



NEW ALBANIA

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NEW ALBANIA

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The Address of the Editorial Board

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Front Cover «The Sunflowers»

Photo: P. Kume

Back Cover Views of the Museum City of Berat

Photos: V. Koçi, R. Veseli



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SELF RELIANCE -

A GREAT MARXIST - LENINIST PRINCIPLE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM AND THE DEFENCE OF THE COUNTRY

Self-reliance is a great Marxist-Leninist principle. It has a profound political, ideological, economic and strategic character because it is linked with the fate of socialism and its defence. This principle is linked with the strengthening of the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat and keeping it pure, against every danger of retrogression to capitalism and revisionism, because the implementation of this principle is closely linked with the preservation and strengthening of political independence, with the creation of a strong and independent economy, with the development of a national socialist culture and the preparation of an invincible defence. In the field of foreign politics, this principle is connected with the construction of an independent policy, to prevent it from becoming an appendage of the foreign policy of some other party, state or country.

The implementation of this principle is also linked with the preservation of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, not to make concessions or not to create different joint economic or financial companies with the monopolies of the bourgeois or revisionist states and to reject any offer of "aid" or "credit" from them.

At the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour, comrade Enver Hoxha said, that for us, the principle of self-reliance is a law of the construction of socialism and its defence, as well as an imperative necessity in this direction. This is related to the fact that both the revolution and the construction of socialism can never be exported or imported. The internal factor is the determining and decisive factor both in the struggle for the triumph of the revolution and for the seizure of power by the working class under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party, as well as in the struggle for the construction of socialism and the defence of the country. The external factor also has its own importance, but, never is it fundamental; it does not exert its influence directly, but through the internal factor.

This principle, emanates from the Marxist-Leninist thesis on the decisive role of the people, led by the Marxist-Leninist Party in the victory of the revolution, in the construction of socialism and the defence of the country. Speaking about this question at the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, comrade Enver Hoxha said among other things, that "self-reliance, demands, first of all, that we strongly rely on the creative, mental and physical energies of the people, led by the Party".

For Albania, this principle, is, at the same time, an imperative necessity because the Albanian people are building socialism in the conditions of a savage imperialist-revisionist encirclement and their allround blockade, in the conditions of the pressure which the big economic-financial and energy crisis which has the entire capitalist-revisionist world in its grip is exerting on its economy, in conditions when US imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism, the whole of world reaction, modern revisionism and old and new opportunism are hatching up plots and plans to overthrow socialism and restore capitalism in Albania and to perpetuate it in their own countries.

Self-reliance means: first, to rely on your own manpower and the creative energies of your people, under the direct and indivisible leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party; se-

cond, to rely on the natural wealth and the material-technical base created in the country; third, to rely on the internal resources of material and financial accumulations.

Self-reliance is not at all a temporary policy, merely dictated by certain external circumstances; it has always been and remains a general course in the policy of the PLA for the construction of socialism and the defence of the country, a course which has always been consistently implemented in every step of life, in the political or economic fields, in art, culture, education, science, defence, everywhere, in all fields and sectors of social life.

In Albania the construction of socialism and the defence of the country are realized by firmly relying on our own forces. This is a living reality, a reality which is based on several objective and subjective factors.

Today, the Albanian economy has a powerful material-technical base. Industry, as the leading branch of the economy is capable of broadly utilising the natural resources, energy and raw materials. The extracting and processing industries have been developed and not only does Albania meet all the internal demands and those of export, but conditions have been created so that apart from the output of pig iron and steel, other minerals will also be gradually processed, so that they can be exported like this and not as crude mineral, or so they can be processed further locally. Today, the engineering industry produces 85 per cent of the spare parts and in 1980 will produce 90 per cent of them; it is capable of preserving the exploitation of the material-technical base created in Albania and, together with the chemical industry and other branches it is gradually assuming the qualitative advance to produce machinery, the instruments of labour, that is to create the level of the independence of the economy which the principle of self-reliance requires.

The socialist agriculture, as the basic branch of the people's economy is developing at rapid rates as a modern and multi-branched economy and it increased the production of bread grain by giving priority to this sector, thus meeting all demands for bread grain locally. Together with the light and food — processing industry, it has managed to fulfill 85 per cent of the country's demands for mass consumption goods and in 1980 it will fulfill 95 per cent of them.

As a result of the entire development of material production, internal accumulation has increased a great deal, on the basis of which such possibilities have been created that during the 6th Five-year Plan (1976-1980) colossal investments have been made, chiefly from local resources, equal to those which have been made during the entire twenty year long period from 1951 to 1970 in Albania.

Self-reliance is a general and permanent course, a principle for every socialist country, big or small, a principle which is applicable both in the struggles for liberation and the proletarian revolution, as well as in the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland. Not only does it not exclude cooperation and reciprocal aid between revolutionary forces and socialist countries, but it presupposes it. This is an internationalist duty of great importance not only to the interests of the country which receives this aid, but also for the country which gives it.

Remaining loyal to the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, the PLA has continually exposed all those "theories" and enslaving practices of the two superpowers and the other imperialist powers, which, under the mask of "fraternal aid", "development" and "progress" exert pressure on and enslave countries. They spread all kinds of false theories which weaken the conviction of the peoples in the possibilities of the construction of a sovereign life, and in general, in their existence as nations and free countries and they sow and spread the psychosis that allegedly without relying on one big power you can not develop as a free and independent nation. Their theories and practices are out and out reactionary and rapacious. This is clearly proved by the concrete neo-colonialist activity both of US imperialism and Soviet socialimperialism, as well as by the whole of world imperialist and revisionist reaction.

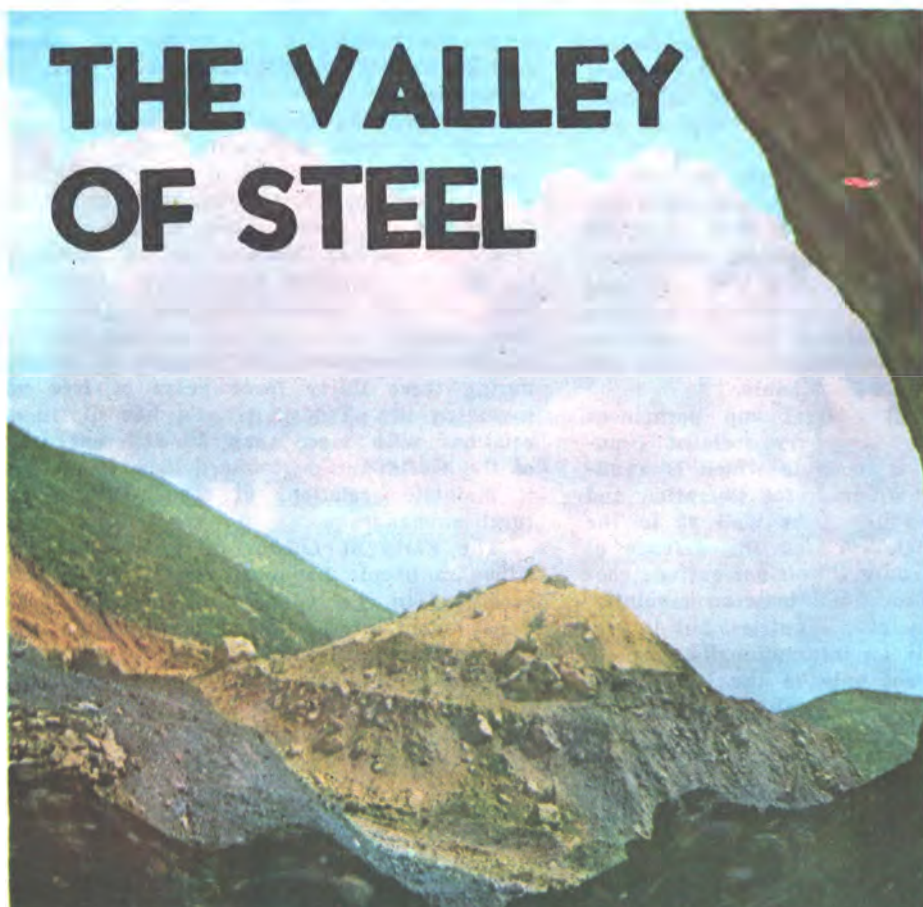
The bourgeois and revisionist propaganda has long since been speaking in the most unrestrained manner against socialist Albania, against the consistent implementation by the PLA and the Albanian people of the principle of self-reliance, accusing them, that allegedly, with the course they are following, Albania is isolated, that the advance along this course spells isolation, autarchic development etc. With this they are trying to cultivate the feeling of subjugation towards them and to legalize the policy of imperialist expansion and exploitation of other countries, to transform the countries and peoples into colonies, as they have, in reality, transformed all those who drag behind their chariot. As the Party of Labour of Albania and comrade Enver Hoxha have always stressed, Albania has never accepted and will never accept the so-called aid of the imperialists and revisionists, which, in reality, means nothing else but the subjugation of whoever accepts and receives it. "The imperialists and the revisionists" said comrade Enver Hoxha at the 7th Congress of the PLA, "call a country isolated which has closed its doors to invasion through enslaving credits, through the tourists and spies, through the decadent culture and degeneration. From this angle we are truly an isolated country and we will remain such with full consciousness."

In reality, the entire economic-social development of socialist Albania and the correct and far-sighting policy of the PLA, with the high prestige which it has won for Albania throughout the world, reject all these calumnies. The correct Marxist-Leninist policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is respected and evaluated by the revolutionary and progressive forces, just as they evaluate all the achievements and progress of Albania during these thirty three years of free and sovereign life. Today, Albania has diplomatic relations with more than 80 different states of the world and with more than 40 of them it maintains relations of economic and cultural exchanges.

The Party of Labour of Albania and the Albanian people have always followed a correct road in the economic, cultural and social development of the country, relying on their own forces, and this is why the rates of development in Albania are higher and more stable than in any other country of Europe and amongst the highest in the world.



Photos: P. Kumi



If the valleys of the rivers Drin and Mat in the North are called valleys of hydro-power then the valley of the Shkumbin River in Central Albania can quite justifiably be called the valley of steel. Twenty years ago, the mine at Pishkash (the Librazhd district) yielded its first output of iron nickel ore. Now, this veteran mine is yielding its last mineral and standing aside for the new mines in the vicinity: Bushtrica, Northern Pishkash, Hodokal, Katrel and chiefly the big mine of Prenjas. On the other side of the Thana Pass, on the western shores of the Lake of Ohri, work is going on the new mines at Guri i Kuq and the mineral enrichment plant.

The wagons full of mineral, are transported down the lines of the railway the youth built through voluntary labour, pass through the many tunnels and along the banks of the Shkumbin and are emptied at the plain of Bradashesh, west of the city of Elbasan. This is where the Metallurgical combine is being built which will process about 900,000 tons of iron nickel ore a year. The first furnace has been producing pig iron for a year now. Likewise, the steel, which is smelted in the furnaces of the metallurgical combine on the banks of the Shkumbin, is distributed all over the country. A series of other departments such as the coke factories, also bring out their products. The veteran sector of the Combine is the steel-rolling plant which was built during the last five-year plan.

The entire Shkumbin valley, beginning from Elbasan to the source of the river, has been transformed into one huge construction and mining site.

The above photographs show the pouring of the steel at the metallurgical combine at Elbasan. In the photos below we present several aspects from the extraction of iron nickel ore at the mines of the Pishkash-Prenjas area.



Photos: V. Koçi



THE 36th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA

THE REVOLUTIONARY LEADER, YESTERDAY IN WAR AND TODAY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM

The meeting of the communist groups to found the Communist Party of Albania was held in illegality, in Tirana, from 8th to 14th November, 1941. The main task for which the meeting was organized was accomplished in principle, right from the start. On the 8th of November the historic decision was taken to dissolve the groups and found the Party.

This was an historic event of enormous importance for the period in which people were living and for their future. Communist ideas had been spreading in Albania long before the Party was formed. A number of communist groups had been created, which, despite all their shortcomings, played a positive role in preparing the conditions for the formation of the Party. The Albanian people, savagely oppressed and exploited under the feudal-bourgeois regime of King Zog, were faced with an even more difficult situation with the occupation of the country by fascist Italy. The people began to organize resistance against the occupiers. But the resistance, the anti-fascist struggle required a trust-worthy revolutionary leadership. And this the people found in the Communist Party which emerged from the bosom of the people.

The meeting of the communist groups in Tirana defined the ideological and organizational basis of the Party and worked out the fundamental problem of its general line for the period of the National Liberation War. The Provisional Central Committee was elected to lead the Party, and comrade Enver Hoxha was appointed to direct it.

During the National Liberation War, the Party proved capable of solving a number of problems of decisive importance for the fate of our people in a masterly manner. It was able to mobilize and unite the people in the fight against the occupiers and traitors to the country, it created the National Liberation Army, laid the foundations of people's power, and led the people to the magnificent victory of liberation on the 29th of November, 1944.

The Communist Party of Albania, as a genuine revolutionary Party, continued the struggle to consolidate the victories achieved in the war and to carry them even further. It knew how to tackle and solve correctly a number of major revolutionary tasks in all fields of the life of the country. The first problem, following the establishment of the people's state power, was that of re-construction and the preparation of conditions for the socialist construction of the country. Thus, measures were taken for the defence of the people's democratic state power, important transformations were made in the economic field and more correct relations established in production. The Land Reform was carried out, the socialist sector of the economy was created and revolutionary transformations were made in the field of education, culture and arts.

Step by step, advancing consistently along the revolutionary road, strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat through the class struggle, combating the foreign imperialist and



In this small Tirana house, on the 8th of November 1941, the representatives of the communist groups met and formed the Communist Party of Albania with comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. Now this house has been turned into a Museum House, where the communist veterans tell the younger generations about historic events.

revisionist enemies, by the beginning of the 60's the Party had led the people to the important victory of the construction of the economic base of socialism in both town and countryside.

Now, by relying on its own inexhaustible energies, courageously and wisely led by the Party, our country is building the material-technical base of socialism. Keeping the pick in one hand and the rifle in the other, our people are scoring new victories every day,

smashing the plans of enemies who try to hinder them on their revolutionary course. Now the working people of our country, working to put into practice the decisions of the 7th Congress of the PLA, held one year ago, are scoring new victories in the construction and commissioning of big industrial projects, in the increase of agricultural production, in the development of culture, education and art, as well as in the strengthening of the defence potential of the country.



Partisans on the barricades during the battle for the liberation of Tirana (This photo was taken during the war, in November 1944).

THE MOST MEMORABLE DAY

November 29 is the most memorable day in the history of our people. This day is commemorated every year as the greatest national festivity. On November 29, 1944, we expelled by the fire of our arms the last soldier of the Nazi invaders. In Albania that day was hoisted triumphantly the banner of liberation.

The great victory of November 29, 1944, marked the successful end of the National-liberation War waged by our people under the guidance of the Communist Party against the Italian fascist and German Nazi invaders and the reactionary forces which had placed themselves openly or under cover under the service of the foreign invaders.

In 1912, following five hundred years of bondage under Ottoman occupation, the Albanian people regained their independence. But they did not fully enjoy this independence because the foreign enemy and internal reactionaries plunged them again under new oppression and enslavement. Under the adverse condition of Zog's monarchic regime, the Albanian people fought to safeguard their independence, fought for their democratic rights. But the aspirations of the broad masses of our people were fulfilled only on November 29, 1944, when the country was freed and our People's State Power was established. This put an end to fascist domination and did away with any dependence on the imperialist Powers, with every enslaving relations and transactions with these Powers. Albania detached itself once and for all time from the world capitalist system.

The National-liberation War kept to the end its anti-imperialist, democratic revolutionary character. But in it there developed also elements of the socialist revolution which were the premises of the further development of the country after liberation.

The principal driving force in the National-liberation War were the working class and the poor and medium peasantry. The petty and medium bourgeoisie of the city joined also our war. The working class led by the Communist Party, played the principal role of leadership in the war.

