт захоўваецца за мяжой, а інфармацыя, змешчаная ў ім, недаступная для сучасных даследчыкаў і медыкаў.

Народная медыцына – з’яўляецца скарбонкай ведаў, якія збіраліся стагоддзямі. Яшчэ бабуля расказвала Мікалаю Агрэнічу, што пры працяглых родах парадзіхам давалі піць матачную траву (баравую матку). Людзі прыкмячалі, што гэту расліну, якая з’яўлялася, як сыходзіў снег, скублі козы, лосі ды іншыя жывёлы, якія чакалі патомства. Сёння зёлка і прэпараты з яе шырока рэкламуюцца ў інтэрнэце як сродак ад усіх жаночых хвароб. Насамрэч бездумны прыём яе можа дамам, асабліва старэйшым за 45 гадоў, нашкодзіць, а ў цяжарных справакаваць выкідышы. Многія расліны, якія сапраўды здольныя дапамагаць у лячэнні хвароб, у той жа час могуць утрымліваць рэчывы, якія разбураюць печань і ныркі. Прычым аказваць уздзеянне некаторыя з іх могуць і ў мікрадозах. Таму лячэнне травамі павінна быць індывідуальным, тут важна ўлічваць ўзрост і стан пацыента, якія хваробы ў яго маюцца. Ёсць свае нюансы ў рабоце з зёлкамі (уласцівасці некаторых раскрываюцца ў настойках, іншыя трэба заварваць). Чалавек недасведчаны можа зрабіць памылкі яшчэ пры зборы, бо пад адной і той жа назвай у вёсках могуць быць зусім розныя расліны.

Алена **Дзядзюля**  
Фота аўтара

# ВАНДРОЎКА Ў ПАДАРУНАК

Традыцыйна ў Палацы Незалежнасці ў Мінску ў студзені праходзяць навагоднія прадстаўленні для дзяцей. На іх запрашаюць дзяцей са шматдзетных сем'яў, малых, што засталіся без апекі бацькоў, а таксама хлопчыкаў і дзяўчынак, якія добра паказалі сябе ў вучобе, творчай і грамадскай дзейнасці. Сёлета таксама на свята прыехалі юныя госці з Расіі і Літвы.

Як паведаміў старшыня Нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі беларусаў Смаленскай вобласці Сяргей Крыўко, які суправаджаў дзіцячую дэлегацыю з Расіі, сёлета гэта першае сацыяльна-культурнае мерапрыемства Саюзнай дзяржавы. Магчымасць на канікулах наведаць святочныя мерапрыемствы ў Мінску атрымалі 45 хлопчыкаў і дзяўчынак са



Смаленска, Масквы, Санкт-Пецярбурга, Бранска. Запашэнні на ёлку былі дасланы ад імя Прэзідэнта Беларусі. Арганізацыйны сустрэчы з беларускага боку займаліся Міністэрства замежных спраў і Міністэрства адукацыі. Дарэчы, самыя юныя прадстаўнікі Федэральнай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі "Беларусы Расіі" даказалі, што заслугоўваюць права прадстаўляць дыяспору на Прэзідэнцкай ёлцы, бо сталі пераможцамі ў конкурсах, турнірах і алімпіядах, на якіх паказалі, што многа ведаюць пра беларускую культуру і гісторыю.

Падчас вандроўкі ў іх была магчымасць яшчэ пашырыць свае веды. Па дарозе да Мінска ў аўтобусе дзеці слухалі расказы экскурсаводаў пра адметныя мясціны Беларусі, удзельнічалі ў тэматычных вікторыях.

## ВЕРШЫ ЯЎГЕНІІ ЯНІШЧЫЦ – У БАШКАРТАСТАНЕ



Пры жыцці творы палескай ластаўкі Яўгеніі Янішчыц, калі меркаваць па бібліяграфічнаму даведніку “Беларускія пісьменнікі” (том шосты), былі надрукаваны ў перакладах на 16 моў народаў свету. Сярод іх – публікацыі на рускай (была і асобная кніга – «Спроси у чебреца», кніга вершаў, якую ў перакладах Рымы Казаковай выдаў “Советский писатель”), англійскай, балгарскай, венгерскай, грузінскай, іспанскай, казахскай, канада мове (у “Анталогіі беларускай паэзіі” у Індыі ў пераўвасабленні Б. Хінгамірэ), латышскай, літоўскай, малдаўскай, нямецкай, польскай, украінскай, чувашскай, чэшскай мовах. Бібліяграфія ў “Беларускіх пісьменніках” (хаця шосты том выйшаў і ў 1995 годзе), што датычыцца перыёды, -- толькі да 1985-га... Былі за гэты час – за 38 апошніх гадоў – і пераклады на іншыя мовы. Павінны былі быць.

