

Issue 7-8 of 2015 is dedicated to the literature.

It begins with a translation into Belarusian of the bestselling novel ‘Memoirs of a Geisha’ (1997) by **Arthur Golden**.

Apart from that only two pieces are published — memories by **Barys Kit** and a Jewish native from Grodno **Tzvi (Gregory) Chassid**.

An interview with an American rocket scientist and a prominent Belarusian nationalist **Barys Kit** sheds light on Belarusian cultural and educational background in interwar Wilno (Vilnius) city which then belonged to the Polish state. It was taken by a visiting DAAD Associate Professor for Applied Humanities **Felix Ackermann** who currently teaches at Vilnius based European Humanities University, Media and Communication department.

Barys Kit was a teacher at Vilnius Belarusian Lyceum between 1933—1939. He tells about everyday life of interwar Vilnius: how the Belarusian youth spent leisure time, visited cinemas, performed amateur dramas etc. Barys Kit provides critical reassessment of some important personalities linked to the than-day Belarusian national movement: Radasłaŭ Astroŭski, Janka Chvorast, Ryhor Šyrma and others are mentioned.

Tzvi (Gregory) Chassid was born and raised in pre-holocaust Grodno. In an interview which was taken by a **Deutsche Welle** correspondent **Natalla Makušyna** in 2006, he unveiled another image of his native city. Pre-war Grodno Christian population spoke predominantly Polish. The Belarusian language was very rare and associated with backward peasants who lived outside the city.

As Gregory Chassid pointed out, in the late 1930s tensions between Christian and Jewish communities of Grodno grew. Some Christians boycotted Jewish shops and artisans. In 1935 an anti-Jewish riot erupted, which turned into pogrom. At least two Jews were killed, dozens people were injured.

In 1941, when Grodno was taken by Nazi Germans, some native Christians shared Nazi attitude towards Jews. They occupied houses, which were abounded by local Jews, and appropriated their former property.

Last Gregory Chassid’s memories touched on 1956 when he as a former Polish citizen tried to immigrate to Poland. Soviet special services didn’t authorize so called repatriation due to anti-Jewish biases.