

Byelorussian Chronicle 1968**I. The International Scene**

I. GENERAL

On 19 March the permanent Byelorussian representative at the United Nations H. Carnuščanka signed the international treaty on political, social and cultural rights which was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1966.

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On 10 June the head of the Byelorussian delegation at the United Nations, the Byelorussian foreign minister A. Hurynovič gave a lunch in honour of the UN secretary general U Thant. Present at the reception were the representatives of Bulgaria, Burma, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ecuador, Hungary, Iraq, Mauretania, Mexico, Poland, Somalia, the Ukraine and the USSR.

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A Byelorussian delegation, headed by Professor I. Kavalou, took part in the international conference on the use of cosmic space which opened in Vienna on 14 August.

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On 31 May A. Hurynovič spoke at the General Assembly of the United Nations against the proliferation of nuclear arms.

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In June a Byelorussian delegation, headed by A. Šeldaū, took part in the work of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

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On 3 December A. Hurynovič spoke about Byelorussia on the educational television network in New York.

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On 16 December the Byelorussian delegation at the United Nations gave a reception to members of the delegations from the socialist countries to commemorate the forthcoming fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

II. INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL RELATIONSAlgeria

On 16 March A. Paciarob, a member of the Soviet embassy in Algiers, delivered a lecture entitled 'La Biélorussie soviétique' at the Soviet Cultural Centre there.

Baltic States

In early autumn the Byelorussian State Choir made a tour of the Baltic states, giving concerts in Klajpeda, Daugapis, Shaulis, Riga, Tallin, Narva, Kohtla-Järve, and other places.

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Byelorussian entries won high praise at the festival of documentary films from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Byelorussia, the Ukraine and Moldavia, which took place at Tallin in the summer.

Bulgaria

At the international youth and students' art festival which took place in Sofia from 28 July to 6 August, the Byelorussian vocal quartet 'Kupalinka' (Valancina Marozava, Alena Chazanava, Valancina Antonava and Nadzieja Šuškievič) was awarded the gold medal. Other prize winners were the soloist Askold Suchin and the conductor Larysa Taŭkačova.

Czechoslovakia

A group of Byelorussian slavists, headed by M. Sudnik, director of the Jakub Kołas Institute of Philology in Minsk, took part in the sixth International Congress of Slavists which was held in Prague from 7 to 13 August. The following papers were read by

the members of the group: 'Lithuanian Elements in Byelorussian Onomastics' (M. Biryła), 'Enclitics and Proclitics in the Structure of the Slavonic Sentence' (H. Cychun) and 'The Place of Byelorussian Tales in the Slav Folk Epos' (K. Kabašnikaŭ). Apart from this Byelorussian philologists presented a number of shorter communications.

Mexico

There were fifteen Byelorussian sportsmen among the Soviet team which took part in the Olympic games in Mexico. Altogether they won six gold medals, three silver and two bronze. The gold medallists included the heavyweight wrestling champion Alaksandar Miazdźviedź, the world fencing champion Taciana Samusienka and the gymnast Łarysa Pietryk.

Moldavia and the Ukraine

In the summer the Byelorussian State Dance Ensemble visited Moldavia and the Ukraine, giving performances in L'vov, Kišinev, Odessa, Černovci, Uźhorod, Mukačeva, Černigov and Vinnica.

The Janka Kupała Theatre from Minsk enjoyed a successful summer season in Kišinev, the capital of Moldavia.

The Jakub Kollas Theatre from Viciebsk spent the summer in Poltava, and the Brest Theatre in Łuck.

Poland

Two Byelorussian archaeologists, L. Alaksiejeŭ (of the Institute of Archaeology in Moscow) and L. Pobal (from Minsk) took part in the tenth conference of Polish archaeologists which was held in Rzeszów from 19 to 21 February. Alaksiejeŭ spoke on the results of recent excavations of ancient towns in Byelorussia, and Pobal read a paper on the relations between tribes inhabiting southern Byelorussia and the south-eastern provinces of Poland in the 2nd — 5th centuries A. D.

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At the international book fair in Warsaw in the summer, the Byelorussian section was represented by more than a hundred books, including works of Janka Kupała, Jakub Kollas, Maksim Bahdanovič, Janka Bryl, Ivan Mielež and other Byelorussian poets and prose writers.

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A delegation from the Minsk province visited Warsaw during the summer. The guests had the opportunity to visit the industrial establishments of the Polish capital and its province. They also visited Cracow and Silesia.

