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Message from the President

My presidential message for this issue comes from a position of chronic displacement. In the last two months I have participated in so many events inspired by Belarusian concerns that it is clear that the momentum of our scholarly work is healthier and more dynamic than ever. Indeed it has been rare in my experience to have too many Belarusian-specific events to attend at one time. What a positive dilemma! In this issue, Dr. Zina Gimpelevich has offered a deeply engaging article on one of these events, the opening of the Center for Belarusian Studies [CBS] at Southwestern College, held in Wichita in mid-April of this year. An event two years in the making, the opening was hugely successfully and gave the media and general audiences an opportunity to be aware of the Belarusian condition and of the potential power of higher education to generate positive change towards a free and democratic Belarusian society.

My intent in this introductory statement is to call attention to one specific aspect of the event, one that remains deeply significant because it implies an expansion of perceptual borders, a new breadth of community. In addition to distinguished academic and political guests, the tone of the event was set by a multi-generational presence: from émigrés to first- and second-generation members of Belarusian communities, curious citizens of Wichita, and engaged and passionate students from Southwestern college. Many had made a significant

effort to attend the event from a great distance (New Jersey, New York, Washington D.C., Ottawa, Prague, Miensk and more). These individuals not only attended, but many announced their presence, their pride in the identities, and their willingness to perform those identities within the context of this new environment. I had the pleasure of sitting with members of my own generation and their children during the official luncheon and I was struck by their choice to wear Belarusian costumes. This part of the opening reminded me of a specific kind of membership that is quite different from the one I share with my professional community. I had not experienced this very special kind of solidarity since I had also lived in close proximity to members of the the Belarusian community. I felt a warmth and deep respect towards those who had been able to attend. It was a reminder of the importance of contact, of effort, and of collective identity. Their presence indicated a certain optimism, one that continues to exist because we are willing to act, to highlight our presence, to announce our significance.

This effort has much to do with the continuation of our presence as Belarusists as well. We are presently positioned in a such a way that Belarusian panels are included within the framework of various research communities, many of which may not have been as supportive of Belarusian scholarship in the past. After twenty

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years of conference participation, this has certainly changed. However, it seems that we do not have the luxury to reduce our presence. If anything, we need to be present with even more dynamism, offering panels within and outside the common disciplinary centers of literary criticism, political science, social science, and history. When scholars join NAABS they become part of a virtual rolodex of possibility that we can access in order to organize panels, research projects, presentations, and conferences. This is one of the most important aspects of membership, and as always, I encourage all of us to be continuously active in expanding our knowledge about our new scholars in the North American community.

Best wishes for a creative summer, safe travels, and well-deserved rests.

- M. Paula Survilla

NAABS News

Announcement of 2008 Zora Kipel Prize Winners

The North American Association for Belarusian Studies (NAABS) and the family of Zora Kipel are pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Zora Kipel Memorial Prize for publications in Belarusian studies. The \$500 book prize has been awarded to Hanna Kislicyna (Belarusian State University, Miensk) for her groundbreaking critical study of recent trends in Belarusian literature, *Novaja litaraturnaja situacyja: zmiena kulturnaj paradyhmy* [The New Literary Situation: A Shift in the Cultural Paradigm] (Miensk: Lohvinau, 2006). The winner of the \$200 article prize is Andrij Danylenko (Pace University, New York) for his article "'Prostaja mova', 'kitab' and Polissian standard" (*Die Welt der Slaven* LI, 2006), which presents an innovative approach to the question of the linguistic status and dialectal basis of the East Slavic 'ruski jazyk' and

'prostaja mova' employed as administrative and literary languages in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The \$100 student research paper prize has been awarded to Vital Harmatny, a student of history at Belarusian State University (Miensk), for his paper "Praviadziennie ahrarnaj reformy u Paleskim vajavodstvie u 1921-1939 hh." [The Implementation of Agrarian Reform in the Polesie Palatinate in 1921-1939], which presents an in-depth analysis, based on extensive archival research, of the interwar Polish government's attempts at agrarian reform in West Polesie (modern-day southwestern Belarus).

Call for Entries: 2009 Zora Kipel Prize (Books, Articles and Student Research Papers in Belarusian Studies)

NAABS and the Kipel family are pleased to solicit entries for the 2009 Zora Kipel Prize competition. The prizes, \$500 for books, \$200 for articles, and \$100 for outstanding research papers, will be awarded to the authors of outstanding new publications in the fields of Belarusian cultural studies, linguistics, literature, history and politics, and for outstanding research papers in Belarusian studies by undergraduate and graduate students. Books and articles published between 2005 and 2008 in either English or Belarusian are eligible. For the research paper prize, unpublished papers at least 15 pages (double-spaced) in length, written between 2005 and 2008 are eligible for the 2009 competition. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges made up of NAABS officers and members. To enter, send a copy of your book or article, or three copies of your research paper, by August 1, 2008 to:

Dr. Curt Woolhiser
Harvard University
Department of Slavic Lang. and Lit.
Barker Center 327, 12 Quincy St.
Cambridge, MA 02138-3804

Winners will be announced in January 2009.

