

Folio to acquire new life

Reproduction copy of prominent ancient Eastern Slavonic manuscript — *Life of Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya* — to be released in Belarus by 2012

Vladimir Grozov, Executive Director of the Belarusian Exarchate Publishing House, has demonstrated two pages from this unique edition at the 18th Minsk International Book Fair. "We are jointly creating a reproduction of the *Life of Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya* with the National Library of Belarus," he notes, adding that the edition is to be released for the 1150th anniversary of Polotsk's foundation, being celebrated in June 2012.

According to Mr. Grozov, a huge amount of research was required for the project. Around 30 rare Belarusian manuscripts exist beyond Belarus' borders. "These are located in Russia, the USA, Sweden and Poland and cannot be returned for various reasons. Accordingly, we decided to create exact copies," stresses Mr. Grozov. The copy of the *Life of Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya* is to be published with a particular circulation, ensuring that it occupies a worthy place in Belarusian libraries and museums.

Alongside the re-creation of the *Life of Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya*, scientific work continues.

Touring with inspiration

Ensemble of Belarusian song — *Ternitsa* — plans 55 concerts abroad this year

By Nadezhda Radivonova

The band has recently been granted a special Presidential award (for figures of culture and art of 2010), recognised for its significant artistic achievement and concert activity. "For 26 years, we've remained faithful to Belarusian song and shall continue to promote our national culture. This year, we won't reduce our momentum. We've established good ties with the Belarusian diaspora abroad and expect to tour widely, domestically and abroad. We have huge plans. We're very pleased that our work has been awarded," says one of the heads of Belarus' honoured amateur team, Iosif Nesterovich.

Ternitsa has won various international and Republican festivals and contests, representing our national art abroad: in Germany, Poland, Spain, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, South Korea and China. The band is an active



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Artistry of *Ternitsa* Belarusian song ensemble already highly praised in many countries

participant of Belarus' concert programmes, visiting towns and cities countrywide. In the past three months, *Ternitsa* has given over 60

concerts. Their repertoire is ever expanding, including the large scale *From Christmas to Harvesting Time* project, covering all the seasons of

the year and reflecting Belarusian traditions. Four discs of folk songs and original compositions have been released.

Interesting show comprising individual components

Minsk hosts *Koufar* _ *Plastilina* International Week of Plastic Arts

For a week, the Belarusian State University's major building hosted an interactive exhibition of contemporary visual creativity while theatrical performances enjoyed full-houses at Broadway Club. Young companies from Belarus, Turkey, Armenia and Germany depicted their joys and sorrows through body language, alluring spectators into a complex and associative world of dance, while stirring the audience's imagination and bringing aesthetic pleasure.

Almost every performance at *Koufar* _ *Plastilina* told of love: happy and unhappy, as a passionate natural power and as a bitter and deceitful smile from fate. The complex diversity of love was passionately and selflessly demonstrated by the artistes, each in their own way. Some, like the Armenian Mihr Theatre, used props. In *Dreams in Dreams*, their cold, geometric figures could be perceived as parts of a single construction. As soon as one component was removed, the whole construction broke. They perhaps didn't aim to show that the industrial beginning of a big city suppresses personality. The performance itself was extremely technical and

sometimes reminded one of Shostakovich's *Bolt* ballet. However, where Shostakovich used irony and bitter sarcasm, Mihr Theatre demonstrated serious compliance with its topic.



A scene from *Yesenin's Wife. The Last Dance of I. Duncan*

The New Thematic Dance Theatre from Berlin preferred bright images and mysticism in its *Yesenin's Wife. The Last Dance of I. Duncan*. The famous love story has been interpreted many times in contemporary art, often tending to move away from the real characters, making it sometimes impossible to distinguish between the real Yesenin and Duncan and their copies. The German performance envisaged the lovers meeting in the spirit world, playing with

light and semi-naked. The work made the Berlin actors among the favourites of the festival. Sadly, one young German artiste broke her leg during rehearsals, leaving a male to take on the part of Duncan.

However, the artistes' dedication and self-sacrifice ensured them a great ovation, the audience echoing the enthusiasm seen on stage.

Diana Yurchenko and her Theatre-Studio of Contemporary Choreography, from Vitebsk, was Belarus' only representative. Her choreographic seriousness was a surprise for those seeing her for the first time, although her long-term fans were familiar with her talent — perhaps the most notable in her field in Be-

larus. Her *Travel Notes* proved that Yurchenko, having won various international festivals, is growing significantly as a stage director. She is certainly not one to rest on her laurels. She used the motif of travelling lightly and ironically, using plot integrity and rhythm to create a memorable show, worthy of any international festival. The Vitebsk dance studio showed eloquently that choreography is at a high level in Belarus, surpassing that of some of our European colleagues. Only natural modesty can harm our dancers, who behave more as sparrows than hawks.

"We didn't determine the best performances, nor make judgements; we were pursuing a completely different goal," notes Yekaterina Solodukha, Director of the *Teatralny Koufar* Festival, summing up the week. "Each theatre was presented with a symbolic 'koufar' (trunk). We like this symbol very much. Over the week, we've given interesting shows, comprising various stylistic pieces of theatre, photography and music, each greatly expressive. We hope that our performances have planted seeds of creativity in those who don't dare to take to the stage."



New book takes us back to Battle of Grunewald

Common history leads to co-operation

By Marat Gorevoy

Ukrainian-Belarusian-Lithuanian *Battle of Grunewald: Battle of Nations* edition presented at 18th Minsk International Book Fair

The illustrated book is dedicated to the 600th anniversary of the victory of the united troops of the Polish Kingdom and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania over the Teutonic Order. It has been published in Ukrainian in Kiev, with support from the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry and the Belarusian Embassy to Ukraine. The book's authors have endeavoured to objectively describe the Battle of Grunewald, proceeding from national concepts of this important historical event.

The Ambassador Ex-

traordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Roman Bezsmertnyi, notes that the research of the battle has created a book 'of global import, which shall outlive us all'. "The edition has enabled us to again bend our knees before our forefathers, who provided us with life," the diplomat stresses.

Kiev's Baltia-Druk Publishing House has addressed Belarus' Information Ministry, offering to translate *Battle of Grunewald: Battle of Nations* into Belarusian. The company is now searching for partners.

The Ambassador of Lithuania to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Edminas Bagdonas, has expressed his hope that the book will be released in Belarusian, noting that he will make every effort to realise this project.