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FSHATRA



NEW ALBANIA

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YEAR XXIV

# Albania—One of the First Countries in the Communist World with Completely Electrified Villages

## Communique of the Central Committee

The Central Committee of the PLA reports to the Albanian people the great and happy news—the successful completion of the electrification of all the villages of our country.

Today the electric light, “the Party’s light” as people call it, illuminates every house of every peasant family, up to the highest peaks and the most remote corners of our legendary highlands. The accomplishing of this bold and revolutionary action 13 months ahead of schedule set under the decision of the Fourth Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the PLA and 15 years ahead of the schedule envisaged in the perspective plan, is a brilliant historic victory, which goes to show the majesty of Party’s far-sighted ideas, the vitality of our socialist system, the revolutionary and creative impetus of the working masses, the readiness and determination of our heroic people in their struggle for the great cause of the building of socialism and communism.

Our dear fatherland, socialist Albania, once the most backward country in Europe, becomes one of the first countries in the world with completely electrified villages. In the realization of this magnificent work, one of the loftiest aims of our revolution is embodied, another qualitative leap has been taken towards the raising of the well-being of the working masses and towards the gradual narrowing of the essential distinctions between town and country.

The bringing of electricity to every village opens boundless perspectives for the intensive development of agriculture and livestock farming, creates possibilities for the opening of new branches of the economy and gives a more powerful impetus to the development of the productive forces and the socialist relations in production. With the introduction of the electric light to every peasant hearth, there are greater possibilities for the Albanian cooperativist peasantry to create a still more beautiful, more cultured and happier life. The electric reticulation of all the villages will directly influence the process of the all-sided revolutionization of the life of our working peasantry, it will give an impulse to the rapid spreading of education, culture and scientific knowledge.

On the occasion of this magnificent victory, the Central Committee of the PLA conveys ardent revolutionary greetings to the working class, cooperativist peasantry, the people’s intelligentsia, the People’s Army, the Party and state organs, the organizations of the Democratic Front and the Trade Unions, the Youth and Women Organizations, the state economic enterprises, to all those, who on the Party’s call rose to their feet and by working with a revolutionary spirit and unprecedented selflessness, full of optimism and lofty socialist consciousness, successfully carried out ahead of schedule the decision on the electrification of all the villages of our country.

As anywhere else, in this action too was expressed the unconquerable unity of the people around the Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, their determination to turn the word of the Party into deeds, to carry out its programme for the construction of socialism was well expressed.

Having full confidence in the creative spirit of our talented people, the Central Committee of the PLA calls on all the working masses to unfold the mass heroism they manifested in the fulfilment of that action, as a banner of inspiration, enthusiasm and readiness in the successful fulfilment of the tasks laying ahead, and the new great objectives which the Party will set in the new Five-Year Plan and in its Sixth Congress, for the further flourishing and strengthening of our socialist fatherland.

The Central Committee of PLA sharing the indescribable joy of the masses over the completion of the electric reticulation of all the villages of the country approves their desire that the 25th of October the day of the switching on of the electric lights in the last village should be proclaimed “the people’s festival of light”, and be commemorated from year to year as a great historic victory of the people and the Party.

It will remind us and the coming generations through the centuries, of one of the most brilliant periods of the history of our people, this glorious time we are living when, in spite of the difficult conditions of the imperialist-revisionist encirclement and blockade, the Albanian people, relying on their own forces, armed with the immortal teachings of Marxism-Leninism, led by their glorious Party of Labour with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, are forging ahead and always scoring victories.

The Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania.

Tirana, November the 3rd 1970.



# World with Villages Completely Electrified of the Party of Labour of Albania



To the wilderness of the mountainous areas, the motors and the necessary materials for the electrification of the villages, were brought by helicopters.



# ***Nuclear Energy in the service***

Dine Merja

Recently many scientific institutions and research centers are being built in our country. One of them is the recently inaugurated nuclear radiation under the Tirana State University.

This laboratory the first of its kind in our country, is made up of three scientific sectors: the electrostatic accelerator of Van-de-Graff type, the sector of radio-chemistry, and that of measuring nuclear radiation.

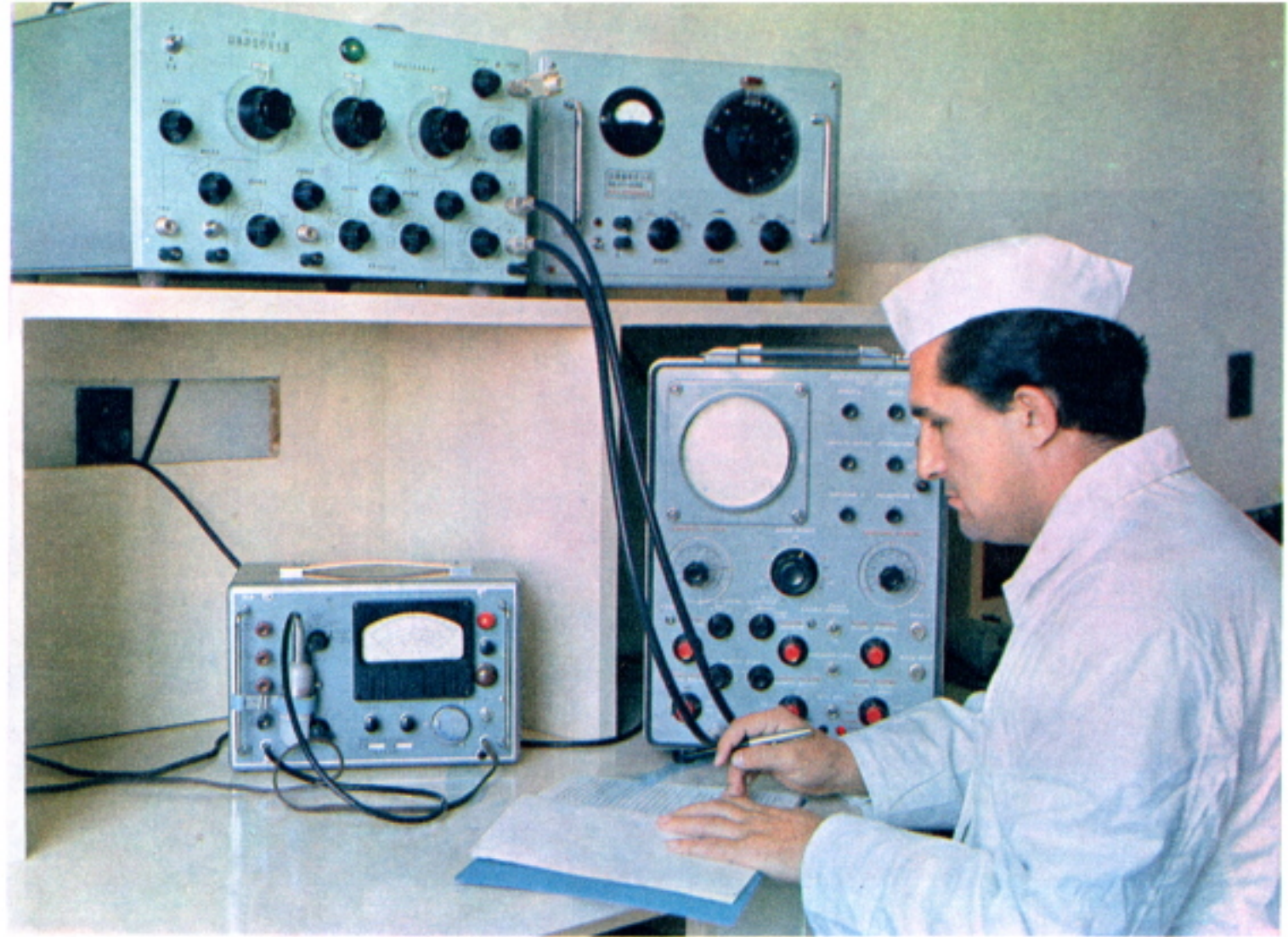
This new research center, together with the other sectors of medicine, agriculture and other branches of industry is to make use of radioactive isotopes and radiation as a study method in research and production work, in solving many important scientific and economic problems in our country. Here is a brief account of their use.

In medicine, radioisotopes will find a wide use for studying aims, diagnosing and curing. With the building of the laboratory for the use of radioisotopes in medicine, which will be finished very soon at the clinic Hospital Nr. 1 in Tirana, the above-mentioned usages will gra-

dually include almost all the field of activity of our medical clinics. Here it is worth mentioning that in the Hospitals Nr.1 and Nr.2 of the capital, began the successful use of radioactive iodine to diagnose the diseases of thyroid gland as for example that of hyperthyroid, for curing hyperthyroid eczema and neurodermatitis by radioactive phosphor.