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A group of students from the Philological Faculty of Minsk University spent one month at Warsaw University in the autumn. They attended lectures on Polish language and literature as well as on special subjects of their choice. They also had the opportunity to visit Cracow, Łódź, Oświęcim and other places.

Russia

A week of Byelorussian literature was held in Leningrad from 4 to 11 June. The group of Byelorussian poets and writers taking part in the week was headed by Maksim Tank and included Ivan Mielež, Vasil Vitka, Alaksiej Kułakoŭski, Nił Hilevič, Andrej Makajonak, Maksim Łužanin, Ivan Navumienka, Janka Sipakoŭ and the literary critic Uładzimir Juzevič. The week was organised on the initiative of the Leningrad writers Nicholas Braun, Maria Komissarova, Paul Kobzarevskij, Bronislav Kežun and others.

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An evening of Byelorussian literature, organised jointly by the Union of Soviet Writers and the Union of Byelorussian Writers, took place in Moscow on 19 December. Those who took part included Ivan Mielež, Edzi Ahniačviet, Uładzimir Duboŭka, Siarhieŭ Hrachouški, Michaś Kałačynski and others.

II. Events in Byelorussia

M I N S K

On 22 January there took place a session of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Soviet Republic at which S. Prytycki was elected chairman of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet in place of I. Kazłou who died in December 1967. The new president of the Byelorussian Republic was born in 1913 in the Hrodna district which during the years 1920-1939 was under Polish occupation. In 1936 he was sentenced to death by the Polish authorities, but the sentence was later commuted to one of life imprisonment.

The Byelorussian Janka Kupała Theatre in Minsk on 3 February marked the 600th performance of Kupała's famous play *Paulinka*. Written fifty-five years ago, the play has remained highly popular ever since.

Ivan Šamiakin's tetralogy *Tryvožnaje ščaćcie*, which was awarded the Jakub Kołas Literature Prize for 1967, appeared on Byelorussian television in serialised form.

The following state prizes were awarded for the year 1968: The Janka Kupała Prize for Literature (Poetry) to Alaksiej Pysin for his collection of poems *Tvaje daloni* (Your Hands). The Jakub Kołas Prize for Literature (Prose) to Michaś Lynkoŭ for his novel *Viekapomnyja dni* (The Memorable Days). The Music Prize to the composer Jaŭhieŭ Cikocki for his opera *Alesia*. The Journalism Prize to Ivan Novikaŭ for his documentary essay *Tvaram da niebiaspieki* (In the Face of Danger). The Theatre Prize to S. Kazimiroŭski (director), Jaŭhieŭ Nikajeu (stage designer) and Fiodar Samakoŭ (actor) of the Jakub Kołas Theatre in Viciebsk for their production of the play *Šostaje pakalennie* (The Sixth Generation). The Film Prize to Joseph Vienarovič (director) and Anatol Vialuhin (script writer) for the film *Hienieral Pušča*. The Prize for Architecture to H. Bahdanaŭ, M. Baršč, S. Batkoŭski, A. Voinaŭ, U. Karol, S. Musinski, M. Parusnikaŭ, H. Sysojeŭ, N. Trachtenbierh and N. Špihelman for the project of the Minsk main street 'Leninski Praspiekt'.

An 'ethnographical' concert took place in the House of Byelorussian Writers in Minsk on 9 February. The artists were peasants — mostly elderly — from the villages of Toniež (Lelčycy district in eastern Palešsie) and Klatnaja (Pinsk district in western Palešsie). Without any preparation and standing in an informal group (*hurt*) they sang old traditional songs — ritual, seasonal, and miscellaneous — without any direction, except that each group had its own leader, who in Toniež is called *zapia-vała* and in Klatnaja — *padhalosnzk*.

The concert was so successful that another one was organised in December, when the original artists were joined by the villagers of Łazaraŭka and Hłuškavičy of Lelčycy district.

The organiser of the concerts was Zinaida Mažejka, a member of the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences.

The première of the new film *Hienieral Pušča* (script by Anatol Vialuhin) was held in Minsk on 18 February. The theme is the struggle of the Byelorussian partisans against the Germans during the last war.

