

618) and a critical study of the Policy of denationalisation of national minorities in the USSR (Nos. 9-10/623-

624). The death of the journalist and poet Peter Syč is also commemorated (No. 9-10/ 623-624).

BOŽYM ŠLJACHAM (On God's Highway), London, 1964.

This year marks the resumption of publication of the excellent Catholic bi-monthly periodical, *Božym Šlacham*. This magazine, which first appeared in Paris in 1947 under the very able editorship of the Reverend Leū Horoško, is now published in London by the Rev. Jazep Hermanovič. There is interesting new material on the lives and work of two distinguished Byelorussian ecclesiastics, Archimandrite Andrej Cikota (1891-1952) and Fr. Hermanovič (Nos. 82, 83);

on the history of Byelorussian Church music (Nos. 83, 84 & 85); on the activity in England of the ethnographer and poet Alexander Radwan-Rypinski (1811-1861) (No. 86); and on the history of the Byelorussian students at the Greek College in Rome (No. 87).

Vincuk Advažny publishes more of his delightful fables in verse (Nos. 82, 83, 84, 87), and there are other contributions from the poems of Piatruš Syč (1912-1964) (No. 85) and Natalia Arsenieva (No. 82).

ZNIČ (The Torch), Rome, 1964.

The religious magazine Znic which first appeared in 1950, is a well-presented parochial journal edited by the Very Rev. Mgr. P. Tatarynovic. Grammatically, however, the language is sometimes obscure and tends towards Polonisation. There is an informative article on the life of Fr.

Viktar Sutovič (1890-1960) who was associated with the Vilna group of nationally-conscious priests during the inter-war years (No. 76). In a supplement to one issue Fr. Jazep Hermanovič; publishes his version of the penitential psalms done into verse (No. 75).

Byelorussian Chronicle 1964

I. The International Scene

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

At the Plenary Meeting held at Headquarters in New York on Tuesday 15 December 1964, the delegate of the BSSR His Excellency Ryhor Kiseleū addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations.

On behalf of the Byelorussian people he welcomed the unanimous election of His Excellency Alex Quaison Sackey of Ghana to the Presidency of the General Assembly, and expressed sincere friendship for the people of Ghana. After giving voice to his Government's support for the admission of the Peoples Republic of China to the United Nations, Mr. Kiseleū criticised the rearmament of the Federal German Republic, and attacked the policies of the colonial powers. Speaking in Russian, the spokesman of Soviet Byelorussia observed:

"Colonialism still exists and the people of the world must preserve

and strengthen their unity in the fight for general independence and equality of rights against all the very great variety of subterfuges of the Colonialist Powers." [For details of the International policies of the BSSR see K. Kiselev "Belorusskaja SSR na meždunarodnoj arene", Moskva 1964 (in Russian)].

(Provisional Verbatim Record
A/PV 1303 16th December 1964)

THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

On the occasion of the 46th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Byelorussian Democratic Republic (BNR), members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives of the United States of America expressed sympathy for the Byelorussian people and understanding of their problems. Among the twenty-six senators and representatives, who in their addresses commemorated the events of the 25th March 1918, were

Senator Kenneth B. Keating of New York and the Hon. Robert Taft Jr. of New Jersey. The remarks recorded by the Hon. Peter W. Rodino Jr. of New Jersey and the Hon. Thomas Kuchel of California were particularly well-informed.

To mark the occasion, prayers were offered in the Senate by the Most Reverend Archbishop Vasil Tamaščyk of the Byelorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church, and in the House of Representatives by the Very Rev. Archpriest Mikola Lapicky.

(*Congressional Record: Proceedings and Debates of the 88th Congress, Second Session.*)

THE VATICAN COUNCIL

The Right Reverend Ceslaus Sipovic, Greek Catholic Bishop of Mariamme and Apostolic Visitor of Byelorussians abroad addressed the Fathers of the Catholic Church at the Third Session of the Vatican Council in Rome on 19th October 1964. The subject of his address was the Schema *De Ecclesiis orientilibus*. In the course of his speech Bishop Sipovič commemorated the work in the cause of Christian Unity done by the Ukrainian Metropolitan Szepticky and by the Byelorussian Exarchs Anton Niemancevič, Archimandrite Fabian Abrantovič and Andrej Cikota. Other officials of the Byelorussian Delegation to the IInd Session Vatican Council included the Very Rev. Mgr Tatarynovič, the Very Rev. Archpriest Uł. Salavej, Mr. Ceslau Kukiel and Mr. Juri Sienkoŭski.

One of the Orthodox observers from the Soviet Union, the Very Rev. Archpriest, Nicholas Baravoj is also a Byelorussian.

UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS

Warsaw

A Chair of Byelorussian Philology exists at the Faculty of Philology at Warsaw University which is held by Professor Antonina Obrębska-Jablon-ska who is at the same time Head of the Byelorussian Philological section of the Slavonic Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Byelorussian poet Aleś Barščeŭski holds a position at the Faculty.

The Byelorussian language is also studied at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, at the Marie-Curie-Skłodowskiej in Lublin, at the Mickie-

wicz University in Poznan and at the Kopernik University of Torun.

Columbia University, New York

The Department of Slavic Studies offers every three years a one term graduate course in Byelorussian phonology and morphology under the title *Introduction to the History of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian Languages*.

The Byelorussian language is also studied incidentally in all courses dealing with Slavic linguistics at the University of Indiana.