NAABS Member News

We encourage all NAABS members to share information on their recent publications, conference papers, current research, teaching, grants and awards, new appointments and other news that may be of interest to our readers.

Gregory Ioffe (Radford University) published a book titled 'Understanding Belarus and How Western Foreign Policy Misses the Mark', published by Rowman and Littlefield.

Zina Gimpelevich (University of Waterloo) was promoted to the rank of full professor. She developed and successfully taught a new course, REES 230, *The Devil*. This course is taught in English and is open to all university students; she intends to submit for publication V. I. Krivich's Album that features some graduate students' translations by Fall 2008. This collection has entries of over 180 Russian authors of the Silver Age period. Her output for 2007 is as follows: "We' and 'I' in Zamyatin's We and Rand's Anthem," (*Germano-Slavica*, v. 10, no. 1, 1997, pp. 13-23) is going to be reprinted in *Short Story Criticism*, Vol. 116 (SSC-116) Cengage Learning/Gale; (Belarusan/English) monograph *Belarusan Jewish Writers of the Twentieth Century: Origin, History, and Discourse*, is in press. (Winfield: The Center for Belarusian Studies (CBS), South Western Press). The monograph (about 200 pp. with illustrations and index) will appear in Summer 2008. "Literature Will Prevail" (Belarusan), in: *Belarus and Belarusians in Time and Space* (Minsk: Limaryus, 2007. 349-354). «Poète et fils de poète en même temps». Accepted by *La Revue Russe*, Paris, 2009. *Festschrift* in honour of Father Nadson "Against the Odds" is in print in UK, 18 pp. An invited article, Toronto's *Belaruskaje slova* (Belarussian word), December 2007. (2007 Review) *Ent-Grenze Intellectuelle Emigration in der russischen Kultur des 20.* Ed. Lyubov Bugaeva and Eva Hausbacher. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2006, pp. 370-71. **Paper:** *Slavic Review* vol. 66 #2, 2007, 370-71. **Conferences:** 1. "The Son of the Poet and the Poet Himself" Colloque

International, Universite Blaise Pascal Clermont, June 6-8, 2007. 2. AAASS, November 15-18, 2007, New Orleans. (a) Chaired: "Issues in the Twentieth Century Russian Literature." (b) "Radio Svaboda: Media Strategies. (c) Presented: "Valentin Annenskii-Krivich: The Poet and the Son of the Poet." 3. "Paradise Lost: Belarusian Jewish Brotherhood." *CAS*. Saskatoon, 2007.

Paula Survilla (Wartburg Collge) recently made three presentations:

- 1) "Sound, Image, and the Internet: The Power of Musical Miniatures on Radio Svaboda" (presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 17, 2007).
- 2) "Belarusian Miniatures of Sound: Musical Sound-Bytes on Radio Svaboda" (presented at the IASPM-US 2008 Conference: Global Pop, Space and Place, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, April 27, 2008).
- 3) "Echoes in Real Time: The Currency of the Reinvented Poem in Belarusian Contemporary Music" (presented at the Canadian Association of Slavists Annual Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, June 2, 2008).

Curt Woolhiser (Harvard University) will be a member of the American delegation to the XIV International Congress of Slavists in Ohrid, Macedonia, September 10-16, 2008. He will present a paper, "Convergent and Divergent Innovation in the Belarusian Dialects of the Białystok and Hrodna Regions: A Sociolinguistic Border Impact Study," to be published this summer in *American Contributions to the XIV International Congress of Slavists* (Bloomington, Indiana: Slavica Publishers).

Your Name (Your Organization) could have been here! Just send a letter or email to Kern Lunde, Naviny Newsletter Editor (contact information on page 16), with a short description (longer if you have really been busy!) of your activities related to Belarus or Belarusian studies. This is a great opportunity to share your accomplishments with the rest of the NAABS membership.

NAABS Business Meeting

Minutes, November 2007, New Orleans

The annual NAABS business meeting was held on November 17, 2007 at the New Orleans Marriott from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Members of the NAABS executive council in attendance were Paula Survilla (President, presiding), David Marples (Vice President), Curt Woolhiser (Secretary-Treasurer), Thomas Bird (Executive Council), and Zina Gimpelevich (Executive Council).

The following items were discussed:

1. Paula Survilla began the meeting with an update on the activities of the newly founded Center for Belarusian Studies at Southwestern College (Winfield, Kansas). In particular, she informed those in attendance about a publishing initiative of the Center, a new scholarly monograph series, *Belarusian Studies*, published by Southwestern College Academic Press (http://www.sckans.edu/scpress/scap_contact.htm). She noted that the first two volumes in the series, V. Paźniakoŭ's *A Concise Encyclopedia of the History of Belarus*, and Z. Gimpelevich's *Belarusian-Jewish Writers of the 20th Century* are currently in preparation.

Prof. Survilla also discussed the Center's plans to organize student and faculty exchanges and internships in the U.S. for students from Belarus. Zina Gimpelevich added that a number of students of hers were interested in study abroad opportunities in Belarus and solicited ideas about possible placements.

