

40 to 50 village kilns flourished in that region in 1937-1938, the number had been reduced to about a dozen in 1964. Kliaščele which formerly boasted 10 kilns is now left with only 2. In Čarna Vies Kosciolna where 9 kilns existed in 1937, only 2 are now in use. No figures are available for the province of Polesia.

In 1961 an exhibition of the various folk-arts of Podlasia was organised in Bielastok in which many fine examples of pottery were displayed. Black ceramic ware from the kilns of such artists as P. Salaciukievič and Uł. Bubel of Kliaščele, and A. Krašeŭski and E. Piechoŭski of Čarna Vies Kosciolna occupies a prominent place in the exhibition. The Museum of Bielastok also contains a fine collection from some of the lesser known kilns such as Hrinkieviče and Sejny.

NOTE

William Shakespeare 1564—1964

William Shakespeare has always been reverently admired in Byelorussian literary circles. Even before the revocation of the Imperial Ukaze forbidding the use of the Byelorussian language, the works of the great English poet were widely known and read in Polish and Russian translations. Since that time, however, several translations of Shakespeare have been printed in Byelorussian, and his plays are now a regular feature in the repertoire of all the major city theatres. His translators include such well-known literary figures as Ju. Haŭruk, Uł. Duboŭka, I. Siamižon, V. Volski, K. Krapiva, A. Zvonak and Uł. Sachavec.

During the first years of the *Naša Niva* movement, Byelorussian writers had little time for anything other than self-expression — a right which had long been denied them. As literature began to develop into a more outward-looking art, writers began to pay more attention to the great poets of other nations. In 1926, in the first number of a somewhat obscure provincial journal — the *Aršanski Maladik*, there appeared several sonnets and scenes from the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, done into Byelorussian by Ju. Haŭruk. During the first Viciebsk Theatre Season in 1926-1927, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was given its first complete performance in Byelorussian at the 2nd Byelorussian State Theatre. This was followed by the publication in 1935 of *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* translated by the same author, although it was not presented to the public until 1946. Shortly afterwards, in 1939, the talented writer I. Siamižon completed his translations of *King Lear*,

Othello and *Romeo and Juliet*. Rehearsals for a production of this latter play were commenced in 1941, but the War interrupted work, and it was only in 1945 that the first performance of *Romeo and Juliet* was given at the Byelorussian State Academy Janka Kupała Theatre in Miensk. One year later *Hamlet* was given its first performance at the Byelorussian State Drama Jakub Kofas Theatre in Viciebsk. Other translations followed including *All's well that ends well* (Haūruk), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Zvonak) and a complete edition of the *Sonnets* (Duboūka).

In 1954 there appeared a collection of Shakespeares *Tragedies*, edited by K. Krapiva and Ja. Siamizon. The collection included translations, some of them new, of *Romeo and Juliet* (Krapiva), *Hamlet* (Volski), *Othello* (Haūruk), *Lear* (Siamizon), and *Macbeth* (Uł. Sachavec). The literary journal *Polymia* in the same year printed translations from the *Sonnets* by Siamizon.

A fine commemorative edition of *Hamlet* translated by Hauruk appeared in 1964 with illustrations by B. Zaboraū.

To mark the Quadricentenary of the birth of William Shakespeare, a solemn celebration was held at the Janka Kupała Theatre in Miensk on the 23rd April 1964. The ceremony was opened by the well-known Byelorussian Soprano L. Aleksandroūskaja, and the distinguished Shakespearean translator and scholar Uł. Duboūka read a tribute to "William Shakespeare — the Great English Poet and Playwright." There followed a performance of *All's Well That Ends Well* (produced by Ju. Ščerbakoū). Other plays were also produced to mark the occasion, including a performance of *Two Genlemen of Verona* at the Republic Theatre in Miensk.