

The Chairman's Annual Report for the Year 1984-85

During the academic year 1984-85 the Society organized the nineteenth annual course of lectures on Byelorussian history, literature and culture. The following lectures were included in the course:

- 1 November 'Byelorussian-Ukrainian literary relations before 1917',
Professor A. B. McMillin
- 24 January 'Elements of Yiddish origin in the vocabulary of Byelorussian dialects', Professor W. Moskovich
- 21 February 'Farming in 16th-century Byelorussia', Dr. R. A. French
- 14 March 'Faith and ritual in the Orthodox Church in 16th-17th-century Byelorussia', Very Revd A. Nadson
- 23 May 'Byelorussian newspapers in Poland between the wars', Mr J. Dingley
- 20 June 'Agreement with the preposition *pa* in Byelorussian', Dr P. J. Mayo

Attendances at the lectures ranged from 16 to 28. I was very glad to welcome Professor W. Moskovich of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and an honorary visiting fellow of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies of the University of London in the academic year 1984-85.

Two visitors from Poland also gave lectures at the Library. On 31 January 1985 Dr E. Smułkowa, a well-known linguist from Warsaw University, read a paper entitled 'Problems of the Byelorussian-Polish-Lithuanian linguistic borderland'; on 25 March Mr J. Turonak, also from Warsaw, gave a lecture on 'Professor Vacłaŭ Ivanoŭski and his activity in Minsk in 1941-43'. Mr Turonak is the highly regarded author of articles dealing with aspects of Byelorussian history during the Second World War. Preparations continued throughout the year for the international conference 'Francis Skaryna and the Renaissance in Byelorussia', to be held at the Library on 28-29 September 1985. A full report on this conference will appear in the Chairman's Annual Report for the Year 1985-86.

My sincere thanks are due to all members of the Council of the Society for their assistance and enthusiasm. Dr Hughes, our secretary, continues to guarantee the academic life of the Society by putting together a lecture series. The Treasurer, Mr Asipowich, ensured that we were able to conclude the financial year 1984-85 with a surplus of £405, thanks almost entirely to a generous contribution from the Byelorussian Charitable Trust which enabled publication of Vol. V, nos 3-4 of *The Journal of Byelorussian Studies*. Dr Mayo, the Editor, is to be congratulated on the production of this issue in which some of the papers given at the 1983 Łastoŭski conference appear. Mr J. Michaluk has rendered invaluable assistance to the Society by his hard work in keeping all members informed of the Society's activities, and by circulating the *Journal* widely. I am extremely grateful to Mgr Nadson and the Byelorussian Catholic Mission for continuing to make facilities available to the Society to hold its meetings, and without Mrs Dziejko and Mrs Michaluk there would not be the chance to enjoy convivial conversation after each lecture. I should like to thank all members of the Society for continuing to have confidence in me as Chairman.

On membership matters I should like to add to my report for 1983-84 that Mr Laszuk is a Life Member of the Society, as is Mr J. Moultrie. I welcome them both and look forward to their friendship and support.

20 February 1986

JAMES DINGLEY
Hon. Chairman