The great November 29 victory was brought about by the very self-abnegation and lofty heroism which the Albanian people demonstrated in the war. The National-liberation War manifested in all its strength the vitality of the people's masses in the political and military life of the country. The unity of the revolutionary patriotic forces was expressed in the broad participation of the masses in the armed struggle. On the eve of liberation the National-liberation Army numbered in its ranks about seventy thousand partisans of whom more than six thousand were women. The Albanian people, who during the war, numbered one million, nailed on the spot more than fifteen Italian and German army divisions. The National-liberation Army put out of action seventy thousand enemies-killed, wounded and captives. Albania offered to the National-liberation War and to the common cause of the peoples of the world, the anti-fascist war, the blood and life of twenty-eight thousand of its sons and daughters. The invaders burnt and ravaged whole districts like Peza, Kurvëleshi, Përmet and others, blew up bridges and plundered everything that could be plundered. But sacrifices, never wavered our people. They relied on their own efforts they had unshaken confidence in the leadership of the Communist Party of Albania and in the inevitable triumph over fascism. Thus, our people liberated the country relying on their own efforts and, after this two of our army divisions pursued the Nazi hordes in order to help free the peoples of Yugoslavia.

Today, after thirty-three years, our people celebrate November 29 with great achievements along completing the construction of socialist society, to their credit. With the Party of Labour of Albania headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha in the lead, they strive for the further prosperity of the country, for making it an indomitable stronghold of socialism.

INDEPENDENCE WON THROUGH STRUGGLE

G. CUKALI

65 years ago, the representatives of the entire Albanian people assembled in the city of Vlorë. On the 28th of November 1912, under the chairmanship of the great patriot Ismail Qemali, they proclaimed the independence of Albania, which put an end to the century-old domination of the Ottoman invaders.

The Turkish domination was a brutal one, which ruthlessly oppressed and exploited the people, it opened the road to the penetration of foreign capital and together with it the penetration of alien influences, thus for a long time, hindering the country from entering the road of social, economic and cultural development. The Turkish Sultans and the High Porte did not recognize our people any national rights and neither the most elementary right of writing in their mother tongue. By pursuing this policy, they exhibited the Albanian soil to the imperialist and chauvinist ambitions of the great powers of Europe and the Balkan states, as the events of the Orient crisis and later the Berlin Congress had shown and as it was shown still later by the Balkan War and the events following it.

Albania has just emerged from the war with the Ottoman regime. The successive uprisings which burst out during the years 1909-1911 and especially the general uprising of the year 1912 accelerated the process of the creation of the Albanian independent state. The Turks were unable to curb the great uprising of the Albanian people, which began in Kosova and extended throughout Albania. The High Porte was obliged to recognize the Albanians many demands. But these rights won through struggle could not be put into life. On the 8th of October 1912 the first Balkan War broke out. It turned into a predatory war against Albania and Macedonia, because it was waged under the leadership of the chauvinist ruling circles and on the instigation of the imperialist powers. Albanian territory was faced with the danger of the complete division among the neighbouring countries. These were the conditions under which the Vlorë convention gathered. This convention put an end to foreign domination. The first Albanian State was set up and the road was opened for its free and all-round development. The Albanian patriotic and revolutionary circles barred the road to the death-dealing danger of the complete division of the Albanian territory by the chauvinists of the Balkan, which were represented by the imperialist powers.

This struggle, kindled under the leadership of the national hero George Kastriot-Skanderbeg since the 15th century, never died out, but it entered a new phase with the beginning of the National Renaissance. The endless uprisings against the centralizing forces of Istanbul, the struggle for national rights and against the danger of division of the Albanian territory waged about 100 years ago under the leadership of the Albanian League of Prizren, the strengthening of the struggle for autonomy under the guidance of Peja League by the end of the last century, the struggle for the Albanian writing and for the national school, the organization of the Clandestine Committees and patriotic units at the beginning of this century, and finally the great popular uprisings of the years 1910-1912 are events which led to the November 28, 1912, the day of the proclamation of independence: But the fact that the Albanian people, unlike any other Balkan people, managed to overcome the religious division and was instigated by the occupiers and the other enemies, the mosque and the church, being it eastern or western, as well as the fact that they were obliged to fight arms in hand to protect their own national «abc», are clear evidence of these anti-historic claims.

Albania was a target of the imperialist ambitions of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and the Italian Empire as well as of the chauvinist aims of the monarchies of the Balkan, supported by Russian Czarism and British and French imperialism. It is for this reason that the Albanian national movement not only did not have any aid from abroad, but was obliged to fight simultaneously on two fronts, against the occupiers and against the danger of the division of the Albanian territory, which both at the Berlin Congress (1878) and at the London Conference (1913) was used as a means of bait to satisfy the greed of one or the other, to preserve the equilibrium between the imperialist wolves, when they deemed it necessary to do such a thing. The London imperialist decisions do not speak for the «creation» of the Albanian state, but, for the violation of its sovereignty (an international committee of control and a foreign prince were placed at the head of the Albanian state) and to dismember, or better say, to halve its territorial integrity. It is very obvious that the Albanians were obliged to pay dearly for the recognition by the big states of their independence.

Under these conditions, the sole possible allies of the Albanian people have been the oppressed peoples by the Ottoman Empire, including here the Turkish people themselves, who, not many years later were to rise in revolution to overthrow the Sultan and the kalifati. Because of the stand of the ruling circles of Balkan, a militant unity of these peoples was not reached at.

In these circumstances the Albanian people, had no other alternative but to fight alone without outside assistance, with heroism and unflinching confidence in their own forces, and to win independence.

LIBERATED PLAINS

Eng. ANASTAS KRISTO



These three photos have been taken of fields which were once swamp land. The first photo is a view of a part of the Maliq Plain (in the district of Korça), which today, is the most important region for the production of sugar-beet. The second shot shows a bumper crop of sunflower grown on the former swamp of Kakariq (The Lezha district); while the third photo shows the commencement of the harvest on the former swamp of Tërbuf in the district of Lushnja. Photos: V Koçi — S. Xhillari

Our country is one of the most mountainous in Europe. The plains are situated mainly in the western part of the country, in the river valleys, and some high plateaus. They make up onetenth of the total area.

Before the establishment of our People's State Power, the biggest part of the plains were swamps, while the remainder were subject to continual flooding from rivers, streams and local rains. These waters collected there because no drainage or other land protection work was done.

This deplorable state of our plains was also a permanent source of malaria from which most of the peasants of the lowlands suffered. The merciless exploitation by the landowners, who used to seize the bulk of the production, made the situation of the peasants even more grave.

Immediately after the establishment of the People's State Power, parallel with the application of the Land Reform, which expropriated the large state landholders and gave the land to the tiller, to the peasants, work began on a large scale for the improvement protection and drainage of the plains and swamps. By the end of 1965, over 38,000 hectares of new

land had been gained and over 120,000 hectares had been improved, by draining swamps.

One of the earlier land improvement projects was the draining of the Maliq swamp in south-eastern Albania. More than 5,500 hectares of very rich virgin land were gained and thousands of hectares of adjacent land were improved by the draining of these swamps. Where the swamp once extended, a powerful State Farm, on which bread grain, sugar-beet and forage crops for the livestock farms are grown, has been established.

The biggest drainage and irrigation project of our country is that of the Myzeqeja plain which extends westward to the Adriatic coast. Across it run several rivers, such as the Vjosa to the south, the Seman in the centre and the Shkumbin to the north. In this complex of land improvement schemes, which included the drainage of the swamps of Tërbuf, Hoxhara, Vlora, Myzeqeja, Roskovec, etc., more than 85,000 hectares of flat land were drained and protected, made arable, and put under irrigation, and 22,000 hectares of virgin land were gained. The source of malaria, too, was done away with once and for all. For the improvement of this land a dense network

of canals totalling thousands of kilometres in length, was built, and powerful electric pumping stations were built to pump the water from the most lying parts of the plains into the sea. Hundreds of kilometres of stop banks were built along the rivers Shkumbin, Seman and Vjosa to protect the plains from floods.

Before liberation no land protection and irrigation work was done in the other districts either, so that flooding by rivers and streams mean that agriculture was left to the mercy of nature. The peasants in the lowlying regions of Shkodra and Lezha suffered greatly, at that time, from flooding of the rivers Drin, Buna, Gjadër and Mat and from the streams pouring down the steep mountain faces. Today thousands of kilometres of drainage and irrigation canals have been opened in the Zadrima plains of the Lezha district and in the plains of lower Shkodra. All kinds of crops are grown in these plains. Wheat, sunflower and rice occupy the biggest area.

Further south lie the plains of Bregu Mat and Thumana, divided by the Mat river. They cover an area of 13,000 hectares. Nearly one-third of this area was a permanent swamp.

(Con. on page 8)



(con. from page 6)

Today these swamps have disappeared altogether. To remove the waters, in addition to other work done, two powerful electric pumping stations have been built.

In the Saranda district the Vurgu and Vrina plains used to be in a very bad way. They were flooded by the Bistrica, Kalasa and Pavël rivers. In these plains maize, wheat, sunflower, rice and potatoes are grown and extensive plantations of citrus fruits and olive trees have been established. The rivers that did the damage have been put into new courses and have become useful. A very extensive network of drainage and irrigation canals runs through these plains.

Land improvement schemes have been built not only in the wider plains but also in minor ones and inland valleys. A few years ago the Kakariqi lagoon extended between two ranges of rock hills in the Lezha district. Draining this lagoon yielded 2,400 hectares of new land covered with a thick layer of peat. This valley is 22 km long and from 0.8 to 1.2 kilometres wide. Land improvement and protection work has been carried on in the Dropull and Gjirokastra valleys also and more than 5,500 hectares of land have been gained. The big Dofti reservoir provides ample water for the irrigation of these plains.

On those lands which have been reclaimed from the sea and contain salts harmful to agricultural crops agrotechnical and hydrotechnical measures have been and are being taken in order to turn them, too, into highly productive land. Some thousands of hectares of these saline lands, in Durrës, Thumana and Myzeqeja, have been turned into fertile land.

As a result of these great efforts all the swamps in Albania have been drained, and from this more than 50,000 hectares of virgin land have been gained and more than 220,000 hectares have been improved.

Today, nearly all the plains of Albania have been put under irrigation, by utilizing the rivers. Apart from this, reservoirs have been built, which collect rain water or are filled by rivers and streams during the winter. The lower Shkodra, Zadrima, and Thumana plains, which together total more than 35,000 hectares, are watered by the Drin and Mat rivers. The upper Shkodra plain of 13,000 hectares, is watered by a system of reservoirs and pumping stations. The whole Korça plain, 700 metres above sea level, of about 30,000 hectares, is watered by the Devoll river, various streams and the Gjamçi reservoir built among mountains and fed by mountain streams. This reservoir irrigates about 8,000 hectares. One of the irrigation schemes of Myzeqeja is the big Thana reservoir which has put more than 40,000 hectares of land under irrigation. It is filled by the Devoll river in winter and utilized in summer.

The State has invested large sums, amounting to billions of leks, for land improvement and irrigation schemes. These investments have steadily increased from one five-year plan to another. The workers of the whole country have taken part in building these projects.

Thanks to the measures that have been taken for drainage, irrigation, mechanization, the use of fertilizers and selected seed, today, the yield per hectare of bread grains is from 5 to 6 times higher than before liberation.

In addition to all this, many important projects are being carried out to irrigate the hilly and mountainous zones, but we shall tell you about these in future issues of our magazine.

A view from above of the beautiful fields of Thumana which were once marshland.

Rice paddies along the banks of the Mat River in the district of Lezha. Photos: Niko Khufka

Sowing the desalted land in the district of Durrës.

Irrigation canal on the Lezha Plains.



Before the People's State Power was established, the greatest part of our fields were marshes, while the other part always covered by the waters of the flooding rivers. The miserable condition of our fields was a permanent source of diseases too.

Right after the establishment of the State Power, extensive work for the improvement, reclamation and draining of the fields and marshes began. At the end of the year 1965, more than 30,000 hectares of land were profited and 120,000 other hectares were improved. The biggest reclamation, draining and irrigation project of our country is that of Myzeqeja field.



VAST OLIVE PLANTATIONS

BESIM OSMANI
TASO NINI



Views of the olive plantations in the districts of Vlora and Saranda.

Our country is situated between 39° and 43° latitude and between 19° and 22° East of Greenwich.

Being in such a geographical position, Albania has been one of the most ancient centres of olive cultivation in the Mediterranean basin. Testimony of this is the wide range of wild and cultivated olive trees. The varieties of olives which are used for oil and conservation are of local origin and do not resemble those of the neighbouring countries. Amidst the vast plantations and those set up by the people, one can find olive trees of an ancient age and even over 1000-1500 years. Such exemplars can be found in Tirana, Berat, Vlora, etc.

Our people have known the technique of olive growing very well and have implemented it at a high level in order to build vast olive plantations near the cities of Vlora, Berat,

Kruja and Elbasan. Referring to the documents of geographers and scholars, the cultivation of olive trees in our country goes down to the 3rd-4th centuries before our era. Archaeological data provide testimony for ancienty of olives in our coastal regions. At the time of Scanderbeg (15th century) an interesting custom was established, according to which every new couple, before getting married would plant several olive trees.

Olives are cultivated in 15 districts of our country, but those which are distinguished for big quantities are: Saranda, Vlora, Fier, Berat, Lushnja, Durrës, Elbasan, Tirana and Kruja. It has already become a custom to call these regions the oil forests.

From the pre-Liberation period we inherited some olive groves scattered out in private properties. These were nationalized and on this basis the state olive farms were created.

After the collectivization of agriculture in the countryside, the olive trees became the property of the agricultural cooperatives.

Within the framework of the development of our socialist agriculture, an important place was given to the increase of the number of olive trees. To produce the necessary saplings, three big nurseries were set up in Elbasan, Berat, and Vlora in which millions of saplings have been produced. The majority of the hills of the olive regions are covered with olive trees. In place of the unnecessary bushes and trees, the olive trees are blooming giving and entirely new site to the landscape, a view that is a living monument of our construction work. Compared with 1938, the olive production has increased 3.3 times. During three decades a lot more has been done than during many centuries. Today two districts taken together, Berat and Fier, produce more olives than the entire



Albania is one of the most ancient centres of the cultivation of olives in the area of the Mediterranean. In the groves, olive trees which are more than 1,000 to 1,500 years old can be found. During the years of the people's state power the growing of olives was developed a great deal. In comparison with 1938, at present, the production of olives has risen 3,3 times. Today, the districts of Berat and Fier taken together, alone, have more olive trees than there were in the whole of Albania in 1938. At the end of the 6th five-year plan, (1976-1980), the production of olives will have risen 50 per cent more than the average output of the previous five-year plan.



The worker Qanle Xhepa who works at the Agricultural Enterprise in Vlora, together with her comrades of the brigade are fighting for an abundant and successful olive picking.

country in 1938. In some districts such as Lushnja, compared with the year 1938, the olive production has increased more than 11 times, in Saranda, more than 6 times etc. In the agricultural cooperatives and farms, vast plantations of olives has been planted amounting to 100,000 trees, without affecting the area of arable land. The olive trees have been planted in systematized terraced blocks. The massif of the Lukova and Jonufër hills, in Saranda and Vlora, where the terraces stretch over an entire massif, turning it into a gigantic amphitheatre ever green on the coast of the blue Adriatic and Ionian Sea, are well known.

Beside the great increase of the olives, the number of specialists and qualified workers has also grown, the use of advanced and scientific agro-technical measures has increased, the use of organic and mineral fertilizers, pesticides for the protection from pests, etc. has extended.

