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In the writing "The green laboratories" on pages 10-11 you will learn about the results achieved by the collective of the Agricultural Research Institute of the Lushnje District.

Geologists are like migrating birds. They continuously change their dwelling place and wherever they go they try to make the "radiography" of the earth. What are the plans and preoccupations of one of the expeditions of the geologists in Albania? The Answer to this question is given on pages 6-7.

How is Beethoven known and honoured in Albania? Who has written the study "Beethoven and the French revolution"? Answers to these questions are given on page 21, in the writing devoted to the 200th birth anniversary of the great composer.

During the 1989-70 school year, 1,943 cadres of various sectors got their diplomas. On pages 22-23 you will learn about the plans and impressions of six of them who have just entered in the practical life.

Many foreign visitors who come to Albania send their impressions to our Editorial Board. On pages 8-9 we will acquaint you with some of them.

50 years ago, the Albanian people threw into the sea the Italian imperialists who had occupied Vlora. In the writing of pages 16-17 "A nation raising in arms" you will learn about Albania and the Albanian struggle of that period.

During the past centuries a number of Albanian distinguished masters and artists had emigrated to various countries of the world leaving their traces on the art and culture of those countries. On pages 24-25 you will learn about the "Albanians of Vicenza".

In our villages, the conditions for vivid cultural and artistic activities have been created. Through the writing "Songs of a village" on pages 26-27, you will know something about the cultural life of the Blinisht Village, Lezha District.

Front Cover: Geologists at work and in rest.
Photo: by S. Xhillari
Back Cover: The singer of the House of Culture of the Blinisht Village, the coop. member Luke Skanaj.
Photo: by P. Kurni

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WHAT DO WE VOTE FOR?

Sami Bahollit

On September 20 this year, there will be held in our country the general elections to the organs of the people's power.

This year there will be simultaneously elected the deputies in the People's Assembly, councilors of the local organs as well as district judges and assessors. The People's Assembly is the highest organ of the people's state power of the FRA hence the election of the deputies to this organ is of great political importance. Of the same importance is also the election of the representatives to the organs of local power. According to our constitution and laws, these organs have full powers in districts, cities, regions and the corresponding villages. The administration organs are appointed and discharged by the elected organs and are responsible to them. This means that not only on national scale but also on local scale the elected representatives of the people are those who exercise the people's power in the name of the people. The election of judges and assessors directly by the people makes it possible for theull of the voters to preserve control over the elected. So that there should always be real justice for the working masses and strong blows to enemies and evil-doers.

This year's elections coincide with the successful fulfilment of the 4th Five-Year Plan. In the course of the past four years, since the previous elections to the People's Assembly, the total Industrial output in Albania increased by 7%. This means that even now the directive set forth by the Fifth Congress of the PLA for an increase by 56% — 54% has been overfulfilled.

With the increase of the industrial output, the agricultural production for industrialization has also been increased. Side by side with this, the living standard has also been raised: The national incomes per capita during four years of the Sixth Legislature of the People's Assembly increased by 28%. We must bear in mind that Albania occupies one of the first places as far as the natural increase of the population is concerned. Hence, in Albania every year production increases, prices go down, and as a result the incomes per capita of the population and the welfare of every family, are raised.

The care for the well-being of the man, that he should be healthy, acquire knowledge, be engaged in work and have living means, have the possibilities to develop his physical and mental abilities, has been and remains in the centre of attention of the PLA and the Government.

Whenever elections take place we are accustomed to review the past gone period in order to judge of how had those previously elected by the people, led the state. Now that control is exercised by the people, we note with pleasure, with legitimate pride, the great achievements made so far. But when elections take place we are used to speak of the future: Development programmes are charted, pledges are taken on, etc. This task, we, Albanians, pleasantly and optimistically perform. Now in the industrial enterprises of the country, in the coops-farms, the figures of the economic, social and cultural development for the future Five-Year Plan 1971-75 whose first four-years will coincide with the 7th Legislature of the People's Assembly, are being discussed. According to the preliminary directives of the new Five-Year Plan, it will be a grand programme for the rapid socialist construction in Albania.

Comrade Enver Hoxha has said: "The coming Five-Year Plan will be the plan of the development in depth of the further intensification of industry, particularly of the expansion and intensification of mechanical, chemical, electric and building material branches of industry. During the coming Five-Year Plan period new branches such as the iron-nickel processing plants (whose annual output will be 800,000 tons) plastics material etc will be set up.

The future Five-Year Plan will be also the plan of the raising and the intensification of agriculture for meeting the demands of the people with agricultural and livestock products and fruits, vegetables etc.

On this basis there will be further improved the well-being of the people, relating this to the many measures in health services, education, culture, housing etc.

This is the new Albanian reality at a time when we are under full development of the election campaign. Under such conditions of the actual development, the 20th of September elections will take place in Albania. By actively taking part in this campaign the voters organize round the Democratic Front, will propose the candidates on all organs, will discuss them, will give advices to the candidates for carrying out the work of the coming legislature and finally will give their vote.
"Some light, some light" These are the words that the most wonderful and grievous verses of the Albanian poet of the thirties, Migjeni begin with. The verses were written under the regime of the sogo rule. Their figurative meaning fully coincides with the actual one: Albania was, then, plunged not only into a medieval darkness of the reactionary and anti-popular regime, but also materially plunged into darkness. Albania had no electricity. As soon as the night fell, save for the capital and some other small towns, all the country fell into complete darkness. Fields, mountains, plateaus were, one after the other wrapped by the night.

At the time electricity was a great luxury. Migjeni, wrote his verses in a remote northern district, in the light of the oil lamps. The oil lamp was not still considered a backward means: it was used by teachers, writers or doctors. At that time, Albania had not even had the oil lamp. The main part of the Albanian people used pine-torch lights. It was a harmful light for eyes, fading, full of smoke.

It was the time, when in the cities of Europe and America the electric light, in the most capricious manners failed up all sorts of advertisements, hotel names, dancing halls and night clubs. While, in Albania, it was still a dream for a lot of people to read a book. And our people did long so much for the light! The most beloved things, they compared with light. Even curses were always called down upon light. It is not out of the common way that, in the course of the national revival, many a patriotic writer and journalist blessed their newspapers and magazines with the word “light”.

Had it not been for our people to take up arms in the great National Liberation War, which meanwhile was our revolution, that overthrow together with the occupationist’s yoke, the one of the bourgeois and feudal ruling classes, our people would not have any objective possibilities to solve the question of “light” neither in the broad sense of the word nor in the material one. The first stories of the future light, the coming electricity, were born in the mountains, in the wintry nights, round the partisan fires. They were born together with the dreams for land that would belong to all, for the bread that would be sufficient. Albania was enlightened.

The volunteers who took part in the construction of the first hydro-electric power stations were now grey-headed.

The word “hydrocentral (hydro-electric power station) was still a new word, with a surprising sound. Then, it became a common one, just as a lot of other words.

From the first hydro-electric power station which is in the vicinity of Tirana and which bears the name of V.I. Lenin, to the big one of Vau i Dejës on the Drini River, which is equipped with the most up-to-date technique, stretches afore the series of the great undertakings, fighting with the rocks, volunteer’s barracks and the youthful enthusiasm. High tension lines started their march across Albania.

The splinter was the first to give way to their gigantic steps (which were more than those of the heroes of legends). So did the oil lamp. Both the splinter and the oil lamp were forced to withdraw deeply and deeply, to the remotest mountainous areas.

Then, the Central Committee of the Party adopted the historic decision on light. The decision said that in 1971, on the anniversary eve of the founding of the Party the whole of Albania ought to be electrified. This was a grand decision that remarkably embodied the aspiration of a nation for light, of a nation with a great history, but sorrowful. Thirty years ago, the nights of our mountainous areas, especially the northern ones, were true mythological nights, in darkness, ancient rhapsodies and old and patriarchal habits.

To think that on these mountainous areas, where until the pre-liberation period, the people lived isolated from one another and could talk only about giants and monsters over the night skies, then electricity would soon reach every house and, together with it, would go radio and t.v. receivers, it’s really something unbelievable and fascinating. Now in our deep mountainous areas, groups of workers from cities, electricians, fitters and students from the State University of Tirana, travel from one village to another and from district to district in order to bring light everywhere. They are warmly received by the peasants. When the volunteers turn back to their cities, they carry with themselves a lot of moving stories. They bring a still greater resolution to always fight darkness, and never make a compromise with it. Very soon, the highlanders and villagers of the remote areas will be sitting in front of t.v. sets. It is a wild winter in our mountainous areas and the snow remains there for months on end. But the highlanders would never feel the winter isolation. They would watch through t.v. the whole socialist motherland, their brother-workers in plants, ports, the concert halls of Tirana, Shakespeare’s Hamlet, news of the world.

Never has our country had such a unity among the people. The advanced districts render help to the backward ones, the workers assist the countryside, students go on groups to mountainous regions, artists joyfully tour the north. The full electrification of Albania, apart from all other things, will still strengthen this unity.