Prof. Survilla concluded by announcing the gala opening of the Center for Belarusian Studies, scheduled for April 19, 2008, in Wichita, Kansas (for more about this event, see Zina Gimpelevich's report on page x).

2. Secretary-Treasurer's report. Curt Woolhiser reported that as of November 17,

2007, the Association had a balance of \$2,576.00 in its Bank of America account (Salem, MA branch). Expenditures since the last business meeting in November of 2006 included \$295.57 for printing and mailing costs for the Summer-Autumn 2006 and Winter-Spring 2007 issues of the newsletter and \$400 for the newsletter editor's fee for the two issues, as well as \$700 for the Zora Kipel publications prizes (\$500 for the book prize to Andrej Kotlarčuk (Stockholm, Sweden) and \$200 for the article prize to Uładzimir Kałupajeŭ (Miensk).

Curt Woolhiser also informed those in attendance that the application for Federal 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit status for NAABS will be handled by LegalFilings.com (<http://www.legalfilings.com/>), which charges a fee of \$500 for its services. Also, an additional \$300 IRS processing fee will be required when submitting 501(c)(3) application. Woolhiser noted that a generous contribution of \$400 from BelarusGuide, Inc. will cover half of these fees.

Paula Survilla suggested that NAABS increase its annual dues for academic members from \$30 to \$50. She noted that this amount would bring NAABS dues in line with those of other scholarly organizations, and would allow the association to expand the range of its activities. The officers in attendance voted unanimously in favor of the proposal to increase the dues to \$50 for academic members beginning in 2009.

3. NAABS publicity and membership. Paula Survilla noted the need for a concerted membership drive in 2008, and suggested that an e-mail campaign might prove effective in this connection. Thomas Bird proposed that information about joining NAABS be sent to the Belarusian diaspora newspaper *Belarus* (<http://www.bieltarus.org/>). Curt Woolhiser also noted that recruitment efforts among

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NAABS Business Meeting

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members of the broader North American Slavic and East European studies community will be greatly facilitated by attaining affiliate status with AAASS; specifically, this will allow NAABS to publicize its activities in the AAASS newsletter, *Newsline*.

4. Zora Kipel Memorial Prizes for books and articles in Belarusian studies. Curt Woolhiser informed those in attendance that the entries for the 2007 competition were under review by the prize committee (David Marples, Zina Gimpelevich and Curt Woolhiser) and that the results would be announced in January 2008. He also asked his colleagues to help publicize the 2008 competition, with prizes of \$500 for books, \$200 for articles, and \$100 for unpublished student papers (for further information, please see the call for entries on page 1).

Thomas Bird proposed that winners of the Zora Kipel prizes should be asked to submit a short biography for publication in the NAABS newsletter and on the NAABS website and that winners be asked to provide periodic updates on their current research. The other officers in attendance supported this proposal.

5. Publication plans for proceedings from the 2005 Harvard symposium on culture and politics in Belarus. Thomas Bird announced that Slavica Publishers (Bloomington, Indiana) had expressed interest in the volume, and that he was planning to solicit additional contributions from other scholars who were unable to participate in the symposium.

6. Proposal for partial subvention grant for Belarusian edition of proceedings from the June 2007 conference at Oldenburg University (Germany) on language mixture in

Belarus and Ukraine. Curt Woolhiser announced that in addition to an English and German-language edition of the proceedings of the international conference “Trasjanka and surzhyk: Products of Belarusian-Russian and Ukrainian-Russian language contact” (conference website: <http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/slavistik/23707.html>), there are plans to publish a parallel edition in Belarusian, Ukrainian and Russian in Belarus in collaboration with the International Association of Belarusianists (MAB). Curt Woolhiser requested a subvention grant in the amount of \$200 to help cover the costs of the Belarusian parallel edition; the request was unanimously approved by the officers in attendance.

7. Call for travel grant applications for visitors from Belarus. Paula Survilla suggested that NAABS pool its resources with the Center for Belarusian Studies (CBS) to assist in bringing visitors from Belarus to attend conferences, give lectures and participate in other events at educational and other institutions in the United States and Canada. No specific proposals for travel grants for visitors were made during the meeting.

8. Panel/roundtable proposals for the AAASS 2008 annual convention in Philadelphia. Paula Survilla solicited ideas for Belarus-related panels and roundtables at the 2008 AAASS convention, reminding those in attendance of the upcoming January deadline for panel/roundtable proposals. The officers in attendance agreed that the next business meeting would be held at AAASS in Philadelphia (date and time to be announced by e-mail, on the NAABS website, and in the next issue of *Naviny*).

Grand Opening of the Center for Belarusian Studies (CBS) at Southwestern College

Though the grand opening of the Center for Belarusian Studies (CBS) took place on April 19, 2008, event participants from around the world began to arrive in Wichita, Kansas as early as the afternoon of April 17th. The event itself started at 9:00 a.m. as planned and continued well into the evening. The program included varied academic, social, and festive activities, such as a roundtable discussion, working lunch, a lecture by Dr. Stanislau Šuškievič, a literary reading by Dr. Zina Gimpelevič, voice and music performances by bard Siaržuk Sokalaŭ-Vojuš and an evening performance by Volha Kazak. There were two official languages used in the course of the evening: Belarusian and English. Most of the translations were brilliantly provided by Aleś Lahvieniec, the first Belarusian visiting scholar to the Center for Belarusian Studies.