19 снежня 2023 года, у галоўнай грамадска-палітычнай газеце Рэспублікі Башкартастан (Расійская Федэрацыя) – “Башкартастан” з’явілася падборка з сямі вершаў палескай ластаўкі ў перакладзе на башкірскую мову. Перакладчыца твораў Яўгеніі Янішчыц – Ларыса Абдуліна, вядомая сучасная башкірская паэтка і перакладчыца. “Творы Яўгеніі Янішчыц, якія я пераўвасобіла на сваю родную мову да юбілею беларускай паэтэсы, мне надзіва спадабаліся, – дзеліцца сваімі ўражаннямі Ларыса Абдуліна. – Я і надалей, проста ўпэўнена ў гэтым, буду звяртацца да яе творчасці. Дарэчы, азнаёміўшыся з творамі Яўгеніі па-руску, я папрасіла сваю беларускую сяброўку паэтэсу Святлану Быкаву зрабіць усё ж падрадкаўнік з беларускіх, арыгінальных тэкстаў. Спадзяюся, што не памылілася і данесла да башкірскага чытача ўсе сэнсы, закладзеныя Яўгеніяй Янішчыц у яе лірычных шчыраваннях”.

А што да іншых перакладаў, то ў юбілейны для Я. Янішчыц год (у 2023-м ёй споўнілася б 75 гадоў), у вераснёўскім нумары старэйшага марыйскага літаратурна-мастацкага часопіса “Ончыко” (Расійская Федэрацыя, Ёшкар-Ала) надрукаваны вершы нашай слаўтай зямлячкі ў перакладзе на марыйскую мову. Перакладчык сямі твораў Яўгеніі Янішчыц на марыйскую мову – Анатоль Ціміркаеў.

Паэтычная спадчына палескай ластаўкі – унікальны творчы складнік для знаёмства з Беларуссю і беларусамі. І калі на іншых мовах будуць з’яўляцца новыя пераклады паэзіі Яўгеніі Янішчыц – свет шырэі будзе ведаць сапраўдную Беларусь з яе шматвекавымі духоўнымі, народнымі традыцыямі.

Кастусь **Ладуцька**

## У ЛУНІНЕЦКАЙ ГІМНАЗІІ З’ЯВІЛАСЯ ІМЯ



Лунінецкі край багаты на літаратурную гісторыю. У Лунінцы і на Лунінецчыне жылі і працавалі многія пісьменнікі. З гэтай старонкай звязаны лёс народнага песняра Беларусі Якуба Коласа. І невыпадкова, што многія асветніцкія мерапрыемствы ў горадзе і раёне праводзяцца пад знакам памяці пра аўтара “Новай зямлі” і “На ростанях”. Адна з вуліц горада носіць імя Мікалая Калінковіча – пісьменніка, журналіста, гісторыка, які напісаў не толькі кнігу пра Лунінец, але і ўнікальны краязнаўчы нарыс “Палескія дні Аляксандра Блока”, кнігу, да якой і сёння звяртаюцца ўсе даследчыкі повязяў аўтара паэмы “Дванаццаць” з Беларуссю, Берасцейшчынай. Лунінец літаратурны, Лунінец асветніцкі – гэта і лёс выкладчыка гісторыі ў рэальным вучылішчы ў Лунінцы ў 1920-я гады Мікалая Пятровіча Анцукевіча (1892 – 1971), які нарадзіўся на Гомельшчыне, у Мазырскім павеце.

Мікалай Анцукевіч скончыў у 1911 годзе Бабруйскую гімназію. А ў 1919 годзе – Нежынскі гісторыка-філалагічны інстытут. Працаваў выкладчыкам у Лунінцы, пасля – у польскай гімназіі. Займаўся збіральніцтвам палескага фальклору, народных легенд і паданняў. З 1933 года працаваў у Віленскай беларускай гімназіі. Некаторы час быў дырэктарам гэтай гімназіі. У пасляваенныя гады працаваў выкладчыкам Вільнюскага ўніверсітэта.

Значную частку свайго жыцця Мікалай Анцукевіч аддаў даследаванню “Слова аб палку Ігаравым”. Пераклаў гэты неўміручы твор на сучасную рускую мову.

Прынята рашэнне аб наданні Лунінецкай гімназіі імя Мікалая Пятровіча Анцукевіча. Ужо болей як дзесяць гадоў выкладчыкі і вучні гімназіі праводзяць гісторыка-філалагічныя чытанні, прысвечаныя знакамітай асобе і яго навуковым, даследчыцкім пошукам. Шмат намаганняў у арганізацыі працы па ўшанаванні памяці пра Анцукевіча і пашырэнні ведаў пра яго жыццёвы і творчы лёс прыклала лунінецкая краязнаўца – журналістка, член Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Таццяна Канапацкая.

Мікола **Берлеж**