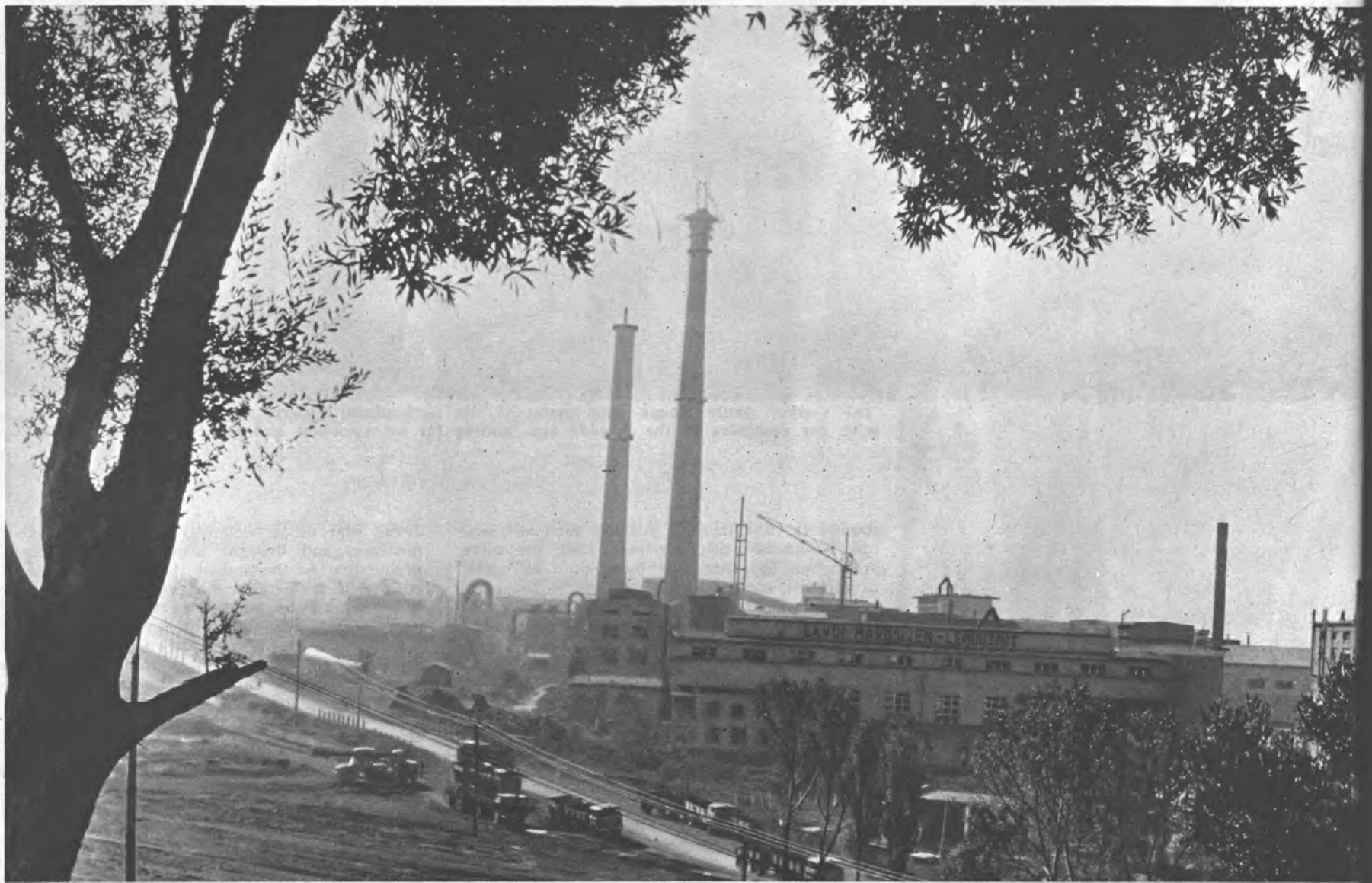
These and other technical and organizational measures had brought about the increase of production. At the end of this five-year planned period (1976-1980) the production of olives will increase by 50 per cent more than the average realized during the previous five-year plan.

Alongside the increase of production, a modern industry of oil extraction and the lines of processing and bottling was set up. This industry is capable of coping with the processing of the olives in time.

The Government has taken special decisions to protect, increase and cultivate this valuable natural asset. For the economies that have it, the olive is a fundamental means of production and no one has the right to damage it. To express their evaluation for it, the people have the saying: «Who plants an olive, gains a treasure».



Our country is rich in oil. The oil workers from the ordinary worker to scientific worker and





leading cadres are striving to find new resources of oil for the Homeland and to raise output.

Photos: N. Khufka

THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE NON-FERROUS METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY

During this five-year plan new branches are being added to the existing processing industry which enable the home processing of many raw materials and create the base necessary for the further development of different branches of industry. At the present rate of the development of the processing industry by 1980 65 per cent of the volume of exports will be made up of goods processed at home.

Besides other things, our country is rich in copper ore, which to date has been processed at the plants in Kukës and Rubik. This aim will also be served by the new pyro-metallurgical factory for copper which is going up near the superphosphate plant in the new town of Laç (the Kruja district).

This factory has been set up on the basis of advanced technology. It will not only process the copper ore and concentrate but will also carry out a complex utilization of the raw material.

The products of this factory will impart a further impulse to the development in our country of the non-ferrous metallurgical industry, the processing of copper products, the chemical industry etc.

The results achieved so far in the strengthening of the metallurgical industry constitute an important political and economic victory of socialist Albania.

These two photographs have been taken during the work on the construction of the new copper pyrometallurgical plant.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE LIGHT AND FOOD-PROCESSING INDUSTRY

On November 25-26, the 7th session of the 8th legislature of the People's Assembly, the highest state organ of our country, held its proceedings in Tirana. The main point in the agenda was the report of the Council of Ministers, «On the work done and the tasks facing the economic and state organs for the further development of the light and food-processing industry, to carry out the decisions of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania». The report on this question was delivered on behalf of the Council of Ministers, by comrade Kristaq Dollaku, Minister of Light and Food-processing Industry. We are publishing here some parts from the report, where the most important successes achieved by the working people in the field of the light and food-processing industry and the coming tasks facing them, are reflected.

Basing ourselves in the fundamental economic law of socialism, as well as in the proportional and planned development of the economy, besides the development with priority of the industry of the production of the means of production, the PLA has devoted special care to the development of the light and food-processing industry.

During the years of the people's state power, and especially after the year 1960, opposing the hostile activities and the blockade of the Soviet revisionists, the mass consumer industry assumed vigorous development. In 1975, as against 1938, Albania's population increased 2.3 times, while the production of mass consumer goods increased 80 times, the national income 11 times and retail goods turnover 13 times. These figures clearly testify to the vigorous development of industry in particular and our socialist economy in general.

The light and food processing industry grew and developed further during the 5th Five-year Plan. Through intensive exploitation of the existing productive capacities and the creation of new capacities, the textile and knitwear industry extended further, the specialization of the production of clothing was carried out, new footwear factories were set up, the productive capacity of the electric house hold equipment industry grew further. New flour, macaroni, milk, canned products, edible and industrial oil and other factories were put into operation.

As a result of the increase of the productive capacity of the light and food-processing industry, the volume of industrial articles and foodstuffs, of mass consumption for export, also increased during the last five-year plan. The value of exports of this branch of the people's economy in 1975, as against 1970, has doubled.

During this five-year plan, the productive capacity of the light and food processing industry will rise 25 per cent, while the production of some main articles will increase respectively: sugar, 80 per cent, edible oils 82.5 per cent, footwear 34 per cent, knitwear 30 per cent, ready-made clothing 20 per cent.

The results attained in 1976, the mobilization and struggle of the working people of the light and food-processing industry to carry out the tasks of the 1977 Plan, show that there has been a further growth of production, a rise in quality, range of assortments, and economic financial indices in all the branches of the economy. Work is going on for the assessment of agricultural raw materials, selection of the most suitable varieties, and kinds for industrialization, the working out of the most profitable roads of their processing, in order to produce valuable articles for mass consumption or to replace the raw materials we import. Studies have been carried out for the recognition and technological assessment of various

varieties of wheat, maize, tobacco and various species, the spontaneous and cultivated industrial flora of the country, the production processing and stability of alcoholic beverages; optima methods have been applied for the raising of various kinds of fish, in sweet waters, new receipts have been ensured as to the production of rubber, textiles, the processing of thick leathers, coalfed breadovens in substitute of solar have been projected and produced.

Work to study, perfect and extend cooperation assumes special importance for the raising of the scientific level of production.

* * *

The food-processing industry has solved the problem of oil processing, the production of concentrated soups; measures have been taken for the improvement of technological processes in the production of bread and macaroni, dried vegetables, tomato paste, some kinds of toilet soaps, alcoholic beverages and food for children.

However, the consumers and the trade organs have remarks as regards quality and assortment of industrial products and food-stuff, as well as for the packaging and labelling.

Great care is required for the professional education of the workers, specialists, cadres of medium and higher training, which constitutes an important factor for the improvement of the quality and the increase of assortments. The establishment of the cultural and professional qualification of the working people, their broad participation in the system of educational and professional qualification of the workers. During this school-year, about 35 thousand workers attend school and part-time courses, out of whom 15,000 attend one-year qualification courses. Now, 54 per cent of the working people of the light and food processing industry have full eight-year education, 13 per cent secondary professional and general education, and 2 per cent higher education, while 31 per cent do not have complete eight-year education. The level of the workers' qualification, especially of the electricians, mechanics and textile workers, has also risen.

It is necessary that the Ministry of Light and Food Processing Industry, the Ministry of Industry and Mining and the Executive Committees of the people's councils of the respective districts take immediate measures to improve packaging, labelling and stamping of mass consumer goods in order to respond to the demands of socialist culture.

Actually, 80 per cent of the raw materials which the light and food processing industry uses are ensured locally and mainly from agriculture. Great and praise-worthy work is

being done by the working people of agriculture to increase agricultural and livestock products, and especially to produce bread grain. But under the present conditions, alongside with the increase of quantity of agricultural products and livestock ones, their planned handling in and the improvement of the quality, especially of the industrial crops such as cotton, tobacco sunflower etc., is demanded.

An important place for the present and future development of the light and food processing industry belongs to the scientific research work.

To this end, the Institute of Industrial research work, the Scientific Station of Fish research, technical and technological bureaus and laboratories attached to the enterprises, are set up and operating. They have at their disposal a powerful material-technical base which has constantly been strengthened and increased. Hundreds are the highly and middle qualified specialists and qualified vanguard workers, who are engaged in an ever more extensive scientific activity in the service of production. This work is programmed from the grass roots to the top. Its task is the study and rational exploitation of the raw materials of the country.

* * *

As comrade Enver Hoxha has said at the 7th Congress of the PLA, «achieving self-sufficiency in bread grain is a task of great economic, political and strategic importance. Home production of grain ensures the people's bread, imparts a powerful impulse to the entire economy and is a guarantee that we shall be able to cope with any situation, in good times and bad».

Alongside with the measures the Party has taken to increase agricultural and livestock products, special care has been shown to increase and extend the material-technical base of the store sector. By the end of this year, as against 1960, the store capacity of grain and other agricultural products will rise four times, that of the refrigerators has increased 80 times, the colour industry about 4 times. The volume of storing for the same period has increased respectively: bread grain 12 times, rise 5.5 times, beans 4.3 times, meat 2 times, milk 3.7 times, tobacco 1.6 times, cotton 1.7 times, sugar-beet 2.7 times, vegetables 3 times etc.

The food-processing industry has also increased its capacities to gather without losses and to process the agricultural raw materials in time. The fruit and vegetable processing industry has extended to all the districts of the country. Having ensured such a technical base, 2 times more fruits and vegetables can be dried and processed for preserving, than in 1970.

A LIVING EXAMPLE

M. ROQUE LAIA - Portugal

When I set out for Albania, I was confident I was going to visit a real socialist country and not a so-called «socialist» one. In spite of all that, what I saw during my stay was beyond any comparison with what I had learned through books or conversations with comrades who had visited Albania.

The successes that Albania has attained in so short a period, among others, like the new buildings upon the ruins left by the nazi fascist occupiers, amaze the visitors and, at the same time, justify the pride of the noble Albanian people.

The successes achieved in the sectors of agriculture, industry, art and the education of the youth, are clear evidence of the determination of the Albanian people in the construction of their socialist country. In Albania the will and desires of the entire people are expressed in collective work to the benefit of the collective, without overlooking the personality of man, without turning the individual into a simple tool.

The frank and fraternal approach of the Albanian, his unrivalled hospitality, make friends feel at home here.

To see Albania, to see its fields, to visit the plants, museums, art galleries, to

listen to what is said about its wars for liberation or to attend a performance, means to receive a vivid lesson, an unforgettable lesson, means to understand what a people can do when they are determined in their will and desires, when they are guided by a Party which has known how to choose the right course, which has known how to march on the reliable road.

I am leaving Albania both poorer and richer. I say poorer because it is impossible to become acquainted with Albania and not love its people and heroes, and, since «to love» means to give the feelings of warmth and affection, I am departing, leaving here my heart filled with love, gratitude, admiration and devotion. I say richer, because, during this visit all my doubts about the achievements of socialist society were eliminated. Now I am richer in my revolutionary determination, knowing that if one follows a reliable course without deviation and concessions, according to the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, one can build genuine socialism as in Albania, which has become a living example, explicit and convincing, for the people of the entire world.

A LETTER TO THE ALBANIAN YOUTH

Dear young comrades,

When I set out for Albania in 1974, for the first time, I did not imagine that such conditions which would link me so closely with your country, would be created. Very soon I was captivated by the beauty of the landscape, by the friendly reception my pupils and I received everywhere from the social and economic organs of your noble country. But my first direct contact with the university and school youth of Albania was something quite unexpected for me.

From that time on, I have had the chance to come to Albania every year. Recently, especially favourable circumstances have allowed me to become more deeply acquainted with the wonderful, healthy Albanian youth.

I address this brief greeting to all; however, each of you, individually, will find there the expression of my friendship and admiration. Comrade Enver has said that life itself is a school. Your work and attitude are the best proof of this.

What I admired in you, dear young comrades, is your zeal and the spirit of collectivity which ensure your class dynamism, the fiery spirit of patriotism and the maturity, which, despite your youth, make you «conscious socialists». I also admire your youthful enthusiasm, your spirit of discipline, persistence and the high morale,

without which nothing of lasting worth can be created.

Dear young Albanians, so lively, so dynamic, so simple and at the same time so stud'ous, resolute and consciously revolutionary, not only the future of your country but also the hopes of those who have confidence in your spiritual force, your creative spirit and example, are based on you.

I can't help expressing my admiration for your teachers and parents, too, who, through tireless work, are developing the creative abilities, necessary for the education of the new man, so splendidly.

In a world which is disintegrating and in the hands of dark forces of selfishness, indifference and profit, in a gloomy world, where all sorts of violence resulting from social and cultural inequality burst out, you stand like the beacon that lights us on our way and gives us heart and you must never forget that we rely on your fraternal friendship and you can be absolutely sure of our friendship.

ROSEMARIE MOULIN

Professor at the Experimental Lyceum of Montgeron, in charge of the UNESCO Club, Member of the Presidium of the France-Albania Friendship Association.

IN 1975 AS AGAINST 1938, THE POPULATION OF OUR COUNTRY INCREASED 2.3 TIMES, WHILE THE OUTPUT OF MASS CONSUMPTION GOODS INCREASED 80 TIMES, THE NATIONAL INCOME - 11 TIMES AND THE TURNOVER OF RETAIL GOODS - 13 TIMES.

BY THE END OF 1977 THE DEPOSITING POTENTIAL OF BREADGRAIN AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL INCREASE FOUR TIMES AS AGAINST 1960, THE DEPOSITING POTENTIAL AND PRESERVATION IN REFRIGERATORS HAS RISEN 80 TIMES, THE GRINDING INDUSTRY HAS INCREASED 4 TIMES. DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE VOLUME OF ACCUMULATION HAS RISEN AS FOLLOWS: IN BREADGRAIN 12 TIMES, RICE 5.5 TIMES, BEANS 4.3 TIMES, MEAT 2 TIMES, MILK 3.7 TIMES, TOBACCO 1,6 TIMES, COTTON 1.7 TIMES, SUGARBEET 2.7 TIMES, VEGETABLES 3 TIMES AND SOON. AS AGAINST 1970, THE VALUE OF THE EXPORT OF PRODUCTS OF THE LIGHT AND FOOD INDUSTRY IN 1975 HAD DOUBLED.

THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE LIGHT AND FOOD INDUSTRY DURING THE 6th FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976-1980) WILL RISE 25 PER CENT.

INEXHAUSTIBLE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

DALAN SHAPLLO, Editor-in-chief of the «Nëntori» review

Every October when the beautiful Albanian Autumn steps in, prosperous and dappled with its colours, the month of Albanian Literature and Art is held. This has become now a traditional and popular festivity, at which the working masses and the readers and spectators are looking forward with great joy. This month is not only of a festive character, but it is also an important action, during which the creators enter a long and fruitful conversation with the many readers and all art-lovers of our country.

The month of Literature and Art is organized by the League of Artists and Writers and other mass organizations, such as the Trade Union and the Youth organizations, etc. This

expresses the orientation of literature and art in our country to be linked with the people: this orientation stems from the very nature of the art of socialist realism, which is permeated from top to bottom by the socialist and popular character. Sure the realization of this fundamental principle is not and cannot be the work of only one month; this month sees a more intensive work, but the contact is permanent. Without these continuous ties, the artists would depart from the national character and would not be able to test their works, which are written for the people. All these stem from the main objectives of the present-day Albanian art: to reflect life viewed with a revolutionary eye, to be realist and

express the communist ideals, to have a great mission, that of serving the people in their work and life. This practice will be strange to the representatives of the formal art, the present subjective trends, because their label is the shutting in one's own shell, the creation of «self-satisfaction», which regard the direct ties with the people and the drawing of their opinion as something unnecessary. Although no creator, of whatever trend, cannot be indifferent to the public opinion, this tendency of the formalists and subjectivists is nothing else but an expression of individualism, a desperate «protest» or hypocrisy which conceals the real ties they have with the bourgeoisie whom they are servants of.

The many meetings of the creators with the masses are very lively and exciting. They are attended by a great number of people such as workers, peasants, pupils and students, army men and intellectuals. Usually, they are not of academic nature; they are brief discussions about the achievements of art and the problems facing art and the talk proceeds then in the form of asking and answering to questions. During the discussions, many participants present their thoughts and desires. It occurs very often that in these meetings, groups of writers, painters, composers and interpreters take part. All kinds of questions are put. What are the readers interested in? They are interested in many things: from problems of the theoretical struggle for the confirmation of the principles of socialist realism, of the opposing ideo-aesthetic viewpoints existing today in the world, to concrete works and the future plans of the authors. Those present at these meetings ask for the current progressive tendencies of art in the world and for current manifestations of the modernist, and re-

«THE MEMORY OF THE PEOPLE'S ARTIST»



Tefta Tashko-Koço, second from left, after a concert of Albanian folk music.

Tefta Tashko-Koço is one of those Albanian artists who were the initiators of the organization of concerts in our country, during the 30-ies of this century. Through her talent and artistic abilities, she strived with might and main to serve the people and the Homeland in difficult times, when the feudó-bourgeois regime of King Zog ruled, which was followed by the foreign Italian-German occupation.

Unfortunately she lived a short life, dying at the end of December 1947, at the age of 37. But she made continuous and determined efforts to develop her talent and technical-professional abilities in order to place them in the service of her people.

Tefta Tashko studied in Paris, at the National Conservatory. There, she had soon won the love and respect of the teachers for her drive,

intelligence, talent and persistent tireless work to learn the culture and technique of singing. The well-known French composer, Maurice Ravel, described the artist-student «no only as a good singer, but a good musician too». Tefta made her debut in the role of Violeta in the opera «Traviata» and especially in the leading role of the opera «Madam Butterfly» with which she sat for her diploma. The newspapers of the time brought to notice the talent of the young Albanian artist and wrote about her interpretations with great reality. Later on she sang in the opera «The Fishermen of Pearls» by Bizet and interpreted works of Chopin. Tefta Tashko-Koço also distinguished herself in the operas «The Barber of Seville», «La Boheme» and «Traviata».

In 1936 she returned to the Homeland and

carried out a broad activity with her concerts.

Tefta was totally aware of the mission and responsibility of the artist, hence, through her voice she aimed, first and foremost, at raising the broad masses of the people. Thus, in all the concerts she has given both inside and outside of the Homeland, she has presented herself a well and carefully prepared artist. Alongside with the parts chosen from the world repertoire, our soprano did not fail to give concerts of Albanian folk songs, which she paid great attention to and sung whole-heartedly. This was an expression of the firm stand and national conscience during those historic circumstances our country was passing through, at a time when the foreigners and their servants supported the spread of Italian songs

visionist art. In this way, the pupils and students enrich further the knowledge they have gained at school. It happens that the question they put to author is the result of a long discussion of the students or pupils, but now the author is amidst them and they may ask what was his intention in creating that personage, etc. Emotional are the cases when the composer or singer being among them, starts his song first and the other follow him. The song goes ahead, their faces are happy. The pupil will grow up but this event in his birth-place will be unforgettable for him.

The scope of interests is very broad. The days of the month of literature and art impart vividness to the whole country. The offices of the League of Artists and Writers are continuously visited by different people who want to take part in meetings with the artists. And the creators go everywhere, especially in the most remote regions and villages, work centres where the drive of socialist construction is on the boil.

After these meetings the creators draw many lessons for their coming work; they better understand what work is best liked by the readers and what do they need more; where the shortcomings are and how must they be fought and avoided, etc.

The continuous talks of the creators with the masses are indispensable for the revolutionary art. This is the implementation of the Leninist principle that «art belongs to the people», it is the implementation of the Marxist-Leninist orientation of our Party and comrade Enver Hoxha, that the artists should find inspiration always among the masses, so that the hearts of the artists and writers beat with the rhythm of the hearts of the people.

ALBANIAN FIGURATIVE ARTS IN ALGERIA

JORGJI GJIKOPULLI
KSENOFON KOSTAQI

The exhibition of figurative arts which opened recently in two cities of Algeria — in Algiers and Constandino was a beautiful manifestation for the Algerian public of the creativeness of the Albanian painters, graphic artists and sculptors. This exhibition was visited by many Algerian art-lovers, foreign tourists, friends and other well wishers of our country. Everybody expressed the warmest words for the Albanian artists. The central newspaper, «El Monxhahid» published an announcement on the opening of the exhibition in which it stressed that «never has an exhibition like this one of the Albanian painters and sculptors ever been opened in Algeria.» Many of the visitors also said the same thing. «Art in your country», they said, «is an encouraging reflection, and this is how the function of art should be; it emanates from the people and belongs to them, it advances together with the people, resolutely traversing the road towards a brilliant future».

Our exhibition stayed opened for two months running at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Algiers. Why did it prove so popular? First of all because of its profoundly revolutionary character. One visitor said to us that Albania is a small country, but at the same time it is also a great country if we bear in mind the principles it defends. One day, after the inauguration of the exhibition we found a red rose placed on the wooden sculpture of a highlander by the Merited Sculptor, Kristaq Rama. This was a very significant gesture.

The works at the exhibition were liked by both the intellectuals and the ordinary working people because they are communicative and imbued with profound realism. Through different artistic means of expression, the Algerian visitors and the foreigners learnt about life in our country. The visitors were drawn by the clarity of expression of the artists and the fact that every work had its own emotional force.

In Algeria we felt that feeling of pride which every one of us would feel if he saw how our art stands pure, powerful, far from the empty complications of abstract art. At the centre of our creativeness is our new man, the hero of our days, the builder of the socialist society. In the unity of content with form we see characters and types engraved with realistic truthfulness who have a great generalizing force.

«It is a beautiful exhibition of paint-

ings and sculptures, which present magnificent images of courage and natural impressions», writes one visitor in the Impressions Book. Another one continues, «It was a great joy for me to have had the opportunity to see the true image of a revolutionary». There were many enthusiastic words about art, but here we will only mention a few. This is what one youth wrote, «As a young Algerian and a friend of socialist Albania, I was rejoiced over this exhibition opened in Algiers, through which I learnt about the revolutionary spirit of the Albanian artists. Through the paintings and sculptures exhibited here I learnt a great deal about the history of Albania, on its struggle against fascism and the present-day struggle being waged for the construction of socialist Albania. I hope that the Albanian people, with the PLA and comrade Enver Hoxha at the head will continue on the course it has chosen».

The newspaper, «El Muxhahid», apart from the announcement on the opening of the exhibition, also published an article entitled, «Respect for the Truth», in which among other things it says that this exhibition contains works of great emotional force, a wide range of talents, and a simple language, which makes the works understandable to the majority».

The newspaper, «Algerie Actualite» published a long article entitled, «A Flexible Beauty and Force of Expression». After describing our exhibition as a model for art of socialist realism, the article continues, «It is false to think that the works of socialist realism are void of ardent feelings, that they are cold. On the contrary, their style moves you with its warmth and humanism, with its sweetness or strength, as well as with its profound feelings which it arouses in your heart. In the major part of the works, if not in all of them, the flexible beauty of this art astonishes us...» After quoting several of our artists and their works, the writer of the article says that amongst the works displayed there are many others which are just as valuable, but we regret that we can not quote all of them. Portraits of national heroes and other militants of the battles, the people at work and in days of festivity, the industrial realizations, cultural and sports activities, etc, are inexhaustible themes which inspire the Albanian paintings, have something magnificent and lyrical, simple and attractive».

Our people were greatly rejoiced to hear national songs sung with passion by their artist and approved them by continuous applause. This was the success, the best and kind reward for our artist.

It oftently happens that the activity of the artists is limited by the conditions and circumstances in which they live and work. Thus, though an opera singer, during the years 1935-1944, Tefta Tashko-Koço was compelled to engage in concert activities under very difficult conditions. A few cases were given to her to debute in opera-title roles abroad such as in the opera «Traviata», «Bohema» etc., but she interpreted all these roles excellently. During the first post-Liberation years, beside the concerts she gave in various districts of the country and the radio broadcasts, Tefta Tashko worked for some time as a teacher of canto at the Tirana artistic lyceum.

Though her unexpected death stopped her artistic activity at her best, Tefta laid the splendid example of an experienced and talented artist. Once, when the gramophone and the other recording means were not invented, the artistic skill of the singers died out together with their voice and life. But we have the voice of our Tefta in a series of records. Though from that time on, the quality of recording apparatuses have greatly advanced, the repertoire that Tefta recorded is not only a precious souvenir to us, but at the same time, it continues to be a brilliant example for the coming generations of singers.

Our people nurture a special honour for the soprano Tefta Tashko-Koço. Evaluating her work and merits as a pioneer of vocal art in our country, the Presidium of the People's Assembly awarded Tefta, after death, with the highest title, «People's Artist». Likewise, in honour of her memory, the musical school of the city of Korça, as well as one of the streets of our capital, are named after her.

R. S.



Anton Lakuriqi
«RETURNING FROM WORK», 187x170 cm, oil.



Sali Shijaku
«THE COOPERATIVIST FROM DIVJAKA», 50x50 cm, oil.

Stavri Çati
«THE PLANTING
OF CUBES OF MAIZE»
170x110 cm, oil.

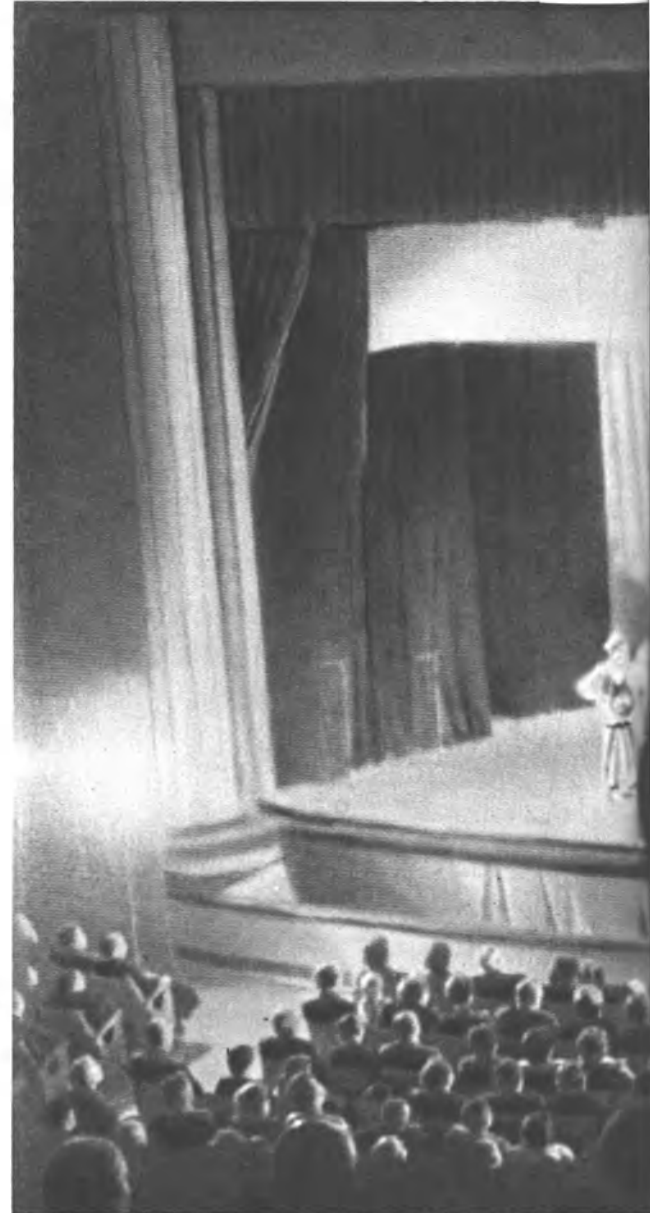


Sotir Capo
«THE PARTY PRESS»
160x135 cm, oil.





Performances
by our Ensemble
in the cities
of Patra and Janina.
Fotos: L. Konomi



THE ALBANIAN STATE ENSEMBLE OF FOLKSONGS AND DANCES TOURING GREECE

JORGO MELICA, Head of the Ensemble of Folk Songs and Dances which visited Greece

During September the Albanian State Ensemble of Folk Songs and Dances made a tour to Greece. This tour met with great success in acquainting the Greek public with the art and culture of our people and in strengthening the ties of friendship between our two neighbouring peoples.

The Ensemble gave performances in seven cities. In a number of cities there were given two concerts. About 11,000 spectators attended the concerts of our Ensemble in the cities of Janina, Nafaktos, Patras, Athens, Lamia, Larissa and Thessalonica. It met with warm and magnanimous reception wherever it came.

The visit of our State Ensemble of Folk Songs and Dances to Greece took place a little after the tour in Albania by the Greek «Marinella» Artistic Group whose performances were warmly applauded by our public.

The Albanians and Greeks are two ancient people who have fought for freedom and independence against the same enemy. And the wars and struggle of the two peoples are reflected in their artistic productions. It is this why these productions are understood and liked in both countries.

During the tour of the Ensemble we noticed that the Greek people nurture towards the Albanian people the same sentiments of friendship that the Albanian people nurture towards the Greek people. Everywhere the spectators hailed our songs and dances enthusiastically giving cheers for the Albanian people and comrade Enver Hoxha.

The warm sentiments of the Greek people towards our people and their desire to live as good neighbours were met with everywhere both during the performances of the Ensemble as well as in free conversations with the rank and file and in the receptions given by the local authorities.

The Greek press wrote a great deal about the performances of our Ensemble. The Athens «Vradhini» newspaper considered this tour as «triumphant» while the Larissa «Elefteria» called our Ensemble one of world fame. The Athens «Kathimerini» newspaper wrote: «The success of the Albanian Ensemble must be

looked for at its typical artistic sense and line based on folk traditions both in dances and melodies as well as in the costumes of the dancers.»