The events were covered by local, national, international, and Belarusian news media. See Dr. Siarhej Navymčyk's coverage, *Svaboda*, 22 April, *Voice of America*, *Wichita Eagle*, and the Diaspora monthly *Biellarus*.

Everything went off without a hitch. The roundtable began with an introduction of the Center for Belarusian Studies by its founding members. Former U.S. Ambassador to Belarus Professor David Schwartz gave a synopsis of the CBS's inception; Co-executive Director of the CBS Dr. Paula Survilla continued the roundtable with a talk about her academic plans and aspirations for the CBS programs; Vice-President of Southwestern College and Co-Executive Director of the CBS Dr. Andrew Shepherd concluded the initiation ceremony with his

vision for the Center's future. Two members of the board, Dr. Alla Romano and Mr. Walter Stankievič, initiated an animated discussion from the floor which, a lively two hours later, transformed into a unanimous pledge to strengthen the CBS by utilizing every member's available skills and resources.

The roundtable was followed by a working lunch, during which people of different faiths and from different walks of life seemed to feel themselves entirely Belarusian.

The lecture given by the former President of Belarus, Dr. Stanislau Šuškievič, turned out to be a wonderful celebration of knowledge and love for this country. Introduced and warmly welcomed by Belarusian National Republic (BNR) President Ms. Ivonka J. Survilla, Professor Šuškievič held the floor for over two hours. More than a hundred people attended this lecture.

Professor Zina Gimpelevič's literary reading (given in both Belarusian and English) of excerpts from her bilingual monograph, *Belarusian Jewish Writers of the Twentieth Century: Origin, History, Discourse, and Biographies*, was welcomed with enthusiastic interest by those in attendance.

Crowd favorite and celebrated bard Siaržuk Sokalaŭ-Vojuš' concert was yet another highlight of this momentous evening. His civic poetry, patriotism and melodious guitar-playing soothingly mesmerized everyone.

Two hours later, Volha Kazak, the pop diva daughter of prominent folk family, The Kazaks, proved that one family can yield three prodigies.

The Center for Belarusian Studies' launch proved to be a great success due to the exceptional efforts of its organizers, participants and those who were with us in spirit.

Long Live Belarus



North American Association for
Belarusian Studies
Паўночна-Амерыканская
Асацыяцыя Беларускаў

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Barker Center 327
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Cambridge, MA 02138-3804

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Questions? Contact (by e-mail): webmaster@belarusianstudies.org

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Are you a member of AAASS? Yes No (circle one)	
Annual Dues (2007 calendar year) Membership category (select one): Educator (\$30) Student (\$15) Belarus/FSU (\$5) Supporting member (\$30) Patron (\$100) Other/Donation \$ _____	Mailing Address:
Employer/Address:	1. Your Areas of Interest/Research:

<p>2. Your publications on Belarusian topics:</p>	<p>3. Your other Belarus-related activities:</p>
<p>4. Suggestions for NAABS-sponsored activities, offers to help, etc.</p>	<p>5. May we include your contact information on the NAABS Web site and in publications?</p> <p>Select One: Yes No</p> <p>If "yes", which ones? (Circle word to indicate the information that we may include.)</p> <p>Name Title Position Employer</p> <p>Mailing Address Phone Number Fax Number</p> <p>Interests about Belarusian Studies</p> <p>E-Mail Address Other_____</p>
<p>6. Other comments, questions, etc.</p>	

Ryhor Krushyna (1907-1979)

(The following is the preface for the forthcoming Krushyna anthology "Love for the Homeland". Details will be provided when the book is published.)

The Belarusian reader has now seen three books of Ryhor Krushyna published in Belarus: the collection titled *Cymbalist [The Dulcimer Player]*, 2003; his anthology *Selected Works* in the popular series *Belaruski knihazbor*, 2005; and the anniversary edition *Kantata samotnych [Cantata of the Lonely]*, 2007, which was timed for the poet's centennial.

Writers and philosophers have written in their introductions to these books about the talent and beauty of the poet's art. Some saw in his work an enduring nostalgia; others considered him to be a poet of Eros. As for me, I see first and foremost the poet's romantic spirit and the ethereal melody of his verse, be it in a minor or major key. Whether it is the "Autumn Elegy" or "Spring in Autumn," the author finds idyllic-pastoral visions dear to his heart: *haystacks in the sun, the savory aroma of thyme, a lark in the blue sky, a young pine forest, Armillaria mushrooms near a tree stump, early morning amidst rowan-berry trees, coral-like dew*, and other images.

Having seen many a country in his life, and admiring the architectural wonders of Europe and the world, Ryhor Krushyna remains a humble *krushyna* with its wild berries (in English "buckthorn," denoting a thorny bush for deer), and therefore the common daisies in the field or the spring lilacs in the courtyard he considers more precious than the crimson azaleas in their flowering radiance in Italy. In ancient Pompeii, the poet sees the ruins of postwar Minsk, in opulent Paris—a village in Palessja, in the Sahara—a cradle in one's native abode, and in India—yuletide snow.

