

Rarity enriches museum exhibition

Museum of Mogilev History gains original 1588 edition of Statute of Grand Duchy of Lithuania

The rarity is part of the 'Magdeburg Mogilev' display, shown under climate control and alarmed for security. A photocopy of the most valuable publication is being prepared, soon to be posted on the official website of the museum. The original edition, in Old Belarusian, dates from 1588 and was bought from a private collector in Moscow for \$45,000 this June. Private donations of \$15,000 were raised but Alpari Group (Moscow) was still seeking the final \$30,000 until the National Bank of Belarus stepped in to finance the purchase. The solemn transfer of the Statute to the Museum of Mogilev History was held in June, at the National History and Culture Museum in Minsk.

The original Statute is the highest achievement of Old Belarusian legal thought, impacting on the cultural, historical and legal traditions of Europe and symbolising the highest cultural values. Only a few dozen copies remain, with none held in Belarus until now. Mogilev residents' efforts have returned the treasure to its roots, showing their dedication and patriotism.

The Statute of 1588 was designed by the Court Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Governor of Mogilev, Lev Sapega. He paid to have it printed by Piotr Mstislavets in Vilno, using revenue from Mogilev Mamonichi merchants. Three editions of the Statute exist, from 1588, 1592-1593 and 1594-1595.



Scenes from film about Marc Chagall, shot in Vitebsk's historical Suvorov and Krylov streets

Research and museums assist film director

Shooting of film about Marc Chagall launched in Vitebsk

By Olga Bogomarova

The film is being directed by famous producer and People's Artist of the Russian Federation Alexander Mitta. A Jewish district has been created along the bank of the Dvina River for the film's set, while some locations in the historical part of Vitebsk's centre will also be used.

As usual, Mr. Mitta is refraining from revealing much about his work. As is traditional, shooting began with the breaking of a plate against the camera stand. However,

he promises to reveal more soon.

Previously, Mr. Mitta has told us that the full-length feature film is to be entitled *The Miracle of Chagall*. Its second title, according to the film director, reflects the idea more fully — *Commissar Chagall and Citizen Malevich*. The film explores the difficult relationship of the two geniuses in Vitebsk from 1918-1921 and Malevich's struggle for 'young minds'. Another emotional element is introduced via Marc's wife Bella.

While writing the script, the director used research by Valery

Shishanov, the Deputy Director of the Vitebsk Regional Local History Museum: *Vitebsk Museum of Contemporary Art: The History of Creation and Collections*. Mr. Mitta was also assisted by the Marc Chagall Museum and the Contemporary Art Centre.

Shooting will also take place in St. Petersburg. Mr. Mitta hopes



Alexander Mitta on set

that his film about Chagall and Malevich will promote the arts while also attracting greater attention to Vitebsk, which so inspired these geniuses.

Virtuoso opportunities to be revealed in many dimensions

By Yevgeny Dovlatov

State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Belarus celebrating 75th anniversary of Belarusian composers Andrey Mdivani and Dmitry Smolsky in coming season

According to the Symphony Orchestra's artistic leader and chief conductor, Alexander Anisimov, several other jubilee dates are also being celebrated: the 200th anniversary of the births of Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner and the 100th anniversary of the births of Benjamin Britten and Witold Lutoslawski, as well as the 125th anniversary of the birth of Heitor Villa-Lobos.

"Throughout the season, our orchestra will be performing *Beethoven. All Symphonies and Instrumental Concerts*, which always arouse interest among classical music lovers. Moreover, we plan to invite guest conductors and talented soloists to perform with us," notes Mr. Anisimov. A successful foreign tour to Japan earlier this year (for the first time) has led to other interesting proposals, leading to a tough tour schedule for the coming



Symphony Orchestra's Chief Conductor Alexander Anisimov

season. The Orchestra will be traveling to Lithuania, Italy, the UK and Russia, as well as touring Belarus. The season is to open at the Belarusian State Philharmonic Society on September 20th, with a premiere of a work by the Belarusian composer, alongside a classical piece. As is traditional, a soloist will be involved in the concert.

The first section is dedicated to Andrey Mdivani, whose 75th anniversary is being celebrated with a performance of his *La Peau de Cha-*

grin ballet (with libretto by Belarusian playwright Alexey Dudarev). Yanka Kupala Theatre actors will be taking part. A leader and soloist of the Orchestra, Honoured Artiste of Belarus Yulia Stefanovich (violin), will perform Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns' *Havanese* and the programme will end with Piotr Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini* symphonic poem, amply allowing the Orchestra to show its skill. Afterwards, the same programme will be performed in Lithuania.

Belarusfilm keen to shoot lyrical comedy of *Belye Rosy*

National Film Studio working on sequel to famous Belarusian comedy

According to Oleg Silvanovich, the Director General of Belarusfilm, the sequel to *Belye Rosy* will be a lyrical comedy, like the original. Of course, a good script needs to be written and approved. "If the artistic value is low, we won't simply bother," Mr. Silvanovich explains.

The script is drawn from the novel by famous playwright Alexey Dudarev, Honoured Figure of Arts of Belarus and Artistic Leader of the Belarusian Army Drama Theatre.

Mr. Silvanovich explains that Mr. Dudarev is considering cinema and theatre actor Nikolay Karachentsov (a People's Artist of the RSFSR) for the leading role, even being willing to adapt the script to suit the Russian actor. "We understand that the characters seen in the original need to reappear — at least indirectly via photos. Some of the old cast may be invited to participate but we want to make a new film of our own rather than 'remaking' a successful Russian film," adds Mr. Silvanovich.

Belye Rosy by Igor Dobrolubov was first screened in 1983.

Admiring nature in Minsk's 'Corridor of Eternity'

Temporary sculpture may grace Belarusian capital garden at intersection of Pervomaiskaya and Zakharov streets

The idea of the 'Corridor of Eternity' appeared during the *Art-City* contest to improve the capital, organised by the Goethe Institute in 2011. Members of the jury examined ten varied projects, giving the majority of votes to a work by Belarusian State Academy of Arts student Alexander Kudryashov.

Alexander hopes his work will encourage passers-by to ponder the eternal nature of life. The sculpture is to be a 7m long corridor, 2.5m wide and 3.5m high. Its walls, floor and ceiling will be made from rust-proof steel, helping to create the illusion of a mirror.

Through small holes in the walls and ceiling, those walking through will be able to see fragments of nature beyond, which will stand out against the background of the endless mirror corridor.