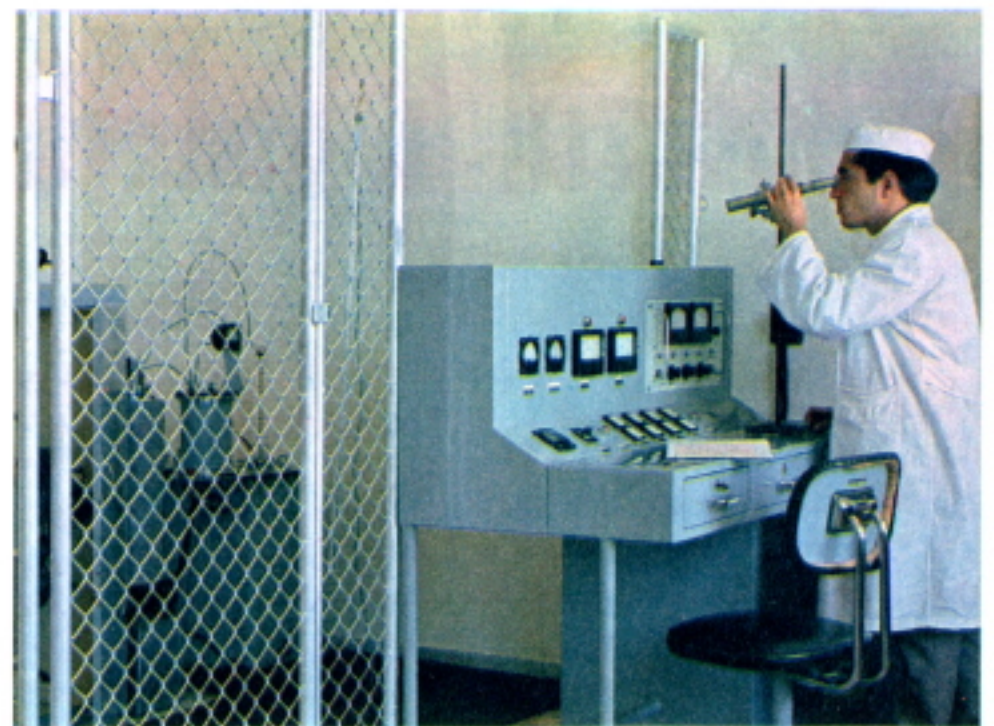
Very soon the radioactive chromium will be used in hematology to measure the volume of plasma, of erythrocytes, of blood, while radioactive iodine to diagnose the functional tests of kidneys and liver.

Radioisotopes will be used in agriculture too. So for example radioactive phosphate will be used to study different agro-chemical and physiological questions for transforming the phosphate fertilizers and measure the degree of their appropriation by different agricultural plants. In this way the agricultural workers can control and direct the feeding of the plants and at the same time use in a rational and effective way the chemical fertilizers.



Scientific workers and laboratory assistants attentively follow and manage the working processes of the modern equipment of the laboratory.

(Photo: by S. Xhillari)



## *e of Man*

Our agrobiologists are given now the possibility to use radiation for sterilization, stimulation and selection. Thus radiation will be used in fighting insecticides, as for example the *Dacus Olea* by means of the radioactive sterilization of males grown up in laboratory conditions and their mass scattering in the infected regions by fighting in this way the biological reproduction of the insects and their gradual disappearance.

In the same way by radiating different seeds of agricultural crops, the effect of radiation will be used to increase the productivity of these crops, because of radiostimulation or because of genetic changes in the plants, for the creation of different varieties with new biological qualities as a result of radiosélection.

Among the different branches of our industry the oil-industry is one of the most important sectors, in which the radioisotopes and radiation will find different kinds of application in the correct and quick solving of many problems relating to research use and processing

of oil and gas. Thus, besides the radioisotopes and gamma and neutronic radiations for studying geological cuts of the oil and gas wells, applied even before in our country, especially great importance will assume the use of radioisotopes in finding out and controlling the quality of the processes taking place in the oil and gas wells in the conditions of great depth.

Here we can mention the great importance of controlling the depth and the quality of cementing the oil and gas wells, of finding out the directions and the speed of the movement of waters in the various subsoil strata, and their communications among different oil and gas wells.

These were some of the actual problems of the use of radioisotopes and radiations in our country. By speaking of the sectors of medicine, agriculture and of the oil industry, we did not mention the other sectors of our country's economy like metallurgy, mechanical industry, chemical and food processing industries, etc., in which the use of radioisotopes and radiations will be of great importance in the future too.

The use of radioisotopes and radiation as an important aspect of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purpose will gradually be put into all the fields of production, science and research in our country. Our nuclear radiation laboratory as a central scientific institution in this field of study will naturally make an important contribution.



## The First Session of the 7th legislature

The First Session of the Seventh Legislature of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania held its proceedings from the 20th to 23rd of November 1970.

The Presidium of the People's Assembly was elected in this Session, the new government was created, the permanent organs of the Assembly, the supreme court were elected and changes were made in the General's Office Attorney as well as a range unanimously the activity of the government for the period of the Sixth Legislature and the program of the new government for the future. Comrade Mehmet Shehu was again appointed Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRA.

Mentioning some of the victories achieved in the course of the Sixth Legislature, Comrade Mehmet Shehu said among other things "This year is the last year of the Fourth Five-Year Plan. Though the final analysis have not been drawn yet, we may present the preliminary conclusions on the fulfilment of the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

For the five years of the Fourth Five-Year Plan taken together, the plan of total industrial production and the plan of investments have been realized in 4 years and 7 months, while the plan of construction in 4 years and 4 months." The total industrial production in 1969 was 70 per cent higher than 1965 as against 50 to 54 per cent it had to be in 1970 according to the task laid down by the Fifth Congress of the Party and the People's As-

sembly. Thus, the level of total industrial production set for the year 1970 was reached as far back as the year 1968.

The level of total industrial production set for the year 1970 for chromium, copper, iron-nickel, building material industries was reached as far back as the year 1968, whereas for the industry of oil, coal, electricity, mechanical industry, light and food industries was reached as early as the year 1969. production in our conditions.

The plan of production of the means of production in the Fourth Five-Year Plan is overfulfilled increasing at an annual average rate of more than 15 per cent, as against 10.8 per cent envisaged under the plan".

"The production of consumers' goods in 1970 as against 1965 increased 55 per cent as against 33 to 38 per cent envisaged in the plan at an annual average rate of 9.1 per cent as against 6.3 per cent set under the plan".

"The growth of agricultural production has been a very important task to us, to soften the contradiction which exists between the development of industry and that of agriculture, to ensure an advanced, intensive and multi-branch agriculture, for agriculture is the base of our socialist economy. . . The agricultural production in 1962 was 29% greater than in 1965 and the production of bread grain during the first four years (1966-69) of the Fourth Five-Year Plan was realized according to the task set by the Fifth Congress of the Party and the People's Assembly.

In the year 1970 it is envisaged that the production of bread grain will be realized with a certain deficit".

"The successful completion of the electrification of all the villages of the country opens the road to the further intensification of agriculture, the further qualitative transformation of life in the countryside, the improvement of the standard of living and the further reduction of the distinction between real income of the population in 1970 were surpassed as early as the year 1969. Life expectancy of man has reached the 68 year mark compared with 38 years before liberation. The national income has been realized at an annual average rate of increase of 8.6 percent as against 8.4 percent as set in the plan. Prices of many retail goods have decreased, favourable measures for cooperative farms especially for the mountainous cooperatives have been taken, all kinds of taxes have been abolished, housing conditions etc., are improving.

Presenting the composition of the new government Comrade Mehmet Shehu emphasized:

The new government, just as the previous one, will exert all its energies in order that in all its activities, both in the sphere of internal policy and in that of foreign policy, it will be guided by the Marxist-Leninist general line of our Party.

In the field of internal policy, the government aims at ensuring the all-round con-



At the First Session of the VII the Legislature of the People's Assembly the important speech made by Mehmet Shehu, Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers is unanimously approved.  
(Photo: by M. Progonati)

## Deputies of the New Legislature

On September 20, 1970 in our country there were held elections to the representatives of the Peoples Assembly — the highest organ of the state power.

What is the make-up of our highest legislative organ?

Out of 264 deputies elected on September 20 (this is the total number of the deputies to the People's Assembly), 142, or 53.78 per cent are young people elected for the first time. The ranks of the deputies are made up of 48 workers and 40 members of the coop. farms, which amount to nearly 34 per cent of all deputies; they take direct part in production — industry, agriculture. In this high forum of the state, take part 72 girls and women or twice as much as in the previous legislature.

In the bosom of the deputies there are 14 people's heroes and heroines and 30 heroes and heroines of socialist labour.

Considering their cultural and educational level of the deputies, it results that 50 per cent are of high education, 25 per cent of middle one, 24 per cent of eight year's education and 1 percent with elementary education.

Among the elected deputies, there are 17 engineers, 18 agronomists and 20 veterinaries, 15 economists, 14 medical doctors, 5 judges, 19 teachers and professors, and 10 writers and artists.

According to age, the deputies are divided as follows:

Up to 26 years old — 21 deputies: from 27 up to 40 years of age — 106, from 41 up to 59 years of age — 127 and over 60 years — 10 deputies.

solidation of the economy and all the other sectors on the road to the forces of production of the country, by raising to a higher qualitative and quantitative level both industrial and agricultural production and on this base the further improvement of the people's well-being must be reached and the defence power of the motherland strengthened. Speaking about the foreign policy of the Government of the People's Republic of Albania, Comrade Mehmet Shehu severely denounced the aggressive activity of American imperialism in Southeast Asia and in the Middle East and expressed the unreserved support of the Albanian people for the revolutionary peoples of these countries.