Now our villages, in successes, are celebrating the installation of electric light. This is a new celebration, the most modern of all. It will embark on the best popular traditions, just like, for instance, the setting in of spring.
On the greatest river of Albania — on the Drini River, in the North of Albania, the work for the construction of the most powerful hydropower plant ever built so far, is going on. It will generate 250,000 kilowatt-hours of power annually. It will give a new impulse to the industrial development of the country, and Republic's power system will be apt to better supply the ever-increasing network of the electric installations of the countryside. It is expected that this year the electrification of the whole of Albania, including the far-away villages, be completed, hence the demands for electricity are increasing. As a result of the acceleration of the rates of the electrification of the countryside and the shortening of the terms set before, the need arose to quicken the work at the Vau i Dejës Hydro-Power-Station on the Drini River. Next year it will work with a full capacity. The work site on the Drini River has large proportions. There will be carried out four million cubic metres of earth work. The volume of concrete laid and which will be laid is nearly equal to the volume of concrete used so far in our country for the building of all the power stations. The building of this work is a struggle waged to overcome the many difficulties in such a big and complex work-yard. This work-yard is a living testimony to the growth and perfection of our new engineering and technical cadres who now are able to solve the complicated problems of the technique of the construction of energetic works.

The hydropower station which is under construction on the Drini River is named after the great leader of the Chinese people, the best friend of the Albanian people, Comrade Mao Tsetung. This is an expression of the close friendship binding the Albanian people with the Chinese people, and of the gratefulness of our people to the friendly and international aid that the Chinese people render to Albania in the socialist construction of the country. Great China is rendering a very valuable material and technical help to us in building this hydropower station, as a result it may be called the monument of the great friendship binding our two peoples.
(1) Fitting up of turbines.

(2) The growth in times of the production of electric energy.

(3) Chinese and Albanians working together to install equipment for the hydroelectric station.

(4) The flow of the Drini River will pass through this dam after the change of its bed.

Photo: by P.Clei
Engineer Robert Ballta, the student praktikant Ivoni Cani, engineers Yibër Dhrami and Alfred Frashëri considering the area’s data.

Together with the Geologists

At leisure time
May the 21st

Geologists are like birds of passage, where one sees them today, one would not find them there tomorrow. Their work-front is nature.

They are to be found in valleys, in fields and in the mountains. The more difficulties they encounter in their work, the more romantic it becomes.

We have just arrived in this peak clad in pine trees. The weather is nice, and everywhere one can notice the verdure. The geologists' first job is to erect their "house" - a multicoloured tent is being erected on this peak. From here one can see deep valleys and mountain peaks covered with snow. It seems as if you are in an airplane.

There mountains and valleys are very old. In their bosom for centuries have slept their sleep very precious riches for men. But once, the Albanian tramped barefooted over these riches. He was near the table but still hungry.

But the century-old sleep of these mountains was disturbed in the years of the people's power. Geologists, these men of a previously unknown occupation here, are awaking these riches to put them into country's service.

That is they are called here the vanguard of socialist industrialization.

June the 4th

At the expedition's tent today came a peasant. He took some stones out of his bag.

They seemed to have been made of small pieces of looking-glass. Only in one of these pieces alone you can see the whole sun. . . .

- Like these stones - said the peasant - there are a lot at the foot of the mountain in the vicinity of our village. I discussed the matter over with my friends and decided:

"Let me show them to the geologists, because who knows, may be that in these small stones there is a great wealth."

And the work of this expedition is connected not only with the rocks and peaks they tread upon. They time and again stop in the villages, discuss with the natives and speak to them about the treasures hidden by the subsoil. So the geologists organize talks and show of the useful minerals.

So the participation of the broad masses of the people in the geological investigations has been enlivened. Ahmet, who brought these stones here today, is neither the first nor the last of the guests to this expedition. The geologists' guests are the pupils and shepherds too.

The samples he brought with arose the interest of all the members of the expedition.

June the 16th

The participants of the expedition came back today happier. The trip they undertook bore its fruits.

The reconnaissance on the map of the sector with which the geological march was to take place, was made last night.

Yiber assigned the tasks to everyone:

- You, Edmond, follow the contact between the ultrabasic rocks and the limestone rock. While you Ivri, are to go down near the torrent to map the rocks shown by the peasants.

Yiber rose to his feet and wrapped the map. After a short pause he said to Vangjel Stefan:

- You stay here today to systematize the samples collected last week.

For a moment Yiber seemed to me like the commander of a unit before the battle.

And, now after 24 hours, the members of the expedition return back tired but happy. The day's task was fulfilled.

July the 9th

The expedition's tent is erected 2,500 metres over the sea-level. Over the wild goats climb these peaks, said jokingly, one of the members of the expedition. One can see nothing else but sky and peaks clad in pine trees. Everywhere the song of the birds is accompanying us. With our country's life we keep contact through the transistor's antenna.

. . . The participants of the expedition are bowing over the map and are puzzling their brains about the work they are to do in the coming days. The majority of them are young. Only uncle Kip is an exception. His talks are full of comparisons. He knows the sufferings of the past, he joined the partisans, and fought arms in hand for the country's liberation.

When looking at Kipo, in my imagination takes shape the comparison between those geological expeditions, and yesterday's partisan units, but now with another task. Edmond, Ivri and Vangjel graduated from the Geological Technical Middle School and climbed those mountains inherited generation after generation. In the chain of generations, these are the proudest. . . . They are people whose friend is the book, and hammer in hand wake from the deep sleep the natural riches, to make the fatherland more prosperous, and stronger.

The sun is saying good-bye and hiding himself behind the peak of a mountain. In front of the tent a fire was made, and round it started heated talks and songs.

Romance is the life of geologists. . . .

(1) After work.

(2) Going down to the terrain.

Photos by: S. Xhillari
Foreigners About Albania

Incomparable Achievements

Ahmed Baba Mishe
Membre du Comité de rédaction de la revue “Afro-Asia” — Paris

I discovered Albania, and her extraordinary achievements in the economic, social and cultural fields, difficult to be imagined when one knows her situation of 26 years ago. This discovery fills one with optimism, because it goes to show that even a small country, isolated, surrounded by enemies and backward — especially without cadres, without industry and without economic infrastructure — can fight, win and develop very quickly, to reach in less than a generation, even surpass in many respects, the most developed countries.

Naturally, these successes achieved by Albania did not come from themselves. If the oppressed and exploited peoples want to follow this example, they must not only liberate themselves from old and new colonialism, but they must also make deep social changes. The experience of the liberation struggle of Albania was interesting to me, because the way the Albanian people were organized in struggle, the way they seized the means necessary to reach their aim — first of all the securing the correct leadership, able to lead the victory to the end and the United Democratic Front around the Communist Party of Albania headed by Comrade Enver with the Party of Labour. Everywhere can be seen that the Party is the vanguard that teaches and learns from the people.

Everywhere discussions that raise the ideological and spiritual level of the Albanian people are going on. The further revolutionization of the life of the country is so done that causes great admiration. I saw the enthusiasm of the young builders of the Elbasan-Prenjas Railroad. Here the most important aspect is the ideological tempering of the youth.

The Albanian people will not allow the growth of a technocratic class, of cadres detached from the toiling masses. Workers, peasants and intellectuals work together in actions by concentrated blows, in piercing of irrigation

My First Impressions

ULLMAR QWICK
Member of the Committee of Swedish-Albanian Friendship Association

20 years ago, through literature and Radio-Tirana broadcasts, I started to know various aspects of life in Albania. Now that my old dream of visiting your country came true, my impressions are so many that I find it difficult to express them in a few lines.

I will touch upon some questions as my first impressions. I have talked with workers, students, peasants, intellectuals, soldiers and children and these talks have been many and different. The people are closely linked with the Party of Labour. Everywhere can be seen that the Party is the vanguard that teaches and learns from the people.

All over the country discussions that raise the ideological and spiritual level of the Albanian people are going on. The further revolutionization of the life of the country is so done that causes great admiration. I saw the enthusiasm of the young builders of the Elbasan-Prenjas Railroad. Here the most important aspect is the ideological tempering of the youth.

The Albanian people will not allow the growth of a technocratic class, of cadres detached from the toiling masses. Workers, peasants and intellectuals work together in actions by concentrated blows, in piercing of irrigation

A Few Words About the Women of Albania

swiss journalist H.H.

I would like to write a few words about the Albanian woman. I quite frankly say that I was astonished at what I saw. The woman, who for a long time had been the man’s slave, who lived treated in the darkness of the house, now comes out as a motive force of progress. The first woman I met and who deeply impressed me was the directress of the Tirana Paediatrics Hospital, Madame Aférëtta Gushe. There she told us about her life and I was impressed by this phrase: “I am 5th children in our family. Our Mother, who was very progressive, insisted on that should study”. This mother was right, I believe. I saw the dark and sweat eyes of Madame Gushe and I read in them features of goodness and wit.

In the Museum of Independence in Vlorä, the cicerone proudly placed his stick on an old photo of Shote Galica; She bravely fought with arms in hand against the Turkish hordes for the liberation of the country. Near Elbasan, at the construction site of Elbasan-Prenjas Railway we met with female students of the History-Philology Faculty who just like boys used picks as easily as their political language.