From 19 to 23 February the Jakub Kołas Institute of Philology of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences organised in Minsk the first International Conference of Byelorussian Lexicology and Etymology. Apart from Byelorussian philologists, many delegates from Leningrad, Kiev, L'vov, Moscow, Odessa, Oreł, Riga, Vilna and other cities were also present. Altogether sixty-three papers were read, among them 'The Present-day State of Byelorussian Lexicology' by A. Žuraŭski in conjunction with I. Šadurski (Minsk); 'Byelorussian Material and Slavonic Etymology' by I. Otkupščikov (Leningrad); 'Byelorussian Words in the Fishing Terms of Latgallia' by B. Laumiene (Riga); 'Turkish Words in the Byelorussian Lexicon' by I. Dobrodumov (Moscow); 'Some Problems in the Systematisation of Lexical Material and the Principles of

its Description' by A. Michnievič (Minsk). Much attention was paid to the Middle-Byelorussian language and it was generally agreed that for any fruitful study of the subject, the publication of old Byelorussian written monuments was an essential prerequisite.

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On 5 March a Bulgarian Government delegation visited Minsk. It was followed by a Parliamentary delegation from that country which stayed from 23 to 25 April.

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On 8 March a French Trades Union delegation visited Minsk.

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The Congress of Byelorussian Teachers took place in Minsk from 24 to 26 March. In his welcoming address to the delegates the writer Ivan Šamiakin said: '... Yes, teach children atomic physics, but also teach them a science which is as ancient as this world — love and respect for their native land, their parents, their mother tongue ...'

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The Swiss ambassador to the Soviet Union, A.R. Lindt, was in Minsk on 11 and 12 April. He attended a performance of the play *Ludzi na balocie* at the Janka Kupała Theatre.

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The 'Living Word Club' is an association within the Minsk Pedagogical Institute. Members of this club are students interested in maintaining the purity of the Byelorussian language and exploring its riches. It is directed by the dean of the Byelorussian Faculty of the Institute Fiodar Jankouski, an authority on Byelorussian idioms. Well-known writers, journalists and men of culture (Krapiva, Bryl, Šyrma, Siemiažon) are frequent guests of the club.

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On 26 April members of the well-known amateur theatre from Cimkavicy, together with their director Uł. Stelmach, were guests at the Minsk Palace of Culture. They showed excerpts from the play *Hanka* by Uł. Hałubok, and *Dzieci adnaho doma* by I. Šamiakin. An ensemble of pipe-players (*dudary*) also gave a performance.

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The French ballet dancers Claire Sambor and Michel Bruel visited Minsk in April and took part in the performance of *Swan Lake* at the Theatre of Opera and Ballet. In May the Danish dancers, Simone Kristan and Fleming Flint, performed in *Giselle*. In June the Byelorussian capital was host to Milan's La Scala singer, M. Guglielmini, and the Lithuanian tenor, V. Narejko. Guglielmini sang the part of Gilda in *Rigoletto* and of Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*.

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Delegates of trade unions from Ethiopia, Gambia, Nigeria, Somalia and Tanzania visited Minsk from 4 to 8 May.

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A festival of the Soviet stars of opera and ballet took place in Minsk from 15 to 27 May.

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The Institute of History of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences organised nine teams for archaeological excavations in various parts of Byelorussia during the summer. The main digs were made in the regions of Hałšany, Połack, Słonim and Turaŭ, as well as the continuation of the excavations in Zastaŭje, Łahojsk and Barysaŭ.

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A congress of the chief librarians of Soviet academic libraries was held in Minsk at the end of September.

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An economic delegation from the German Democratic Republic Government visited Minsk from 25 to 29 September.

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A festival of international and Soviet prize winning instrumentalists and singers took place in Minsk from 28 September to 13 October.

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A Polish Government delegation, headed by Mieczysław Moczar and the Polish ambassador to the USSR Jan Ptasinski, arrived in Minsk on 14 October. From there they proceeded to Lenina where they took part in the unveiling ceremony of a memorial to the Polish soldiers who died in Byelorussia during the second world war.

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In November the students' drama society of the Byelorussian Institute of Technology staged the comedy *Sud* by Ul. Hafubok.

On 28 and 29 December, solemn celebrations took place in Minsk to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. At the celebrations the first secretary of the Soviet communist party L. Brežnev and the heads of all the Soviet republics were present.

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By a decree of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the BSSR on 31 October the poets Arkadž Kulašoŭ and Maksim Tank were awarded the title of 'People's Poet of Byelorussia'. This high honour has been awarded in the past to only three persons — Janka Kupała, Jakub Kołas and Piatruś Broŭka.