Stressing once again the correct and principled Marxist-Leninist stand of the People's Republic of Albania towards the most important international problems, Comrade Mehmet Shehu said:

"We will follow this road, the road which our Party with its correct Marxist-Leninist line sheds light on. The great victories of the People's Republic of Albania in the international arena testify to the correctness and effectiveness of its foreign policy and serve the consolidation of its international positions and the true peace and revolution in the world. Today the People's Republic of Albania maintains and develops diplomatic relations with 48 countries, trades with a considerable number of various states and participates in many international organizations. Relations of fraternal friendship, of close and sincere cooperation and of mutual aid between the Peoples Republic of Albania and the People's Republic of China based on the immortal principles of Marxism-

Leninism and proletarian internationalism, have been developing and strengthening in all fields. They are a great and brilliant example, which shows how relations between socialist countries should be, despite the size of their territories and the number of their populations". "Our country will develop, just as in the past, relations of friendship, fraternal cooperation and mutual aid with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of South Vietnam, as well as with the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. We will promote the relations of friendship with the Socialist Republic of Rumania.

The People's Republic of Albania will strive to keep friendly and correct relations with all countries with which it maintains diplomatic relations. We shall be careful to have and maintain normal relations of good neighbourliness especially with the neighbouring countries, on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual respect, non-violation of integrity and sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, reciprocal benefit. Our state power is for establishing and extending relations with all peace-loving countries of the world, on the basis of principles and recognized norms which regulate relations between sovereign states. The Government of the People's Republic of Albania in the future too, will follow the same principled and revolutionary foreign policy in defence of the lofty interests of the motherland and our people, of liberation struggles and of revolution in the world, of true peace and international security".



In the International Fair of 1970, Leipzig.

## Albania in International Fairs and Exhibitions

**Sheri Baboçi**

Head of the Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce of the People's Republic of Albania, considering the tasks that this organization has got to promote our foreign trade, increased in the course of this year the participation of our country in international fairs and opened pavilions and exhibitions displaying Albanian exports in a lot of countries for the first time. This year the flag of the People's Republic of Albania was hoisted on the grounds of the interna-

tional fairs of Cairo, Paris, London, Stockholm, Leipzig, Bucharest, Plovdiv, Izmir, Florence and Milan.

In all the countries we had our own pavilions, handicraft exhibitions, or information offices, talks were held and satisfactory commercial results were achieved by all our foreign trade enterprises, our pavilions and exhibitions aroused interest not only among commercial circles, but also among the broad working masses. The wide range of articles, the tasteful architectural design, and above

all the sympathy for and high esteem of the People's Republic of Albania, were conducive to visits by large crowds of local and foreign people, traders, businessmen; normally people from all walks of life, to our pavilions and exhibitions at Paris, Cairo, Bucharest, Stockholm, Izmir, London, Florence, and so on. The best words have been expressed by the ordinary people of these countries about the successes socialist Albania has achieved in various branches of the economy. The words said by friends of our country were full of



warmth, while Albanians who have emigrated from their country, long ago expressed themselves with homesickness and took pride in our achievements.

Our pavilion in Paris was awarded the gold medal whereas that in Izmir the diploma of merit.

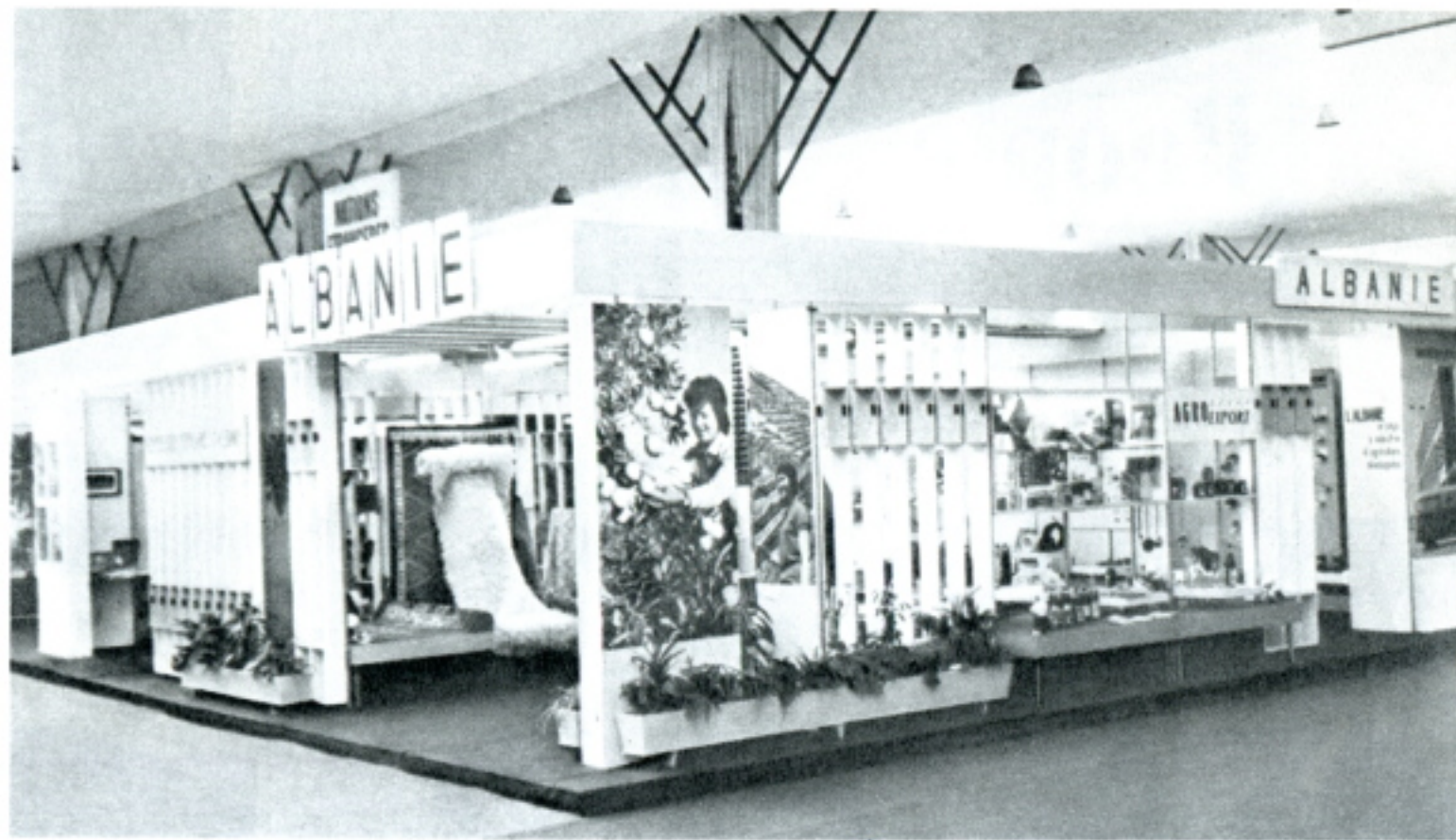
The Exhibitions of Handicraft Goods in the specialized fairs of London and Florence, were also a success.

A particular impression, in these fairs and exhibitions was made by the displays on the complete electrification of our country, our industrial goods, and the multifarious and multiform articles of the Albanian artistic workmanship. The visitors who asked to purchase the artistic products were not a few. Our skilfully made handicraft goods attracted the attention not only of the merchants but of other visitors too, who, bought a lot of the exhibits. In the framework of these fairs the foreign trade enterprise, art export, — concluded a series of contracts with foreign purchasing firms. In the fairs of this year important contracts were concluded by "Eksportalb" and "Agroeksport" Enterprises as well as by other foreign trade enterprises that deal with imports.

Many Egyptian, Lebanese, Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti firms after the visit they paid to our commercial exhibition held in Cairo, took interest in copper wires, oil, iron-nickel, bitumen, and fabrics. French traders were interested in minerals, copper wires, blankets, counterpanes, woodworks, handicraft goods such as rugs, carpets, straw handicraft products etc.

In Stockholm interest was taken in and demands were made for copper, copper wires with which "Exportalb" Enterprise deals; canned fruits, tinned food, medicinal plants, "Agroexport" deals with rugs, carpets, woolen pouches, filigrees, pipes and straw-works. In Izmir, some Turkish firms were interested in buying chemical products such as calcinate soda, nitrate ammonia, while other foreign firms showed interest in the canned fruits, medicinal plants, carpets etc.

To the merchants in the different fairs we have taken part in the representatives of our foreign trade enterprises, gave explanations about the prices and offers etc. Since then, a lot of them have applied to us for buying the articles we mentioned above, whereas traders from Sweden, Libya, Algeria and Turkey have come to carry through the talks they commenced while in the fairs with our foreign trade enterprises over a series of transactions.



① Paris

② Stockholm

③ Cairo

# People Who Live with the Future



They are boys, girls, men, women and rarely old folk, nearly a hundred strong. Instruments in hand, bent on their desks, they work uninterruptedly.

**Designer.** It is a quarter of a century now, that this word is widely being used. Before that, Albania had seldom built, by drawings. The buildings of our cities were made by anonymous masters, without drawings and plans. The master's eye, a piece of lead tipped string were the only measuring instruments. Only the wonderful intuition of popular masters, was able to produce such wonderful buildings, like those of Gjirokastra or Berat. These masters had not attended any school, had not consulted any book on architecture, anyhow they had accumulated in their memory everything good and useful created by the people, on the concept of life, air, light, height, on the lonely life and collective life.