One evening, in the inner hall of the “Dajti” Hotel, a very beautiful woman is dining next to our table. She is the director of the pharmacy products factory! I would have met with other female directors, all of them skilled, lovely and lively. And when you call to your memory those hundreds of girls operating the complicated machineries in the new factories and combines, you without fail will think that the first astronaut in the Albanian satellite would be a woman...
A Big Work-Yard

Marco Barberis
— journalist in “Avanti” newspaper.

Albania of the seventies appears before the eyes of a foreign observer as a magnificent work-yard.

One can see everywhere productive work and factories of small, medium and big size have been erected and are still being erected. The countryside has become prosperous thanks to the use of chemical fertilizers and agricultural machines. This picture shows itself very clearly everywhere, and as soon as you tread on the Albanian soil, you do away with the impression of a backward and semi-feudal country, an impression which is the result of information of the time of the war time two.

I visited Albania from North to South, and I saw localities and costal plains and without understanding it, even I myself, I noticed the deep and quick changes made in men and in the field of technology.

Surely, there are drawbacks especially in the third-rate sectors, but this does not cause any doubts about the strong impetus forward of these 25 years, from the end of the liberation war.
The Green Laboratories

On the two sides of the road leading to Lushnjë City — in the vicinity of the former marshland of Terbuji — there is a wide field of 250 hectares divided into small plots of different colours. Looking from far away at these plots they seem to be the rooms of a giant open laboratory. Here do their research work, the workers of our science of agriculture. Once the day dawns, one can see the agricultural research workers in their green laboratories, watching, taking notices and leading the practical work... In the summer time, they are very busy and are anxiously awaiting the results of their experiments made during the year.

In the cotton-growing plot we see the agronomist, Jonuz Kapllani, who leads the work on the plot in which the early growing long-fibre cotton is being experimented. The Institute has experimented on 68 different kinds of cotton and has produced new varieties suitable to our country such as "Vlorë", "Fier", "Lushnjë" which have a short vegetation and long fiber of 37 mm. Due to the scientific work, cotton is widely spreading in our agriculture.

Further down, in another plot we find the agronomist, Jorge Shkodran, working to produce new varieties of beans — In his plots 160 different varieties of beans are being experimented upon, to produce new varieties suitable to the coastal region. While in another plot the young agronomist Zhane Xhojo, is mowing the new wheat. On the plot's threshing-ground the different varieties of wheat are being selected, to be distributed then later on, as suitable seeds. The Institute experiments on 400 different varieties of wheat, and produces by itself 7 varieties of wheat, which yield a high production.

The wheat varieties like "Krutja", "Myzeqija", "Bashkimi" produced by the Institute yield 30-40 kg per hectare. This is a great success as compared with the past when the yield was 7-8 kg per hectare.

On the other side of these plots there are some other types of laboratories — the fruit-growing plots.

There work the agronomists, Toso Nini and Erver Duro, who experiment on 974 varieties of fruits, from which 268 varieties are only grapes.

The Agricultural Scientific Research Institute has achieved great successes in three directions of its scientific research work: in
You may see every morning in the green plots the workers of the Agricultural Research Institute examining plants.

Experiment in the lab. Photos: by S. Xhillari

the selection of the different varieties of agricultural crops, in the agro-technical researches and in the production of selected seeds for a wider use.

All of the 115 specialists the Institute has, in the center at the experimental stations or all over the country, perform a great job in the direction of further improving our agriculture. Only through a persevering scientific work it is possible to produce in the country many varieties of suitable grain, seeds, of industrial plants, different fruits and vegetables. Last year the Institute produced and distributed 38 different varieties of seeds for the wide use. These seeds were produced by thousands and thousands of different experiments.

Looking at the green laboratories of the Institute, I recalled to my memory some articles, I had read in the magazines, "National economy" and "Agriculture" published before the liberation of the country. In one of them the Ministry of Agriculture under the regime of former king Zogu, praised as a great success the establishment of an experimental center, in which was experimented upon 10 kinds of wheat, 20 kinds of maize and 20 kinds of vegetables. In charge of all these was only one agronomist. Another article praised as a great success the fact, that the government had imported 30 kg of Hungarian maize, 300 kg of Italian maize and 1,200 kg of Italian grain, to be distributed to the people as selected seeds.

While today one is pleased when looking at the achieved results in the fields of agricultural scientific research when one bears the names of Albania "grain patterns" such as: "Kruja", "Myzeqeja", "Sukiti" of the maize "Salova" "Mashkullore", "Delti" of the cotton "Vloras", "Fieri", "Lushnja 1", of the tobacco "Kroskovei", "Tirana 10" etc.

Another characteristic feature of the Albanian agricultural science is the fact that the experiments are made not only in laboratories, on these plots of the Institute or at the experimental stations, but also in the wide fields of the state farms and collective farms.

Every scientific research worker has a collective farm under his patronage and helps the collective farmers to increase agricultural productivity.

So our agricultural science is not confined within the walls of the Institute or of the experimental stations, but it develops in thousands of collective farms and state farms, so science has become of the masses now, of the thousands of workers, of our socialist countryside.

In the year 1969 on the collective and state farms, 4,800 agricultural scientific experiments were carried out and the results were good. In the same year 89,000 hectares of high yield plots were moved. In the great socialist transformation made to our backward agriculture by the people's power, one can feel the great contribution of the Albanian science of agriculture.

"The green laboratories" are being extended everywhere and the yields of agricultural crops are increasing to give thus more food-grains, vegetables and fruits to the people.

Turhan srilegu
At the invitation of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania a Delegation of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam headed by Comrade Huynh Van Hoan, Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers' Party and Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the DRV made a friendly visit in Albania from the 15th to the 22nd of July 1978.

The Delegation of the National Assembly of the DRV was received by the First-Secretary of the Central Committee of the PLA, Comrade Enver Hoxha and by other Party and State leaders.

At the invitation of the Central Council of the Albanian Trade Unions, a Delegation of the General Trades Union of Rumania headed by Comrade Florian Danalache, President of the Union's Central Council made a friendly visit in the PRA from the 15 to the 20th of July 1978.

The Rumanian Delegation had talks with Comrade Gjita Marko, President of the Central Council of the Albanian Trade Unions, and with other leading comrades of the Trade Unions of Albania.
Associations of Friendship

For the Friendship with the Albanian People

by GIORGIO ZUCCHETTI
Secretary of the Italian-Albanian Friendship Association

The aim of our Association is the development and strengthening of the friendship between the Italian and the Albanian peoples.

Our Association tries through its activity to make known to the Italian public the People's Republic of Albania and its economic, cultural and social development.

The Italy-Albanian Association, has attracted through its work broad masses of Italian workers, youth and students, progressive intellectuals and people of goodwill of all strata who nourish sincere feelings of friendship for Albania and her people.

In order to inform the Italian public of the achievements and successes of the Albanian people in building socialism, the Italy-Albanian bookshops and different cultural centers, too.

The Association's forms of activity are of different kinds: conferences, talks, discussions, etc. Through these activities the Association raises general and specific themes, according to the sectors and strata of the population, such as for example: meetings with former partisans of the "Gramsci" Battalion, meetings with youth, discussions about the national liberation struggle of the Albanian people, about the economic, cultural and social development of Albania, about the Albanian literary works and about the Albanian folk music. Naturally the Association does not neglect other forms of activity which have proved to be fruitful, such as the preparation of different exhibitions about Albania, the publication of documents as well as Comrade Enver Hoxha's speeches to the youth etc. Among the most important activities up to now the film performances have proved fruitful.

The Italian-Albanian Friendship Association has been strengthened from the organizational viewpoint. Besides the National Council with its headquarters in Rome, there exist today many branches of the Association in many cities of Italy which do a good job in popularizing Albania and in promoting friendship between our two peoples.

The discussed themes and the debates organized by the Association make quite clear the role Albania plays today in the world, with that contribution to the building of a new society.

The Revolutionary Struggle of the Albanian People Is a Useful Example

by SHOSAKU ITAI
Chairman of the Japan-Albanian Friendship Association

The Japanese working class and the Japanese people have a lot to learn from the experience of the struggle of the Party of Labour of Albania, especially from its loyalty to Marxism-Leninism, from its close ties with the people and proletarian internationalism.

To make known this rich experience of the revolutionary struggle of the Party of Labour of Albania and of the Albanian people, the Japanese-Albanian Friendship Association has organized and is organizing various activities with Japanese workers. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of liberation of Albania in November 1969, our Association organized a commemorative meeting in Tokyo where besides the speeches made on the occasion, a photo-exhibition with Albanian products was opened. In this exhibition the participants admired the successes of the Albanian people in building socialism. We have published in the form of a booklet, in the Japanese language the speech delivered by Comrade Enver Hoxha in Tirana, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Albania.

The Japanese-Albanian Friendship Association sponsors time and again various meetings at which the Japanese workers become acquainted with the important documents of the Albanian Party and Government, with the history and the revolutionary struggle of the Albanian people.

The "Toho Shoten" Revolutionary Publishing House in Japan amicably undertook and published in Japanese "The History of the Party of Labour of Albania" (the first and the second chapter) prepared by the Association.