The program of the Ensemble was very much to their liking.

«The Albanian dances» the Larissa «Elefteria», newspaper wrote, «are a living expression of optimism and joy of the people for the achievements they have attained in building their own country. Many old features of Albanian folklore have now assumed a new content which represents reality and brings to light the progress which has been achieved in all the spheres of life in Albania». Ex-Premier, Mr. Anastasiades Novas who followed our concerts with interest and who invited us for a visit to his home, speaking about the history of the Albanian people, said that the Albanians are the descendants of the Illyrians and that present day Albania enjoys its full sovereignty. He said also that the Albanians cherish freedom and independence, that, is why their songs and dances are dedicated to them.

During their sojourn in Greece the members of the Ensemble visited monuments of culture like the Acropolis and many other curiosities. They admired the ancient culture and the marvellous achievements of the Greek people.

The mayors of Janina, Larissa, Thessalonica and other cities rendered their contribution to organizing the performances of the Ensemble and, together with other personalities, attended the concerts and said warm words about the Ensemble and our art.

The success which our folk songs and dances scored in Greece testify to the fact that Albania and the struggle of its people for freedom, independence and the construction of socialism under the leadership of the Party headed by comrade Enver Hoxha are known and highly assessed by other peoples; its shows, at the same time, that socialist Albania is not isolated but has friends and wellwishers in the world who want to see it prosper and wish to be acquainted with its progress, with its culture and marvellous art.



ALBANIAN ARTISTS GIVE PERFORM- ANCES IN AUSTRIA

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Austria-Albania friendship Association, and upon the invitation of this Association, an Albanian artistic group went in Austria during the first days of November 1977.

During its stay there, the artistic group gave performances in three cities of Austria — in Vienna, Graz and Linz. These concerts were given within the framework of activities the Austria-Albania friendship Association organized in these cities.

The first concert was given in the city of Linz. The Albanian cartoon and caricature exhibition was also opened in that city. One day later, on November 4, the branches of the friendship Association in the cities of Graz, Land and Steiermark, organized a festive evening party dedicated to Albania. On this occasion, the Albanian artistic group gave its concert.

The artistic group gave on November 5 its last performance in the «Parhane» palace, in Vienna, with 600 people taking part. After the meeting which was held here and closed the activities of the Austria-Albania friendship Association on the occasion of its creation, the artistic group of our country gave a rich concert.

The three concerts given by our artistic group in Linz, Graz and Vienna were kindly received by those present. All the songs and melodies interpreted by our artists were liked and applauded. The song «Keep high the banners of the Congress» was a great success.

The songs «Enver came to the mountains», «Gjirokastra, on a mountain slope», «Letter to Enver», «Song dedicated to Shote Galica», «The red times of the Commissars» as well as the folk melody for violin played by Çerçiz Mehmeti, etc., were also liked very much.

The Albanian songs and melodies, as well as all the activities organized to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Austria-Albania friendship Association, served the Austrian public better know our art and the friendship between our two peoples strengthen.

It would be difficult to find another triangle like this which includes as many people and with as great a social extent and importance. Pupil, teacher, parent means almost the entire society. Thus the relations between them also constitute a field of many delicate problems, which always demand special care. Who is the parent who is not filled with pride when he sees his child is studying well? But then, the worry is not small when the opposite occurs either. What must the parent do in this case? Between the parents and the children, is the teacher. Which pupil, together with his earliest memories does not remember his teacher with a feeling of respect? What pride the teacher feels when he says with great pleasure: «He used to be one of my pupils».

But regardless of all this, at the the centre of this triangle are the pupils who always carry

neral in our country and of relations between teachers' parents and pupils in particular. Therefore, this time, dear readers, in this article we will introduce you to only one of the 8 year schools in Tirana, the «20th anniversary of the Liberation» school. Everything in our country is linked with the great event — the day of the liberation of the Homeland from the fascist occupiers and the establishment of people's statepower the 29th of November, 1944.

The «20th anniversary of the Liberation» School has 971 pupils and last year 99.6% of them passed all examinations. Only three pupils failed. The average mark was 8.6.

How was this progress achieved? Before answering this question let us go into the school. What immediately strikes the eye is the exemplary order and cleanliness. Everything shines. There are bouquets of flowers

Ah, that's right. It is Thursday today, the day the parents come to meet the teachers. They come to talk with the teachers about the progress of their children, their behaviour. One parent is worried because his son does not seem to pronounce his words clearly, another parent says that his child does not seem to have enough confidence in himself. On their part the teachers ask the parents for their help. Thus, something is always going on at the school. These meetings are not always informative or consultative. Talks are often organized where well known teachers speak. One such talk for example, could be on how the children must be imbued with patience and will to study. Well known doctors and social activists come and speak. Special talks are organized with groups of parents according to the problems which emerge. The school has a

«PUPIL — TEACHER — PARENT»

IBRAHIM ÇAVOLLI



the future of society and the great questions: What will we teach them? What will we do with them? who is responsible for their education — the school, or the parents and so on and so forth? These are problems, which, in our socialist society have long since been taken up for solution in a correct manner, but, despite this, difficulties do crop up, especially if we look at the extent of the school, where one out of every three people sits down at the desks in the classrooms or auditoriums. In many districts today there are as many teachers as there were pupils before liberation. In every corner of the country, even the most remote village, the school building is one of the most beautiful. A long time ago, I, who am writing these lines, learnt the first letters of the alphabet in a room which in the day time served as a school and at night as the home of the teacher and his family, while the secondary school I went to had been set up in some old army garrisons, remnants of the time of Turkey. Yes, yes, in our capital, before liberation, the only lyceum had been set up in some old abandoned military garrisons. This is the shame which dates back to the obscurantist feudal-bourgeois order of the Kingdom of Zog. Now, in our country, the most remote secondary school, is equipped one hundred times better, in every aspect, than the former lyceum of Tirana.

If we bear in mind the extent of the school, we can say that it is difficult to give a complete picture of the problem of education in ge-

everywhere. There are no stains on the walls. The different display stands, photographs, banners and cups won in different activities, testify to the broad and successful activity of the school. Consultation Sessions are going on in some of the classrooms. After lessons the teacher meets particular groups of pupils: they ask questions, explain, analyse things so that the subject is understood as well as possible. These consultation sessions are held every day. The discussion is very lively. Two or three times a week there are consultations in mathematics and physics, some times in chemistry or grammar, but particularly in mathematics, which is usually the subject with the most worries. But, despite this, as we said earlier on, last year only three pupils failed classes.

Let us go into one of the classrooms. It is simply furnished but very clean. It is full of pupils. The utmost silence. A teacher is at the table. This is not a consultation session. What is this then? This is the study hall. It is open from four in the afternoon to ten at night. The week the parents are on night shift, some of the pupils come and study here. Here, time is utilized better than at home, where the pupils are not under the supervision of their parents. This was another problem which was soon solved.

Voices can be heard on the steps outside. A group of people. Then, gradually, the corridors fill. These are not pupils. Some of them are even greyhaired. What does it all mean?

parents' committee. Every class also has its parents' committee. The pensioner Dashamir Harxhi, for example or the social activist Milke Sotiri and others can often be found about the school. They do not work at the school but they are always there when it is a question of making things go well.

The forms used for the progress of the pupils are numerous, but it is impossible to envisage all of them. The unexpected does happen, there are also difficult pupils. What has to be done with them? For example, Petriti is a quiet and well behaved little boy, but he is not well. He is often away, sick. His class mates went and saw him every day, they told him about lessons and homework. The teacher in charge of his class went and saw him at home. She also went to see him in hospital and even at the holiday home later on. Everybody liked Petriti and helped him. And even though he was very sick he did not fall behind with his lessons. What about Genci? Ah, now Genci is a problem child. He speaks rudely and angrily. He often displays the utmost indifference. Once again he fails a test in mathematics. Something is worrying him. He can see how well everybody is taking care of his brother Petriti but all they want to do with him is criticise... Something is worrying the boy. He is a difficult pupil to a certain extent but by no means irreparable. The teacher in charge of the class, Meropi, is a music teacher and doesn't often meet the pupils dur-

ing school but there are many other ways of being close to them. One day she charged Genci with the task of buying tickets for a theatrical performance. The boy did this eagerly. On another occasion she asked him to organize a visit to an exhibition. But the climax came one day when she said to him: "Genci, tomorrow it's my son Ilir's birthday. He's your friend, isn't he? Well I would very much like you to come along for dinner tomorrow, what do you say?". If only you could have seen Genci. He brushed his shoes until they shined. Ironed his own clothes. He picked a beautiful bouquet of flowers. His mother was astonished. That afternoon, Genci did his homework with great enthusiasm, as he had never done before. The next day he was very happy and studied steadily. Days went by and gradually he became a good pupil.

some outstanding revolutionary act etc. The parents are also notified about the mistakes of their children.

But, just as there are difficult pupils, there are also parents whose first reaction is not correct. Naturally these parents need help. One mother got angry one day because she had been asked to come to the school together with the parents of some pupils who had fallen behind in their lessons.

— "What's all this about? My son gets only tens. How could you possibly put him in a group with pupils who are behind?"

— We are not putting him in this group but we have asked you to come because he failed in a test.

— It was only accidental.

— No, you are wrong, because for some time now, your son has been declining, some-

of folk instrument players. He played the flute beautifully. We all paid him a great deal of attention. We had several meetings with the father and uncle. His father began to treat the boy in a more friendly way. The gap which had been created began to become narrower...

As you can see, there are often worrying problems, a lot of time is spent in solving them, the work is tiring. But when the teacher who loves his work and pupils sees that all his patient work has served a purpose, his joy knows no bounds.

I was shown the diary of a company. In one place I read: "21st of October: Today our company met to elect its leadership. Also present was the daughter of the Hero after whom our company has been named. She spoke to us about the life and struggle of the Hero. In their contributions, the pioneers said that



On the day when the parents together with the pupils go to school to ask the teachers about the progress of their children, the animation in the school corridors is even greater than usual.

The Directress of the school, Meriban Mezini has been working as a teacher for 27 years, while the Chairwoman of the Professional Committee, Muzaferë Reka is a young teacher. They both represent two generations of teachers, two generations of "commissars of light", as the teachers are called in our country. While we were talking, we heard the loudspeaker system giving announcements on results achieved at lessons. It was stressed that during the last two weeks there had been only two pupils absent from school.

The results are studied carefully. So are the absences. This could not be done without the participation of all the pupils themselves. Just as they are worried when they find scribble over the walls of the school, they are also worried when someone is absent from school without an excuse or when someone receives a bad mark. Each one has his own duty. Some of them make up the group which is interested in the progress of lessons, others make up the group which attends to the implementation of everyday rules, the preservation of socialist property etc.

As we said, the school keeps in close contact with the parents, it sends certificates of merit to their work centres, organizes visits on the occasion when a pupil is decorated, visits to congratulate a model pupil, that is a pupil who is elected to the headquarters of the class unit, for pupils who are registered in the school's book of honour or for pupils who do

thing which we must stop. He is an excellent pupil, but this does not mean that you shouldn't be worried when he fails in even one test.

But anyway, things were much easier with this mother than with the father of another pupil, Ludovik, as teacher Muzaferë told us. Ludovik himself was a headstrong, stubborn boy, he paid no attention to his mother and though afraid of his father, he didn't listen to him. The father often beat the boy and this made him even more defiant. His mother was continually coming to school to cover up for her son so that his father wouldn't give him a beating. In this way she hid the real state of affairs. This is how her son acted too. The situation was getting out of hand. When the teacher responsible for the boy's class had a talk with the father, he became very angry and behaved very badly towards his son and his wife. So, we saw that for the time being we could deal no further with the father. We found out that the boy had an uncle in another city called Lezha. He was a man who would listen to reason. We sent him word to come down and talk with us. He came at once and listened to us carefully. We sat down and talked about things seriously. We talked in his presence and that of Ludovik's father. We also had a talk with the Chairman of the Trade Union Committee of the enterprise where he worked. We had to do everything we could to straighten out this energetic but undisciplined child. We agreed to activate him in a group

they will always advance along the road of bravery, the road of the legendary partizans who fought heroically for the liberation of the Homeland, and, under the leadership of the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, brought the happy days which we are enjoying today. "In the struggle for the cause of the Party and people, we are always ready!"

The companies bear names of Heroes who fell during the liberation war or on the fronts of socialist construction. Visits are often organized to the families of the martyrs, to the places where they worked or fought, to the memorials dedicated to them where the ceremony of being admitted into the ranks of the pioneers organization is also carried. With their deeds the Heroes are always present. The war veterans often come and speak about the comrades who have fallen, the ardent days of the National Liberation War. The generations are linked like one man whether at school or in the action for the construction of socialism.

Meanwhile, in several classes the meetings with the parents have finished. The people begin to leave. The school bell, so well known and beloved to the pupils can be heard ringing. From the other classrooms the pupils begin to pour out. Afternoon classes have finished. The corridors are filled. The laughter of children fills the atmosphere. Old men and women and children together. Pupils, teachers, parents, together, for the one aim, for the one ideal, for the triumph of socialism and communism.

THE DR



Merited Artist Tinka Kurti interpreting «The Mother» in the principal role of the play, «Our Land», by playwright Kolë Jakova.

Actor Bep Shiroka not only acts on the stage but also in films. Photo: Bep Shiroka in the film, «The Happy Couple».

Actor Lec Bushati in the play, «The Routing» by Fadil Kraja.



Shkodra, one of the most ancient cities of our country, is at the same time a city which boasts of traditions in the field of art and culture. These traditions are valuable in the field of dramatic art, too. Dramatic elements have existed thousands of centuries ago in the old plays and in the traditional manifestations, while the dramatic art, in the proper sense of the word, started at the middle of the last century. The popular actors improvised theatrical shows in the house yards or in the characteristic Shkodra rooms. A distinctive feature of our theatre, that is its democratic and popular character, was created upon this base. This character of the amateur theatre was strengthened and carried further by the progressive groups of various associations which were created later on and the student's groups with revolutionary ideas. It is precisely for this reason that the anti-popular regimes, especially the reactionary regime of King Zog, exercised a strict control on the activity of the theatrical groups, cancelled the shows which ran contrary to their political, ideological and social interests. In the ranks of these theatrical groups, a great number of stage hands was formed. Many honoured figures of our national theatre started their activity in the ranks of these groups, but they were able to perfect their skill later, in the post-liberation period.

The triumph of the people's revolution opened brilliant prospects for the cultural and artistic life of our country. The hearth of culture which gave an impetus to the extensive theatrical work and drew the best amateur actors of the city, was founded in Shkodra city one month after Liberation. The theatrical group of the hearth of culture and the amateur groups of work centres, laid the first stones of the foundations of the future professional theatre, which was founded on November 1949 and took the name of the outstanding revolutionary poet Migjeni. Twenty years in the life of a theatre are not a long time, but the activity of the theatre «MIGJENI» is very broad. Soon it became popular among the people, deepened the ideological content and raised the artistic level of the shows, rose the number of the troupe not only in numbers but especially as concerns the qualitative content. Now the bulk, of the actors have higher training.

During its life, our theatre has staged 102 plays, out of which, 73 are from our national drama. The «MIGJENI» theatre has imparted a powerful impulse to the further development of national drama, the raising of the ideological level of the drama of socialist realism.

The national plays have not only occupied the most important place in the repertoire of the theatre, but have also enjoyed a much greater popularity. The play «Our Land», written by Kolë Jakova, has been staged for more than 20 years now in our theatre. The play «The Catridge in the Dowry» has been staged more than 300 times in all the districts of our country, as well as in all the villages of the Shkodra district. These and other examples are clear proof that the «MIGJENI» theatre has become beloved and attractive for the masses. It is always beside the working people.