Now we built on the basis of science. In the halls full of light of the Designing Institute of the Ministry of Industry, the first ideas of architects are born. They occupy themselves for a long time with these ideas. Then, the designers throw very carefully everything on great white sheets of paper. Here are born the first designs of the future buildings, of the future dwelling flats. The architects try to render the life of our people, of the workers who build socialism as comfortable as possible.

In these halls the drawings of the factories, plants and hydropower stations are born. A small old town will be drawn in the waters of the lake of a hydropower station. Apart from designing the hydropower station, the architects are also busy designing the new town where the inhabitants are to settle down. On a plain there is nothing

now. Wheat, maize, is growing for the time being there. However, on a white paper, which represents this plain on the architect's desk, the first streets, squares the bus lines, cinemas and the post office are taking shape. All this must be carefully done, one by one, one has to think about each object, so that the people can lead a beautiful life, there in the way that when they go to the cinema, the theatre, the factory, the post office or simply to meet their beloved ones, they move freely in the streets and feel happy. It is clear, that the city's construction, the buildings' style etc, influence to a certain degree in this direction. That is why these people pencils and rulers in hands are very meticulous in their work.

Our country has been changed into a big construction site. Traveling by car or by train, you can see on either side of the route you take, new compounds of buildings coming into being. People build without let up. Like the skeleton of a gigantic industrial project, normally, the Plant of Black-Metallurgy in Elbasan or like any small kindergarten somewhere in a remote locality, there are hundreds upon hundreds of objects which are born, grown up and enter into our life. And to accomplish all this, work, inspiration and a mother's care are needed.

On the designers' desks all these objects are still as delicate as the children.

**Designers.** Wonderful and noble people. Most of them are still young. They grow together with their objects. Their life runs parallel with the life they have given to places previously uninhabited, now humming with noise, voices and human steps.



Profound scientific research, creative thinking, persistent work for days and months on end, that is what the designers need to compile the blue prints for the new projects. . . And yet, this is not sufficient. They ought to closely link up their work with the place, where the projects will be constructed.

(Photos: by P. Kumi)



Architect Koço Çomi, the designer of the V.I. Lenin Party School of Tirana, is now working on the new projects that are to be built in the coming Five-Year Plan.





## Saplings of the Music

In these few lines we'll tell our readers about the Musical Schools in Albania.

The First Musical Middle School in our country was set up in 1947. It served as a basis for the training of the new artists — musicians, actors, painters, sculptors. Later on these cadres worked for the establishing of other institutions of this kind all over the country. Side by side with the extension of the education, the artistic schools were manifolded.

Now, in different regions, we have 10 Musical Schools, where violin, violoncello and piano are learned. The state pays a continuous heed to these schools, in order that, side by side with the creative professional education, the new artists be servants of the people simultaneously.

In Musical Schools, special conditions have been set up for the pupils. Apart from the individual studying, they are provided with instruments



free of charge. Those who finish the low Eight Year's Musical School, make up for their musical education in the Middle School of Tirana. In the recent years, 4 Musical Middle Schools in the cities of Shkodra, Durrës; Korça, and Elbasan, were opened.

The high Institute of Arts that was established in Tirana in 1960, graduates annually artists of different branches. The musical branch prepares conductors, theorists, instrumentists. The harp orchestras have now taken their shape and the pupils of these schools are now giving concerts which are preferred and applauded by the public.

The setting up of the arts schools all over the country, where worker's and peasant's children learn, serves the thriving of the Albanian art with socialist content and national form. The extension of these schools is another testimony of the mass character of culture and art in Albania.



In the future these talented pupils will become skilful composers, conductors, singers and instrumentists. Their teachers pay constant attention to the training of the future musicians.

# Foreigners About Albania

## Free Women with Personality

Gertrude Delive Segazhe

Head of Pan-African Women's  
Congress Council of Azania.



On board the plane, which contemplating the greenery of your country, I was suddenly overcome with strong emotions: soon, I would set foot on the land I had been three years ago, in the country I was so boundlessly fond of. I take pride in saying that I found Albania more developed, both in industry and agriculture, with mountains turned into fertile land. The chimneys of your factories and plants have increased in number and everywhere I have seen new flats and buildings. Just like the previous time I was here, I was impressed by the enthusiasm of your people, their high revolutionary spirit.

An unforgettable impression was made on me by your industrious women

## Confidence in the Victory of Socialism All Over the World

Aloiz Mudileno-Masengo

Head of the Delegation of the People's  
Republic of Congo (B)

It is characteristic that in Albania you don't see a monotonous but a colourful and dynamic landscape. One has to view this aspect in connection with man's work, his activity. The man of Albania has done very much to change the face of his country and its nature. On tours and at meetings you can notice that not only are the plains systematized and drained but even the mountains too have changed their appearance in to the highest peaks, due to the hand of the man of Albanian. The building of houses by voluntary labour and the construction work in the country in general, are another aspect which has greatly impressed us. Not only the cities, but the countryside too, has taken on a new appearance. You can see new beautiful houses everywhere, all built after the liberation of Albania.

We were greatly impressed and rejoiced at the electrification of your country. This is a great joy and a new victory.

Another extraordinary important factor which impresses one is the level of industrialization, of the establishment of socialism everywhere; one can notice it both in the fields of industry and agriculture.

As far as the industrial aspect is concerned the way of building this industry is important, industry has dispersed all over Albania, so this influences not only the opportunists for jobs, but plays a great role in the industrial development of every district.

These are impressions one might get only from a visit of your country, but of great importance are the conclusions one draws from the

## The Discovery of the Past and the Building of the Future

Yvon Gerlan

French archaeologist



I came to Albania in the framework of France-Albanian cultural relations, to study the Greek colonies and especially the fortifications of Apollonia and Buthros. But that which I noticed very soon, in the light of Albanian works, was the fact that the problems of Greek colonization could not be understood if not connected with the development of Illyrian confederations and cities of the Iron Age. And that was the last problem, which first of all, drew my attention, in the first place.

My stay in Albania, in September 1970 was as pleasant as it was fruitful because the Albanian Committee for Foreign Relations of the with Foreign

## A BRILLIANT EXAMPLE

Morten Meisner

Chairman of the Danish-  
Albanian Friendship As-  
sociation

If you visit Albania and see how socialism is being built there, you will certainly be filled with inspiration. After having seen how socialism is being built in Albania it is clear to me now why Albania is looked upon by the capitalist and revisionist governments as a very dangerous example. Beyond doubt, the building of socialism in Albania is a great inspiration to the revolutionary peoples all over

the world and here in Denmark the Danish-Albanian Association has a very important mission, to discharge, that is, to let the Danish people know about the development of Albania. The visit to the Elbasan-Prenjas Railway, the meeting we had with the revolutionary youth, the visits to different factories enable you to understand what socialist construction is, the revolutionary spirit and the struggles waged to

create and develop the PRA.

The talks with the people acquainted us with the important role of the Party of Labour of Albania. The Party relying on Marxism-Leninism, led the people in the struggle against fascism and nazism, against all the monarchical fascist and revisionist forces. The Albanian people are well armed. The dictatorship of the proletariat enjoying vigorous support from the mass orga-

who are very young and optimistic. Three years ago, I listened attentively to the discussions made at the Sixth Congress of the Women's Union of Albania and, through them, I learned that the life of your women in the past was a gloomy one. But the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha extracted them from such a life made it possible for them to live a free life, made them women with personality. I may convincingly say that Albanian woman is the most emancipated woman in Europe and in the rest of the world too. I say this competently, for I have had the opportunity of living and working with women in many countries of Europe and the world. And in none of the countries I have been to, apart from Albania, are there women so interested in the prosperity of work, be it in the fields, factories or in any other work center.

The women of your country are happy, their dreams and wishes are

realizable. I'd like to speak about your wonderful youth? Always on parting from the girls and boys I meet here, I feel enthusiastic. They know what they are living for, they have their own ideals and goals, which thanks to work and courage, are put into life. And it so happens because of your attaching importance to the problem of education of your youth both in the course of work, and at school as well as during their leisure time your youth are always busy doing something. And this something is noble, ideal, just as the interests of motherland and the Party demand.

We, the spiritually oppressed, are impressed by the vivid life emitting from your undertakings, which enable the youth to become acquainted with one another to live and work together. The youth of the capitalist countries are different from yours in many ways. And it can't happen otherwise: the Albanian youth are full of life, they are happy and active.

explanations given by the accompanying comrades.

Considering the matter in this way we may draw two important conclusions.

The first conclusion is that Albania is an example for the building of socialism; one can see this everywhere. In this geographically small country a great work is under way.

The second conclusion is connected with the glorious struggle waged by your people during the 25 years to embark the country on to the road of a new social system. This is closely linked with a great organizing force during the National Liberation War as well as at present. As a consequence of this organization, great victories have been achieved, leading to the transformation of your country. To develop further this idea, I want to stress the militant spirit stands out every-

where in your country.

It is worth mentioning, that we came to realize that the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha serve as a beacon light for all the transformations that have been made and are being made in your country.