We are convinced, this work published in Japan, which treats of the period of the foundation of the Party and the struggle of the Albanian people for their national liberation, will be very useful and encouraging to the Japanese people in their struggle against U.S. imperialism, revisionism and reaction, for their independence, freedom, democracy and peace. We are happy that our Association helps through its activity in strengthening the friendship and the revolutionary solidarity between the Japanese and the Albanian peoples.
In summer, this year, after studies, tens of thousands of young girls and boys of middle and higher schools worked for one month in various mass undertakings, such as in the building of the Elbasan-Prenjas Railroad, in opening terraces, in building electric lines and installing them in the peasant houses, in preparing the ground for planting fruit trees along our coastal area.

These mass undertakings besides the economic profit have a great importance for the education of the youth with the feeling of love for work, for their physical and ideological tempering.

After the undertakings our youth started the summer holidays.

The photos you see show some aspects from the work and life of the school and student youth in the building of the Elbasan-Prenjas Railroad and in the opening of terraces along the coast.
11th Class Undertakings
A Nation Rising

Monument to the 1920 Vlora battle. A work by the sculptors Muntaz Dhrami, Shaban Hadéri, krisiaq Rama, Hektor Dule.
At the beginning of September this year is the 50th anniversary of the victory of the Vlora battle when the Albanian people through an armed struggle threw into the sea the Italian imperialists who had occupied the Albanian territory.

After the First World War the political situation of Albania on the national as well as on the international arena became very grave. Italian imperialism as a great power and favoured by the international combinations, since the beginning of the First World War had occupied the greatest part of the Albanian territory and was mainly concentrated in the Albanian seaport of Vlora— from here the Italian imperialists secured the realization of their expansionist plans not only in the Balkans but in the Mediterranean Sea, too.

The news coming from the Peace Conference in Paris and from the foreign press etc. spoke about the preparations of the Great Powers to disembarrass the whole of the Albanian territory. The Albanian progressive press issued a call to the Albanian people to prepare for the armed struggle. The newspaper “Drita” (Light) which was published in the city of Gjirokastër wrote in one of its articles:

“Let us challenge by means of arms all those who covet this country let us rodden every hand which seeks to stretch on the life of Albania... Better honoured dead under ground than alive but ashamed”.

The all-round preparations for war, made in Vlora and in districts around it, continued to meet the support of the poor peasantry and of the working masses of the city. The Italian occupation command was aware of the danger. In May of the year 1920 it made a number of arrests among the organizations of the center, it proclaimed in Vlora a state of emergency and threatened those who would dare to take up arms against the Italian army.

The Albanian people were determined to follow the road of the armed struggle. On the 29th of May 1920, in a village South of Vlora a national council was set up and a staff which was to lead the military activities was created. The decisions of this meeting were known throughout Albania. A call to arms was directed to them. These quick organizational measures were required by the character of the battle which was to begin very soon. The Albanian armed forces which took up arms within a few days became some thousand men strong.

On the 3rd of June 1920 the Albanian armed forces sent an ultimatum to the Italian military forces, reading in part as follows:

“The Albanian people, united more than ever, not tolerating to be sold out like cattle in the markets of Europe, as a reward to the Italians, Greeks and Serbians, decided to take up arms and demand from Italy the administration of Vlora, Tepelenica and Himara, which must be handed over as soon as possible to the national government of Albania.”

The Italian government was asked to give a reply before the evening of June the 4th. The Italian command gave a ridiculous reply. At the end of the set deadline the leading national committee ordered the beginning of the uprising according to the plan prepared in advance.

On the 5th of June 1920 the armed uprising began against the garrisons of the Italian imperialists.

From all the parts of the country volunteers came to Vlora, among them many were women. They came from different cities of Albania to fight for the liberation of Vlora.

The Italian army in Vlora was surrounded. The Albanian patriots headed by Selim Musai threw themselves upon the barbed wire, which protected the Italian garrisons. Heavy fighting continued for a long time and the Albanians though badly armed, emerged victorious. The Italian General Piacentini asked Rome for new reinforcements. The Italian commissar in Durres, F. Costaldi sent the following cable to Rome: “if we are to continue for a long time the present fighting, the tired and weak Italian forces present in Vlora will not be able to resist the situation, not matter whether new reinforcements come or not”. Though Rome promised new reinforcement, they never came. The revolutionary situation in Italy worsened the situation of the Italian imperialists.

The Italian proletariat rose up against the imperialist intervention into Albania, giving thus an international help to the liberation struggle of the Albanian people. In the streets of the Italian cities, in the progressive Italian press and in the parliament of Rome rose strong voices of protests. They asked from the Italian government to withdraw the occupationist troops from Vlora and to respect the national rights of the Albanian people. In the main Italian cities the proletariat passed from simple protests to strikes and demonstrations. In the coastal cities of Trieste, Bari and Brindisi the call of the Italian Socialist Party was distributed. This call invited the Italian soldiers not to go to Albania. The attempts of the Italian government to send new reinforcements to Vlora met with the resistance of the Italian army itself. On the 26th of June 1920 units of some Italian battalions refused to leave for Albania and joined the demonstrations of the workers and came into bloody clashes with the carabiniers.

Being faced with the armed struggle of the whole Albanian people and with the increase of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat within Italy, the Italian government was obliged to sign a protocol between Albania and Italy. According to that protocol the Italian government acknowledged the Albanian sovereignty over Vlora and the territorial entirety of the Albanian state.

The Italian army was to withdraw within a month from Vlora. On the second of September, the Italian army withdrew from Vlora and on the 3rd of September 1920, the Albanian uprising forces, entered victoriously liberated Vlora, where they were enthusiastically welcomed by the representatives of all the Albanian districts, who had come there to celebrate this great victory of the Albanian people.

The Vlora battle supported by the Italian proletariat too, was a successful crowning of the efforts of the Albanian people against the plans of the imperialist powers to wipe Albania out of the map of Europe, and of the efforts of the people to see their fatherland free and independent.

The war against the Italian occupiers bears witness to the fact, that when a nation is fights for a just cause, like that of defeating its freedom and independence, it becomes an invincible force: it can’t be defeated by the imperialists with their great armies and their modern technique of arms.
Joyful holidays!

This is the wish you hear now in the hot summer days in the railway stations platforms or in the suburban bus stop lines. Workers, and their children, luggage in hands, are setting off for the most beautiful places of our motherland, where the doors of the resting houses have been opened. Their destination is to the mountainous health building resorts: Qafe-Shtamë, Voskopejë, Dajti, Razim; to the beaches: Durrës, Vlonë, Golem, Dhërmi; to the shores of the picturesque lakes: Pogradec and Shkodër. This year the number of the workers and their children, who will spend their holidays in these centers, is greater than the previous one. The accessories of these resting homes and camps also had changes, and the material basis for cultural and sport activities excursions by sea etc.

The state has created all the facilities that these centers be frequented by a great number of workers and young pioneers. It pays two thirds of the expenses on the workers, three fourths on the young pioneers, and four fifths on the ill people, who spend 25 days of rest at health resorts. Thus the whole sum of expenses that the worker pays out for himself or his children make up but nearly one sixth of his monthly average wage. He gets the full wage for the whole time he is on holiday. As far as the other children are concerned, i.e. those who do not go to the rest homes, rest camps and daily centers for the whole period of summer, that supply them with dinners have been set up in every city by economic enterprises and in countryside by the co-op farms. This summer 800 such centers is but symbolic.

The children come back from these rest homes and centers more healthy and with unforgettable impressions.
1. Albania has a littoral of about 472 km, along which there have been set up health resorts for the working people.

   Photo: by S. Xhillari

2. In summer, in many climatic places of Albania are built “quarters” with touristic tents for the working people to spend their holidays.

3. A day of rest at the artificial lake of Tirana.

4. Children spend their holidays joyfully at the beach.

5. A common view of the Durrës Beach.
Questions of Literature

An Ever New Innovating Literature

Iliazor Siliqi — poet

We, the writers of the People's Republic of Albania, have as a fundamental principle the teaching of our leader Comrade Enver Hoxha to live "arm in arm with the people". Our writer is the son of the people and the fighter for the cause of the people, he is not a describer or a hymn player of the life, but an active participant in the socialist construction of the country, in defence of the motherland and the victories of revolution, in defence of Marxism-Leninism. He shares joys and sorrows with the people. He works together with the people and is tempered in the anvil of life, struggles to revolutionize life and himself, for he knows quite well the great truth that the revolutionary art can be created by revolutionaries only. Our writer is a communist fighter for the victory of socialism and communism in his own country and in the world, being well prepared and armed for this struggle.

Alongside with his ever deeper knowledge of life he what we mentioned above consists in fact the innovating character of our new literature. The up-to the present attempts of our writers and their struggle led by the Party for the further revolutionization of the literature of socialist realism, which is not a stale formula, nor a dogma, but a guide to action, are a guarantee for ever fresh victories. They are the foundation on which our assurance that the new and innovating Albanian literature of socialist realism is based. With red banners of revolution in hands we have entered the second quarter of a century of our free life, a beautiful and heroic life, beautiful in its heroism, in boldly overcoming the innumerable difficulties from the sorrowful long content up blockades trained

encourage us for revolutionary action, information about the complete electrification of our motherland at astounding time limit fill our eyes with light. In such an enthusiastic atmosphere the fact that our writers have preserved pure the banner of socialist realism fighting against decadentism and revisionism, as well as the apparent achievements of our literature in the recent years are also a source of inspiration for new victories. Sufficient it to mention that this year there have been published or are being published more novels than in any other year; 12 poetry prose and dramaturgy works were honoured this year with the Republic's prize. We have a gallery of well created characters in the works of our authors, the number of which has been really increased; we have a determined struggle of the new against the old, we have revisionist influences, any conservative and inhibitive tendencies, struggling for the strengthening of the socialist character of our literature to make it an ever effective weapon in the hands of the Party for the communist education of the masses. Our goal is that through Marxist-Leninist theory creatively relying on our past and present traditions, without neglecting the experience of world literature, we should make all our efforts for the blossoming of the literature of socialist realism, which is always being developed and consolidated having the life as its basis, and a communist prospect and passion.

