
SUMMARY, No. 4 (79), 2009

The April issue is about Polack, the most ancient city of Belarus, and its cultural tradition which influenced the entire modern Belarusian culture. Polack was mentioned for the first time in 862. The Norse sagas described the town as *Palteskia* or *Palteskiuborg*.

The issue opens with Polack based writer **Aleś Arkuš** preface entitled 'The List of the Polack's obscurities'. The popular Belarusian writer **Uładzimier Arloŭ** presented his Polack inspired lyrics 'So I want'. Essayist **Alaksandar Sinkievič** in his 'The Age of Trajan of our Distinctiveness' tells on prehistoric Belarusian plots related to the principality of Polack and its elite interaction with some Scandinavian actors. Archeologist **Siarhiej Tarasaŭ** discloses in his 'Polack's key to the Europe gates' some less known aspects of early Polack history, using as a starting point the finds of the archeological excavations. Historian **Vasil Varonin** eyes in his 'Polack inhabitants: the Forgotten Remembrance on the Sea' the developments of the Polack land after it joined to the Lithuanian state in 1307. His counterpart **Andrej Januškievič** explains in his 'Riddles of Ivan IV Terrible Drive at Polack' the motifs why the Muscovites took Polack in 1563 during the Livonian war.

The issue publishes for the first time the 'Materials of the Vitebsk expedition', originally written by **Jurka Vičbič** in 1939, and described first of all the than-day state of Polack architectural monuments.

Archeologist **Michaś Charniaŭski** in his 'Non-Slavonic Cultures of Northern Belarus' establishes the origin of tribes, which inhabited the region prior to the Slavic expansion in the second half of the first millennium.

A Polish historian **Dariusz Kupisz** reconstructs in his monograph 'Polack 1579' the main stages of the king Stephen Báthory campaign to return the lost regions of the Great Duchy of Lithuania (GDL), starting by Polack in 1579. Another Polish scholar, **Konrad Bobiatyński** shows in his 'The activity of Vasiliy Sheremetyev's army in the terrain of the Polack principality during the War between Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Muscovy in 1654—1655', how the Polack land was lost by the GDL in the second time in history due to the incompetence and lack of military talent of its defenders as well as pro-Muscovite sentiments of its inhabitants. Essayist **Siarhiej Šydloŭski** in his 'The Cards, Dances and Other Amusements of Polack Academy Students' describes every day life Polack Jesuits Academy in the Beginning of 19th century. The literature critic **Viktar Žybul** 'I won't return to Polack.

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The **Aleš Dudar** Letters' highlights basic trends and actors of Polack literature environment in 1920-es. The **Carl Peters** letters reflect the ordinary German soldier impressions from marching through Polack land in 1941 during German invasion on USSR. The civic activist **Michaš Baŭtovič** in his '20 years of Democratic Movement in Polatsk' notes the most prominent people and event engaged in pro-democratic activism in the town.

The literature section of the issue contains **Piatro Vasiučenka**, **Vinceš Mudroŭ** and **Jan Kochanowski** pieces. **Junela Salnikava** reviews Vinceš Mudroŭ's works. **Mikoła Chaŭstovič** writes about the Russian translation of Jan Barszczewski's masterpiece 'Noblemen Zawalnia, or Belarus in Fantastic Stories' published originally in Polish in 1844.

The issue ends with the information about the ongoing trial aiming to declare ARCHE issue #7-8 of 2008 extremist and liable to be destructed.