*I'm in Munich and I'm in New York,
But my language shall always remain...
Both in the East and in the West
The Belarusian speech I retain.*

Ryhor Krushyna's poetry is rhymed, most frequently, in the feminine rhyme. The nature of the rhyme varies, for it all depends on the type of poem. All his poetic emeralds and pearls the poet strings onto a poetic line, and thereafter he places the lines in a certain order (for the most part using the *abab* pattern). The poet employs an entire gamut of distinct poetic forms such as the triolet, sonnet, canzone, and the sextain, to name a few.

To translate Belarusian poetry into any other language is not an easy task. Any translation even into closely related languages does not sound as melodious and moving as the original. That is all the more so for English, which is entirely different phonetically and grammatically, and in its use of metaphors. The phonetic and grammatical structure of a language leaves its imprint on the translation of poetry; and the lexical and stylistic features on the imagery of poetry. The English isochronic metric rhythms are not compatible with the Belarusian rhythm, which is melodious and often syllabic. The Belarusian and English languages also differ in the quantity of syllables in rhythmic meter; in Belarusian, as a rule, it is longer. An additional distinctive feature is in the nature of the rhyme itself. Belarusian rhyme is more frequently a feminine one, while in English it is more often masculine.

A line in an English poem in translation comes out longer. Equal lines cannot be found for the reason that the flow of words in the English language is governed by numerous prepositions, while in Belarusian, with its inflections, it provides a possibility of using fewer words. The free order of words in the Belarusian language cannot be retained in a translation, even in poetry, where at times adherence to grammatical rules is not observed (as, for instance, with Robert Burns: *Fresh o'er the mountains breaks forth the morning in My Bonnie Bell*), because here, too, there are inherent limitations.

Metaphors, as the most frequent tropes in Ryhor Krushyna's poetry, have only a few full equivalents in the English language, and thus one needs to search for analogies, which often do not agree in their emotional nuances. Quite often a neutralization

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Ryhor Krushyna (1907-1979)

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process occurs in the translation from Belarusian into English as, for example, (literally) *the city presses its grief upon my shoulders* (becomes translated as) *lies on my shoulders*; (literally) *only a reverie flows far off* (translated as) *it is only the sea that goes afar*; (literally) *his (the poet's) cruel fate has wedded him with censorship* (translated as) *his cruel fate has brought censorship*.

The above named distinctions and the tradition of verse prosody compel the translator to create unrhymed translations, trying as much as possible to retain the contents and imagery, often at the expense of the rhythm. Ihar Kazak's translations are for the most part the *re-creations* of Ryhor Krushyna's poetry.

Evidently, for his translations Ihar Kazak has chosen poems that he cherishes the most and which, in his view, the English reader should know. And even though the readers abroad will not perceive the subtle musical nuances of Krushyna's poetry, they will doubtlessly understand the anguish and pain, the joy and delight, anxiety and perseverance expressed in his poems because the translator has done all that is possible to find apt equivalents for conveying the imagery. For a Belarusian, though, there would be no need to explain what a rowan-berry or a buckthorn bush are, or what it means to *live far from one's native nook*. To be sure, the concept of a *native nook* does not have an adequate equivalent either in Russian or in English (*my native land*). We, Belarusians, though, can easily understand Robert Frost's tender emotions concerning the sounds of spring or the beauty of birch trees when we read translations of his poems. And didn't the Welshman, Dylan Thomas, dream of ocean waves and ferns on knolls when he was so far from home?

The poetry of Ryhor Krushyna is universal in the sense that it evokes emotions common to all mankind. And perhaps an American from the sunflower-state of Kansas may not quite comprehend how one can love the swampy place called Palessja, but the poet Shamus Heeney would not be surprised,

for he himself has sung praise to the Irish peat bogs. Australian readers might not understand that a buckthorn can bloom just as lovely as their symbol, the yellow acacia, but that will be obvious to a reader from Virginia, where the symbol is the American dogwood. A similar image would be easily understood by a reader from New Jersey, where in the "Garden State" violets are abloom (the Belarusian folk name for violets is *kazjal'cy*)—just like in Belarus.

There is a common opinion that those who love to travel the most are those who yearn to find their last refuge in their Homeland. But the Almighty, at times, disposes otherwise. In Heaven we all have the same Homeland, but on earth...

*The buckthorn bush is dreaming of its distant woods
And longing in its woes.*

.....
*Foreign soil will not provide the warmth
For those who love their homeland so.*

But in that other world foreign soil is also hospitable, and it can even provide warmth, just as distant America did for this renowned Belarusian poet. We thank her for that!

Alena Tabolich, Ph.D.
Minsk State University of Linguistics
(Translated by Ihar Kazak)

For more information (biography, pictures, translations) on this well-known Belarusian poet:
<http://www.belarusguide.com/culture1/literature/Krushyna.html>.

