

## Poetry known all over the world

By Galina Gromova

**Maxim Bogdanovich's poems recited in six languages at Minsk's House of Friendship, during party devoted to presentation of poet's collection of verse (published to mark the 120th anniversary of his birth)**

The collection includes such poems as *Slutsk Weavers*, *Pursuit*, and *Romance* — translated into Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Latvian, German, Ukrainian, French and English. They were recited by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Belarus — H.E. Ms. Rosemary Thomas, by the Head of the Lithuanian diplomatic mission — Edminas Bagdonas, by the Deputy Ambassador of Germany — Peter Dettmar, by the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the CIS — Ivan Bunetchko, and by the Deputy Chair of the Belarus-Bulgaria Society — Oksana Bekasova-Bubnova.

Belarus' Deputy Culture Minister, Tadeush Struzhetskyy, believes the publishing of this edition is an extraordinary event. He notes that Maxim Bogdanovich was not merely a lyrical poet but a man of high civil status, who defended the interests of his native Belarus.



Maxim Bogdanovich's *Slutsk Weavers* book of poetry

The Chairman of the Belarusian Foundation of Culture, Vladimir Gilep, helped collate the edition and stresses that Bogdanovich's works are popular both in Belarus and abroad. The author of the foreword, writer Anatoly Butevich, emphasises that the poet always praised Belarus — although he did not attend a Belarusian school and did not live among Belarusians. Maxim Bogdanovich knew many European languages and translated foreign books into Belarusian, praising the merits of the language.

Artistes from the Znich One Actor Theatre, Vyacheslav Statkevich and Sergey Sorokin, gave a musical accompaniment to the party, reciting poems and singing songs by the Belarusian classical writer. Ms. Thomas told the media that people in the UK know of Maxim Bogdanovich's works but that his brilliant poetry and the Belarusian language should be more popularised. She stressed that she had enjoyed the party at the House of Friendship.



When *Traffic Lights Sing* performance staged by Brest Puppet Theatre, promoting road safety

## Original move taken by traffic police

**Brest's Puppet Theatre gives unusual premiere**

Its *When Traffic Lights Sing* has been prepared jointly with the State Road Inspection Service of the Brest Regional Executive Committee's Department for Internal Affairs, teaching children about safety on our urban roads. This is a story of a city of unusual traffic lights.

The Head of the Department for Propaganda and Agitation of the Regional State Road Inspection Service, Natalia Sakharchuk, hopes that the performance will teach youngsters road safety. "We wanted to create a themed show and theatre director Mikhail Shavel supported us. The puppets wear

traffic police uniforms and use batons and road signs as props. It took just two months to make the performance ready."

Brest traffic police have previously organised youth discos, concerts, and interactive games and films to promote road safety.

## Contemporary interest shown in classical genre

**Exhibition of pictorial photography in Minsk dedicated to 130th anniversary of birth of its founder**

By Vladimir Svetlov

The *Metamorphoses* exhibition at the National History Museum is devoted to the 130th anniversary of the birth of the founder of pictorial photography, Lev Dashkevich. It showcases works by Margarita Trenina, Albert Tsekhanovich, Natalia Yevmenenko, Alexander Ptakh, Andrey Voskresensky

and Maria Bone. These demonstrate various techniques — from gum Arabic and the tin process, to cyanotype, bromofort and the colouring of silver prints.

Pictorial photography is one form of artistic photography, viewed as being similar to painting. Photographic shots are turned into drawings or engravings by playing with light and shadow, using



Views from *Metamorphoses* exhibition hall

complex methods of printing.

Belarusian photographer Lev Dashkevich (1882-1957) was known for his romantic shots and his unique printing methods, as well as being a teacher of the art of photography. Alongside Jan Bulhak (1876-1950), a classic of Belarusian, Lithuanian and Polish photography, he was among Belarus' first pictorial

photographers.

The flourishing of pictorial photography happened in the age of impressionism and modernism (late 19th-early 20th century), focusing on beautiful and romantic images which primarily imitated painting. Over the course of time, interest has fallen significantly yet famous masters still use the technique today.

## Precious heritage digitised

By Victor Andreev

**Russian specialists to help restore book collections of Belarusian nobility**

It's difficult to join UNESCO's *Memory of the World* programme, which includes some of the world's most precious archive manuscripts, editions and libraries; it currently boasts 193 items from 83 countries, with Belarus represented by just one collection: the library of the Radziwill dukes, from Nesvizh. Most of the collection is held abroad: in Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine and Finland, as well as in Russia. However, the UNESCO Office in Moscow has joined the National Commission of Belarus for UNESCO in registering the collection and is now digitising the heritage of the noble Sapegi family, which is currently kept in St. Petersburg.

Digitisation allows rare editions to become available to scientists around the world, alongside library users, preserving fragile manuscripts and folios on contemporary data storage media.

In 2011, the first CD was released containing the title pages of 300 Sapegi books from the collection of the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg. Several folios have been published in full on CD. Lyudmila Kiryukhina, Deputy Director of the National Library of Belarus, notes that many previously unknown editions are now on display for the first time, as are the original manuscripts of outstanding authors. All are now also available on CD.

Sadly, Belarus has lost almost everything relating to the heritage of the noble family, except for the ruins of several castles. One of these — in the Brest Region's Ruzhany — is now undergoing reconstruction.

"If the Sapegi library is restored at least virtually, we'll be able to apply to join the *Memory of the World* register," explains Vladimir Schastny, Chairman of the National Commission for UNESCO.

The project has grown from a modest endeavour into a major inter-state affair, with specialists from Belarus and Russia, Lithuania and Poland uniting as an international council creating an e-collection of manuscripts and black-letter books once owned by the Sapegi family.



**Young soloist, from Gomel, wins Grand Prix at Moscow's international musical competition**  
Nuance Vocal Studio

pupil (from Gomel's children's music school # 3) Liza Medvedeva has won a Grand Prix at the International Festival-Contest of Young Musicians — *Christmas Star*, held in Moscow. The nine year old

won over the jury in the 'Pop Singing' nomination, being the best in her age group.

Taking part in the festival were young performers from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia and Rus-

sia. Belarus was represented by young artistes from Gomel and Mogilev. Their talent was assessed by Russian pop stars and lecturers from Russia's higher educational establishments.

## Jury conquered by mastery