

Forum of the week



Delegates from Belarus join Russian and Latvian guests at Ecological Forum's finals, in Brest

Exhibitions

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street

Permanent exhibition
Belarusian Artists from the 19th-early 20th Century
From 6th April. *Amazing Belarus*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue

From 28th January. *Great Talent, Great Work, Great Heart*
From 19th October. *Italian Books in Belarus from Bona Sforza's Times*
From 10th October. *Eternal Jazz*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Permanent exhibition *16th-18th Century Belarus in Portraits and Heraldry*
From 8th May. *Reflections of Military Glory*

From 6th May. *Medieval Instruments of Punishment*

YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Y. Kupala Street

Permanent exhibition *Poetry from Kupala's Land*
From 27th October. *Planet Belarus*

CULTURE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

1 Oktyabrskaya Square

From 4th May. *Something*

AIR ENGINEERING MUSEUM

Borovaya village, Minsk District

Permanent exhibition *Aviation from the Past and the Present*

Museum revives world of old mills



Old mills add special colour to landscape

Picturesque works by Victor Nemtsov — united by his *Mills of Belarus* exhibition at Minsk's National History Museum — allow audiences to gain close look at their miraculous history

So many legends, songs and fairy-tales tell of water and wind mills and millers. Puzzles and proverbs often refer to them and it seems everyone knows about Don Quixote and strongman-miller Menesk, who built a huge stone mill on the Svisloch River. Our forefathers knew how to harness the energy of water and wind, so mills were once common across Belarus. However, those days are past, with the mills of yesterday fallen into ruin.

Landscapes depicting

mills were first painted in Europe in the 17th century, by artists in Baroque, Romantic, Realist and Post-Impressionist styles. Among them were Belarusian 19th-20th century landscape classical painters Ferdinand Rushits, Stanislav Zhukovsky and Valery Tsvirko.

Victor Nemtsov is a modern Belarusian artist who loves to paint wooden and stone mills in his landscapes. He has long studied water and wind mills throughout Belarus and is keen to preserve these monuments, believing that they add special colour to local landscapes. In fact, he helps with the historical reconstruction of old mills. He is a true modern father of a new type of country landscape drawing.

Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

September of decades and centuries past comes to life

3rd September. In 1915, conductor and Honoured Artiste of Belarus **Boris Raisky** was born.

5th September. In 1901, Belarusian writer **Vitaly Volsky** was born — an Honoured Figure of Culture of Belarus.

6th September. In 1907, Belarusian actor and producer **Leonid Rakhlenko** was born — a People's Artiste of the BSSR and the USSR.

6th September. In 1934, **Valentin Belokhvoshtik** was born — an actor with the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre and a People's Artiste of Belarus.

6th September. In 1792, **Ivan Grigovich** was born — a Belarusian historian, archaeologist, regional ethnographer and religious figure.

7th September. In 1805, financier and inventor **Yan Yuzef Baranovsky** was born in Smilovichi in the Igumen District of the Minsk Province.

8th September. In 1907, singer **Isidor Bolotin** was born — a People's Artiste of Belarus.

8th September. In 1938, Belarusian poet **Anatoly Grechanikov** was born in the village of Sharpilovka in the Gomel Region.

2nd September. In 1893, the Vitebsk Church-Archaeological Museum was founded.

2nd September. In 1886, *Minsky Listok* — Belarus' first public and literary newspaper — began to publish in Minsk.

2nd September. In 1938, a new south

water station came into operation in Minsk.

4th September. In 1870, the Libava-Romny railroad was laid down on the site of the current Railway Station in Minsk.

4th September. In 1952, the first trolley bus began running in Minsk, between the Railway Station and Kruglaya Square.

6th September. In 1795, regular 'postal' transportation was launched in Minsk.

6th September. In 1936, the title of Honoured Artiste of the USSR was established. The first holders were K. Stanislavsky, V. Nemirovich-Danchenko, V. Kachalov and I. Moskvina.

6th September. In 2002, the two largest youth organisations united: the Belarusian Patriotic Youth Union and the Belarusian Youth Union. As a result, the Belarusian Republican Youth Union was founded.

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7th September. In 1789, the first labour contract was registered in Minsk, concluded between a foreman from Minsk's locksmiths and arms guild and a servant named Zalutsky.

7th September. In 1998, a memorandum on co-operation between Belarus and UNESCO was signed.

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8th September. In 1926, the city council's communal department ruled to rename Kozmo-Demyanovskaya Street into Frantsisk Skorina Street and Yekaterininskaya Street into Kastus Kalinovsky Street.

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8th September. In 1934, a branch of

the State Library and the Lenin Bibliographic Institute opened at the House of Government.

8th September. In 1978, the first Belarusian stereophonic cinema opened — Mir.

8th September. In 1973, the River Viliya was dammed, to create Belarus' Vileiskoe water reservoir — the largest in the country.

7th September. In 1990, the Museum of Belarusian Book-Printing (part of the Polotsk Historical-Cultural Museum-Reserve) opened in Polotsk in honour of the first printer, Frantsisk Skorina.