Anniversaries of popular Belarusian writers:

Svetlana Aleksiyevic (Alekseyevich; b. May 31, 1948)

Vincent Dunin-Marcinkievic (February 4, 1808 -- December 29, 1884)

Kastus Kalinouski (February 2, 1838 - March 22, 1864)

Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855)

Yadvigin Sh. [pen name of Anton Ivanovich Lyavitzki] (1868 - 1922)

Publications

Valzhyna Mort, *Factory of Tears*.

Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2008.

Factory of Tears is the American debut of Valzhyna Mort—and the first bilingual Belarusian-English poetry book ever published in the United States. There is an urgency and vitality to Mort's poems, while intense moments of joy leaven the darkness. Set in a land haunted by the specter of a post-Soviet Eastern Europe, and marked by the violence of the recent past, the narrative moves within universal themes - lust, loneliness, the strangeness of god, and familial love. "Grandmother"- as person and idea - is a recurring presence in poems that question what language is, challenge the authority that delegates who has the right to speak and how, and fight to keep a mother tongue alive. Startlingly fresh images - desire as the approaching bus that immediately pulls away or pain as the embrace of a very strong god "with an unshaven cheek that scratches when he kisses you" - occupy and haunt the mind.

The translations were produced by Mort in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Franz Wright and Elizabeth Oehlkers Wright. The music of lines and litanies of phrases mesmerize the reader - then sudden discord reminds us that Mort's world is not entirely harmonious. "I'm a recipient of workers' comp from the heroic *Factory of Tears*," she writes in the final stanza. "I have calluses on my eyes... And I'm happy with what I have." Engaged, voracious, and memorable, *Factory of Tears* is a remarkable American debut of a rising international poetry star.

Valzhyna Mort (Martynava) was born in Minsk, Belarus in 1981. Her first book of poetry, *Ja tonkaja jak tvaje viejki (I'm as Thin*

as Your Eyelashes), came out in Belarus in 2005. In 2004 in Slovenia she received a Crystal Vilencia Award for best poetry performance. In 2005, she was the recipient of a Gaude Polonia scholarship in Poland, and, in 2006, of a writing fellowship from Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, Germany. Mort and her poetry are featured in the cover story of the May/June 2008 issue of the journal *Poets and Writers* (http://www.pw.org/content/mayjune_2008).

Critical praise for Valzhyna Mort and *Factory of Tears (Fabryka słoz)*:

"[T]he searing work of Valzhyna Mort dazzled all who were fortunate to hear her [and] to be battered by the moods of the Belarusian language which she is passionately battling to save from obscurity."

—Irish Times

"Mort...is a fireball.... [she] takes an unflinching look at a violent world, referencing homeless dogs, dead men, terrorist attacks in Chechnya, stinging memories, bloody bodies, and forced silence. Personal, political, and passionate, Mort's poetry will surely sustain many reading audiences. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries."

—Library Journal

"Chronicling the vibrant coming-of-age of an emerging nation, *Factory of Tears* touches upon the re-emergence of cultural heritage and national identity, and sometimes contentious fallout from such resurrections. A one-of-a-kind work of passion and insight."

—The Midwest Book Review

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Publications

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“Valzyhna Mort...can justly be described as a risen star of the international poetry world. Her poems have something of the incantatory quality of poets such as Dylan Thomas or Allen Ginsberg. But she is a true original.”
—Kevin Higgins, Cuirt International Festival of Literature

Gregory Ioffe, *Understanding Belarus and How Western Foreign Policy Misses the Mark*

Rowman and Littlefield. February 2008. ISBN 978-0-7425-5558-7.

Rohdewald Stefan, Frick David, Wiederkehr Stefan, eds. *Litauen und Ruthenien: Studien zu einer transkulturellen Kommunikationsregion, 15.-18 Jh. / Lithuania and Ruthenia: Studies of a Transcultural Communication Region, 15th-18th Centuries.*

Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz (Forschungen zur osteuropäischen Geschichte, t. 71), November 2007. 364 p. ISBN 978-3-447-05605-2.

Stephen J. Thorn, *Belarus: Europe's Next Flashpoint? Policy Memorandum.*

Smith Richardson Foundation. December 2007.

Funding for the project was provided in part by the Smith Richardson Foundation. 76 p. Contents: 1. Why Is Belarus Important? 2. History. Identity in Dispute. 3. Independence, 1991-1994. 4. Union? 5. Who Is Alexander Lukashenko? 6. The Economy. 7. Constructing a Dictatorship. 8. European Relations: Thirteen Years of Failure. 9. U.S.- Belarus Relations: Unanswered Challenges. 10. Recommendations. Endnotes.

Zel'tser, Arkadii, *Evrei sovetskoi provintsii: Vitebsk i mestechki 1917-1941 (The Jews of the Soviet Province: Vitebsk and the Shtetles, 1917-1941.*

ROSSPEN. 2006. ISBN 5824307814. Reviewed in Russian Review, Volume 67, Issue 2, April 2008.

Ryhor Krushyna Archives at Center for Belarusian Studies (CBS)

The archives and literary legacy of Ryhor Krušyna (Krushyna) are currently in the process of being securely deposited in the Center for Belarusian Studies (CBS), located at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas.