Apart from the national repertoire, many plays well-known on a world scale, have been

AMATEUR THEATRE OF A CITY

ISA ALIBALI, Director of the «Migjeni» Theater in Shkodra



Scenes from the play, «Our Land».

A scene from «The Gadfly», dramatized after the novel by the writer, Ethel Vojnich.

The comedy «The Council of Match Makers» with the interpretation of People's Artist Tano Banushi, Merited Artists Tinka Kurti and Vitore Nino and the Actress Antoneta Fishta.

successfully staged by the «MIGJENI» theatre, such as «The Miser» by Moliere, «The Tyrant of Padowa» by Victor Hygo, «Mother» dramatized after the book by Maksim Gorky, «The Doll's House» by Ibsen, «The guns of Mother Karar» by Bertolt Brecht, «The Gadfly» after the novel by Etel Voinich, etc. As a criteria in the selection of works from the foreign repertoire, we proceed from the tendency to draw from the treasury of progressive writers those works which have obvious educational values.

A number of actors who have made a valuable contribution to the creation and the continuous strengthening and raising of the ideological level of our national theatre, have distinguished themselves in this broad activity on the stage. They have created an entire gallery of characters who have remained indelible in the minds and hearts of art-lovers. Such have been the People's artist Zef Jubani, such are the Merited artists Tinka Kurti,

Adem Kastrati, Preng Lëkunda, Vitore Nino, Pistol Soja, Lec Bushati as well as many other actors who have made a valuable contribution to further strengthen our theatre, to raise its artistic level. Our actors have been honoured with titles such as «People's artist», «Merited Artist» and various medals and titles which show the great assessment which is being made to the talent and work of our actors on stage.

One of the main features of the working people of the «MIGJENI» theatre is their readiness to stage performances in every corner of the district and the country, regardless of the difficulties that may face them. The troupe of our theatre have always supported every important action of an ideological, political, economic and social character. The actors of our theatre «MIGJENI» give performances in the work and production centres, in the work sites and villages very frequently.

By activating the amateur workers on stage,

by doing the last rehearsals before the audience, by sending the actors to do their work in production beside the working class and the cooperativist peasantry, we have managed to make our theatre be permeated by the working class spirit, to be more realistic and communicate with the masses better. When they go to the workers, the actors render a valuable contribution to the development of the amateur movement at the base, by helping the theatrical groups of work centres and agricultural cooperatives. A good contribution is made by our actors too, in shooting of artistic films by the «New Albania» Film Studio and in the TV programmes.

The stage hands are part of the great army of the builders of socialism. Lined up in that army, the collective of the «MIGJENI» theatre are working tirelessly to achieve further successes in the development of our socialist art of the scene.



THE YOUTH OF THE PLANT



We could call the Plastics Factory in the city of Durrës the Factory of the youth. We say this because in every workshop, on every line and near every machine you can find young people. You can find them leading brigades and even departments. They are the life, the pulse of the plant.

As soon as you enter the plant, some tables of figures, skillfully produced in bright colours, strike the eye. They speak of the plans and objectives of the youth organization. One gets the immediate impression that youth is predominant in this plant: more than 70 per cent of labour force are young men and women. We may well say that they were the founders of the plant and growing up together with it. Today, the average age of the workers of this plant is 23-24 years. In some departments, indeed in the main ones, and in leading, places as well, young women predominate.

The youth organization resembles the arteries of the body: in each department it has its groups. Each of these groups has its own objectives and drawn out its work plans. These objectives and plans include the activity of the various branches of production, problems of ideo-political education and various out of work cultural activities.

Enthusiasm is characteristic of the youth, and the visitor encounters this in every department of the plant. The boys and girls speak about their work, the future of the plant, and their out of work activities. The enthusiasm of each of them for the work is obvious. This is because the plant is theirs, because they work for themselves and for the people, for the prosperity of their socialist Homeland. That's why many innovators have

The youth of the plasticsware plant in Durrës.

A view of the Weldering Department.

The worker Hamide Duçi who works in the weldering department.

Two workers from the injection department: Lumtëri Alla (left) and Luiza Dhima.

emerged from the ranks of these young workers.

In the engineering department, they told us about a press produced by the youth of the plant themselves. This is the first of its type to be produced in our country. In this department we met the master-craftsman, Luan Lakrori. He is 27 years old. Seven years ago he graduated from the polytechnical secondary school and today is a master-craftsman of high category. He is brigade leader of the spare-parts section. His comrades have elected him Chairman of the Trade Union Committee of the engineering workshop.

In the other sections too, you may hear the words «for the first time». Learning from the most experienced workers, the youth are continually increasing the range of their products, with the aim of reducing the list of imported items. Experiments on some new products are nearing completion in the dies section. In this workshop we met Fatmir Koka, 28 years old, who graduated from the part-time vocational secondary school, and is now a high category fitter. The creation of many new moulds is connected with his name.

Most of the young people here are from Durrës. They started work when the plant was established in this new, lightfilled building. The plant has been equipped with new machinery. In the biography of the plant this marks its re-birth. From a small workshop, with primitive means but great objectives, it has been turned into a modern plant. Some of the young people have come from other cities of Albania. Here they got to know each other, here they attended part-time school, and together surmounted their initial difficulties. Some of them have married and set up their families here. One of them is Vasil Kola, from Tepelena, Southern Albania. Here he met Rajmonda Foto. Now they have a daughter. Rajmonda is a machinist in the main department of the plant, while Vasil, after finishing the part-time vocational school of the Plastics Factory, has become a fine mechanic.

The youth love the plant as if it were their own home. Here they have all the possibilities to study, to become qualified, to help each other, and to build their present and future with their own hands. More than 80 per cent of these young people have completed or are attending part-time secondary schools. At the vocational secondary school attached to the plant, lessons in the technological branches are given by the engineers who work in them. All the young workers attend qualification courses. Among them are some who began work as unskilled workers, while today, after having completed part-time schooling they have become engineers. One such is Naide Gjeta, who is manager of the children's toys department.

In one section, we met Lirika Braçaj. She is from the Skrapar district, in Southern Albania. The workers have elected her chairwoman of the Trade Union Committee of the plant. In cooperation with the secretaries of the youth groups and organizations, she had compiled the list of those who were going to take part in an excursion to the city of Saranda on the shores of the Ionian Sea. Many such excursions to various cities of the country are organized here. In this way the young people become better acquainted with their country, its past and present, with the work in the other enterprises and plants, and the cultural artistic institutions.

In the evening you will always see lights on in the big hall of the plant... After coming from the school, the youth of the plant gather in this hall to dance or listen to an interesting talk, to meet some veteran or hero of socialist labour. The youth organize their monthly meetings regularly, too. If you were to listen in to their fiery discussions, the thrashing out of ideas on the problems put forward, you would immediately feel that these young people are really masters of their own destiny.

ETHNOGRAPHY



Costume from the district of Mat.

Costume from the district of Zadrime. Photo: H. Gjiriti



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ALBANIAN BOOK

Prof. DHIMITËR S. SHUTERIQI

The history of the Albanian book would be one of the most illustrative and significant aspects of the history of the Albanian people. Evidence of the existence of books in Albanian dates back to 1332. This evidence reveals that these books are "different" and are written in Latin script. Thus, they existed at least as far back as the XIIth or XIIIth century when the first known feudal State of Albania existed. Further later evidence confirms this. But it wasn't until 1555 that we became acquainted with the first book in Albanian, Gjon Buzuku's "Sermon". This book was not only in Latin script but also in a well-elaborated language and firm writing, which speaks of the traditions mentioned. What is of major significance is that the book was printed in Albania, in some mobile press, as it has happened also before in our country. It is thought to have been printed in Antivari, a city and the seat of an archbishop noted for its very high cultural traditions. Because of the inquisition only one copy of Gjon Buzuku's book has survived because the domination of the Ottomans destroyed all former Albanian culture. The Inquisition seems to

have also filed away a second Albanian book, a catechism by Lek Matranga Rome, 1592) of which there is only one copy in the Library of the Vatican and the book by Buzuku.

As can be seen Albanian literature written during the Ottoman occupation of the country had a religious origin, as well as during the time of the spread of Islam in the country. One of the most prominent authors, Pjetër Budi (1566-1623) published four books in Rome within the period from 1618 to 1621, edifying religion, among which there were a good number of poems. Pjetër Bogdani (1630-1689), the most prominent prose writer and poet of the time, wrote a theological treatise, "Cuneus prophetarum" which was published three times (at Padova 1685, at Venice 1691 and 1702). During the same century the first dictionary of the Albanian language was published by Francesk Bardhi (1606-1643), "Dictionarium Latino-Epiroticum", Rome, 1635. Bardhi is the author of an important biography of the National Hero of the Albanians, Skanderbeg, in Latin in Venice, 1636, while the first author who wrote about the hero was the great Alba-

nian humanist Marin Barleti, who published his famous book in Latin about 1508 in Rome which is among the originals of a whole literature on Skanderbeg in nearly all the European languages, "Historia gestis Scanderbeghi".

This hurried survey of our old books would end with the first Albanian dictionary by Francesko Maria da Lecce (Rome, 1716) and by the catechism by Gjon Kazazi (1846). But this does not mean that Albanian ceased to be written. But it ceased to be published due to the foreign obscurantist domination.

The XIXth century was the century of the national movement also for the Albanians which led to the creation of the new Albanian State in 1912. A real Renaissance, as it was called, took place also in the culture of the Albanian language. This is evident in the very number of Albanian publications. The first printing press during the Empire of the Sultans was set up at Voskopoja in Albania in 1720. It printed books in the Greek language, the "lingua franca" of the regions of the Byzantine rite. But facts go to show that the illuminist culture had embraced Albania too. The first Albanian printing press would have started to work during the period from 1805 to 1806 at Elbasan in Central Albania, but the Patriarchal, the Eastern Orthodox Church, murdered its founder Dhaskal Todri (ca. 1730-1805) and destroyed the machinery he brought from Central Europe. Todri adopted one of 8 original alphabets created by our authors of XII to XIX century. Under such an alphabet was published also the first "Primary" of the National Renaissance in 1844, by the eminent ideologist Naum Veqilharxhi (1797-1846) who was also murdered by the agents of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Albanian culture had to wage a bitter battle. The XIXth century during which lived some of the most outstanding figures of our past culture, saw also the setting up of the first Albanian printing presses, some at home and others in various countries. These printing presses published books, newspapers and periodicals.

"Këngët e Milosao" (Songs of Milosao), the first prominent work of Albanian romanticism, contemporary of the West European romanticism, was published in Naples in 1836 and its author the great poet Jeronim de Rada (1815-1903), engaged in activity of publication for nearly three-quarters a century setting up also a printing press. He published also the first organ of our press, the periodical "L'Albanese d'Italia" in Naples in 1848, the year of revolutions which shook the continent. One of the most important books of the past century in Albania was the "New Testament" (Corfu, 1824-1827) by Grigor Gjirokastriti and later the new translation by Konstandin Kristoforidhi (1827-1895) in Istanbul 1866-1878, one of the most outstanding elaborators of the Albanian language. Kristoforidhi published his "Grammar" in Istanbul in 1882, while his

masterpiece and one of the most important of Albanian science of the past, "The Dictionary of the Albanian Language" could not be published except in Athens in 1904. The books by the greatest Albanian writer of the period of Albanian Renaissance, Naim Frashëri (1846-1900) were published during the last three quarters of the XIXth century in Bucharest like the pastoral poem "Bagëti e Bujqësia" (Flocks and Farming) (1886) and the great epic poem "Historia e Skanderbeut" (1898). In the same way was published "Shqipëria ç'ka qenë, ç'është e çdo të bëhet" (Albania what it was, what it is and what it will be) (1899), an essay by the poet's brother, Sami Frashëri (1859-1904), the principal manifesto of our national movement of the time.

We would enlarge on titles. We have given only some of the most important ones. The books of the period of the Albanian Renaissance, literary, didactic, scientific and others had a pronounced patriotic character and served the movement for liberation from the Ottoman yoke. They spread far and wide and enjoyed real popularity and became the object of many republications during subsequent years especially during our days. During the Renaissance activity in the field of publications was very dense. This activity was expressed in 1902 in Cairo by the publication of the "Baba Tomorri" collection of poems by such an important author as Andon Zako-Çajupi (1866-1930) or in 1907 in Boston by the publication of one of the first works of our dramaturgy "Izraelite e Filistinët" (Israelites and Philistines) by the greatest author of the stage of the Albanian independent State, Fan S. Noli (1888-1965).

This stage (1912-1939), with the administration already run in the Albanian language and with the development of the Albanian and schools, witnessed of course a dense activity in the field of publications than during the Renaissance although no great progress was marked. The reactionary monarchy regime of the period from 1925 to 1939 was a very great obstacle. Some of the important books of the current years were published abroad like Noli's work beginning with his "History of Skanderbeg" (Boston 1921). The collection of outstanding lyric poems "Juvenilla" (1917) by Ndre Mjeda (1866-1937) was also published abroad in Vienna, while works of pronounced progressive character like "Vargjet e Lira" (Free Verse) (Tirana, 1936) by the revolutionary poet Migjeni (1911-1938) was banned from circulation by the censor. A few years ago there were reprinted the third and last edition of poems by the realist poet Asdreni (1872-1947) "Psalme Murgu" (Bucharest, 1930) (The Monks' Psalms) and following it "Zani zemrës" (Tirana, 1933) ("Voice of the Heart) by the lyric poet of nostalgia in exile, Filip Shiroka (1859-1933). Two successful Albanian novels of the day which

are widely read to this very day are «Lulja e kujtimit» (Korça 1922, based on patriotic themes by Fojon Postoli (1889-1927) and «Sikur t'isha djalë» (Tirana, 1936) (If I Was a Boy) by Haki Stërmilli (1895-1953), treating the acute theme of the enslavement of woman in feudal-bourgeois society. At the same time there was published the first work of one of our prominent satyre writers Nonda Bulka (1906-1972) «Kur qan e qesh bilbili» (Korça, 1935) attacking the regime which that society held in its bosom. The Albanian translation of Gorky's «Nëna» (Tirana, 1936) (Mother) was not only a success of the library but also a manifestation of socialist ideas, at a time when the movement of the proletariat was organized in Albania. The debates of a number of authors whose organ was the periodical «Bota e re» (The New World) (Korça 1936-1937) who would be the promoters of the present Albanian literature belonged also to the revolutionary movement of the '30s.

Again, as we have already noted, the work of publications had to pass through hardships in monarchic Albania but more so during the years of fascist and nazi occupation (1939-1944), the period of outrages not only against culture but also against the very lives of the Albanian people. In order to have an idea of the inadequate development of our publications of that time when more than 85 per cent of the population were illiterate we present this fact: Albania liberated from the occupationist and the feudal bourgeois dominating classes recorded in 1950, during six years alone a total circulation of books larger than that of Albanian books within the period from 1555 to 1944, about four centuries. It was quite a revolution that the Albanian communists brought about in their Homeland under the leadership of comrade Enver Hoxha.

During the National Liberation War the activity of the partisans in the field of publication was much greater than that of the bankrupt classes and the invaders. Publications were printed in the improvised means of the press but also in the printing presses of the invaders where persons of the working class and of the Communist Party (now the Party of Labour) worked in clandestinity. Thus, there were printed not only bulletins of the war, notebooks and periodicals but also books which were distributed far a wide in cities and in the countryside. Thus, there were printed in clandestinity Lenin's and Stalin's works, collections of documents of the war, the poem «Epopeja e Ballit Kombëtar» (1944), a famous satyre by Shevqet Musaraj, collections of songs and poems and so on and so forth.

