

SUMMARY, No. 3 (90), 2010

ARCHE 2010, #3 issue is titled 'Genius Urbis' and focused on urban historical and cultural space in Belarus.

The issue opens with an essay by **Volha Babkova**, dedicated to Minsk as the authoress' native city.

Połack-based researcher **Dzianis Duk** in his 'The Social-Topographical Structure and the Building of Połack in 16—17th Centuries' highlights the life space of Połack inhabitants, describes buildings, street names and the layout of Połack suburbs street net.

Hrodna based historian **Natalla Śliž** in her 'Celestial Treasure' of Vilnia' traces the phenomenon of worship of a miraculous icon of Virgin Patroness Sapieżynskaja in 17th century, using as a source a book published in 1671, which documents all the miracles.

Jan Alašeŭski's piece 'Minsk in 1708' is a fragment of his well-known chronicle which tells about the events of the Great Northern War (1700—1721) in Belarus.

An article by **Vital Makarevič** 'Tadeusz Korzan in mid 19th Century' is the preface to the famous Polish historian's memoirs which is published in the issue. Tadeusz Korzon (1839—1918) was a Minsk born Polish historian, specializing in history of Poland.

He studied at Moscow University. He took part in the January Uprising (1863—1865) of Poles against the Russian occupation (partitions of Poland) by organising pro-Polish patriotic demonstrations. After the defeat of the Uprising he was sentenced to death, later changed to exile to Orenburg until 1867. Afterwards from 1869 he lived in Warsaw, where he became of the teachers in the Flying University. From 1897 he was the head librarian of the Biblioteka Zamojskich. From 1903 member of the Polska Akademia Umiejętności.

His earliest work was related to the French and English system of punishments and was published in 1861. His main work was published by the Krakow academy of sciences «Wewnętrzne dzieje Polski za Stanisława-Augusta, 1764—1794» (1882—1886) (4 bands) and gave many new statistical, administrative and economic details about the internal life of Poland in the 18th century. One of his last works was the «Dziejów wojen i wojskowości w Polsce» (3 tomes) published in 1912.

The memoirs, titled 'Minsk in mid 19th Century,' depict the life in the city over that time of ethnic and religious tensions between its inhabitants.

Hrodna-based scholar **Ina Sorkina** in her 'The *Miastečki* as a Cultural and Historical Phenomenon of Belarus' follows main benchmarks of their history and development trends.

The issue contains also a sketch of a 19th century ethnographer **Fiodar Staŭrovič** titled 'Łabary'. The piece describes lifestyle and customs of Janova inhabitants (town located on the Belarusian-Ukrainian borderland (Palessie/Polissya region). The

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author concludes that they made up a special social group and earned money first of all duping and swindling.

The issue contains a collection of images of the Belarusian cities from 19th — first half of 20th centuries, from old post-cards. They come from the National Library of Poland as well as from a private collection of Hrodna-based collector **Janka Lalevič**.

Sociologist from Kaunas university **Rasa Baločkaitė** and her Belarusian colleagues **Andrej Kazakievič** and **Alaksiej Łastoŭski** present the results of their common study «Memory of World War II in the City Landscape of Eastern Europe.» The research focuses on the theme of acquirement / changing of the urban landscape as a tangible embodiment of the various government policies on the construction of collective identities. Urban landscapes of three East European capitals — Minsk, Vilnius and Kyiv — are analysed.

During the recent decades, the issues of memory and identity have become gained importance not only among social scientists, but also took key positions in public debates. It is not without reason that Reinhart Koselleck called European culture a «civilization of memory». The study «Memory of World War II in the City Landscape of Eastern Europe» focuses on the theme of acquirement / changing of the urban landscape as a tangible embodiment of the various government policies on the construction of collective identities. Urban landscapes of three East European capitals — Minsk, Vilnius and Kiev — are analysed. These are the capitals of three states that were part of the Soviet Union and gained full independence after its dissolution. However, in these independent states of today, we see a rather different configuration of political / cultural nationalism, which leads to the question of the roots of these differences. The results of the study can further be used in comparative approaches to other post-communist states.