The vitality of sound and all-round organization is expressed in the militant spirit of the people, in the following of a correct line to build the new society. Then connected with this is another important factor which strikes one's eye, that is, the moulding of the new man, of the genuine revolutionary.

If you ask me what impressed me most, I may say that it was the meeting we had with Comrade Enver. — And this is so, thanks to his great personality, modesty, affection and encouragement

he gave us and because of the great confidence he placed in the triumph of revolution all over the world.

Another important matter which needs to be stressed, is the fact, that how can the relations between our two peoples and two countries be extended? The coming of our delegation to your country is a way of exchanging experience. Your people became acquainted with us, lived beside us during our stay here and that is another way of helping and setting to know each other.

We are convinced that meetings in the future like this one, will contribute to the further promotion of cooperation and will increase our forces tenfold in the joint struggle against imperialism and for the triumph of the liberation struggles all over the world.

Countries and the Institute of History-Philology of the State University of Tirana did every thing possible for me to work in the National Library and to visit the coastal regions.

In all these regions, the taking care of archaeological centers, the increase of modern museums even in small towns, the financial sacrifices of the Albanian Government to protect the traces of the ancient times, do unquestionably testify to the policy the Government pursues concerning the culture, and the efforts of the PLA to make completely known to the people, the majesty of their national past.

What I saw in these regions was the rapid development of industry and agriculture in new Albania. This is true even for the mountains, the slopes of which have changed into terraces. What has been achieved bears the seal of socialism.

The discovery of the past and the building of the future are two complementary aspects of the same struggle for socialism: I do not doubt that the Albanian people under the brilliant leadership of Comrade Enver Hoxha will score greater victories on that road in the coming years.

nizations is successfully building socialism. This is a success and remains as such as long as the revolution is in progress. The Albanian people are promoting the revolution and they will for certain resist every possible attack from the revisionists and the imperialists.

The great struggle of this small country against any kind of enemies, remains a brilliant example to the oppressed peoples of the world.

## Palestine-Albanian Friendship Association

The Albanian people highly appraise and powerfully support the revolutionary struggle waged by the Palestinian people against zionism, American imperialism and their lackeys. As a result of the close links existing between the two peoples, the people's revolutionary organizations of Palestine founded the Palestine-Albanian Friendship Association.

In the statement published by this Association on November 26, 1970, among other things is stressed that this Association is based on the conviction of the Palestinian people in their armed revolution and in the revolutionary friendship as well as in the fruitful and worthy cooperation with the Albanian militant people.

"We, the statement reads further, will do our best to strengthen our militant fraternal friendship and cooperation in all fields between the Palestinian and Albanian peoples. . . . Our revolutionaries will continue their just struggle aided and backed by our honest comrade-in-arms of the world until zionism as the supporter of American imperialism in the Middle East and in the world is liquidated".

Chairman of the Association was elected Musa Abu Hata and Anvar Abdul Rahman was elected Secretary General.



A city quarter in Tirana, in the pre-liberation period of the country. . . . The same city quarter today.



# “YESTERDAY AND TODAY”

The same contrast apparent in the City of Durrës.









New buildings in the Vrith Agricultural Cooperative, Shkodra District.

# Dawn over Vrith

Halim Stolia



In the locality of Koplik north-west of Shkodra, from the main highway, a motor road branches out to the right towards the Alps. The deeper you get into the mountainous areas the more motor roads branch out to the right and to the left. We followed one of these winding roads and after driving in the steep hill we arrived at a small valley comprised of many lawns which in late autumn, has a colourful fascinating beauty.

Once on coming to an inhabited centre in this area you would see the chieftain's town or in a gloomy church you would see symbols of the medieval obscurantism. But, nothing has been left of that past. Before entering the Agricultural Cooperative of Vrith, at the small "Cuka", you catch sight of a building painted in white. It is the electric transformer cabin, the symbol of the new life which is now flourishing among these towering rugged mountains.

Then, you see new Vrith, the beautiful Vrith of our days, you see new houses with big windows overlooking the small "Cuka" where stands the electric transformer to which every house is linked through the electric power lines. It is 15 years since Vrith became an agricultural cooperative. The peasants of three villages: Vrith, Vuc and Razëm joined their land and farm implements and started the new socialist life. The collective organization of work opened new and great possibilities for a total revolution in agricultural and livestock farming. Vrith and the other villages of the cooperative had never taken in sufficient production of bread grain before.

Now, with the opening of virgin lands, introduction of new agrotechnical methods in agriculture, production has greatly increased. Vrith has doubled the area under cultivation, under the recent Five-Year Plan.

It is interesting to know that this land is not a plain but a vast area divided into many plots. Vrith area of land resembles an archipelago with about 1,700 islands.

Thanks to the collective work the United Agricultural Cooperative of Vrith is self-sufficient in bread-grain and sells the surplus quantity of grain to the state.

In the livestock sector too, deep revolutionary transformations are taking place. Vrith has its own herd of cows of improved pedigree. Alongside the creation of the new economic base, changes have been made in the way of living, in the cultural life, in social relations etc both in this mountainous agricultural cooperative and in the other neighbouring ones.

There is electric light in every family of Vrith now. Many social-cultural objects, the school, the hearth of culture, the first aid post, the maternity home, the kindergarten, the creche, the public baths and the laundry, the handicraft sector, an iron-workshop, the tailor's etc, have been built in the centre of Vrith. There is also a sports ground there.

The revolutionary changes affect not only the outward aspects of life in this agricultural cooperative amidst the high alps. They are more and more being instilled in the people's consciousness. The woman, once deprived of every right, today works and lives on an equal footing with man; she occupies responsible posts in the sectors of the economy, in social-cultural institutions and so on. She is step by step occupying her deserved place in family and society as well.

— The coming Five-Year Plan will see still more brilliant successes in Vrith. Since now, studying the prospective tasks laid down under the new Five-Year Plan, the Vrith cooperative members set very bold objectives. Making use of new seeds that suit the conditions of the agricultural cooperative, increasing organic manure — and chemical fertilizers produced by our Chemical Fertilizer Plants, having recourse to new scientific methods, they are striving to increase the yield of the agricultural crops and the production of milk, and meat, to further raise their standard of living.

# Dialogue with Our Readers

**Question:** In the Magazine "New Albania" I have read about education in your country. Would you tell us something in a more detailed way, about the education without interruption from work?

**Carlo Fiore Italy**

**Answer:** The education system in our country comprises all categories of schools, indispensable for the development of the economy and culture and the promotion of the ideological and cultural revolution.

Our education system, re-organized in the recent years plays an important role in the educational-cultural uplifting not only of the youth and the children but of all the working masses: the working class and the cooperative peasantry.

To this end, a large number of schools have been set up; they are attended by workers, employees and cooperative members without interruption from work. In town and countryside, this school year, there have 1,218 eight grade schools attended by over 59,000 working people; 204 vocational middle schools (industrial, agricultural middle schools) have been opened at the enterprises. In these schools, various specialities are taught. They are attended by more than 40,000 working people from town and country; besides such schools there are many other middle schools of general education. While in 11 cities of the country, 11 branches of higher education with 16 peoples have been opened.

—To create facilities for the working people who attend the schools without interruption from work, the government has passed a series of laws and disposition, under which the workers and employees who attend the 8 grade school without interruption from work are entitled to take 3 hours off a week; those who continue the middle and higher schools without interruption from work are entitled to take 6 hours off a week. In other cases, provided the workers attend a correspondence school and the consulting centre is not near their dwelling center, they are entitled to a 2 day monthly leave to take part in the consultations conducted by the teaching staff. To take the exams, the workers and the employees who attend the schools without interruption from work are entitled to an extraordinary leave: three days for each subject. The 8 grade and middle schools without interruption from work, 20 days for all the exams of each course in the higher schools, 25 days for the exams in the higher correspondence schools, 25 days for all the state examinations in the higher schools etc. Similar facilities have been created for the members of the agricultural cooperatives as well.

During the entire period when the workers attend the school, they enjoy full pay (their pay is not affected even, in case the worker fails in the exams).

The structure of the school year, the plans, the teaching programs, textbooks of the schools without interruption from work differ from that of the schools with interruption from work in compliance with the conditions and possibilities of the working people who study at those schools.

**Question:** I have seen your Folk Dance Troupe in our city and I was amazed at their performance. My desire is to learn more about the Albanian art. Will you write which are the best works of Albanian music in 1970?

**Zhyl Simon, Dijon, France**

**Answer:** The ballet "The daughter of the highlands", by composer Nikolla Zoraqi has been the highlight of the stage genre. This ballet was awarded the first prize in the competition held on the occasion of the 25th

anniversary of the liberation.

Composer Feim Ibrahim added to the repertoire of our music, the cantata "Song for the commissar"; It has been appraised as the best work in the vocal-symphonic genre. This work was awarded the first prize in the art festival for the year 1970.

The works created this year in the field of mass songs have become widespread and dear to the people. Some of the songs that have become popular are "The birthday present" and "the revolution marches" by composer Nikolla Zoraqi; "Stars and blue sky" by composer Tish Raija, "Water is flowing under my greatcoat" by Prodani, "Two million soldiers" by Çesk Zadeja, "My comrades and I" by Agim Krajka and so on. These works have been conferred on various prizes in the 1970 art festival, in the song festival over the radio which is held every year as well as in the soldiers' festival.