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The title of 'People's Artist of the USSR' was given to the director of the Byelorussian State Orchestra of Folk Instruments, Professor Joseph Žynovič, the actor Ździstaŭ Stoma, of the Janka Kupała Theatre, and to the director of the Byelorussian State Folk Choir. Hienadž Citovič.

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Janka Maŭr, the best known writer of books for children and young people, the most famous of which is the adventure novel *Paleskija Rabinzony* (The Robinsons of Paleśsie), is 85 years old.

BARYSA Ū

The archaeological excavations in this city have revealed most interesting remains of the ancient Barysaŭ, the origins of which go back to the beginning of the 12th century.

BREST

The Brest theatre began its autumn season with the play *Ludzi i kamieŭni* (People and Stones) by K. Hubarevič. The season's programme includes another play by the same author, *Brescki mir* (The Treaty of Brest) and also *Serca na daloni* by I. Samiakin.

BUDSŁAWA

The original 'Paŭlinka' of Kupała's play of the same name lives in Bud-sława. Her name is Paulina Miadzioŭka and in September she celebrated her 75th birthday. A teacher and poet, she began to play an active part in the Byelorussian national movement as a young girl before the first world war and knew well Kupała, Kołas, Biadula, Ciotka and others. In January 1913 in St Petersburg she played the rôle of Paŭlinka in the first production of the play in the presence of the author himself.

CIMKAVIČY

Cimkavičy is the birthplace of the great Byelorussian writer Kuźma Corny (1900-1944). The Corny Museum opened there three years ago.

HOMIEL

In July a conference of Soviet algebraists was held in Homiel. This city was not chosen by chance — it possesses its own original school of algebraists, founded by S. Čunichin, a member of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences.

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The Janka Kupała Theatre from Minsk spent twenty days in Homiel. Theatre-lovers of that city were able to see performances of *Paŭlinka*, *Ludzi na balocie*, *Kanstancin Zasłonaŭ*, *Lavonicha na arbicie* and other plays.

HRODNA

This year the city received its own permanent art gallery.

Hrodna is an important cultural centre in western Byelorussia. The Janka Kupała Pedagogical Institute (founded in 1940) is located there, as well as the Medical Institute and a technical college with a flourishing literary society 'Lira'. The local branch of the Union of Byelorussian Writers includes such names as Vasil Bykaŭ, Alaksiej Karpiuk, Danuta Bičel-Zahnietava, Volha Ipatava, Michaś Dubroŭski. Anatol Iviars and others. Not far from Hrodna, in Zielva, lives the well-known poetess Łarysa Hienijuš, whose recent collection of poems, *Nievadam z Niomana*

(In a Net from the Nioman), was published in 1968.

One should not forget to mention the Hrodna Zoological Garden, the only one of its kind in Byelorussia.

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The famous Estonian musical ensemble 'Laine' visited Hrodna this year.

K A P Y L

An exhibition of the work of the village weaver-women of the Kapyl district was held in the local House of Culture. Exhibits from several villages were shown. The centre of attraction were numerous bedspreads, known locally as *pierabiranki*, probably because of the great care that must be taken in choosing the design and matching the colours. The exhibition showed that despite the spreading of industrial products, ancient folk-art is far from extinct in the Byelorussian villages.

K R A S N A P O L L E

In May the children's library in Krasnapolle (Mahilou province) organized a competition for the best painting and essay on 'A Journey in the band of the Byelorussians'. The competition was called 'I Love my Country'.

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The amateur theatre of Krasnapolle produced the play *Hanka* by Uł. Hałubok. Thus they revived an old tradition, for this play was performed there for the first time more than 30 years ago, before the year 1937, when Uładzimir Hałubok was arrested and his works banned. Many of those who took part in the first performance of *Hanka* in Krasnapolle are still alive.

L I D A

The pupils of Lida secondary school made an excursion to places connected with the lives and works of famous Byelorussian writers. They went to Wałożyn near which V. Dunin-Marcinkievič lived, and then to Viazynka, the birthplace of Janka Kupała. The next stop was Minsk and the literary museum of Jakub Kołas, after which they visited the poet's native village of Mikałajeuščyna. They also visited Uzda, the birthplace of Kandrat Kra-

piva and Paŭluk Trus, and Zahor'je near Turec where Janka Bryl spent his early years. The organizers of the excursion were the teachers A. Burak, Ja. Kaŭcevič. and A. Pietračenka.