For the analysis of the urban landscape authors use two major symbolic markers: the names of streets and monuments / memorial plaques. It is anticipated that through the combination of the material and the symbolic, they are a powerful means of ideological influence on the processes of constructing collective identities by dominating public discourses. The paradigm of the study is similar to the objectives and methods applied in cultural geography and urban studies. In author's opinion, the approach is innovative in that it involves a broad comparative perspective, since similar studies conducted in the region basically targeted only particular cities.

The research is based on collecting, recording, coding and comparing empiric data with regard to the naming and renaming of streets as well as the erection of monuments. The authors cooperated with state archives and institutes of cartography in each country, also recouring to libraries when available.

The authors prepared a databank for each capital, containing detailed information on renaming streets and erecting monuments. Furthermore, a

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photo archive was created which includes pictures of different historical periods as well as recent pictures taken by the members of the research team.

During the second phase of the research, the main war memorial in the city landscape was marked. For more detailed and in-depth description, the origin and development of such places was investigated with the help of an iconographic approach, where meanings and values of these cultural artifacts will be accentuated. Special attention is paid to the fact whether these places are “alive” or not, how and by whom they are used in everyday social practices, and how they are described in the texts about the city.

Using these methods, the authors achieved an analytical reconstruction of changes wrought upon the urban landscape by communist authorities as well as in independent nation-states. This allows to compose a more thorough picture of the sociocultural changes in Eastern Europe both in the Soviet and post-Soviet period. The results of the research help to reflect the unique specifics of Eastern Europe and European culture in a broader sense as «civilization of memory».

European Humanities University student **Kirył Atamančyk** in his ‘Vilnia in Two Words’ praises the Belarusian cultural and historical legacy of Vilnia/Vilnius, because Belarusians together with the Lithuanians, Poles and Jews contributed significantly to the city cultural heritage.

The literature part of the issue consists of an essay of **Siarhiej Adam Hruntoŭ** ‘Saint Fabian City,’ his stories ‘Remembrance’ and ‘Internal Atlantis’ as well as lyrics by **Julija Šastak**.

Minsk-based historian **Ivan Sacukievič** in his ‘Nomenclature of Minsk Streets and Squares as a Historical-Cultural Legacy’ sorts out the development of the Minsk urban toponymy since the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth fall to the present day. He presents some ideas about the way to return historical topography in Minsk.

Mahiloŭ-based historian and civic activist **Alaksandar Ahiejeŭ** in his ‘Mahiloŭ Town Hall: History of Revival and Some Lessons from It’ shows how the idea appeared to re-construct the building which was erased by the Soviets in 1957. He mentions also the contributors to its implementation.

Volha Kukunia and **Taciana Kościč**, the officers from the state-run restoration institute ‘Prajektrestauratcyja’, present their essay ‘Kurapaty — the History of the Site and a Project of Conservation Zones.’ Kurapaty is a wood at the outskirts of Minsk, place of mass executions between 1937 and 1941 by the Soviet secret police, the NKVD. For 10 years Lukashenka regime has denied the Kurapaty case as a Soviet crime against humanity. The contributors discuss the ways of memorializing the site.



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Historian of art and architecture **Tamara Habruś** in her 'Where is That Doors' pays attention that many architectural and historical monuments in contemporary Belarus are harmed by an improper restoration or systematical disregard.

Architect **Andrej Šulajeŭ** in his 'Monuments Conservation in Belarus in the Eyes of an Architect' criticizes Belarusian law legislation concerning conservation of the historical heritage.

Historian **Zachar Šybieka** in his 'Minsk Cemeteries: Problem of Memorialization' touches upon an issue of civilized coexistence of city-dwellers and cemeteries in the urban landscape.

Ściapan Sturejka contribution 'The Historical Heritage and the Civic Society: Logic of Interaction» is a series of interviews with the experts and civic activists concerning historical heritage conservation in Prague, Vilnius, Lviv and Hrodna.

Żmicier Kryvašej in his 'New Horizons of the Historical Studies' reviews a book by Iryna Ramanava and Iryna Machoŭskaja about the town of Mir.

The issue ends with a critical review by historian **Aleś Paskievič** 'There is no Catharsis without Transparency'. The author criticizes some trends of the Belarusian humanities.