

The Chairman's Annual Report for the Year 1981-82

The year was inevitably overshadowed by the death of our close friend Bishop Ceslaus Sipovich on 4 October 1981. Fr Nadson has paid fitting tribute to this great man in the last issue of the *Journal of Byelorussian Studies* (vol. V, no. 1). The members and friends of the Anglo-Byelorussian Society can find no better way of honouring the bishop's memory than by ensuring that the Society, of which he was a founder member, continues to play its vital role of spreading knowledge about Byelorussia.

The Society organized the sixteenth annual course of lectures on Byelorussia during the academic year 1981-82. The course included the following lectures:

- 19 November 'The Common Slavonic Element in the Byelorussian vocabulary', Dr H. Leeming
- 28 January 'Dostoevsky and the Development of Modern Byelorussian Literature', Prof. A. McMillin
- 25 February 'Sixteenth and Seventeenth-Century Manuscript Documents in the Francis Skaryna Library', Very Rev. A. Nadson
- 1 April 'Bishop Ceslaus Sipovich: Priest and Scholar', Very Rev. A. Nadson*
- 20 May 'Syntax of the Numeral in Byelorussian', Dr. S. Akiner
- 17 June 'Recent Developments in the Study of Byelorussian Art and Architecture', Dr. L. Hughes

Attendances at the lectures varied from 17 to 36.

Both the new Honorary Secretary, Dr. Shirin Akiner, and I, as your new and somewhat nervous Chairman, are well aware of the gratitude owed by the Society to the previous Chairman, the Hon. John Jolliffe, and to the outgoing Secretary, Mr Guy Picarda. We shall continue to rely on them both for advice and assistance, and are delighted to be able to report that they will be continuing their close association with the Society, John as one of the Vice-Presidents, and Guy as a Vice-Chairman. We are gratified to be able to report that, in these days of changing officials, our good friend Paul Asipowich has agreed to continue as Treasurer. All members of the Society must be grateful to him for all his work on their behalf. Without him and the generous financial support of the Byelorussian Charitable Trust, the position of the Society would be much more precarious. However, members must ensure that membership dues are paid regularly. This is an important item that will be discussed at the next meeting of the Council of the

*This formed part of an evening held to pay tribute to Bishop Sipovich, who was to have read a paper entitled 'The Early History of Christianity in Byelorussia (X-XIII cent.)'.

Society. Thanks are due to Fr Alexander Nadson as Rector of the Byelorussian Catholic Mission in London for providing hospitality for the Society's meetings, and to Mrs Michaluk and Mrs Dziejko for their catering expertise.

Plans are well in hand for a one-day seminar to be held in the Francis Skaryna Library on Saturday 9 October 1982, to mark the centenary of the birth of Byelorussia's greatest poets Janka Kupała and Jakub Kołas. The seminar is being organized jointly by the Anglo-Byelorussian Society, the Francis Skaryna Library and the Association of Byelorussians in Great Britain. Papers will be read by Prof. A. McMillin (Liverpool), Prof. A. Adamovič (New York), Dr. A. Barščeŭski (Warsaw), B. Zaboraŭ (Paris), Fr A. Nadson (Francis Skaryna Library). In the evening Vera Rich will be organizing a reading of poetry by both Kupała and Kołas in the original and in English translation. The papers will be published in the next issue of the *Journal of Byelorussian Studies*.

5 July 1982

JAMES DINGLEY
Hon. Chairman