—The vivid life, the revolutionary vigour of the masses, the favourable working conditions created to the composers and poets are more and more enhancing the musical creativeness in our country.

**Question:** The Albanian people have waged a long drawn-out struggle against the foreign occupiers. At present, they have a powerful heroic army. I would like to know about the inception of the Albanian Partisan Army.

**A.D. Xhedid, — Algiers  
Algeria**

**Answer:** The Albanian National Liberation Army was born in the heat of battle against the Italian and German fascists. It was formed by the people themselves on the initiative and under the leadership of the Albanian Communist Party (today the Party of Labour). It was an historical necessity for the existence of the Albanian people.

The guerrilla bands were the nucleus of the National Liberation Army. It were the Communists and other patriots who were ready to give their lives for the liberation of the fatherland that militated in these bands.

Then, the guerrilla bands were followed by the partisan units made up of partisans coming from the cities and the countryside. The partisan unit was led by its own staff: the commander, the commissar, deputy commander, and deputy commissar. The Party organization was the unit's brain and heart.

With the extension and increase in number of the partisan units it was passed on to larger formations: the partisan battalions and groups (Spring, 1943).

This resulted in the creation of the General Headquarters of the National Liberation Army with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. Today, this day is marked as the day of the inception of our People's Army.

August 1943 marked a new stage on the historical road of our Army. The first shock brigade was formed. Afterwards, up to May 1944, about 10 brigades were formed. On May 28, the first division came into being to be followed very soon by the first corp composed of three divisions.

—Till autumn 1944, the Albanian Nations Liberation Army numbered 3 corps made up of 8 divisions. The partisans were about 70,000 strong; of this number, a tenth were women fighters.

In five years or so, this Army engaged 100,000 Italian fascist soldiers and 70,000 hitlerites.

On November 29, 1944, the Albanian National Liberation Army liberated the country from the fascist invaders.

The Albanian National Liberation Army was organized on a thoroughly voluntary basis and there was neither payment nor

military ranks.

**Question:** Each nation has its own holidays. . . Which are the most joyful holidays of the Albanian people?

**Christian Low, Manchester Britain**  
**Answer:** Since ancient times, the people have felt the need of joy and recreation with their relations, friends and comrades. The marked days remain as days of joy for the people for decades or better to say, for centuries on end. Various holidays of ancient origin date as far back as before the new era.

Various religions and theirs many sects have left over a great many "marked days" which have not to do with the history and tradition of the people. Instead of joy and recreation, they cultivate mainly mysticism and obscurantism, apathy and sluggishness.

In Albania, prior to the establishment of the people's state power, there were very few national holidays; whereas the religious holidays were dozens. Suffice it to mention, a region in Central Albania—the Myseqeja region, where the priests, urged on the christians to observe 150 holidays. During these days, they were not to work; other wise, they would "commit sins."

In present-day Albania the obscurantism of the past centuries has been discarded, such holidays are not celebrated; in their place, the entire people celebrate with great joy outstanding national and international events.

New Year Day, January 1 is one of the most popular holidays in our country. The people gather in clubs, in the houses of culture or at home to see the old year out with songs, dances etc. Radio Tirana broadcasts beautiful music.

On January 11, 1946, the People's Republic of Albania was proclaimed. It is a red letter day and is marked by the people with great solemnity.

Every year, May Day — the international workers' day is turned into a day of joy and gaiety. Before noon, manifestations, sports activities, picnics are organized while in the evening, on the main squares of the cities and in the villages, performances are given by groups of singers and dancers, evening parties are held, in short, festive atmosphere is created everywhere.

The working people of our country joyfully celebrate the 7th of November the day of the Great October Socialist Revolution as well as the day of the founding of the Party of Labour of Albania that falls due on November 8.

November 28 is one of the most traditional festivals of the Albanian people. On November 28, 1912, after 500 years of bondage under the Ottoman rule, the Albanian patriots hoisted the national flag announcing our national independence.

On November 29, 1944 the National Liberation Army drove away the last remnants of the Hitlerite troops. The Albanian people liberated the country, established their own state power, opened the road to the construction of socialism. November 29 is the greatest holiday in new Albania.

There are other red letter days such as the People's Army Day, the Teachers' Day, the Women's Day, the children's festival etc.

The provinces and districts have their own local holidays in commemoration of historic events such as the creation of the first partisan units as well as the day of liberation from the invaders.

An important place is occupied also by family events such as the weddings, the birthday celebration and the commemoration of important events in the life of a worker or a family member.



The coast line in the south of Albania.

## *Lyrical Emotions*

With varied, distinct, and warm colours are the landscapes created by the new painter Rakip Shabani who embarked on the road of art as a self-taught amateur.

The sea and its coast, the terraces and the fig, orange and peach trees when blooming and yellowing, the high rocks covered with fog, over which the village's houses stand aloft, the new factories with translucent steam, parks illuminated by neon lights, fields with sun-flowers and poppy ones, are his motives. Neither the splendid sun — set over the Ionian waters nor the rush of the warship over the blue waters, are left aside.

They originate from a motif or only from a passage of the present Albanian landscape, much more of the southern coastal landscape. They are depicted with a light pleasant lyrical feeling which is an expression of the happy life this country is leading.



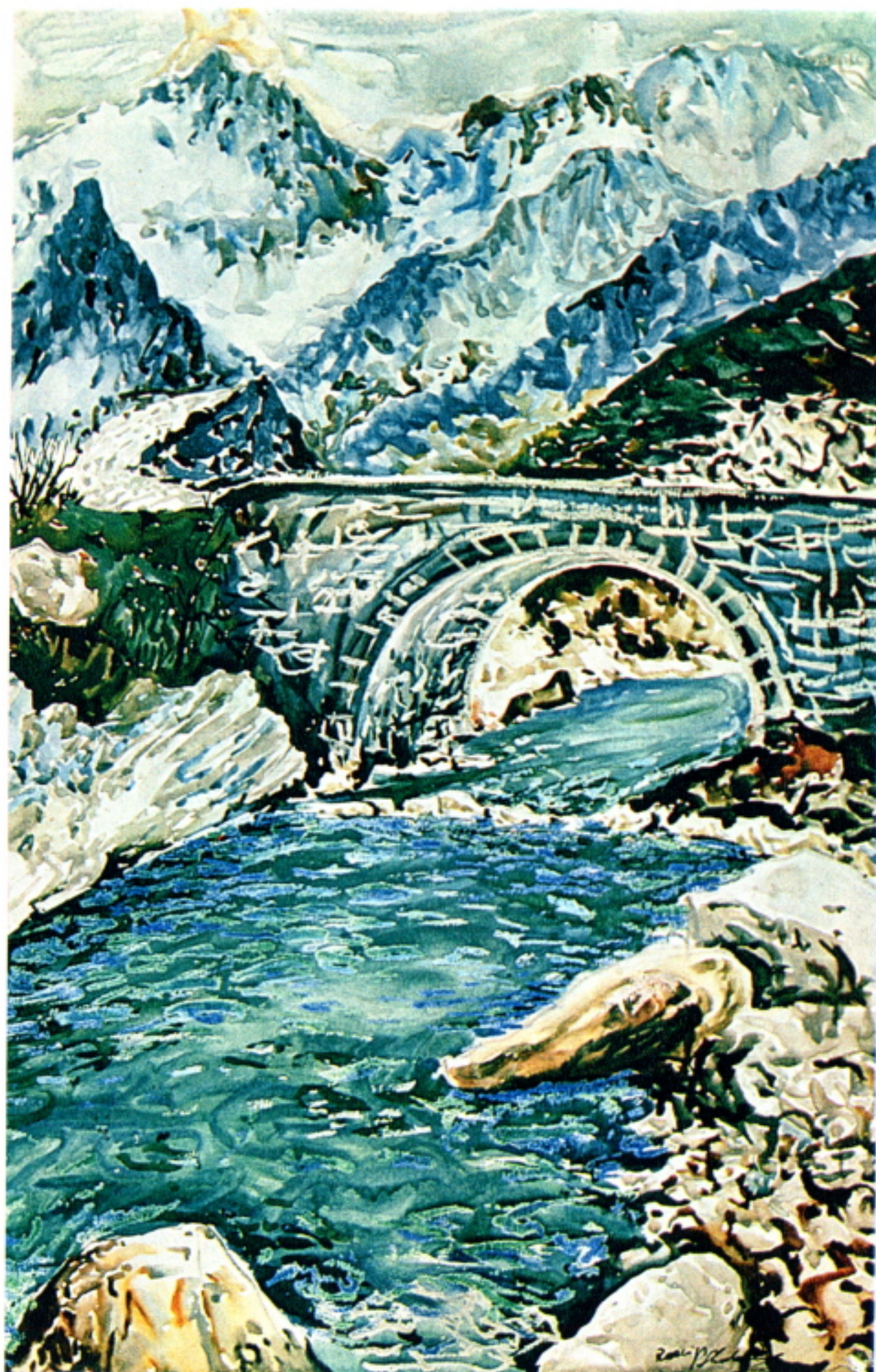


A ships station.



Sea figs.

Mountainous stream.



Dhërmi, village in riviera.