London University

For several years there has existed a possibility of sitting the General Certificate of Education in the Byelorussian language, though since its institution only one student has availed himself of this facility. However with the opening of a Byelorussian School for boys in London (1960) it is expected that more candidates will now sit the examination, and that ultimately advanced courses will be arranged.

Louvain

Between the years 1948-1963 the Catholic University of Louvain admitted some 40 Byelorussian students to the various faculties, and a Byelorussian Students House was endowed through the generosity of His Eminence Cardinal Tisserand. Formerly situated at Place Herbert Hoover, the establishment has just removed to 91 rue des Flamands where extensive alterations are being made to the existing building. The students' Chaplain, Fr Robert van Caluwaert, hopes the Byelorussian tradition at the University will be maintained.

INTERNATIONAL CONCERT TOURS

Ukraine

In the spring the Byelorussian State Academic Theatre, Opera and Ballet gave a series of performances in Kiev, Capital of Ukraine. Well-known artists such as T. Symka, T. Nižnykoŭ, V. Hlušakoŭ, V. Čarnabajeŭ (bass) and A. Saŭčenka (baritone) sang arias from the various operatic works (including Turankoŭ's *Jasnae svitann'e*) and folksongs (*Ziazulenka*). The Ballet was represented by L. Raža-

nava partnered by V. Miranoŭ and Ja. Paŭloŭski.

Lebanon and the U. A. R.

The popular Byelorussian folkdance ensemble "Lavonicha" toured the Middle East, visiting Aleppo, Damascus and Beirut. As well as the usual *grand spectacle* choreography the ensemble danced two well-known favourites *Lavonicha* and *Byčki*.

Poland

In June the Byelorussian State Folk-choir visited Poland and gave concerts of Byelorussian songs in Poznan, Chodziej, Warsaw and Biela-stok.

Russia

On the 12th July a Day of Byelorussian Culture was held in the Soviet Capital, Moscow, to mark the XXth anniversary of the end of the German occupation of Byelorussia. The Byelorussian State Dance Ensemble took part, together with the Folk-choir of Azerščyna village (Homiel Province) and the Folk-song and dance Ensemble of the Homiel Palace of Arts.

United Kingdom

The famous Ballets Moiseiev of the Soviet Union visited London in November and gave a series of concerts in the Albert Hall. Among the dances of many nations, the ensemble gave a particularly successful and amusing interpretation of the Byelorussian dance *Juročka*.

II. Events in Byelorussia

MAHILEŪ

During the Mahileŭ Theatrical Festival for 1963-1964, A. Makaënok's play *Lavonicha in Orbit* was given its first performance. The author displays in his comedy the irritating obsession of some Byelorussian writers with village backgrounds, and despite the title, *Lavonicha* fails even to take off from the barnyard.

MIENSK

The Genoa Municipal Theatre Company gave a short season of Italian plays by Goldoni and Pirandello.

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The Quadracentenary of Shakespeare's birth was duly commemorated on 25th April by a performance at the Republika Theatre of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* translated into Byelorussian by A. Zvonak.

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In June the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO and Mme Adishiah visited Miensk as guests of the Council of Ministers of the BSSR.

*

A delegation from Poland arrived in the Capital of Byelorussia on the

22nd July to take part in the Day of Polish Culture. Among the distinguished delegates was the Byelorussian poet from Biela-stok province, Aleš Barski-Barščeŭski.

On 20th September a new concert season opened in Miensk. The Byelorussian State Symphony Orchestra (Dir. V. Katajeŭ) together with soloists of the Byelorussian State Philharmonia performed several new works, including *Symphony No. 3* by Jan Hlebaŭ, *Symphony No. 2* by L. Abeliovič and a *Concerto for Piano and orchestra* by H. Wagner.

HOMIEL

Important archeological finds have been reported from the village of Jurkavič on the Sož river, Homiel province, where excavations have been going on for more than two years. It was E. Kryžkoŭskaja of the Byelorussian Institute of History at the Academy of Sciences in Miensk who, ten years ago unearthed on the site important relics relating to the Bronze age civilisation in the South-eastern part of the country.

III. Events abroad

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

An exhibition of Byelorussian Folk-art was held in the spring of 1964 in Baltimore. The display included a handsome collection of folk-costumes, decorative girdles (Pajasy), statuettes and books.

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At the Universal Exhibition in New York a Byelorussian Festival took place on the 21st May. Choirs, dance-groups and instrumentalists from the United States and Canada took part. The principal groups came from New York City, South River, Cleveland, New Brunswick and Oshawa where there are flourishing Byelorussian colonies. In all there were some 120 participants. The dance groups performed such well-known favourites as Kryžačok, Juročka, Lavonicha, Čarot and Mikita. The Choirs and soloists sang settings of Byelorussian folk-songs by the composers Grečaninov, M. Kulikovič, Bahatyrōū, Anečū, Turankōū and

Zubkievič. The massed choirs were conducted by D. Viersava.

UNITED KINGDOM

On the 22nd January an Academic *soirée* of the Lithuanian and Polish Adam Mickiewicz Association was held in London to celebrate the Centenary of the Uprising of 1863-1864. The Very Rev. Leū Horosko Rector of the Byelorussian Catholic Centre in London read a paper on the part played in this Uprising by the Byelorussian Patriot Kastuś Kalinoūski. The text of his paper is printed on pages 30-35 of this issue.

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A reading of Poetry was held on the 29th November in London. Poems on Byelorussia by English writers were read, and included works by Vera Rich, E. Čitovič, Olwen Way, Jane Kinder, Evelyn Tully-Hunt, Alister Afton and Diana Sherhold.