

Issue 3 of ARCHE journal of 2017 has the umbrella title “500 years of Belarusian Bible”. It’s dedicated to 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of The Bible in Ruthenian by Francysk Skaryna in Prague.

The issue opens with a preface by a historian from Minsk, one of the issue’s editors, **Andrus Unučak**.

A historian from Minsk **Aliėś Źlutka** in his article “Vague Spots In Francysk Skaryna’s Biography: An Attempt At Making Sense Of Them” analyses the disputable aspects of life and work of first Belarusian printer, also acquainting the reader with the latest findings of research focused on Skaryna’s life and work.

The issue features a study by a classic of Belarusian historiography **Mitrafan Doŭnar-Zapołski** “Vasił Ciapinski, The Translator Of The Gospel To The Belarusian Tongue”, which was a foundational piece of research furthering the acceptance of this early facilitator of Belarusian printed literature to modern Belarusian cultural pantheon.

**Andrus Unučak** in his article “Lukaś Dziekuć-Maliej (1888—1955): Biography And Worldview Highlights” focuses his attention on the primary sources of world view formation of the first translator of the New Testament into modern Belarusian language.

An article by a Belarusian public figure and religious activist **Jan Piatrouški** “Taras Sajka And The Translation Of The Bible Into Belarusian” tells about the difficulties of preparation and publication of a Belarusian publication of the whole Bible in overseas emigration 1960—1970.

Two articles are dedicated to the topic of translation of the Bible into Slavic languages before early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These are: an article by a Czarist time Russian scholar **Ivan Yevseyev** “An Essay On The History Of Slavic Translation Of The Bible”; a modern study by a Belarusian linguist **Ihar Klimau** “Translations of the Bible into Old Belarusian/Old Ukrainian languages”.

An article by a researcher from Minsk **Aliena Filatava** “Russian Bible Society And Its Branches On The Territory Of Belarusian-Lithuanian Provinces” describes the efforts directed at the promotion of Biblical texts among the population of modern Belarus and Lithuania when both nations belonged to the Russian Empire.

The topic of an article by a Roman-Catholic Priest and a biblical scholar **Siarhiey Surynovič** “Any God-Inspired Word Is Beneficial”

is an almost hundred-year-old history of translations of biblical texts into Modern Belarusian.

A study by a scholar from Hrodna **Tacciana Kasataja** “Self-Published Literature By Evangelical Baptists In Soviet Belarus” sheds light on various aspects of illegal publications of religious texts by members of Protestant churches in the aggressively atheist environment of USSR.

The issue also features translations into Belarusian of some text crucial for the evangelization of Belarus. These are the preface to a Czech Bible printed in Venice in 1506; the preface to the New Testament by a famous Renaissance humanist **Symon Budny**, published in 1572; minutes of the first plenary meeting of Wilna branch of Russian Bible Society which was held in 1819, the opening address to a translation of the Bible into Modern Belarusian made by a Roman-Catholic priest **Uladzislau Ćarniaŭski**.

In his article “The Reformed Social and Political Theology of Individuality in the Prefatory Materials and Reader Aids of the *Biblia Świąta* or “Brest Bible” of 1563” a theology historian from the UK **Bruce Anderson** analyses social and political thought contained in this literary landmark from a historical theology’s perspective.

The issue closes with Belarusian translations of a text by a renowned Irish writer **Clive Staples Lewis** “Reflections on the Psalms” and an article by an English theologist **Nick Spencer** “The Bible And Politics — Cristian Sources Of British Political Thought”.