bielaruskaj movy is not only a landmark in its own right, but also represents a happy augury for the eagerly awaited Historical Dictionary

now being prepared (with evident care) by the scholars of the Institute of Philology.

Arnold B. McMillin

- Bialkievič, I. K. *Krajovy slovník uschodniaj Mahiloŭščyny*. Edited by M. V. Biryła and A. A. Kryvicki. 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1970. 512 pages.
- Jurčanka, H. F. *Narodnaja sinanimika*. Edited and with an Introduction by A. A. Kryvicki. 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1969. 280 pages. Bibliography. Index.
- Jankoŭski, F. *Dyjalektny slovník*, III. 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1970. 172 pages.

The years 1969 and 1970 have witnessed the publication of an exceptional number of dialectal dictionaries. The most important of them, however, I. K. Bialkievič's *Krajovy slovník uschodniaj Mahiloŭščyny*, was conceived and realised in a period of even greater activity in the field of lexicography, the years of *Inbielkult*. In the early 1920s it was projected that in addition to normative, literary dictionaries of the Byelorussian language there should also be compiled dialectal dictionaries of the ten regions comprising what was then Eastern (Soviet) Byelorussia. Of these ten dictionaries only three were completed: Kašpiarovič's *Viciebski krajovy slovník (Mater'jaty)* (Viciebsk, 1927), Šaternik's *Krajovy slovník Červienščyny* (Minsk, 1929) and a *Slovník Mazyrščyny* which remained in manuscript and was lost during the Second World War. Bialkievič's work was not completed until 1959 owing to the unfortunate circumstances of his life, although the majority of the 20,000 words it comprises were collected in the latter part of the 1920s.

Unlike the majority of dialectal lexicographers, Bialkievič did not describe his native dialect. He was born in 1883 in Varoničy near Slonim in the Hrodna region, and after studying and teaching in Švislač, Varoničy, Slonim and Minsk, only in 1925 moved to Mścistaŭ in the eastern part of the Mahiloŭ region where he joined the staff of the newly opened teachers training college. The next five years must have been exceptionally active ones, for in 1930 he was compelled to leave Byelorussia for ever, spending the rest of his life in various enterprises such as forestry and steel production in regions far removed from Mahiloŭ, notably the Mari

republic, the Azov — Black Sea region and Doneck. Bialkievič died suddenly in 1960, and it is greatly to the credit of Biryła and Kryvicki, two senior scholars of the Jakub Kołas Institute of Philology, that the work has at last achieved publication.

The dictionary covers an area bounded on the west by Słaŭharad, on the south by Białyńkavičy and on the east by Mścistaŭ and Miłasavičy; to the north it extends a little beyond Drybin. Reading this excellent work, one cannot but regret that the immensely valuable activity of *Inbielkult* was so short-lived. The publication of such a milestone as Bialkievič's dictionary inevitably induces wistful thoughts of what might have been.

Another important work in an unusual genre (dialectal synonymics) is Jurčanka's *Narodnaja sinonimika*, a study of 440 groups of synonyms from his native Mścistaŭščyna. Altogether they comprise some 4,000 words (from a wide semantic spectrum), the majority not having appeared in the author's earlier dialectal dictionary (*Dyjalektny slovník (Z havorak Mścistaŭščyny)*, Minsk, 1966 — see *JBS*, I, 3, 1967, pp. 249-50). Each synonymic group is furnished with a wealth of examples, and special attention is paid to the words' use in various phraseological groupings. The author's care in collecting such a mass of interesting material, much of it hitherto unrecorded, demonstrates to the general reader the great variety of Byelorussian lexical resources, and provides for specialists a useful primary source for the study both of the relationship between the literary and dialectal lexicons and of the history and formation of the vocabulary as a whole.

The first two volumes (*vypuski*) of

Jankoŭski's valuable *Dyjalektny stoŭnik* appeared over ten years ago (in 1959 and 1960) and whilst the appearance of the latest volume is to be as warmly welcomed as were its predecessors it is hard to understand why such a lapse of time should have ensued, in view of the fact that the majority of the material was collected as long ago as 1944-5. In addition to nearly 1,000 words from the Hłusk district of the Mahiloŭ region there is a section consisting of about 200

phrases, tags and proverbs. The author acknowledges the assistance of Mikoła Jankoŭski of Homiel University who contributed some 40 of the dictionary's entries.

Thus, whilst before 1966 and the appearance of Jurčanka's dictionary the eastern region of Byelorussia was linguistically the least well documented, the situation is now, happily, reversed.

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Varłyha, Adam. *Krajoŭy stoŭnik Łahojščyny*. 'Zaranka', New York, 1970. 172 pages.

Ściacko, P. U. *Narodnaja leksika*. 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1970. 176 pages. Index. Short bibliography.

Ściacko, P. *Dyjalektny stoŭnik (Z havorak Zelviensčyny)*. BDU, Minsk, 1970. 184 pages.

Apart from Šaternik's important *Krajoŭy stoŭnik Červienščyny* (Minsk 1929) the Minsk region has been rather neglected by dialectal lexicographers, possibly due to the relatively great affinity between the dialects of this region and the modern literary language. Adam Varłyha's defining dictionary of the area around Łahojsk, some twenty-five miles to the north of Minsk, lists in Latin orthography about 7,000 dialectal words, emphasising the local rather than the literary meaning where the latter exists. The dictionary, apart from its intrinsic merits as a reference work, also represents a remarkable feat of memory since Varłyha, a former teacher of the Łahojsk region, left Byelorussia as long ago as 1945.

Mickiewicz described the dialect of the Hrodna region as 'the richest and purest of all Slavonic dialects' and it is to this region of western Byelorussia, and in particular the area around Zelva, that P. U. Ściacko has devoted two valuable pieces of lexicographical work. *Narodnaja leksika* is a semantically arranged study of the dialectal vocabulary of this region. In

it the author confines himself to the material (*bytavy*) vocabulary, analysing in turn the (literary as well as dialectal) words used in the Zelva region under the following semantic headings: food, drink, clothes, footwear, home-woven cloths, bed linen, table linen and table decorations. Based on material collected between 1950 and 1960 from natives of the Zelva region (in 1962 the author defended in Minsk his Candidate's thesis, *Pradmietna-bytavaje leksika zelvienskich havorak*), the work is very welcome now in a relatively accessible form (the edition is of 1,400).

The same author's *Dyjalektny stoŭnik* offers 2,500 dialectal words or words whose meaning in the Zelva region differs from that found in literary Byelorussian. Both books will provide valuable material for scholars, particularly for those concerned with the linguistic relations between Polish and Byelorussian, and with the penetration of Polish, German and other loan words into the Byelorussian literary language.

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Camiarycki, V. A. *Bielaruskija letapisy jak pomniki litaratury. Uźniknieńnie i litaraturnaja historyja pieršych zvodaŭ* (Byelorussian Chronicles as Works of Literature. The Origin and Literary History of the First Chronicles). 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1969. 192 pages.

The Byelorussian chronicles of the 15-16th centuries have been for over one and a half centuries the subject

of extensive studies by Polish, Russian and Ukrainian scholars, such as Daniłowicz, Szaraniewicz, Jakubowski,