Ł A H O J S K

Archaeological excavations, conducted under the direction of H. Štychaŭ, have revealed much interesting material and confirmed many facts about Łahojsk found in contemporary chronicles. In particular it has been confirmed that it was already a well-established city in the 11th century.

Ł O J E Ū

A literary circle has been formed under the auspices of the local newspaper. There are already several promising young writers and poets in this town, among them U. Savicki, L. Navumienka, A. Kukara, V. Svilonak and others.

O R Ő A

An exhibition of works by local artists took place in September. The painters who exhibited their works were N. Sałtanaŭ, A. Kazlou, M. Byranou, S. Sauroŭ, A. Varanovič, V. Zytou, V. Hančaroŭ.

P O Ł A C K

The Połack city museum and library has received a precious gift consisting of the works of Professor A. Florovský of Prague, sent by the author himself. This gesture may be regarded as the last token of homage by a distinguished scholar to the native city of Francis Skaryna, on whom he did much valuable study and research. Soon afterwards, in May, came the sad news of Professor Florovský's death.

R A D K A V I Č Y

Julija Michnievič, or 'Ciotka Julia' as she is generally known, is 72 years old and has spent all her life in her native village of Radkavičy (Luban district). Yet she is known far beyond the boundaries of her village. For Ciotka Julia is a poet. She began composing verse when she was a small girl and goes on doing so to the present day. She does not write her poems, but — such is her phenomenal memory — she knows them all by heart and can recite them at any time. Not

long ago Ciotka Jula gave a recital of her poems in Minsk.

SŁONIM

On 15 January 1968 J. Stabroŭski died in Slonim at the age of ninety-nine. In him Byelorussians lost one of the most enthusiastic and dedicated of local historians and archaeologists. The work of his life was the Slonim museum, which he founded in 1924 through his private efforts and which is today one of the finest and best ordered local museums in all Byelorussia. Stabroŭski succeeded in saving his precious collections during the war, and thus the Slonim museum was first to open in the post-war period.

ŠVICIAŽ

A seminar of young Byelorussian creative artists was held from 20 to 31 May at the holiday resort of Šviciaž, on the bank of the beautiful lake of the same name, immortalized by Mickiewicz. There were special days dedicated to literature, art, theatre, cinema, etc., as well as many informal discussions, exhibitions of works by individual artists, showings of new films, concerts, and the like. The older generation gave generous help and the new participants were able to meet and talk to such poets and prose writers as Maksim Tank, Janka Bryl, Barys Sačanka, Michaś Stralcoŭ and critics Uł. Hniłamiodaŭ and R. Biarozkin. The painters H. and N. Papłaŭski, Nela Ščasnaja and A. Piatruchna showed their latest paintings, and the composers Uł. Žurovič, D. Smolski, A. Jančanka and A. Šutaŭ

played their own compositions and talked about their work.

VICIEBSK

An interesting exhibition of the works of Viciebsk-born artists took place in January. Altogether eleven artists showed their works, among them M. Savicki, L. Ščamieleŭ and M. Čepkin.

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The Jakub Kołas Theatre began its autumn season with the traditional *Nieścierka* by V. Volski. During the summer the Theatre visited Pskov and Poltava.

ZAPOLLE

The choir of the village of Zapolle in Hrodna district is forty years old and is known far beyond the frontiers of Byelorussia. It has to its credit over 2,000 concerts and a repertoire of more than 400 songs. Many songs, such as *Naš Nioman*, *Rodnyj kraj*, *Pajdu, pajdu*, *Jasiu miły*, *Jeduč žanichi* and others, were written and composed by the choir itself, either collectively or by its individual members. Words to many of the songs were written by a local school teacher, Ivan Žuk, and the music by the chorus master Piatro Seuka.

ZASŁAŪJE

A museum of ancient Byelorussian cities is being organized in Zastaŭje. The place could not have been better chosen, for this ancient little city, with its 11th century church and the 'Tomb of Rahnieda', is a living piece of Byelorussian history.

III. Events Abroad

DENMARK

According to reports in the Byelorussian Soviet press, the Slavonic Department of the University of Copenhagen has sent a request to the Jakub Kołas Institute of Philology in Minsk for material for a course in Byelorussian language which it intends to introduce.