I can not forget that day, indeed I can't! Bledi was hurrying along in front of me following the track to the stream, and we had to push through the slender branches with their autumn tinted leaves.

The battle was just over. We were covered with sweat and dust, and hurried for water for our comrades. We were happy. No one on our side had been killed, except the girl who was wounded in the head by a fragment of stone. Bledi was ahead and I looked at his tall straight body. How skilfully he moved his body when he danced. Always laughing and happy was Bledi.

— Here we are, he said bending over the stream that gurgled along. I sat across from him and drew a long breath. An autumn breeze scattered the yellow leaves and they fell on the grass. My eyes followed one of them and there on the grass where the leaf had fallen were some footmarks. Bledi looked around.

— These are the footmarks of animals which come here to drink, — Bledi explained, turning his eyes to the sky where some birds were flying. — Swallows, he said softly — they travel so far.

— They will come back . . . in the spring.

— Yes, they will.

The birds were lost to view, far towards the horizon. The forest rustled in gentle motion to the autumn breeze, while the stream noisily gurgled on its course. Plunging his hands in the water, Bledi washed his face and smiled. Some drops of water which clung to his cheeks gleamed in the sunshine like drops of dew.

— We knocked them about today he said, meaning the enemy. A small noise behind us. We swung round-quiet.

— Probably a hare, said Bledi.

— May be.

— We gave them hell!

I looked around. Only rustling leaves. Bledi fell suddenly quiet, wrapped in thought.

— What's the matter with you? — I asked him.

— It's autumn now. . .

— Yes, so it is.

— The sowing is starting in the village now.

We were peasants.

— I miss the plough, the smell of the

The word faded on his lips.

The forest sighed as if it felt my pain.

Farewell Bledi!

Towards morning I opened my eyes. Stars were shining in the sky among a few grey clouds.

Looking at the stars I remembered Bledi. Many days had passed since he fell there, by the stream, and wherever I was alone I thought of him, of his behest.

My thoughts wandered like the bits of cloud across the sky. I lit a cigarette. My comrades were sleeping. The sound of footsteps. I raised my head and saw the commissar. He sat beside me.

— Not sleeping? — he asked.

— No.

— I can't sleep either.

I handed him my tobacco.

— Nearby here is Bledi's village?

— I know, — he said — that's why I came. Let's go to the village. The Germans have left. We can start in a little while. We fell silent. He returned my tobacco tin, we drew on our cigarettes and looked up at the stars.

What was the commissar thinking? It was difficult, very difficult for him to tell Bledi's father about his son's death. There, in the east, the dark blue sky was paling, becoming light.

— Let's go, said the commissar.

It was a cool morning. Autumn dew dripped from the leaves. Frightened birds fled through the branches making us start at the sudden flutter of wings.

Come on, come on. Emerging from the forest we saw smoking chimneys, heard the roosters crowing, dogs barking the bleating of sheep and the jingle of their bells echoing down the village paths. The sun had just the commissar.

— The German broke his neck. But those dogs of the Balli still come around.

— They will all break their necks, — I said.

— That's why you are fighting, boys, may your rifle become a cannon.

— I wanted to ask you, — said the commissar, — where is Bledi's house? — Your know Bledi, a partisan.

The peasant took a long look at us.

— Has something happened? — he asked. — We stood silent.

— Eh! . . .

— Yes, it is war.

The peasant kicked at the turned up turf.

— The poor boy . . . still there is no wedding without meat.

— Where is his house? — I asked wanting to change the subject.

— See that man over there? — he said pointing.

That's his father. Let's go together. He threw down his goad stick.

We set off. The earth was steaming in the sun light, it needed the hand of man.

— Hey Rauf! . . . called the peasant to

## Bledi and His Father

earth, of the manure, but the hounds won't leave us alone. Another victory like this we scored today and . . . and they will be done for. We laughed.

— We love the soil so much — I said.

— Why shouldn't we, why did we take to the mountains? To liberate our land.

Bledi's eyes were black, deep-set, and when he spoke of the land his eyes flashed fire.

— Let's go, I said when our kegs were filled with water. But at that moment a dry branch cracked behind us. "Hands up" we shouted, but they opened fire. Hidden behind the trees they shot at us. One of them fell. I heard Bledi's moan, but he was still firing. My shots silenced the second German and I ran to my comrade. He lay on his back, black eyes towards the blue sky, and a smile on his lips.

— Did you kill them? — he asked in a weak voice.

I tried to lift him. He was bleeding heavily.

— Let me be! he said, — it is not only the wound in the head. . .

Here too . . . and put his hand on his

belly. I felt the sweat break out on me.

— I wanted . . . to fight more . . . for this soil. . .

— You'll get better, — don't forget, the plough is waiting for you.

He asked for his revolver. I took it from his belt and gave it to him. He grasped it and said:

— Listen . . . Ylli . . . go to my village . . . meet my father . . . and tell him to leave the autumn sowing . . . Bledi is waiting for him here . . . on the mountain of Morava.

— Stop it, Bledi!

— Don't forget, Ylli . . . don't forget!

Unable to contain myself, I bent over him, kissing him as if he were a child. He pushed me away.

— Be strong . . . Ylli!

He closed his eyes, but opened them again.

— What are those birds . . . up there? I lifted my head.

— Swallows! I exclaimed.

— The swallows . . . go far away . . . They will be back.

— Yes. In the spring.

— And . . . the spring.

the one working.

He stopped the oxen and peered towards us, shading his eyes with his hand.

— Who are you?

1) "Balli Kombëtar"—organization of traitors which collaborated with the enemies during the fascist occupation.

— It is me, Myftar.

— Oh, Myftar, come on over!

— How are you boys, how do you feel — and embraced us in turn. — have a smoke, he said offering his tobacco. The commissar rolled a cigarette, and handed it on to me. While rolling my cigarette I stole a glance at the peasant, at his silver hair, his eyes bright with pleasure at meeting us. . .

His eyes were very like Bledi's. — "How is he going to take the bitter news?" — I thought.

After a bit he said:

— Well, what is it? You seem uneasy.

— They are Bledi's comrades, — replied Myftar.

— All the partisans are Bledi's comrades. But these ones know him, you say — How is Bledi?

We looked at one another.

— Uncle Rauf . . . said the commissar — Be brave. Your son . . . our comrade, fell . . . for the motherland. He fell for the freedom!

I noticed how the goad stick trembled in the old man's hands. A beam of sunlight fell on his face. He gritted his teeth, swallowed. We stood in silence. Steam was rising from the soil. It wanted to be ploughed. . . It was autumn. The oxen did not move.

The commissar took his tobacco.

— Have a smoke, it's strong, — he said.

He took the box, but his hands trembled.

— Roll it for me . . . I can't.

Another silence.

— How did he fell? — he asked after had lit his cigarette and inhaled deep into his lungs.

— He fought like a man. He was very brave, — replied the commissar. — He was killed after the battle at the stream.

— Didn't he say anything, didn't he leave any instructions? I took out the revolver.

— He gave it to me for you, — I said.

The old man took it, looked at it a long, long time, then stuck it in his girdle.

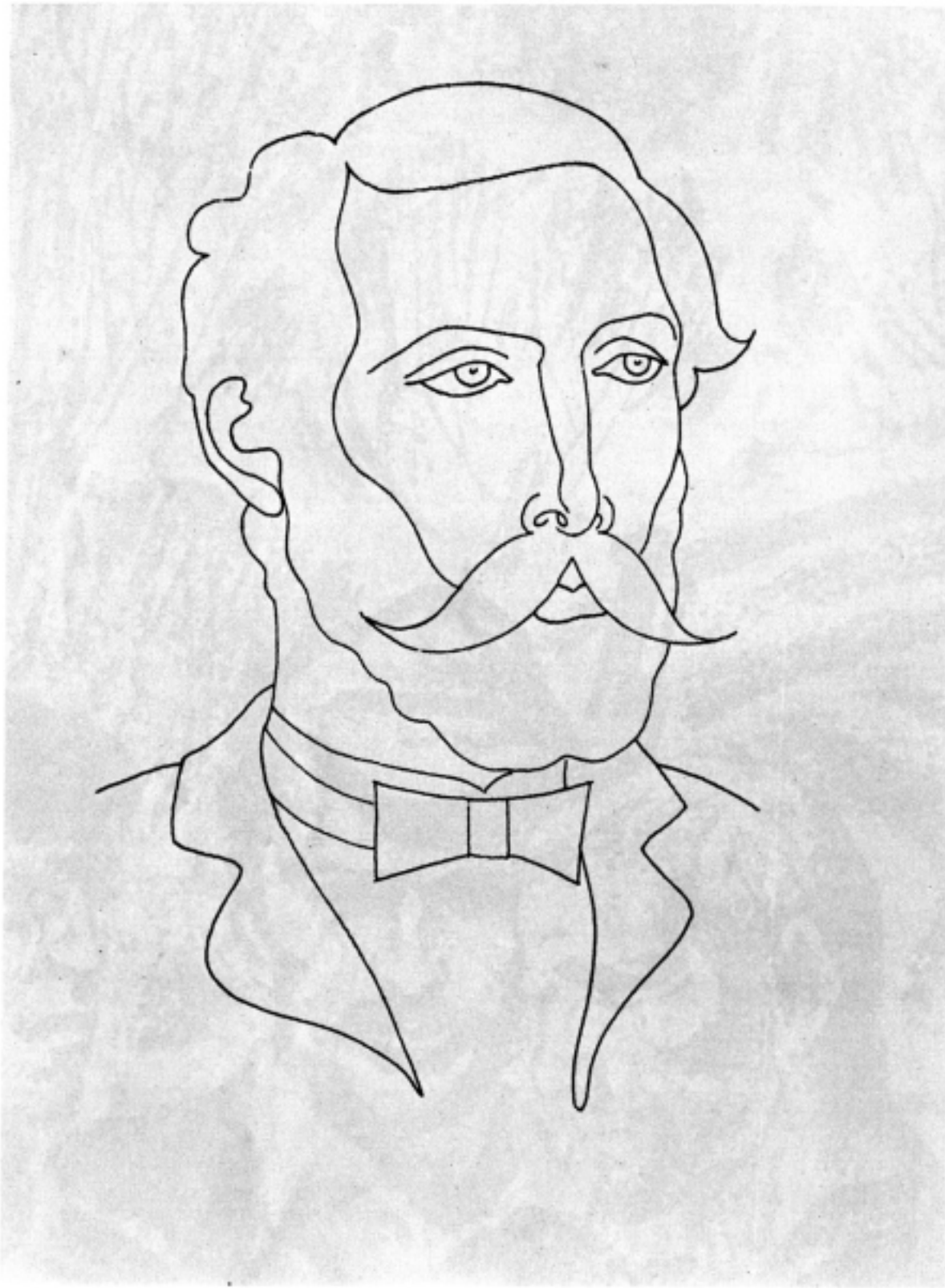
Then I said to the old man what Bledi had told me to say.