Socialist realism brought in the literature new heroes, the working class, the communists. Strengthening the class character of our works, treating first of all, the most typical features of our life, we widen our possibilities as true artists, we perform both our national and international task.

Interest in our literature, just as in other arts is greater now in various countries of the world. Our fiction works, translated in foreign languages, contribute to this fact; "New Albania" Magazine, as well as other fiction works translated in other countries have been warmly received by foreign readers. No doubt, the source of this interest in our literature consists in growing of its artistic values, but above all it consists in the purity and the militant spirit of its ideology, in its popular innovating character, that is, in its content, because the question of innovation is a question of content.

It is not the elements of the form nor the experimentations of separate artists those which determine the true innovation. One of our critics has beautifully expressed this idea, that the first window was not built to make the room beautiful and symmetrical, but to let air and light come in through it. Albanian revolutionary writers appraise high qualities of the people, they call on for progress and revolution, they discard the nonsense of pacifism and abstract humanism. Just raising ever high the banner of socialist realism, the Albanian writers make sure that the Albanian literature with always be new, innovating.
On the 200th Birth Anniversary

BET’HOVEN IN ALBANIA

Beethoven, one of the most brilliant figures of the world musical art, is known and loved by all art-loving Albanians. Penetrating the suffocating atmosphere of the European reaction of the times, he showed in his works the belief in the brilliant future of humanity, the belief in the victory of revolution. His music, rife with militant intonations which are permeated by the ardent spirit of heroic expressions of revolution, is heard by our people with a keen desire and attention over our radio broadcasts and in the concert halls. Beethoven’s music occupies a fundamental place in the programs of 8-year musical schools which have been opened in a number of cities and towns of our country where workers and peasants’ children study. Almost everyone of the pupils of violin, violoncello, or pianoforte presents in his exam something from Beethoven. Whereas in the programmes of the Tirana Artistic Lyceum, a 12-year school rightly called by people “Nursery of young talents”, a number of sonatas from Beethoven are recommended as necessary for every pianist. Likewise, in the programmes of the High Institute of Arts, without mentioning the place occupied by Bet’hoven in the musical literature or in the lectures of the history of music, Beethoven’s works are very important. His music has been having a place of honour in the range of concerts performed in the 26 years of the people’s power by the professional collectives of the country: by the orchestra and chorus of the Albanian Philharmonic as well as by the symphonic orchestra of the Opera and Ballet Theatre. A number of our opera singers have a large repertoire of arias and ballades from Beethoven.

The symphonic orchestra of Tirana Broadcasting Center since 1961 when it was set up, executed the Nr. 1 symphony in the first public concert and later on it executed a number of other works of the great composer. Beethoven’s music is preferred in the Tirana-Radio programs rather than the music of any other classical author. The many letters received by the listeners’ choice program, show that many of Beethoven’s works are popular in the radio listeners. Radio-Tirana from time to time organizes special programs about Beethoven’s life and works. With great interest are followed by many listeners the broadcasts of the range “Music in centuries”. This range of weekly broadcasts given on Sundays, has as its signal the motif of Bet’hoven’s fifth symphony.

There are many studies on Bet’hoven in Albanian language. First, we should mention the critical study by F. Noli with the title “Bet’hoven and the French Revolution”, published in Boston in 1947 (and later was translated in Albania), a work which enriched the musical bibliography, making an original contribution to the complete acquaintance of Bet’hoven’s figure. The author of this monograph; who is known for his wide and many-sided activity as a noted personality of the Albanian culture, pointed out convincingly and dialectically how much Beethoven was influenced by the ideas of the French Revolution and how much is his music imbued with heroic spirit. Not in vain this very important work made fadu in the international arena and was cheered by Bernard Shaw, Thomas Man, Sibelius and other personalities of world culture and art. Very well received by our readers is Romen Roin’s monograph “The life of Bet’hoven”, translated in Albanian. This monograph written by a powerful pen is written not only for specialists and scholars, but for every common reader who wants to know Bet’hoven, as the most distinguished representative of that historic turn which opened great prospects for music too.

As a matter of fact such monographs help better understanding the spirit of his music, which is no longer a combination of pleasant sounds which lack content, but it is an expression of deep feelings and thoughts standing above empty formalism, it is a reflection of life itself in a period of social transformations and political revolutions which smashed the feudal order.

Another volume with the title “The masters of the musical monuments” which was published by the “Library of the Youth”, contains only one chapter on Bet’hoven’s life, but still it is of great interest because it presents him not only as a master of tune, but also as a great thinker who involved himself in social problems, especially in the question of freedom, as a man that deeply felt the social role of music and the ethic mission of art.

The anniversaries of distinguished people are convenient chances to know better their life and activities.

On the 200th anniversary of Bet’hoven’s birth, the Albanian people will know better the magnificent composer’s figure, through conferences, publications, radio-broadcasts and various concerts. On the occasion will be heard many of his excellent works which remain actual for their heroic ideas and the revolutionary pathos, for the democratic features of the content, for the universality of the musical expressions. Beethoven’s creativeness remains as one of highest summit of the world music history. The inculcation of Bet’hoven’s creativeness in the musical life of our country, the honour and love for his music show the high and true esteem the Albanian people and the Party of Labour have for the progressive traditions of the past.

Ramadan Sokoli
This school-year, from the high-schools of our country graduated 1,943 cadres, for different branches of the economy and social sciences. This is the greatest number of the high cadres graduating within a year; all of them have been appointed to their posts according to specialty and once the summer vacations are over, they will start working. Our editor met some of them. They spoke to him about their desires and dreams, now, on the eve of the start of practical work.

Drita Kotri.—I just finished my studies at the Medicine Faculty. Five years passed very quickly, and now I stand on the threshold of life. It is but natural for me to feel a sort of timidity at those moments—one can learn in life much more than in books and halls auditoria. I think that this is particularly so with the doctors to be.

I came from Shkodra five years ago. From that time on I have received state scholarship. The state spent for making me a doctor great sums of money. This makes me feel even more the weight of the tasks awaiting me.

This year from our faculty graduated almost 240 physicians and dentists. This figure is greater than the number of physicians working in the whole of Albania before the liberation. Now we will begin to serve the people. To be a servant to the people—this is my supreme aim.

Ahmet Pasha.—I liked dramatic art since I was a pupil—eagerly I took part in the artistic groups of our school and in those of the city’s Palace of Culture. When I graduated from the middle school my ardent desire was to follow my studies in the High Institute of Arts. I won the entrance contest and my dream became a reality. With the state’s help, I, the son of a waiter, became an actor.

Recently, we gave three different performances. In two of them I played the leading roles, as for example in “Shadows of the Night” by our writer V. Kokona, and “The girl without dowry” by A. Ostrovski.

My greatest desire is to be able to present on the stage, full of dignity, the heroes of our time.

Nazmije Murati.—I well remember the time when my uncle would come back from the geological expeditions. Every time he would bring back lots of impressions and would tell us about the difficulties and discoveries of new mineral resources. At first they seemed like fantastic tales to me, but later on they were deeply rooted in my soul, and woke in me the desire to become a geologist, too. The state granted a scholarship to me and I, the highland lass, from Mati Regions came down from my mountainous village, to realize my dream and climb them later on as a geologist.

When I think of my future, I want to resemble my uncle, to become like him tireless, to detect as he, as much as possible subsoil riches for the prosperity of my fatherland. My region is full of high mountains. They are full of useful minerals, awaiting us, young geologists. And we will go, discover them and put them at the service of the people’s economy.
ON THE EVE OF LIFE

Kajtim Siniçi, — I too, just graduated from the mechanics branch — I liked it opens wide prospects to our country. I graduated from the faculty with very good results.

The preparing for the diploma is one of the most interesting stages in my life as a student. It is the epilogue of the student's life and the beginning of life as an engineer of mechanics. I mention this, because during the preparation of our diplomas, my fellow-student Francesco Fiore and I met with such difficultiies, the solution to which could not be found in books. So we were in trouble which caused us some sleepless nights. At last we overcame every difficulty, and we are glader now than we would have been with an easier theme.

The putting into practice of our modest knowledge will further mechanize the process of the transportation of the products in the Glass-Ware Factory in Tirana. So, our work as young engineers had a good start.

