

Embroidery with cornflowers passed from poetess to poet

120th anniversary celebrations for Maxim Bogdanovich — a Belarusian literary classic — planned for December

Preparations for the anniversary of the writer's birth are already in full swing, with the Maxim Bogdanovich Literary Museum in Minsk planning a wonderful exhibition for the December event. It recently received an e-mail from a resident of the Ukrainian town of Rovno, offering an edition of *Vyanok* (*Wreath*) — the only collection of poems written by Bogdanovich.

"Until recently, only 25 original editions existed in Belarus, from a circulation of 2,000," explains the museum's Director, Tatiana Shelyagovich. "Luckily, another

copy has been discovered. *Vyanok* was published in Vilno with support from Princess Magdalena Radziwiłł. Of course, we aren't the only museum preparing for the poet's anniversary. The National Library of Belarus is to release a multimedia edition on CD, comprising all the verses and articles written by the Belarusian literary classic, alongside musical compositions based on his works. The museum's archive contains many personal items from the Bogdanovich family. These are to be exhibited at our branch of Belaruskaya Khatka — currently under-

going reconstruction ready for re-opening on the eve of the jubilee. The poet himself once dreamt of creating a puppet theatre."

Maxim spent his childhood in Grodno, with his home becoming a museum in 1986. It boasts some very unusual exhibits. For example, Belarusian poetess Larisa Geniyush donated her embroideries depicting cornflowers, which the poet especially loved. These are often brought to his monument in Minsk.

Russia also honours the memory of Maxim Bogdanovich, with a perma-

nent museum exhibition in the family's Yaroslavl house, where they lived for several years. In this city, Maxim fell in love with Anna Kokueva, to whom he devoted many verses; some later became songs. Minsk museum employees often visit Russian Yaroslavl.

"Collaboration will continue in future," stresses Ms. Shelyagovich. "Maxim Bogdanovich spent just five years in his native land. It's wonderful that museums beyond Belarus also revere him, gathering artefacts which remind us of his life and creativity."



Many interesting exhibits at M. Bogdanovich Museum

Legendary citadel recalls the past

Brest-Litovsk Fortress photos on display in the centre of London

By Anastasia Krutova

The *Brest-Litovsk Fortress* photo exhibition is being hosted by Pushkin House, located in the heart of the British capital. The show includes over 60 copies of photos from the Museum of the Defence of Brest Fortress archives. These cover the 170 year history of the legendary citadel, from its first day of the foundation stone being laid to the present. The exhibition opens with a photo of a painting by Polish artist Martin Zaleski. At the invitation of Count Paskevich, he visited the fort in 1840 and captured its construction in his drawings. There are also some interesting photos depicting the arrival of Emperor Alexander III at Brest-Litovsk Fortress in 1886, and a photo of the White Palace, where the

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed in 1918.

A separate block of photos is dedicated to the heroic defence of the fortress during the Great Patriotic War. The exhibition also features shots of the peaceful life of the legendary citadel: the construction of the memorial and its monumental structures that have become the hallmark of not only the memorial but the city of Brest.

The exhibition first went on display in the UK in 2009. Its organisation was assisted by British Russell Porter. In February 2009, he paid a visit to Brest and saw Brest Fortress. He was greatly impressed with the *Brest-Litovsk Fortress* photo exhibition, which was then on display in Brest, and expressed willingness to organise a show in the UK, to allow his countrymen to see the stunning



Tourists visit Brest Fortress

photos. Mr. Porter's initiative was supported by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to the United Kingdom, H.E. Mr. Alexander Mikhnevich. With support from the Belarusian Embassy, the exhibition opened in Maldon in September 2009, later moving to Bristol, Glasgow, Durham, Cardiff, Newcastle, Inverness, Nottingham, Duxford, Liverpool and Cambridge. The exhibition also travelled to Jersey, where Soviet prisoners of war, including Belarusians, were forced into labour.

The exhibition is expected to further tour Europe, with talks underway regarding organisational issues.

Women take the lead

By Yelena Prusova

Women over the age of 100 outnumber men almost 5-fold

468 women and 94 men have already celebrated their 100th birthday, with only 12 women among those over 110 years of age. One has even celebrated her 115th birthday: Maria Mikhailov-

na Shikut from Tesnovaya-1 village in the Minsk Region's Stolbtsy District, who was born on July 1st, 1894.

The Grodno Region is a traditional leader countrywide for its number of long-livers. As of April 1st, 2011, it had 127 centenarians. The Minsk Region is second, with 91 long-livers, followed by the Brest

Region (90) — the former silver holder. Meanwhile, 75 people who have already celebrated their 100th anniversary reside in the Gomel Region. The Vitebsk Region has 70 and the Mogilev Region can boast just 62. Despite the greatest volume of population, Minsk has the fewest number of residents aged 100 or more (47).

Live information soon to be available to border queues

Those wishing to cross Belarusian-Polish border soon to gain 'live' access to view at Mokranj and Domachevo checkpoints

Web cameras are to be installed at border check-

points, broadcasting live views of queues, via the Internet. So far, only Varshavsky Most customs clearance checkpoint on the Belarusian-Polish border has such a camera; unsurpris-

ingly, it is already of huge interest to travellers, with over a thousand people visiting the site during one week — including from Russia, Kazakhstan, Germany, Iceland, Italy and the USA.

Ecologists unravel mysteries of nature

Scientists discover rare purple sulphur bacteria in Lake Glubelka, at Narochansky National Park

By Olga Neverova

Investigations at Glubelka show that it is rare in having clearly divided layers, which don't intermix; the deeper layers are an oxygen-free environment, developing rare organisms, such as purple sulphur bacteria. "It has long been known that these live in Belarusian lakes. However, such volumes are rare, so are of great scientific interest," notes Tatiana Zhukova, Director of the BSU's Naroch Biological Station. Scientists now plan to thoroughly study the habitat of purple sulphur bacteria in the lake, looking at their organic secretions.

At the same time, research of lake eco-systems is expanding within Narochansky National Park. Scientists have already studied volumes, species composition and the oxygen regime of such lakes as Glublya, Yachmenek and Mertvoe. This year, investi-



Belarusian nature interests researchers

gations will continue at Lake Bolduk — Belarus' fifth deepest lake (39.7m), which occupies 78 hectares. Ecologists hope to find rare whitebait fish. Specialists will assess water transparency, noting oxygen content and electrical conductivity, while studying species composition and volumes of phyto- and zooplankton.

The MT reference:

Narochansky National Park spans the Minsk, Vitebsk

and Grodno regions, occupying over 97,000 hectares. It is home to 30 rare and endangered plant species, registered in the Red Book of Belarus. Many corners remain in their natural state, including the Golubye Ozera (Blue Lakes) — where rare and endangered saw grass grows, belonging to the first category of protection. The park also boasts wild gladioli, orchids and European globeflowers, which are rarely seen on the European continent.