The archival material is being provided by his son, Ihar Kazak, and shall be available to all legitimate academic researchers. There are some limitations and provisos; please contact the CBS for details.

NAABS Members Invited to Join the International Association for Belarusian Studies (IABS)

The admission of new members into the International Association for Belarusian Studies (IABS/MAB) is carried out on the basis of a written application presented during IABS/MAB meetings. For more information, visit mab.org.by.

The application form is on the facing page; alternatively, it can be downloaded at <http://mab.org.by/ankieta.html>. The official address of the IABS/MAB is:

Dept. of Philology
Belarusian State University
31 Karl Marx Street
Minsk 220050
Belarus

Tel: (017) 222-31-42

E-mail: mabinfo@gmail.com

Грамадскае аб'яднанне “Міжнародная асацыяцыя беларусістаў”

АНКЕТА

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e-mail |
| 4. | Хатні адрас
тэлефоны |
| 5. | Вучоная ступень, званне |
| 6. | Асноўныя працы па
беларусістыцы |
| 7. | Галіна (-ы), у якой (-іх)
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| 8. | Які ўдзел можаце прыняць у
дзеясці МАБ |
| 9. | Прапановы і пажаданні да
дзеясці МАБ |

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подпіс

HISTORIANS DEBATE 1918 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN BELARUS

by David Marples

On March 25, opposition demonstrators marked the 90th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Belarusian National (People's) Republic (BNR). The crowd was estimated at several thousand and refused to be confined to the officially sanctioned route from the National Academy of Sciences to Banhalor Square. Instead, an attempt to congregate in the more central Yakub Kolas Square was countered by police carrying batons, resulting in about 100 arrests (Radio Polonia, March 26; RIA-Novosti, March 25). Among the arrested were some familiar figures, several of which have been released from detention recently: Zmitser Dashkevich, Artur Finkevich, Katsyaryna Salawyova, Krystsina Shatsikava, and Ivan Shlya. According to one report, the number of arrests was limited only by the amount of space available in the police vans (Naviny, March 26).

Such repressive tactics are hardly new to Belarus and the response seemed familiar in other respects, too. Thus on March 23, the authorities commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Khatyn tragedy, reportedly (not all historians accept the official version of events) burned down by the Nazi occupants in the middle of the German-Soviet war, killing 149, including 75 children. Representing President Alexander Lukashenka was the head of his administration, Henadz Nevyhlas, who declared that Khatyn was “a bleeding wound, preventing our people from forgetting the historic memory” (Itar-Tass, March 23). The recognition of an official Soviet-era tragedy and the crackdown on demonstrators suggest that little has changed on the part of the Belarusian government. The current impasse with the United States only adds to that conclusion (see EDM, March 14).

However, a remarkably candid discussion of the BNR took place over three days prior to the 90th anniversary in the presidential newspaper (SB

Belarus' Segodnya, March 22). Hosted by the paper's editor, Pavel Yakubovich, it featured six leading historians of Belarus, five of which are affiliated with the Institute of History at the National Academy of Sciences: Alyaksandr Kavalenya, Mikalai Smyakhovich, Uladzimir Lyakhousky, Valyantsin Mazets, and Syarhey Tratsyak; and one, Vitaly Skalaban, from the National Archives. The discussion took place in the form of a roundtable, and comments were solicited from the general public. Clearly these comments were not censored, and the surprise engendered is evident from one reader who writes that the roundtable is the first public discussion about the BNR in the past 80 years!

Some observations would still fit well into the former Soviet analysis. Smyakhovich seems upset that discussion centered on the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and the First World War, because the panel was forgetting that the possibility of statehood developed only after the victory of the October Revolution. The Bolsheviks' position was that every nationality in the Russian Empire had the right to a national home. Tratsyak maintains that all facets of real statehood were absent from the BNR. Rather it was a political center with pretensions to statehood. Smyakhovich also points out that aside from a small portion of the peasantry, the majority did not support the new state; it lacked the support of the most vital element – the people.

The other panelists, including the Lukashenka acolyte, Yakubovich, who begins by stating that “The BNR is part of the history of Belarus...the event has relevance for each of us,” offer broader perspectives. Yakubovich feels it is critical to provide an objective appraisal of events today, when Belarus is on the path of national statehood. Kavalenya comments that the Soviet view was critical largely because the BNR leaders were negative toward Bolshevik ideals. Others focus on the limitations of statehood under German military rule and the lack of official recognition even from neighboring states, but acknowledge the significance of the event.

Lyakhousky, who is the most sympathetic toward the BNR, remarks that in the Soviet period, it was regarded as a puppet state, but “in our view” it was a
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HISTORIANS DEBATE 1918 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN BELARUS

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political formation created in February 1918 from the organizational structure of the 1917 all-Belarusian Congress, having as its goal real independence. Thus the formation of the BNR constituted an important stage in the path to sovereignty of the Belarusian nation. Later he adds that the proclamation of the BNR influenced the future political steps in Belarus – elsewhere the next stage is stated to be the formation of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Not surprisingly there are limitations to the discussion. No mention is made, for example, of the continuation of the BNR in emigration, and it is declared to have lasted in exile form only until 1925. Most historians make reference to the nation-building campaign of the Lukashenka government, thus a political purpose to the discussion cannot be ruled out. However, the debate appears open and frank, resembling in form some of the early revelations under Gorbachev's glasnost campaign of the late 1980s. Having opened this most sensitive issue, the historians are unlikely to stop here. Moreover, it can be surmised that the debate has the approval of the authorities. Yakubovich noted that only certain questions had been broached but this would not be the last such meeting.