Following the war, the printing presses were put at the service of the people and rapidly increased Marxist-Leninist literature which has been published in Albania since 1944 and onward and these 33 years its circulation amounts to

millions of copies. Marxist-Leninist classical works have been printed in a large number of copies. Now the Albanian reader has the translations of Marx's monumental work, «Capital», Marx's and Engels's «Selected Works» as well as the complete «Works» of Lenin and Stalin. The greatest Albanian post-war publications is that of comrade Enver Hoxha's «Works». In addition to the publications of the Works of the Marxist-Leninist Classics and comrade Enver Hoxha's works and political and social publication in general there come the literary works of all kinds under 194 titles in 1976 (during the 1912-1944 period they numbered no more than 10 to fifteen a year). The average number of works of poetry printed is 2,500 and of those of prose 10,000. Various works have been printed up to 100,000 copies (The long poem «Mother Albania» by Dritëro Agolli in 1976). Large space in our literary publications has been given to the translation of classic works by various people ranging from those of Greco-Latin antiquity up to the contemporary progressive authors among whom we mention Homer, Aeschylus, Lucretius, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Byron, Balzac, Anatole France, Verga, Galsworthy, Cronin, Mark Twain, Moliere, Flaubert, Zola, Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy, Mayakovski, Kazanzaqi, Adoveanu, Fuchik, Schiller, Goethe, Heine, Feuchvanher and numerous others from great and small peoples.

The Albanian science books, the numerous publications by the Institutes of the Academy of Sciences and the other Institutes of Scientific Research, not neglecting the publication of popular science, make up a good part of our publications. School textbooks for all grades, especially for secondary and higher institutes of learning are almost entirely written by our specialists, occupy the principal space in our publications.

There is no need to speak about the outside covers of our books which have greatly improved with the development of printing technique. The illustrated books give a good idea of this.

Just as has usually happened with the literature of smaller peoples and their works of culture, the Albanian literature and its culture was not translated in the past either although some Albanian authors have been given a warm reception abroad. Thus, for instance, Jeronim de Rada's poems translated into Italian by the author himself won the admiration of Victor Hugo, Lamartine, Mistral, Tomaseo, Buchholdt and others.

The Albanian book became known to the international world after the Second World War. Many works by the leader of the Albanian people, comrade Enver Hoxha, have already been published on all the continents and not only in the principal languages. They play their outstanding role both for making Albania known and for the war against the superpowers and modern revisionism, both in defending

scientific socialism and the sound development of the movement of the world proletariat as well. «Selected Works» by Enver Hoxha have now been published in two volumes for the periods from 1941 to 1948 and 1948 to 1960, volumes which will be followed by others in French, English, Spanish, Russian. His «Speeches» during the period from 1967 to 1971 have been published in a number of languages as well as in Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Turkish, Swedish, Norwegian, Japanese, Arabic and so on. There have been published «Speeches and Articles» of the years 1963 and 1964, «Discussions, Speeches and Articles» during the years 1965 and 1966, Reports and so on on the socialist construction of Albania, on our foreign policy based on proletarian principles, on the crisis of revisionism in Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, Italy and other countries, numerous important works and writings.

The literature of Socialist Albania has begun to attract the attention of world literary opinion and is well received by foreign readers. Ismail Kadare's novel «The General of the Dead Army» after having been translated into French, has been translated into more than twenty languages ranging from Dutch to Japanese, from Swedish to Turkish. It was one of the successful translations of the world of the 70's. The new novels by this author like «The Castle» on the resistance to the Ottomans during the XV century, «Chronicle in Stone», the chronicle of an Albanian town between the '30's and '40's have been published in certain countries of Europe and the Balkan. Dritëro Agolli's novel «The Bronze Bust» on the National-liberation War, after its publication in Sweden and Norway was published also in Portugal. Fatmir Gjata's novel «The Marshes» on the struggle against the sabotage organized in Albania by the US imperialists immediately following liberation, has been published in Turkey. Stories by many Albanian authors like Anastas Kondo, Vath Koreshi, Elena Kadare, Naum Prifti among others have been published together or separately in the above mentioned nordic countries, in Finland, Germany, Rumania, Greece, Vietnam, Cuba and elsewhere. Albanian poetry has also begun to be known abroad through translations from the works of Lllazar Siliqi, Fatos Arapi, Ismail Kadare, Dritëro Agolli, Natasha Lako and others which can be read in French, Italian, Greek, Arabic and many other languages. After the Second World War works by great Albanian poets of the past like Naim Frashëri, Gavril Dari Jr, Andon Zako-Çajupi, Ndre Mjeda, Migjeni and others have been published. Thus, our classic literature has also become known abroad.

The knowledge of Albanian science abroad would take a chapter of its own to describe. We mentioned above the humanist historian of the centuries 15th and 16th Marin

Barlet, whose work on Skanderbeg translated, adapted etc., in so many languages would make up a whole library. We mentioned «The Grammar» by Kristoforidhi in Greek, we can mention that of Dhimitër Kamarda (Leghorn, 1864) in Italian, the Italian translation of the «History of Skanderbeg» by Noli (Rome, 1924), or the new version of this work written by the author in English (New York, 1947), Noli published in English (and in New York at the same time) his work of special international significance «Bethoven and the French Revolution» appraised by Sibelius, Bernard Shaw, Thomas Mann and others.

Albanian socialist science has made room for itself in an ever increasing number of international scientific conferences, symposiums and congresses as well as in Albania. It has its own publications in foreign languages like «Studia Albanica», «Illyria» and its different publications in foreign languages on important issues in which it has delved deep, ranging from the geology of Albania up to the Illyrian numismatics. One of the important successes of our science is the beginning of the publication «Etymological Studies in the Field of the Albanian Language» (vol. II letters A-B, Tirana, 1976) by Eqrem Çabej with an extensive summary in French. In 1974 there was published in Paris «The History of Albania» by Stefanaq Pollo and Arben Puto with an introduction by Maurice Bomone, a book which is a synthesis of the work done in our country these last thirty years in that field. The book has been accorded the best reception by scientific opinion abroad.

We would have to dwell longer here if we were to describe the opinion of world criticism on the translations from Albanian and on Albanian culture which has begun to be known and appraised abroad. That opinion could be summed up in these words of the French poet and critic Alan Bosqué: «Solidarity, courage an almost unbelievable need to say the truth, individual or collective, do these not indicate something Albania is showing us from its deep nature?». When speaking of literature alone, these words express judgment also on the realistic substance and romantic pathos of the Albanian literature of socialist realism. When speaking of culture in general we have a judgment of its humanistic and revolutionary essence with early patriotic and democratic traditions.

The books published today in Albania are characterized, first and foremost by the sound content because science, education literature, art and so on in our country are based on the Marxist-Leninist doctrine. They oppose, directly or indirectly, the bourgeois and revisionist ideology and whatever the latter create and inspire. The Albanian readers have greatly increased in numbers. They have high cultural and artistic demands.



Views from the Albanian pavillion at the International Fair held in Bari - 1977.

Albanian goods attract attention at the International Fair at Izmir - 1977.



SOCIALIST ALBANIA AT THE 1977 INTERNATIO- NAL FAIRS

NIKOLLA PROFI
Chairman of the Chamber of
Commerce of the PSRA

PRODUCTS OF THE «MIGJENI» HANDICRAFTS ENTERPRISE

During 1977, the Chamber of Commerce of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania organized the participation of our country in the International Fairs held in Algeria, Selonica, Izmir and Bari.

Apart from the now traditional articles which have been exhibited before such as chromium, bitumen, copper, electric wire and cable, marble, cement, textiles and ready-made clothing, knitwear, a range of artistic handicraft articles etc., this year a series of new articles of our industry such as profile oil, coke, electric motors, kitchen stoves, tape-recorders, new models of radios, products of the urea plant, plastic articles, new assortments of cigarettes, P.V.C., resins, etc.

Our pavillions at these fairs were visited by thousands and thousands of citizens of Algiers, Selonica, Izmir and Bari as well as by others from other regions of these countries, including representatives of home and foreign trade concerns, journalists, political personalities etc.

The visitors showed particular interest in the articles of our mining industry, the Metallurgical Combine in Elbasan, in the high precision instruments, the chemical industry, the textiles and ready-made clothing, articles of the food industry, enamelled utensils, porcelain, glass and artistic handicraft articles.

The visitors expressed their admiration for the successes which the Albanian people have achieved under the leadership of the Party of Labour with comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. An «Albanian Day» was organized at all the fairs. The Algerian newspaper, «Al Muhaxhit» wrote on the occasion of «The Albanian Day» organized at the International Algerian Fair: «By relying on the productive forces of the country, profound transformations have been made in Albania which cannot be compared with the past... This expresses Albania's efforts to defend independence and march irresistibly on the road of socialism.... In trade relations with other countries, Albania adheres strictly to the principles of equality, mutual benefit and non-intervention in internal affairs».

In Algeria, our pavillion was awarded a gold medal, whereas at Izmir it was awarded the certificate, «For the successes achieved».

This year too, our delegations had a series of meetings with trade firms of other countries participating in these fairs and signed several contracts. Many foreign firms inquired about our goods and the majority of them have applied for them, asked for catalogues and other information so that in the future they can make contracts for different articles.

The numerous successes our country has scored in trade exchange, such as the increase of exports from year to year are indivisible from all the successes achieved in the impetuous development of industry, the intensification and modernization of agriculture and other sectors of the economy. These successes are living proof of the vitality of our socialist economic-social order, of the all-round superiority of our planned economy, of the correct Marxist-Leninist policy which our Party has always followed in the development of foreign trade.



In the production of copper, our people have inherited fine traditions. The craftsmen have handed down their beautiful art to their children and grandchildren.

The products which the golden hands of our craftsmen turn out are very popular both inside the country and abroad. From year to year the export of handicraft articles has increased. During the coming year, 1978, the plan of the export of handicraft articles will be larger than in 1977.



Photos: R. Veseli



The articles made of copper, photos of which have been printed on these pages are products of the craftsmen of the «Migjeni» Handicrafts Enterprise in Tirana.



In one of the auditoriums of the Faculty of Medicine.
Photo: H. Gjiriti.

NURSERY OF MEDICAL CADRES

There are twenty years now that the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Tirana trains doctors working today in every corner of Albania. During these 2 decades 3,882 young cadres have been trained out of whom 2,906 doctors, 631 dentists and 345 pharmacists. Today, in our country there is one doctor for every 630 inhabitants.

One of the most important victories of the Faculty of Medicine was the working out of new Albanian texts. Seventy-three new texts are worked out so far in the sector of Medicine. These texts generalize the great achievements of our health service, the great experience our clinics have gained now. The pedagogues of the Faculty work persistently and with passion to further improve the texts with new materials, which turn down idealistic and metaphysic concepts.

The pedagogues of the Faculty interlace very well the teaching with scientific curative and preventive work. Consequently, 41 monographs and a great number of scientific articles have been published since 1970. The scientific works are connected with current and future problems of our socialist society. These scientific works have always served the improvement of the health conditions in the surrounding environment, to solve definite problems of epidemic and professional diseases.

The active participation of the broad masses of doctors in scienti-

fic work is an important characteristic of the work in the Faculty. This has led to the examination of a great number of cases on the one hand, and on the other, the greater professional benefit for the doctors.

The medical lecturers of the Faculty of Medicine have been studying profoundly problems connected with popular medicine. During the last two years, as a result of the efforts made in the field of scientific research the lecturers of the Faculty of Medicine have defended theses for the candidates of Medical Degrees.

Hundreds of cadres who come from various districts of the country every year, are being qualified and specialized near the Faculty of Medicine and in the hospitals which serve as university clinics.

Special care is devoted to the activation of the students in independent scientific work. There are 33 scientific groups attended by 300 students in the Faculty.

There are many students preparing themes on different diseases. They have organized 34 scientific sessions. In the course of this scientific work they enjoy the continuous assistance of the medical lecturers. By accumulating a good experience in this direction, they are rendering a great help to the discovery of sick people in schools, industrial enterprises and agricultural cooperatives and their hospitalization.



Scientific work in the maize fields. Photo: N. Kodheli.

NEW FIGURES OF THE MAIZE FIELDS

Maize is one of the chief agricultural crops in our country. Constant efforts are being made throughout the country to find ways of increasing the productivity of maize. Some years ago in Shkodra (Northern Albania) a centre was set up for the production of seeds. This centre is constantly being supplied with cadres and necessary equipment. Work in this centre has led to any increase in the yields of this crop using scientific methods. Many high productivity hybrids of excellent quality have been produced here so far. Their productive capacity is greater than that of foreign hybrids formerly cultivated in Albania.

Today, almost the entire area planted with maize in Albania, is covered with first crop hybrid seeds, produced locally.

The cultivation of hybrid seeds, the raising of the level of mechanization and the use of chemical fertilizers, as well as the raising of the irrigation capacities, have made it possible to take in from this crop unprecedented yields. Currently, many economies are taking in more than 70 quintals of maize per hectare throughout the area and many sectors and brigades take in 100 or more quintals of maize per hectare.

Through profound scientific work, the station of the production of maize seeds have made possible the creation and spread in production of 11 kinds of «Rozafa» maize hybrid seeds. They have their own characteristics. The recognition of biological features and characteristics of the hybrid seed, as well as the even better application of the advanced agrotechnical methods of cultivation, is helping the practical exploitation of all their productive capacities.

In Albania, agriculture is the concern of the entire people. Within this framework, in every brigade, in the state farms or agricultural cooperatives, scientific groups have been set up. Experienced workers who also engage in scientific research work, take part in them. Thus for example, the fourth brigade of the sector of Pluk in the state farm «28 November» of the Lushnja district in Central of Albania) arrived through such a work, to take in from its experimental plot (once the most poor of the soil of the sector) yields achieved in the best plots of the sector, and even by-pass these yields. The experience of that brigade was soon spread to other brigades.

Scientific work to achieve ever better results have extended to every agricultural economy.

RESTORATION WORK ON THE DURRËS MOSAIC



The city of Durrës, Albania's biggest port is one of the most ancient cities of the country. As to its origin even legend and history merge and the boundary between the two is impossible to define. Durrës has been mentioned by Greek, Latin, Byzantine, Turkish historians, Venetian and Napolitan as well as French chronical writers have written about it. Ancient Epidamius was later called Durracium, while today it is called Durrës. But the important fact is that ever since its creation to our days, life has never ceased in this city. There have been powerful earthquakes and foreign invaders have caused endless destruction, but it has survived all these and today is one of the biggest and most beautiful cities of Albania.

During the construction work carried out in the area of the ancient city, objects and materials of great value are discovered. One of them is the big amphitheatre in the centre of the city. Here a beautiful mozaic has also been unearthed which covered the floor of the chambers of a building which dates back to the 2nd Century of our era. During the months May and June, this year, restoration work was carried out on this mozaic.

This is a multi-colored mozaic, with geometric and floral motifs in the form of fish scales, chess squares and lotus flowers. Despite all the reparation work which has been done during the digging, the mozaic is damaged in a few places, thus it was necessary to restore parts of it. A great deal of work was carried out, all the old reinforcements were replaced with new ones, prepared with the proper concrete mortar according to the makes and colours needed. The surrounding environments were also cleaned so that the mozaic stood out even better. This work was aimed at making the mozaic ready for exhibition.

THE SUN SHINES ON OUR COUNTRY

The actinometric data from the national network of stations directly engaged in measuring the intensity of solar radiation and hours of sunshine give a more or less complete idea about the amount of solar energy available on the territory of Albania.

Here are some of the main figures:

The annual territorial distribution of hours of sunshine in the western lowlands of Albania varies between 2,400 and 2,700 hours; for the south-western part of the mountainous region from 2,450 to 2,750 hours; for the north-eastern part of the central mountainous region 2,050 to 2,250 hours; for the south-eastern part of the central mountainous region 2,400 to 2,490 hours.

The annual sunshine figures measured in some of the actinometric stations are: at Xare of Saranda, 2,706,1 hours; at Fier, 2,790,2 hours; at Durrës, 2,627 hours; at Tirana, 2,548,6 hours; at Shkodra, 2,505,4 hours; at Vlora, 2,728,9 hours; at Stalin City, 2,629,9 hours.

The annual total of solar energy in Albania varies from 130 to 140 kilocalories/cm.2. The highest level of radiation falls on Saranda with 153.42 kilocalories/cm.2, and Vlora with 144.1 kilocalories/cm.2.