Helme Merini, — Our country is a country with a developing planned economy. In order to achieve this it needs economists. That was the reason, why I chose this branch. Just as to many other thousands of young people, the state created to me the possibilities to continue my studies granting to me a full scholarship. I have achieved good results in my studies. An interesting moment for me has been the preparation of my diploma. I chose the theme: "On the small organization of the work"— a problem this, much discussed about especially at the 9th Plenary Meeting of the C.C. of the P.L.A. During the preparatory stage I got acquainted with various working places and working conditions, and met with many workers. Now, to tell the truth, I am satisfied with my work, because I think it will help a little bit the sector I have chosen. It touches upon every aspect of the working place, starting from the discipline at work, and ending with the colours of the environment.

For us, economists, there is plenty of work everywhere. Though I am greatly interested in industry, I would be glad to work there, where the need greater, that means in agriculture.

I like the profession, I have chosen, and I will try to keep the book beside me for the whole of my life and to continually study and not to be a mere figure — registering clerk.

Vangjel Paci, — I have come here from an agricultural district, from Lushnja. My parents have always worked in agriculture. Our Agricultural Cooperative "The New Life", like the other cooperatives all over the country, is applying into practice with each passing day, new modern means and methods of work. To achieve this, first of all one needs cadres, well trained specialists. That is the reason, why I attended the Veterinary Middle School for 4 years in Shkodra. Here I received a scholarship from our collective farm. Then, after having worked for 3 years in our collective farm, I entered, on a state scholarship basis, the Faculty of Veterinary at the Higher Institute of Agriculture. Having a rather long practice in my specialty, I liked very much the theoretical subjects, because they open new vistas before you. At the end of my studies I had very good results.

I started work at once, as an assistant in the chair of pharmacology, at our Institute.

My aim is to become a good pharmacologist, therefore I will try to widen my knowledge in biochemistry and physiology.
Tracing Back Early Albanian Artists

The Albanians of Vicenza

Three generations of artists of Albanian origin were distinguished in the "Golden Age" of the Vicenzan architecture and sculpture. Some historians consider the XVI century as the "Golden Age" for Vicenza and Europe in general, because at that time came out such colossuses as Servantes, Shakespeare, Michelangelo, Leonard, Luther, Palestrina, etc. At that time Christopher Colombus, Magellan etc discovered unknown continents and oceans which gave marvellous riches to Europe. But the XVI century was also the time of Copernicus, of Galileo and of Campanella etc that is, it was the time of firm objections to free thinkers by the ill-famed inquisition which persecuted progressive people and burnt them at the stake. The XVI century for many countries was the time of violence and brutal oppression, the time of furious and disastrous invasions which ruined states and empires. For Albania in particular, it was the century of complete Ottoman slavery. With the occupation of Albania by the Turks many Albanians, after a long heroic resistance, flied from their homeland to Dalmatia, Italy and elsewhere. These Albanians were distinguished both for their valour and their creative abilities. Suffice it to mention the "Albanians' dynasty of Urbino" which played an important role in the mental, artistic and political life of Italy for more than two centuries running. One of those families which emigrated in the XV century, had settled in Vicenza of North Italy. There, this family was called "Albanese" after the surname of origin. There emerged from the bosom of this family generation after generation famous architects and sculptors as Francesco Albani and his son, Gjon, Jeronim, together with his nephew Francesco, who ornamented Vicenza, Padova and Venice with their works. We haven't got any exact information so far about Francesco's life and works. Maybe in the future we shall have further information. It is known that Gjon (or Giambalista, as he is called in Italian) was born in 1573, at a time when the city of Vicenza was flourishing and he received his first knowledge on art from his father. At such a time when our country was suffering from the foreign yoke, destroyed and ruined from century long struggle thus spring the European civilization, Vicenza was being decorated with mansions and imposing palaces. It was very famous at that time the figure of master Palladio (1508-1580), one of the most renowned architects of the Italian revival. Gjon shared his architecture skill with this master in many of his construction works. The great upsurge of constructions during the XVI century had made all branches of figurative arts subject to architecture. Many sculptors of that...
time worked first of all, to ornament entrances, steps, and the fronts of the buildings with bas-reliefs and statues. Thus, Gjon Albanesi completed the works of master Paladio with the best busts which beautify the boxes of the Paladian basilica at the big square called "Piazza dei Signori", as well as the stair leading down to the piazza. Gjon engraved the busts for the Sanare chapel in Corona and that of Joseph for St. Lorenzo's altar in the cathedral as well as two high stone columns with Venetian emblems (photo 1) on the big square. His works beautify streets, too. Just in a very narrow road, next to the main square, you are attracted by the elegance and purity of the classical lines of the imposing palace "Monte di Pietà". There, in the middle of this palace stands the church of Vicenza, designed by Gjon. He has also built its hall and the grand box with the five busts which crown the "Mercy" bas-relief in its front. We may mention here the oratory of Servits, the arch of triumph (photo 2) at the foot of the stair which leads to the Berico Mountain. In 1619 he worked in Venice also (five statues in front of "St. Giorgio Maggiore"). He has left other works besides these. Jeronim (or Girolamo, as they call him in Italian) has also left a number of sculptures with mythologic and religious content, especially in the Vicenza Palace, for example in the Paladian basilica (so "Palazzo della Ragione" - photo 3), in "Villa Kanka" (So called "Rotonda") built in the form of classical temples on the top of a hill, in the vicinity of the city. Besides sculptural decorations, Jeronim designed the "Gonfalone" Oratory in the cathedral, where he chiseled various objects with a powerfully decorative ability. The last of this family, Franchesek II Gjon's son, a sculptor educated to his grandfather, father, and uncle's example worked hard but he was not distinguished as much as his forerunners in his works.

The past of these emigrated "Albanesi" was knitted with artistic inclination, as the mastery of carving and construction was inherited in every generation of this family bringing with them many impressions from the Albanian soil.

In 1580, a plague epidemic caused Gjon's death. Whereas Jeronim died in 1606. The life of these Albanian artists was rife with attempts for effective work.

Though emigrated in foreign countries, they with their talent, with their persistent zeal and will in their work, overcame the many setbacks and difficulties, thus winning the general respect of the people.

In "Lotë Parnasi about Jeronim Albanesi's death" published by G. Molini in Vicenza in 1683 you can see the high esteem about these artists, it maybe seen especially in the inscription engraved with respect on the front of their house, in S. Biagio street;

Illa alter Phidias;
Hic Poliecetur erat
(Meaning: he was another Phidias; This was another Poliectu) This inscription which compared our two masters with Phidias and Polilectrum was later put off to their sarcophagus in "S. Lorenzo" where the most famous inhabitants of that city are buried or honourably commemorated.
The songs of a village

If we could imagine ourselves as being on the Mountain Veja of Kalimeti, in the evening hours, it would seem to us as if the sun has forgotten on the hill of Blinisht a bouquet of rays. It is the House of Culture of the “Scanderbeg” Collective Farm in Zadrina Region of Lezha District.

It is the cultural center of the three villages, which this Collective Farm is composed of. There is a great liveliness in the halls of the House of Culture. Men and women dressed in their best clothes move to and fro much preoccupied. The great hall with 600 seats is filled to capacity. There can be seated in it almost half of the number of the inhabitants of the three villages. Soon the artistic groups of the House of Culture will give a performance.

The curtain rises and the communication between the stage and the spectators begins. The air is full of melodies. One out of ten inhabitants of these villages takes part in an art group. One tenth of Blinisht, Pirej and Bacel is on the stage tonight.

The concerts of the amateur art groups are a mirror of the district’s temper, of the successes achieved by the people.

Listening to their songs one learns about the past full of sufferings of these highlanders, and about the great changes made during those past 25 years. In the past these villages were almost surrounded by marshes. A few houses of the past stand like witnesses on top of hills far away from one another. Today instead of stagnant waters and bushes there are cultivated fields. As compared with the first period of collectivization the area of the arable land has almost doubled. The number of the cattle is almost 3 times greater, that of fowl is 10 times greater as compared with the year 1940.

The increase of welfare has resulted in a reduction of death rate from 34 per thousand in 1941, to 3.4 per thousand last year.

To these successes is singing tonight, Zina Saliku, this peasant woman worker of Blinisht. She is dressed, like all the other amateur participants in clothes embroidered with golden threads. In this fine work of silk, in which the red and the yellow colours are more conspicuous, is blended the fantasy and the gusto of the people. Preng Martia, too, has changed his usual appearance and role. Instead of the hoe, he is holding in hand today a musical instrument and is singing a new song composed by himself. All the spectators applaud. Drene Zeli, Hile Tuku and Sade Shondaj through their songs and dances express the rich spiritual life of their countrymen. Among those youth, who give an impetus to the life of the Collective Farm, is Luke Skeraj, too. She just passed into the sixth form. We see her singing a highland song now.

The song reflects the life of the village.

Once Blinisht was a poor village. Men were born and grew up. Without bread undressed and barefoot. . .

But Blinisht is reborn now. If in 1931 there was not a single pupil here, today a new school is established in which there learn 200 children. In the Collective Farm one can see everywhere new buildings, three nurseries, kindergartens, three dining-halls and all the other social-cultural institutions. In the Collective Farm there are agronomists and veterinarians. A lot of songs are dedicated to the new socialist traditions, to the girls leaving for youth undertakings, to the women distinguished in the work.

We are singing to Blinisht.
And we wish it great successes
Under Party's leadership it has flourished
And made great progress in every field.

