

The Chairman's Annual Report for the Year 1980-81

The chief task of the Society was the organization of the Fifteenth annual course of lectures on Byelorussian history, literature and art. The lectures which comprised this course were:

- 18 December 'Byelorussian hymnody', Guy Picarda
- 12 February 'Byelorussian confraternities in the 17th century', Very Rev. Alexander Nadson
- 12 March 'Traps and pitfalls in Byelorussian history', James Dingley
- 2 April 'The origins and development of the Byelorussian language', Peter Mayo
- 21 May 'Taras Ševčenko and Byelorussian literature', Professor Arnold McMillin
- 18 June 'Maksim Bahdanovič and Art', Mikoła Paŭloŭski

The Society was privileged to have as a distinguished guest at the last of these lectures Professor A. Bartoszewicz, Dean of the Faculty of Slavonic Studies of the University of Warsaw. Mr Paŭloŭski's lecture was delivered in Byelorussian; anglophone members of the audience had to content themselves with the interpreting services of Mr J. Dingley!

Our thanks are due to the Society's Treasurer, Mr. P. Asipowich, for his constant hard work on our behalf. As at 31 March 1981 the Society's income and expenditure account showed a deficit of £279. Without the unfailing support of the Byelorussian Charitable Trust, which in the financial year 1980-81 gave the Society a grant of £2005, the Society could not continue to publish the *Journal of Byelorussian Studies*. Members will be interested to know that the cost of publishing the last issue of the *Journal* amounted to £2475.

Members of the Society owe their thanks to the trustees of the Francis Skaryna Byelorussian Library and to the librarian, Fr A. Nadson, for providing accommodation for the lectures, and feeding the audience afterwards!

After the lecture on 18 June a brief Annual General Meeting was held, at which Mr J. Dingley was elected Chairman of the Society, and Dr Shirin Akiner Secretary. Members may be assured that they will do their best to continue to foster the interests of the Society. As retiring Chairman I should like to express my gratitude to Guy Picarda for the many years of commitment to the Society that he gave as Secretary. I am certain that all members of the Society will join me in hoping that he will continue to be closely associated with its work.

30 April 1982

JOHN JOLLIFFE
Retiring Chairman