ITALY

On 17 March at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome His Excellency Bishop Česlaŭ Sipovič gave a lecture entitled *Il dottor Francesco Skaryna a la sua opera biblica*. At the lecture Cardinals E. Tisserant and J. Slipyj, the Rector and professors of the Oriental Institute and many other distinguished guests were present. The text of the lecture was later published in the April-June number of the journal *Unitas*.

KAZAKHSTAN

The Avezov Institute of Literature of the Kazakh Academy of Sciences has published a bibliographical volume on Byelorussian-Kazakh literary contacts, embracing the years 1917-1967.

POLAND

The year 1968 marks forty years of academic work by Professor Antonina Obrebska-Jabłońska, the distinguished Polish philologist. Although her main field of study is the Polish language, her interest in the philological sphere may be called truly universal, and she has made valuable contributions to a number of subjects ranging from the *Lay of Igor's Campaign* to the Peking dialects of the Chinese language. Professor Obrebska-Jabłońska is also well-known in the field of Byelorussian studies. Since 1956 she has occupied the Chair of Byelorussian Language at the University of Warsaw and directs the Byelorussian language laboratory in the Slavonic section of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In addition to several articles on the Byelorussian language, she has edited the last volumes of Fedorowski's *Lud Białoruski*, and, jointly with M. Biryła, compiled a Polish-Byelorussian dictionary. Under her direction also there has been initiated a systematic study of Byelorussian dialects in the Białystok region. But her greatest merit lies in having formed a considerable group of talented young scholars, which bodes well for the future of Byelorussian studies in Poland.

The public libraries in the Białystok district have nearly 15,000 volumes in Byelorussian, consisting mainly of works of fiction.

The Polish radio in Białystok has had, since 1958, one weekly programme in the Byelorussian language. Initially the director of that programme was Maciej Kanapacki, who at one time was also the director of the Byelorussian weekly *Niva* and is known for his valuable studies on the history of the Byelorussian Tartars. Since 1961 the director of the Byelorussian radio programme has been Lavoń Majsiejuk.

An exhibition of frescoes from the

Supraśl monastery was held in the Białystok regional museum in August. Altogether thirty frescoes were shown — all that remained of the famous mid-16th century Supraśl church which was blown up in 1944 by the retreating German troops.

The Byelorussian Literary Association in Poland 'Bieławieža' is ten years old. Today it enjoys a considerable membership, including such writers as Aleś Barski, Wiktar Švied, Janka Burš, C. Janovič, I. Čykvin and others who have made a serious contribution to the development of contemporary Byelorussian literature.

The novel *Ludzi na balocie* by Ivan Mieleż has appeared in Polish translation by E. Kabatc. Another Byelorussian novel published in Polish was I. Samiakín's *Serca na daloni*, translated by L. Susid.

UNITED KINGDOM

The London branch of the Association of Byelorussians in Great Britain, in conjunction with the English poetry Magazine *Manifold*, organised an evening of the poetry of Zmitrok Biadula (1887-1941) on Saturday 10 February. The English translations were by Miss Vera Rich.

The headmaster of St. Cyril's House School for boys in Finchley, London, gave a dinner on 4 May to mark the feast of Saint Cyril of Turaū. Mr Guy Picarda read a paper on Alexander Sołtan, the Byelorussian 15th century traveller in Europe.

The Byelorussian Catholic Church and St. Cyril's House School were the subjects of a BBC television programme on Friday 29 November.

During the academic year 1968-69 the Anglo-Byelorussian Society organized at the British Academy in London the third course of lectures on Byelorussian culture. The speakers were Professor R. Auty ('The Position of the Byelorussian Language in the Study of Comparative Slavonic Philology'); Mr A. B. McMillin ('Alexander Jelski (1834-1916)'); Dr R. A. French ('The Geography of Byelorussia in the

16th century'); Mr G. Picarda ('Anglo-Byelorussian Relations from 1918 to 1921'); Miss V. Rich ('Jakub Kołas and the Evolution of a National Byelorussian Epic Style') and Rev. A. Nadson ('The Chronicle of Barkułabaū (1563-1608)').

UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

The Slavonic department of the New York City Library organized an

exhibition to commemorate 450 years of Byelorussian printing. The exhibition lasted from March to July 1968. It contained more than 200 exhibits illustrating the evolution of Byelorussian printing from the first Skaryna edition in 1517 up to the present day. The exhibition aroused much interest and there have been favourable comments on it in the American, Polish, Czech, Slovak, and Byelorussian press both at home and abroad.