On the stage appear also some old-aged amateur artists. They follow the steps of the youth, bringing on the stage the progressive traditions of the popular art of the district. That old man who is pas-
There is vivdness at the House of Culture.

Ndree Skenaj and his daughter Luke Skenaj on stage.

The girls' choral group of the United Agricultural Cooperative of Blinjë.

Photos: By P. Kami
Art
Engraved in Wood

Stilian Adhami

People's art is a lawful reflection of the history of the Albanian people, it is a reflection showing their creative and constructing abilities.

In the whole of Albania, the artistic spirit of the Albanian is expressed in every object of the everyday use, in spoons, pots pipes, spindles, boxes, in eradies, looms in some wooden musical instruments etc.

Besides the interesting shapes that our people gave to wooden objects, they expressed in them their sentiment for the beauty. With the exemption of textile products, never did art find in any other material a prettier expression than in wood which is commonly used in houses shelves, in kitchen wares, work and production tools. In the artisanship of wood-cutting, the ornament follows the way of embroidering folk costumes. Common objects, worked by popular artists, shepherds or wood masters in mountains and fields originally preserve traces of our ancient culture.

The Dibra masters won a Balkans' reputation and their products reaches even small Asia, whereas the masters of South-East Albania left traces of their art more in southern parts of the peninsula. Their works are distinguished in style and combination. The Dibra people are distinguished by their work full of wit and widely use loom motives, whereas the South Albania inhabitants use a combination of loom and zoomorphic motives. In general the wood-cutting motives represent the primitive cults of nature, work, production, life etc., which are figuratively expressed.

The woodcutting traditions of our people was also professionally raised producing objects for a wider use. In the areas which enjoyed more favourable conditions to raise the art of woodcutting to a higher level and which had their own regional characteristics, were set up, so to say, special woodcutting schools such as those of Dibra, Berati and South-East Albania. These schools reached the climax of their development in the XVII-XVIII centuries when the Albanian masters had a rare artistic perfection and virtuosity which make their way into other countries, while the XIX century marks the fall of this popular art.

After the liberation of the country, with the authors of the popular art coming to power, matters changed for better. The traditions of the people's art which were purely preserved in the peasants, are becoming sources of the further development of our artistic traditions. Our artisanship has reborn once again with new forms on national bases.
Fragment of the icon of the Life-giving Source Church in Korça.

The gate of a characteristic house of the city -museum of Gjirokastra.

A wall-shelf of the Shkodra house.

Rosette of a ceiling in a house of the city-museum of Berat.

Photos: by R. Veseli

The ceiling of the Helvets tekke in the city -museum of Berat.
The Hero of a Novel

At difficult moments of misfortune man is known by his comrades, but at the same time he knows himself too.

No one knew the character, the firmness of Nuredin Hoxha, till that day when he fell on the railway tracks and accidently had both his legs cut off. Until that day he didn’t even know himself well. At that time he was only 18 years old. But that which happened to him, seemed to make him more mature in his thinking, to give him the judgement of an old man.

— What can I do? he asked himself.

Without a moment’s delay he answered:

— I can breathe, eat, drink. ... Is this really the man? The man must have a future at all costs. There is no life without it.

This sadness might have been the climax of despair or a new starting point to begin the life. Nuredin chose the second. And forward he passed through the clouds of despair. On bleeding prosthesis he strolled along the grails of Zaranka for months on end, close to his city of Elbasan, till he learned how to walk. Then one day he went to the Pension office, handed in the certificate and said in short:

— I don’t want to be an invalid any longer. I want to work.

He was proposed a small and calm kiosk, where he could sell cigarettes, he was mentioned some other places, which were usually offered to invalids, but he preferred the noise, the difficult work with daily fights.

He did not only like to work. He wanted to know what the result of his work would be. He became an innovator at work. To learn about his creation is not necessary to open up files or read the old newspapers. The whole collective of the work-yard of the State Building Enterprise in Elbasan speak about them.

One day, by chance, walking-stick in hand, he passed by the sector where construction materials were being produced. He noticed tens of women rubbing the slabs with their hands. That was a tiring work, with low productivity. — That day Nredin stayed in the workshop some hours after the work. Full he threw on papers the idea of constructing a machine to replace the hand work.

His name is now linked with a score of innovations. In the factory he works, there is a very simple room in which usually the light is on till the late hours of night. On the door of that room is written:

"The Party Office". The bureau meetings are held here and the Communists discuss here, too. Among them there are carpenters, drivers, mechanics etc. Here they talk calmly, there hot-blooded, but always straight forward in the way only the Communists know how to speak. The Party Secretary Nredin Hoxha, listens attentively; takes down notes in his note-book, approves by nodding his head or wrinkling his forehead.

The Party Secretary! How many these two words mean, how he is always one of the best Communists.

Last year he was awarded the title of "Hero of Socialist Labour".

At leisure time you can often see him with his child strolling through the city of Elbasan, which so greatly changed its appearance.

Strong will of this man, his past and his present served to our writer, Dhimiter Xhoxani, to write a novel on the new man of today’s Albania.

It’s many years since this part of Tirana is so called. It bore this name because of the red clay of the narrow streets, because of the red colour of the clay bricks, with which were built the small huts. Such a scene told upon one thing: the miserable life of the people who dwelled in those huts.

So did poverty christen it... The years rolled on and the Red Hill entered in the great event of the liberation struggle. You thought that these lanes and zigzag alleys were built purposely to lose the traces of the guerillas, which had rose up in the liberation struggle. And true it was. The blood covered the red ooze of the lanes sprinkled on the walls of the clay bricks, and the Red Hill became truly red. It would surely take such a name had it not had it before. 22 memorial inscriptions appear in its squares and its walls. They do not only speak of and recall the events of the stormy years, but also to use the past as a teaching for the future.

The singing crowds of children fill up these streets and squares. They are the rising generation of the Red Hill. They read these commemorative slabs and pay homage to them. Each of them speaks about heroes, about battles, meetings, actions. In memory of a mother or an aged father who had experienced these days approaches the children. While he or she contemplates these commemorative slabs, it seems as if he hears the echo of those stormy events. As soon as he feels he has plunged himself in that world, he begins to tell the young people and the children. Thus the tradition is handed down from one generation to another.

It was the fierce night of October 7th 1942. Just like many others, a mother was keeping watch new on this side of the yard, now on the other. She was Jë Parka. Three Communists, three young men — Vojo Kushi, Xhorshë Martini, Sadik Staveleci, were in her house. There was heard a din in the street.

They are besieging you!

Hundred of policemen, darker than the night itself encircled the house, and filled up the by-streets. The Red Hill awoke and anticipated what would happen. The three brave men saw that all the ways were blocked up. In these moments, the word of Vojo were heard:

— We shall all die together. None of us should fall into the hands of the enemy!

They hugged each other, as the partisan habit was, and then they passed some yards until they reached a coal store. The fight had almost four hours that was going on. The brave men shot from different positions. This made the policemen think that they had to confront a lot of Communist forces. "They are many, and have heavy guns" were the words heardly uttered. Only change the project of Tirana—Qazim Mulleri.

The battle was very furious. The enemy brought 6 tanks. Six hours on end the three young people turned that clay brick house into a real impregnable fortress. Xhorshë Martini and Sadik Staveleci were shot dead. Vojo Kushi remained alone each one. A tank, after having raced to the ground of the wall of the yard, rushed towards Vojo Kushi, while the other tank rushed from the back of the yard. They were the moments of duel between a man and a tank. Vojo hurled himself upon the tank that was vomiting iron and fire.

A shot ensured which was followed by a burning light. On such a red background appeared Vojo's silhouette as a red flag.

He had climbed up over the tank and after he moved away the lid, he threw his grenade inside the bunker where the tanker was staying.

Today, in the Red Hill, instead of those huts are set over 16 new and big flats. There have been built kindergartens, department stores...

Instead of the lanes, there have been built wide and asphalted streets.
A Village Museum

Many villages have got today their own museums which reflect the history of the village alongside of the present.

Such a museum is set up in Petrela Village Tirana District. The history of this Village is very old and even the most ancient events have found their reflection in this museum. The walls of an Illyrian town belonging to the fourth century before our era, are preserved in the eastern side of the Village. Ceramics objects, coins, lances, etc., displayed in the museum, have been found there. Over the village stands the very old Castle of Petrela which played an important role in the strategic system of Scanderbeg during the struggles against the Ottoman hordes. You come to know in the museum the great support given to Scanderbeg by the inhabitants of Petrela Village who joined the struggle of the whole Albanian people. The museum tells you how the villagers secretely learnt their native language after the Turkish invasion.

Many are the interesting data in the museum about Petrela during the Zogu monaric/ic regime. 40 families were landlords, 40 other families owned only 4 dynes of land. The whole land and olive groves belonged to 5 rich families. In 1932 the Zogu regime closed down the Petrela school but the strong protests of the villagers forced the government to reopen it in 1933. Despite ruthless pursuits the patriotic teachers educated their pupils with home-love feelings and with feelings of hatred for the feudal blood-suckers.

The museum speaks a lot about the national liberation struggle. This village has given 28 partisans, 10 martyrs, 7 invalids, 12 exiled persons and 12 burnt houses to the national liberation struggle, material damages were very heavy.

