

Postcards — the road to historical truth

20th Minsk International Book Fair hosts launch of Vladimir Likhodedov's *In Search of the Lost*

By Konstantin Ladutko

Mr. Likhodedov is well-known as a postcard collector, in Belarus and abroad. Over the past six years, three Belarusian publishing houses have published 13 of his illustrated albums, under the series title *In Search of the Lost*. Among the titles have been *Minsk: Journey through Time*, *Stars of the Fatherland*, *In Search of the Lost*, *Synagogues*, *Saint Alexander Nevsky: Orthodox Churches in Old Postcards of the Late 19th — Early 20th Century*, and *Patriotic War Memorials in Old Postcards...*

Mr. Likhodedov notes that he has endeavoured to create a 'postcard map' of Belarus and its neighbours, being convinced that photographs are among the most valuable historical resources. He notes, "Over many years of collecting, I've realised that postcards have special energy and allow us to view the past more carefully and objectively. Readers have inspired me to collect reproductions for my albums on particular themes."

Minsk bookshop managers Olga Glukhovskaya, from Akademkniga, and Alla Zmieva, from Book Saloon, emphasise that the series has sold well since being published.

Editions from 2007-2010 and last year actually sold out, so Ms. Zmieva suggests that they be republished, especially considering the number of tourists to Minsk.

Zvezda Publishing House's Chief Editor, Ales Karlyukevich, notes that another two books by Vladimir Likhodedov are due for publishing, featuring postcards as yet unseen in the series. At the press launch of *In Search of the Lost*, several speeches were given: by the author, publishers, museum employees and others interested in history. All agree that postcards are a unique historical resource for Belarus, revealing the character of various regions.

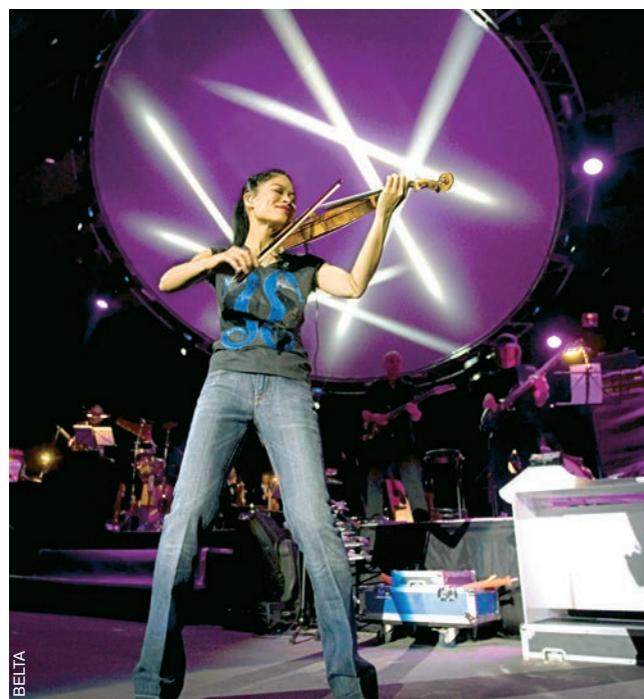
Fans of the series are naturally keen to see their own localities explored by Mr. Likhodedov, so it's likely that his work will go from strength to strength. Vileika resident Olga Kolosova tells us, "We have been waiting for *Vileika in Old Postcards* for a long time. Vladimir has twice organised exhibitions of postcards here, which we viewed as the first step in a book being published."

Mr. Likhodedov was born in Polotsk so, unsurprisingly, he owns many postcards from

his home town. It cannot be long before we see *Polotsk in Old Postcards* on sale in our bookshops.



Presentation of Vladimir Likhodedov's book at 20th International Book Fair



Vanessa Mae's concert in Minsk sees full-house

Vanessa Mae: talent and beauty

The phenomenal Vanessa Mae recently performed in Minsk, giving her own spin on masterpieces by such composers as German Bach, Brahms, Beethoven and Bruch

Silent, courageous and devoted to her magical violin, Vanessa brings new life to classical works, infusing them with her own unusual explosive style and heartfelt emotions. The new arrangements feature on her latest album — *Choreography*, fusing rock, techno, reggae, jazz, disco and flamenco rhythms with traditional melodies

loved by all.

The princess of four strings is known as one of the world's foremost beauties, as well as holding 40 platinum awards, so brought delight to Belarusian designers with her request that they make a glamorous dress for her. Nine designers submitted entries, of which two were chosen: a red dress by Irina Boitik and one in emerald green by Yulia Gilevich.

Sadly, she failed to appear in either at the Palace of the Republic concert but wore Ms. Gilevich's dress two days beforehand, in Kiev.

Learning to make soap and clay flowers

National History Museum of Belarus hosts master classes in making soap and realistic floristry as part of Hand Made Craft Fair

One master class taught participants about the various types of soap and how they can be made. In recent years, it's become fashionable to make home-made soap in beautiful designs, such as hearts and shells. Of course, they make per-

fect gifts.

The exhibition's organiser, Antonina Yeliseeva, tells us, "People are keen to learn techniques themselves, so we gave a short lecture — sharing the secrets of soap making — followed by the chance to chat to the experts. You can find out how to make soap online but it's so much better to learn firsthand and be able to ask questions."

Floristry is a new trend

for Belarus, but is already growing in popularity. The two hour master class taught hobbyists to make realistic flowers from self-hardening polymer clay. "You can hardly tell them from the real thing," asserts Ms. Yeliseeva. "It's almost impossible to distinguish between the natural rose and the artificial. It takes time and knowledge but our visitors really enjoyed the lesson."

The craft fair gathered 40

craftsmen from all over Belarus, sharing their expertise on a diverse range of hobbies, from making decorations with copper wire and straw weaving to cooking spice cakes, painting with gel pens on wood and mastering Richelieu embroidery. "We did our best to attract the best masters," notes Ms. Yeliseeva. "However, novices also attended, giving the professionals a run for their money."

New names for playbill

Belarusian Musical Theatre shortlists finalists in contest for best performance

Two nominations have each been made in the genres of operetta and musical, creating a shortlist of four works (from 15): *Barbara New* — a musical by Anna Kozlova and Tatiana Sinkevich; *The Flying Dutchman* — a fantasy musical by Naum Galperovich and Sergey Belyukov (based on Vladimir Korotkevich's novel of the same title); and two operetta versions of *Boats of Despair* (also based on Korotkevich's work) — one by Oleg Chirkun and Natalia Marchuk and the other by Oleg Khodosko and Denis Martinovich. Despite having the same plot, the two works differ in their artistic concept and musical content. The former resembles a folk comedy while the lat-



West Side Story playing at Belarusian Musical Theatre

ter is more of a light opera — a popular genre in the West and in Russia but as yet little known to Belaru-

sian audiences.

The Musical Theatre's artistic council invited applicants to present their

works, after which the shortlist was drawn up, explains the Theatre's Artistic Leader, Adam Murzich. He tells us, "These are certainly the best in our genre; the composers really went the extra mile during their presentations. Our theatre is pleased to see such cooperation although it's too early to say whether the finalists' works will appear on our playbill. Our leading artistic specialists are weighing everything thoroughly, since contemporary musical theatre combines genres, involving soloists, orchestra, choir and ballet. Every member of the team has their role to play. It will delight me if even one of the finalists has their show performed."