

SUMMARY. №4 (121). 2013

Issue 4 of 2013 is fully dedicated to the history and culture of Polesia region in XIX — XX centuries.

The issue opens with a preface by its compiler, an ethnologist from Hrodna **Iryna Čarniakievič**. It is titled “Belarus In Polesia’s Shadow”.

In her article “At The Crossroads”, a historian from Hrodna **Volha Sabaleŭskaja** traces the history of Jewish community of Brest region during the social modernization that was taking place in the Russian Empire of late XIX — early XX centuries.

The article “Small Towns Of Belarusian Polesia In The XIX — The First Third Of XX Centuries” by a historian from Hrodna **Ina Sorkina** is dedicated to the historical past of the former towns of Polesia. She also attempts to evaluate the today’s potential of cultural and historical heritage of the communities that once enjoyed the status of “small town”.

In his article “Public Education In Polesia In 1921—1939: Between Hopes And Realities” scholar from Brest **Aliaksandr Vabiščevič** studies the condition of public education system in interbellum Polesia province. He addresses both official Polish language schooling and schooling offered in other languages spoken in the region: Belarusian, Ukrainian, Russian, Yiddish and Hebrew.

In his article “National Processes In Polesia Province In 1920s In The Light Of The Results Of Polish Parliament Election Campaigns” a historian from Minsk **Aliaksandr Paškievič** studies a broad historical background of the struggle among Belarusian, Ukrainian, Russian national movements and the official Polish authorities for the influence over the local population.

In his article “From the history of Great Depression in Polesia” a Polish historian **Piotr Cichoracki** studies the condition of Polesia province’s economy during the world economic crisis of 1929—1933.

In their work “After Holocaust: Historical Memories About The Jews Of Belarusian Polesia” Brest scholars **Jaŭhien Razenblat** and **Iryna Jalien-skaja** address the relationship problems between the Jewish and Slavic parts of West Polesia population in prewar and war periods. Also, on the basis of oral history sources, they explore the stereotypes that formed in the minds of contemporaries about the local Jewish community destroyed by the Holocaust.

In his article “Chronicle Of Late XVIII — Early XX Centuries” a historian from Minsk **Andrej Kištymaŭ** studies the most important aspects of Rečyca region’s life in the times when Belarus was a part of Russian Empire.

In his work “The Town Of Haradnaja: From The Time Of Magdprecafeeburg Rights To The Time Of Selsoviet” an ethnographer **Valier Kisiel** explores various facets of the town life (culture, language, relationship with near and far neighbors, etc.) from hoary days of yore to the present.

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This issue contains a first-published Belarusian translation of study in social science and economics by **Pilip Zasim** “Šani, A Village In Pružany Powiat” that was defended as a graduate thesis at Bathory University of Vilnia (today: Vilnius University) in 1938. The translation is prefaced by a detailed biographic article by **Aliaksandr Iljin** “Pilip Zasim — A Forgotten Belarusian Patriot From Polesia”.

An article by a historian from Minsk **Uladzimir Lachoŭski** “Two Hundred Polesia Days and Nights Of Alexander Blok” is dedicated to the period when this famous Russian poet served in a formation of the All-Russian Zemstvo Union that carried out construction work on the home front in 1916—1917, during World War I.

The attention of cultural anthropologist from Warsaw University **Ewa Klekot** in her article “The Philosophy Of Creative Work By Zofia Chomętowska” is centered around one of the most original personalities in the history of Polish photographic art.

For the first time our journal publishes a Belarusian translation of a well-known work by a renowned Polish ethnographer **Józef Obrębski** “The Today’s People of Polesia”.

The science editor of this publication is a Polish ethnologist **Anna Engelking** who also publishes her own text titled “Simple Christian Working People, Or A Self-Portrait Of Belarusian Collective Farmers” in which, on the basis of the materials collected over many years of field research the worldview of modern Belarusian villagers is analyzed.

In an article by a scholar from Homel (Gomel) **Dzmitryj Lin** “The Specifics Of The Present-Day Demographic Situation In Belarusian Polesia (the Case Of Homel And Brest Regions)” the demographic dynamics of Belarusian South of the last several decades are studied.

The issue features personal memories of a Braševičy villager **Natallia Alieška**. The village is located in Drahičyn district of Brest Region. The memories are titled “Pages From A Polesia Family Chronicle” They cover the period from the author’s birth in 1920 to the liberation of her village from Nazi occupation in 1944.

The issue closes with two reviews: “A Way To Anathema: A Life Story Of A Polesia Voivode” by **Aliaksandr Vabiščevič** and “A Symbolic Debt Repayment” by a Belarusian scholar from the Polish city of Gdańsk **Lena Głogowska**. The first review addresses the work: Cichoracki, Piotr. *Droga ku anatemie: Wacław Kostek-Biernacki (1884—1957)*. — Warszawa: Instytut Pamięci Narodowej, 2009. — 495 s., the second studies a work by Zoska Veras. “*I remember everything. Memoirs, letters*” / Published, prefaced and commented by Mikhas Skobla. — Hrodna—Wrocław, 2013. — 475 s.