The contrast between the official display of force against those recognizing the anniversary and the calm and frank discussion of its importance by members of the Institute of History suggests mixed signals on the part of the regime. The most positive sign is that the roundtable appeared in the most widely circulated newspaper in Belarus.

The authorities have resolved to include this pivotal event in the new national history but seem to be incapable of moderating their violent attacks on those who commemorate it.

(Reprinted from Volume 5, Number 58 of the Eurasia Daily Monitor, published by The Jamestown Foundation.)

Calendar of Events 2008

July 2-4. Fourth International Workshop on Balto-Slavic Accentology, Scheibbs, Austria. For more information, visit http://www.niederosterreich.at/tiscover/events.asp?showMerkliste=&rs_page=&objekt_nr=1291985&tr=&zr=&order_sort=&orderby=&s=kroi%DF&location=&objekt_nr_ort=&von=&bis=&the_ma=&highlight=&bezirk=.

August 28-31. Third International "Perspectives on Slavistics" Conference, Hamburg, Germany. For more information, visit <http://www.sfb441.uni-tuebingen.de/pos3/>.

November 20-23. 40th National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Visit <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/> for more information.

November 30 – December 2. Seventh European Conference on Formal Description of Slavic Languages (FDSL-7), University of Leipzig, Germany. For more information, request via email from fdsl7@uni-leipzig.de or visit <http://www.unileipzig.de/~jungslav/fdsl/fdsl7/fdsl7main.html>.

December 5-6. Diachronic Syntax in Slavonic languages - Gradual changes in focus (DSSL2008), University of Regensburg, Germany. For more information, visit <http://www.phil.muni.cz/jazyk/dssl/> or send an email to dssl2008@gmail.com.

December 27-30. Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association and the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, San Francisco, California. Visit <http://www.mla.org/convention> and <http://aatseel.org/program/> respectively for more information.

NAVINY Editorial Policies

NAVINY is published twice yearly, in the spring and in the autumn. Members are encouraged to contribute materials relevant to the field of Belarusian studies. Non-scholarly materials may be published at the discretion of the newsletter editor and NAABS executive. Deadlines for submission are February 15 for the Spring issue and August 15 for the Autumn issue. Items to be included should be sent by e-mail attachment to the Naviny editor, Kern Lunde, kdlunde@mac.com. Please contact the editor for more detailed information on formatting and fonts.

Languages of publication are English and Belarusian (provision may also be made for contributions in Russian, Polish and Ukrainian). Belarusian names and terms in English-language texts should be rendered in Belarusian *łacinka* or using the Library of Congress transliteration.

NAABS, Inc.

EIN 20-4343905

www.belarusianstudies.org

NAVINY

**8050 S. Victor Pike
Bloomington, IN 47403**

NAABS Membership Information

Membership in the North American Association for Belarusian Studies is open to all individuals and institutions in North America and abroad who share the goals of NAABS and are engaged in research or study concerning any aspect of Belarusian studies. Annual dues are \$30 for educators, \$15 for students. Dues for academic and non-academic members from Belarus and the FSU are \$5. Dues for institutions are \$50.

In addition, two types of non-academic membership are available: supporting (\$30); and patron (\$100) (patrons will be listed in each issue of *NAVINY*).

Upon completion of a membership application and dues payment, one is eligible to:

- Vote in NAABS elections
- Serve as NAABS officers
- Receive NAABS publications
- Serve as NAABS delegates at the International Congress of Belarusianists and at other conferences
- Receive NAABS grants to help defray the costs of presenting papers on Belarusian topics at professional gatherings

Membership dues and donations shall be used to:

- Cover printing and mailing costs for the NAABS newsletter
- Cover fees required for the NAABS Web site and any related activities (e.g., domain name registration, Web server fee, etc.)
- Help fund scholarly publications sponsored by NAABS
- Provide funds for travel grants
- Help cover the costs of visits to North America by Belarusian scholars, writers, cultural and political figures
- Contribute to a fund for a book prize in Belarusian studies
- Contribute to a scholarship fund for students in Belarusian studies

Complete and mail in the membership application form (pages 7-8) with appropriate payment in US dollars. The membership application form is also available at www.belarusianstudies.org.

NAABS Mission Statement

NAABS is a non-profit scholarly organization which seeks to promote research, study, and teaching of Belarusian studies, including the fields of history, language and linguistics, literature and the arts, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology and ethnography, political science, economics, and international relations. To achieve these goals, and to foster the exchange of information among scholars, the Association will publish a biannual newsletter, sponsor or co-sponsor panels and roundtables at regional, national, and international conferences in the U.S. and Canada, organize conferences and symposia, and support the publication of research by North American Belarusianists.