A new life sprang up in Petrela after liberation. In 1959 the agricultural farm was set up. The successes achieved by this village are displayed in the museum windows. There have been built in the collectivized Petrela, a maternity home, a kindergarten, a dining-hall, the House of Culture and an 8-year education school attended by 190 pupils and where 9 teachers give lessons, etc. Peasants, pupils, students, soldiers and young workers visit this museum which has become an important centre for the education of the people.

Pupils of the village school visiting their village museum.

The Path of a Heroine

Vuno, the village where she was born, is a distant corner of our homeland, like a flower grown in the Himala seaside. She is called Urani Thana. I found her among workers. She is a simple woman of about forty-five years reminding you of other Albanian women. She modestly speaks about common things and ignores the talk about herself. Long and hard has been the path along which she has passed. The fear, the fanaticism, the complainers and the malice of evil-doers had to be overcome. And she did overcome... When the struggle broke out the shots of the partisan guns were heard in mountains. Kiu of the Thana's family first took the way to the mountains. Later on his two sisters Hrani and Elpinia joined him.

At first Urani worked as the tailor of the partisans. She also opened a course with 20 girls and women to teach them her profession. The main aim of this course was to propagate the Party teachings about the way how to fight enemies and help the partisans.

Together with her women-comrades she joined the ranks of the liberation fighters. She was appointed as a Vice-Commissar of the company in the Fifth Brigade. She was revered, loved and respected by all the partisans.

Never will I forget that day when a partisan from Terapi Village breathed his last saying: "Fight for me too, my sister!"

That day Urani received the news of her brother's death. Kiu. She deeply felt the loss but didn't yield. She was filled with more revenge and hatred for the enemy. She poured them by bullets.

The victory of people's revolution brought about the new life to Urani. Her words as a Party worker were felt for years on end by the Vlora City and its villages.

Today Urani is the manager of the State Enterprise of the Ready-Made Clothes. The collective of this Enterprise standing in the van is the winner of the title of honour: shock worker of the Fourth Five-Year Plan. There work more than one thousand girls and women. Urani is always on the fore, Zubaja an old worker of this Enterprise tells me. She works selflessly and vigorously. The spirit of self-sacrifice, order, experience and the respect for the people are characteristic for her.

She knows what care, patience, firmness and discipline mean. We are glad that the deputy to the People's Assembly, the heroine of socialist labour, our comrade and sister, Urani Thana manages and works among us.
Historical Documents

Below we are publishing three documents taken from Frances Pally, brochures on the Italian-Albanian relations in about the middle of the XVII century, regarding the Pope's stand towards the war of the Albanian people headed by George Castriot—Scanderbeg against the occupant-Sturmband against the occupationist attacks of the Turkish empire.

The ambassadors of the Milan Duke to Pope Paul III Lorenzo Da Penaro and Agostino de Rossi, reported the following:

**Document LXXII**

**January 14, 1467, Rome**

Scanderbeg is still here already despairing and hopeless of Pope's help to Krupa and Albania's affairs. hopeless of receiving money or some other help. It seems to him that they want to deceive him, for he is informed that a don Paulo Contarino from Venice who is here, has informed and does inform His holiness mentioned above saying that, it is not necessary to make expenses to help Krupa because the Seignor of Venice has taken Krupa under protection and will protect it well because his soldiers and other soldiers are in the city. For this reason it appears that the Pope's intention is quite well realized the Seignor's aim to subdue that city . . .

**Document LXXVII**

**February 14, 1467 Rome**

Today Scanderbeg desperately for not receiving money left the Pope. One Cardinal presented him with 200 dukes. He was very sad; in a secret letter I informed you of his aim. Yesterday he said to a Cardinal that from that moment on the would fight against the church not against the Turks.

**Document LXXVIII**

**February 19, 1467, Rome**

Mr. Scanderbeg was left waiting till the coming council of the Pope giving him hopes that somebody would look after his affair. They discussed the question and pressure was exerted on the Pope to cheer up Scanderbeg before he left. At last the Pope agreed to give him 2,600 dukes but the Cardinals wanted to give 7,500 instead just as much as Scanderbeg had asked: 2,600 dukes would be of no use whereas 7,500 dukes would be of help to Scanderbeg.

Finally His Holiness said that he was pleased to give that sum of money on the condition that the Cardinals lend him this money . . . Some consented, some others objected saying that Pope would make a habit of borrowing money from the Cardinals. Thus they did not solve this question and told Scanderbeg that they would answer him some other time. When Scanderbeg
heard this he decided point-blank to leave and said that there was not such a greater mistake in this world than that of those priests.

It is quite clear the Pope's stand towards the struggle of the heroic Albanian people during 1499-1467 years, the most difficult and at the same time the most glorious years during which the Albanian people, though alone, faced the unprecedented military campaign undertaken by Mehmet the second to bring Albania to the knees by hooks or by crooks.

The entering of the countless Osman troops into Albanian soil troubled other countries of Europe, particularly Italy for it was foreseen that the Osman troops being in front of the "Gates of Italy" would begin occupying it. This forced the Pope to call on the meeting of the council and of the Ambassadors of various countries on May 29, 1466. The meeting required not only the bringing together of the forces of the Italian states, but also required help even over the Alps because "King Ferrant alone would not be able to face the danger of his kingdom which was near doom neither Pope would risk his riches, nor Venice its ownership and, as a consequence other's contribution was necessary".

The fresh news which reported that the Albanians led by Scanderbeg were not defeated, dismissed the fear that the Turks would attack Italy.

At such an extraordinary difficult situation, hoping that the heroic struggle of his people, which would stop the Turks to cross on to the other side of the Adriatic, would find the necessary and powerful support deserved, Scanderbeg requested help from the main Italian states. He sent his son to Venice. He himself decided to go to Naples and Rome, instigated by the thought that Ferrant was obliged to him for the effective help given by the Albanian troops in 1440-1462; Scanderbeg, as the representative of the heroic Albanian resistance was convinced that (as it was said in 1463) the debt of 100,000 ducates appointed for the support of the anti-Turkish war, would belong to him "Because Scanderbeg is continuously fighting, has much expenses and no help at all". The grand welcome to the Albanian hero of the inhabitants of Rome was the highest inspiring and comprehensive estimation for the Albania resistance, thus creating an open contrast with the narrow-minded policy of the state leaders, including even the Pope who had started already his first attempts to establish peace with the Turks.

Pope Paul II about whom Karl Marx has said that "This bastard was to aviracious" to help Scanderbeg, tried by means of empty justifications and after the official ceremony to disguise his real stand and to make Scanderbeg leave Rome as soon as possible. After a two month stay, Scanderbeg set off being fully aware of the real hostile stand towards him and was filled with feelings of hatred and scorn which he made known when leaving Rome and which today are reflected in the documents we are publishing.

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**New Editions in Foreign Languages**

"The Battle for the Liberation of Tirana" : This book written by Comrade Mehmet Shehu depicts some of the stormy and glorious days of the National Liberation War. The battle for the liberation of Tirana had required a well-worked-out plan by the General Staff of the National Liberation Army. The tenth day of the battle, November 17th, marked the liberation of the capital.

This book has been translated in French.

"The Albanian Song through centuries" : This book has been compiled by the oral folklore branch of the Institute of Folklore, and consists of 194 pages. It includes lullabies, folk, erotic and wedding, mourning, and emigration songs, legendary songs and ballads, historic songs starting with the period of Scanderbeg and ending with the liberation of Albania. At last, there are 29 songs of the epoch of socialist construction. This book has been translated in French.

"The Song and the Rifle": This book is a collection of stories by Dhimter Shuteriqi, which deals with various themes and has 294 pages. It is translated in French.

"Our Friends Ask": This book translated into French, gives answers to different questions asked by foreign friends, about Albania.

"Transparent Look": The short story "Transparent Look" by Viet Koci, which has been translated into French, treats of ethical-moral issues of family relations, of the stand to the family and society problems of the struggle against petty-bourgeoisie tendencies, as intellectualism, technocracy etc.

The author finds the solution to these problems not only in the struggle that is waged within our socialist families, but also in powerful influence of society through various forms of its own.

"Problems of the Full Emancipation of Woman in the People's Republic of Albania": This book which is translated into French gives to the foreign reader a reflection of the issue of the emancipation of the Albanian woman in all spheres. The book carries articles by various personalities as well as studies on particular questions of the emancipation of woman in the People's Republic of Albania. The 280 pages of the book contain 19 articles and studies.

"Tourist Guide Book of Albania", is written with the purpose of serving the foreign tourists as well as those that come to visit Albania. As such it offers them the information they would need, be it prior to their arrival in the country, or during the trip and sojourn in Albania. It is published in English, French, German and Italian.
One of the Lara Lakes.

A view of the town of Saranda.

A view of a coastal area.

The medieval bridge of Mesi on the Kiri River, Shkodra District. This bridge is 112 meters long made up of 5 arches the longest of which is 27 meters long and 15 meters high.

View of the Gjirokastra citadel.
① - The highest peaks are the places preferred by skiers.

② - A sport feast in the Tirana artificial lake.
   Photo: by E. Shaban.

③ - Swimmers' national game.

④ - Mountaineers climbing up one of the summits of our Alps.