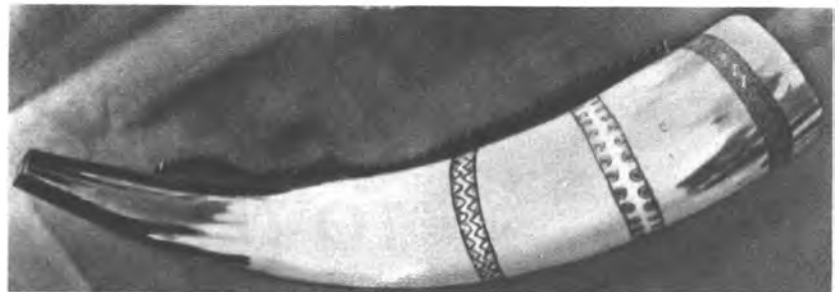
The month with the highest level of radiation is July while the lowest level is in December.

THE «BOBLA» - AN ANCIENT PARA- MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

RAMADAN SOKOLI

In one of the display cases of the historical museum of Kruja there stands, among the armaments and accoutrements of the time of Scanderbeg is a para-musical instrument made of horn. This instrument called «bobla» in our language is made of the horn of a cow or a buffalo. Usually it is slightly curved. Scanderbeg's men used this simple instrument to sound signals in battles, parades, and so on. Our eminent historian, Marin Barleti, makes frequent mention of this instrument in his biography of our National Hero. Through historical documents of the time we learn that such para-musical instruments were not used for amusement; they were used as a means of communication in various cases: the sounding of the bobla was an alarm signal in cases of danger, summoned the men to meetings, or gave the signal for attack, adding to the noise of battle and arousing terror among the enemy. These horns were used in times of peace, too, especially during a hunt. Most of the commanders of the castle garnisons of the time carried a beautifully engraved horn. This very ancient instrument was handed down from one generation to another from the depths of the centuries. The earliest evidence of the use of this instrument by our forefathers is one unearthed in the Illyrian burial ground at Trebenishta. In addition, in the archaeological museum of Apollonia there is a statue of a man sounding a horn. From this statue valuable information can be drawn about the use of the instrument on different occasions and in varying circumstances including artistic performances, ceremonies, and different festivities.

In addition to the horn our people use also a bobla made of the shell of a large sea snail (this shell in a twisted form bears the scientific name «tritonium variegatum»). In ancient times our ancestors regarded such bobla as religious emblems. According to ancient legend



Horn.

Triton always held such an instrument in his hands. Our forefathers imagined Triton as a giant who lived in the depths of the sea. He looked like a bearded man in the upper part of his body, while the lower part was like the tail of a fish. They say that in a battle with the giants, the legendary Triton struck terror into his opponents with the sounds from his couch shell which were heard amidst the roar of the stormy sea. According to this same legend, when this monster blew his couch shell, the waves and billows of the sea immediately became calm.

Both the horn bobla and the couch bobla are of very simple construction: apart from a hole opened at the top, there is nothing else to them. The sound of the horn results from the pressure of the breath and the vibration of the lips applied to the hole. Of course, from such a simple para-musical instrument one can draw only roaring sounds without variations. Therefore, these sounds do not amount to real melodies.

In our country the horn is used mainly in the southeastern regions. Before the liberation of our country this paramusical instrument was used, here and there, as a means of gaiety during the spring festivals, but more specially as signals by peasants, especially by the guards of vineyards and fields, by the fishermen and by the shepherds in the summer pastures in the mountains.

Looking at the bobla in the display case of the museum, and thinking of the importance which this para-musical instrument has had in the social and economic life of our country one's imagination flies to the ancient cults of our forefathers or to so many historical events, especially the wars and battles which link the use of this instrument with the very existence of our people.

ALBANIAN SPORTSWOMEN IN EUROPEAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

AHMET SHQARI



The team of Albanian girls who took part in the International Competitions in Rome, 1977.



Our archaeologists carry out painstaking work to decipher ancient writing in archaeological centres.

BUTRINT CONTINUES TO TELL ITS STORY

DHIMOSTEN BUDINA

One of the oldest and most picturesque cities of our country, the city of Butrint, flourished some twenty-five centuries ago. It was situated in a very favorable geographical position on a beautiful hill on the Ksamili peninsula in the Saranda district (in the southernmost corner of Albania). Its former grandeur is evident in its ancient centuries-old ruins. A long time ago an entire city prospered on the sides and at the foot of this hill. Its inhabitants lived, built and fought for centuries in succession.

The earliest archaeological excavations were begun here in 1928 by an Italian archaeological mission. The Italian Government had been granted, at that time, a concession by King Zog's antipeople Government to undertake archaeological excavations in Butrint and its surroundings. Foreign archaeological unearthed part of the city and brought to light architectural and artistic monuments of very great value. But most of these archaeological objects were taken overseas and never brought back.

With the liberation of the country all foreign concessions were liquidated in Albania together with the concessions of the Italian archaeological mission. Our Government proclaimed Butrint a national monument of major cultural importance. As such it is protected by

law and by the State which is constantly concerned about the protection and restoration of the monuments discovered. An scientific archaeological unit has been set up there in recent years for carrying out systematic excavation during most of the year.

Today, Butrint is not only a scientific centre but also a tourist and health resort for the workers of the country. This important archaeological centre is visited also by many delegations from various countries of the world. In their impressions different visitors have said very good words about the care taken in our country of these archaeological findings.

The early traces of life in this city take us back to the first thousand years before our era, but at this stage it is not yet a big city centre. Several archaeological objects and a wall on the hilltop built of blocks of stone slightly hewed and placed on each other without mortar belong to this period. It was during the 6th century before our era that the city assumed the features of a true city of antiquity.

The most ancient structures of Butrint are the surrounding walls of the city built of huge blocks of stone hewed carefully into various shapes such as polygons or parallelepipeds. These gigantic fortification structures were equipped with turrets and portals through which entrance was made into the city. Five portals have been discovered so far in Butrint.

Within these walls most of the dwelling houses and public buildings have been built. Among the latter the theatre stands out which is not very large but beautiful and kept well in its lower part.

The most beautiful and important monument of the first Byzantine period discovered in Butrint is the baptistry. In itself this hall was an ancient building of the 4th century of the new era. Later on, towards the end of the 5th century it was turned into a baptistry. The floor of this hall is laid with a beautiful multi-coloured mosaic divided into seven parts in the form of concentric circles. Five of these parts are decked with geometrical and vegetative motifs while the other two parts with 64 medallions within which are portrayed images of animals and, especially, birds.

Work done these recent years under the direction of the archaeological scientific nucleus has shown that Butrint will continue to speak. By the recent excavations on the eastern side of the hill and west of the portal with a turrent there were found two well deposited cultural layers which, according to discoveries have a continuity of time from one period to another, namely, a mediæval layer represented by the remnants of a dwelling building, a second layer of the period of later antiquity formed by remnants of the environment and other

Shooting has long been one of the leading sports in our country. The excellent results scored in various contests have shown that the Albanian marksmen and women rank among the best in the world. A clear and most recent example is the successful participation of our representative team in the 15th European Championships which were held from September 28 to October 2, this year in Rome. In the contests the Albanian girls scored results of an international standard.

Among the 48 best competitors of Europe, representing 24 States, in the 30x30 contest with standard pistols, the Albanian markswoman, Elizabeta Karabolli, won 3rd place with 584 points. She was only one point behind the world record holder who took second place. Elizabeta is 19 years of age and a second year student in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tirana. In the National contest held some time ago, this talented girl scored 589 points, two points above the world record. In other contests, too, she has shown that she is capable of maintaining the level she has attained.

But Elizabeta is not the only markswoman of top international level among our girls. Tens of other talented girls are engaged in this sport training persistently and with enthusiasm. They have been provided with very good conditions for this. Together with Elizabeta Karabolli, D. Mata and E. Pantasi also took part in the 30x30 contest with standard pistol in Rome. With the points scored by these markswomen, the Albanian team took 9th place, ahead of Czechoslovakia, Finland, Austria, Italy, and others.

Other Albanian markswomen like E. Dingu, E. Lalmi, V. Konomi, A. Selmani and D. Sinani, were ahead of the representatives of many Balkan and European countries in the last European Championships.

Ninth place in Europe in the 3x20 team contest and tenth place in the 1x60 precision shoot follow the successes scored in the other international contests. Shooting is a mass sport in our country and people of all ages take part. In his first experience of international competition, Fatmir Dule won the gold medal at the European championships for young marksmen in Sweden in 1972. He scored 588 points in the 1x60 precision exercise. Now many young Albanian marksmen have equalled or improved on this score. A number of girls have bettered it too. Our representative women's team has often come home with medals and diplomas from various international activities, such as the European Youth Championships, held at Wiesbaden in the Federal Germany Republic, the Olympic Games in Munich, the international contests held in Hungary and other countries. In the 41st World Championships in Switzerland in 1974, the Albanian representative, F. Dingu took sixth place among the 55 best markswomen, in the 1x60 precision contest. In the same world championship contest, another Albanian, F. Dule, took 18th place among the 164 marksmen of the world.



Elizabeta Karabolli won third place with 584 points.

discoveries and, finally, another thicker layer represented by the ruins of dwelling houses and different other findings of which we can now say date back to the 2nd century of the new era.

With a view to studying the system of fortifications and to completing its plan, excavations have also been carried out along the surrounding wall of the city. Hundred metres, have been dug so far and its thickness is 3,5 metres. The wall has two sides built of blocks of limestone. The principal formations of the hill of Butrint are also of these stones which leads to the conclusion that these blocks have been dug from this hill which have been hewed and placed on the wall by native craftsmen. Stones placed lengthwise are followed by others placed transversally. This technique is widely used in Illyrian-Epirotic fortifications of the time.

An important part of the great archaeological heritage discovered in the ancient city of Butrint are the inscriptions. This year, while digging the second surrounding wall of the city, on its western corner, there were discovered also 36 decrees. These inscriptions just as those discovered 40 years ago at the theatre of Butrint are hewed on the frontal side of the blocks which later added to the surrounding wall. As it turns out from their preliminary reading these decrees are licenses granted to slaves. All these licences bear the name of the chief priest of the Temple Aslep. In the lists of the decrees there are also Illyrian names. According to the kind of letters and their content, it seems that the inscriptions on the platform of the surrounding wall have begun to be carved towards the end of the 3rd century of the new era and have continued not later than 148 before the new era.

Cultural stratigraphic data as well as the characteristics of construction go a long way to confirming the opinion that the city has led an active life and for a long time, which is rarely met with in other ancient cities. The activity of this city, at least as far as the excavations go to show, is much bigger and broader during the period from the 2nd to the 4th century of the new era and keeps waning in the subsequent centuries. This is observed both in the better technique of construction as well as in the many and variegated relics belonging to this period and the period before it.

The rich ceramic material, the various achievements and especially the inscriptions discovered in recent excavations constitute a powerful basis and convincing material for the study of the social life, of its continuity and evolution during many centuries in the ancient city of Butrint. These data added to the other materials unearthed by the former excavations at Butrint and the surrounding regions are a further proof of the Illyrian affiliations of the Epirotic tribes which include also Butrint and its surrounding districts.





«LETTERS TO THE EDITOR»

ROBERT WEDIG – West Germany

I have been reading your magazine, «New Albania» for five years now. I enjoy every new edition and read them with great pleasure, because this magazine presents the reality of your beautiful socialist country in many aspects, with interesting articles and illustrations.

I also have a request to make: Here in Esen, at the «Albanian Centre» of the «Friendship Association» we would like to deliver a paper on the Albanian press. It will deal with its development, beginning from the publication of the first edition of «Zëri i popullit», to date. We would also like to present the role the newspapers play today in the life of the people and the way the masses express their opinions in the press. I have read an article in edition No 4 1976 of your magazine related to this question. I think that it would be very good to publish some other articles on the people's press in «New Albania». When I visited your country this year, I saw an exhibition at the Palace of Culture in Tirana on the 35th anniversary of «Zëri i popullit», which I liked very much and I think it is well worthwhile to publish a special report on it. Or for example, an article could be written on how a reporter writes his articles, his ties with the masses, how the workers and peasants express their opinions in the different organs of the press. I was very surprised and pleased when I learnt how many newspapers Albania had. This is another fact which merits emphasis in an article, because the enemies of socialism claim that in socialism the people are not informed about anything and have no opportunity of expressing their opinions. In reality, these words should be directed to our bourgeois press.

DR. GLORIA RAMIREZ – Columbia.

I am writing to the editor of the magazine, «New Albania» to request a subscription.

The Columbian Academy of Research and Culture has the aim of forming a scholar-research personnel from the ranks of the Columbian professionals. Now our Institution has several research branches and the principle one is the branch of humanitarian sciences.

Proceeding from the importance of this magazine and with the desire to learn aspects of the reality of the PSRA, we are making a special request for the maga-

zine, «New Albania». This magazine would be very valuable for the personnel of the Academy as instructive material for the subjects which the members of our Institute teach in the different universities of Columbia.

GUESMIA CHICOLA – Algeria

Recently, a friend of mine gave me a copy of the magazine, «New Albania». This is the first publication about your country I have seen in Algeria and I liked it a great deal. I was astonished at seeing all these realizations of the people's state power in Albania.

I would like to subscribe to your magazine which is published in Arab and French, because here I see a clear reflection of the development of Albania in all fields.

Through this letter I would like to express my profound love for you and for the Albanian people, who is a comrade-in-arms of all the peoples of the world in the struggle for freedom and independence.

I rejoice when I read about the successes and achievements of your country, which are very encouraging for me.

I would like to read some stories, receive postcards or a book with photographs of your country.

ALEJANDRO QUINTANA VALDERRAMA – Peru

Through this letter I would like to convey to you my most sincere gratitude for the publication of «New Albania» which also reaches my country, here in Peru. Your magazine acquaints us with the important successes which your country has achieved since Liberation. After establishing the socialist system, it has attained unprecedented heights in all fields: economic, social, cultural, scientific etc.... With the greatest pleasure I would like to buy Albanian publications. You could never imagine what a success your magazine has been here in Peru. Its articles are very interesting, and I have managed to secure all the 1976 editions as well as the first editions of 1977. I have had the opportunity to read very interesting materials in this magazine, such as the article dedicated to the city of «Gjirokastra», the history of which is extremely beautiful, because it symbolizes the ceaseless struggle which the Albanian people have waged for independence, the persistence

with which they have fought until they won this, always remaining loyal to the principles of freedom.

The pictures published in every edition of the magazine show that not only are Albanians, industrious but they also have a flare for artistic activity, this being an integral part of the magnificence of the spirit of the Albanian man.

The articles are short but very informative and the illustrations are beautiful. These publications will be part of a collection which I am trying to create. The most important thing in this direction is that these materials become known in my country, that the reality which, up till only a few years ago, was unknown, become known: this reality is your beautiful country – socialist Albania.

SALEM MAOUA – Tunisia.

Your magazine is very interesting and it helps me a great deal to learn about your life and people. I am writing to you because I am a member of that big family of admirers of your country, youth and culture. The articles of «New Albania» are very good, both the political and cultural articles, as well as those on science, sports, the youth etc.

Would it be possible to send me a publication about your country and a flag of the PSRA?

I am and will remain your loyal friend. Those who want democracy are on your side.

Long Live the People's Socialist Republic of Albania!

OTHILY JEAN-LOUIS – France

I am a young French man and I address myself to you, to learn about your country and society through the magazine, «New Albania».

Today your country remains one of the only beacons of the socialist revolution. Radio Tirana supports and propagates the struggle of all the genuine Marxist-Leninist parties and the struggle of all the oppressed peoples.

The Albanian people is an example both in its past and present. It must be introduced to and loved by other peoples of the world. «New Albania» will help me come closer to the Albanian people.

Therefore, my wish is to secure a subscription.

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