— This revolver will have an owner — said uncle Rauf.

During the battle he was far from me. He fought beside Rina, one of the girls of our unit. It was a fierce fight. When I raised my head to look in that direction, I saw Rina dragging Uncle Rauf into a hollow. Bullets whistled over my head. I ducked down and could see nothing. After the battle I learned that uncle Rauf had been killed. Before breathing his last he had left word that the revolver be given to me. Now, while I write, I see this weapon linked with so many memories and it seems to me that I hear Rina's voice: "He gave it to me, for you".

(drawing: by P. Mele)





(drawing: by N. Bakalli)

## Country's Singer

Ali Xhiku

Writers, who become dear to all their countrymen, with their work are rare. Our renaissance poet, Naim Frashëri, was one of them. In the course of poet's time, his verses passed from mouth to mouth, whereas today, though 70 years have elapsed since his death, they may be recited by the little ones of kindergarten or recalled by an aged of revival, among whom Naim, fell a great burden of responsibility of leading this struggle. Naim Frashëri, just as the other men of revival, knew that without freeing nation's consciousness, there could not be any word of country's liberation. A great contribution was made by Naim to the accomplishing of a new ideology, with patriotic and illuminating character opposed to the reactionary ideology of the oppressors. This ideology had as its target the idea of nation's unity and its liberation. Though it could not do away with the idealistic concepts, the renaissance's ideology, marked an important step towards the development of the Albanian thought of that time, struck a heavy blow to the basis of the dark ideology that the long-aged yoke had imposed on.

Naim Frashëri laid the foundations of the Albanian national literature.

with his creative works, Naim turned the Albanian literature into a thinking and spiritual guidance of renaissance's movement and popular masses.

Naim's work directly echoed these problems facing the Albanian people. It laid on its very foundations—the patriotism, feelings, thought and heart of the people. The social-esthetic ideals Naim taught in his work, was independent Albania, the age-long dream and aspiration of our people. The depiction of this great issue facing the upon many realms of social life. Naim is a progressive romanticism poet. However, in the core of his romanticism, there was not conflict between the solitary individual and society, but the hymn of country, the deep love for it, the dream for a free Albania. The romanticism of Naim Frashëri's poetry, just as the whole Albanian literature of the national revival, is distinguished from the European literature, besides the fact that he had in its foundation the cult of love for the country. The romantic dream in the Albanian literature of renaissance, and particularly in Naim Frahsëri's work assumes only a form: the exultation of beauty of life of the free motherland from the foreign yoke. Naim enriched the Albanian literature with new means of expression. He handed down a lot of verses with a rarely artistic level and quality. The figures of speech in his poetry are still vivid, clear and understandable. He set splendid examples at plasticity of figure.

Naimi entered into the history of our literature as one of the greatest figure. His work still sounds actions for its patriotism, popular spirit, that is why it is spread and read passionately by our reader.





The Folklore Group of Kukës performing  
(Photos: by The Archives of the Folklore  
Institute)

## *The Weaver's Dance*



You see in the photo two snapshots from the "weaver's dance". This dance was created in 1967, on the occasion of the folklore festival of the Lezha District and continues to be performed as a beautiful creation of the Luma Region.

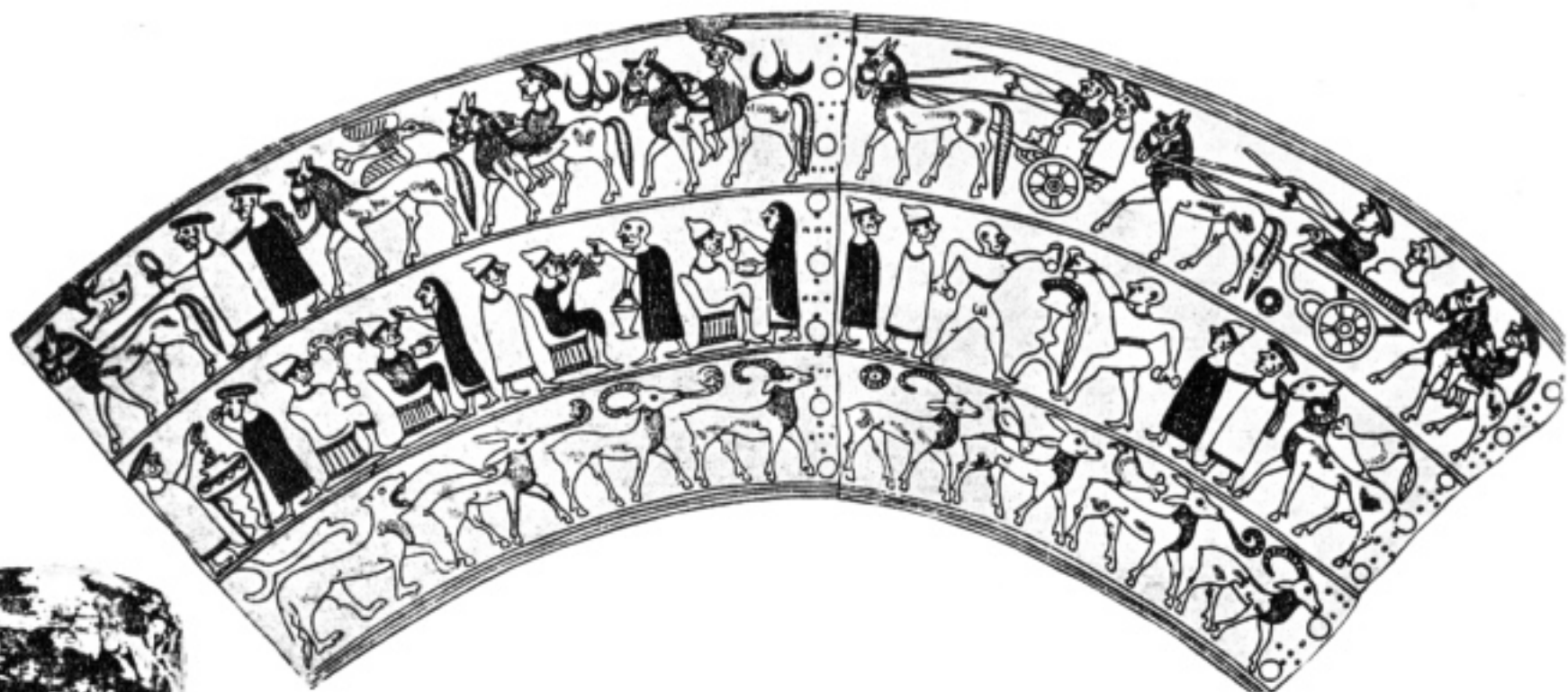
"The weaver's dance" was created by Fatmira Domi, a teacher of the 8-year school of the Kolesian Village in the Kukës District. Fatmira is not only a skilled dancer, but also an expert of folk dances and songs.

She instilled in her pupils the love for dance, evoked in them the new thought of work expressed through the art of dance thus helping in the patriotic, esthetic and revolutionary education of the younger generation with the culture and the best traditions of the past as well as with new features created on the basis of this tradition.

Her creation is as much noble as the ideo-esthetic and scientific value is.

"I know women's dances of our region, says Fatmira. Since a child I have been brought up with them. Dances have always evoked in me love and joy. With the same passion I have taught them to my pupils. I have also set up the dance troupe in the school. "The weaver's dance" in the repertoire of the Luma women dances is something new. It is accompanied by a simple, pleasant and joyful melody.

The famous bucket (situla) of Velça, one of the masterpieces of Illyrian art. — right: detail.



# ILLYRIANS AND ALBANIANS

S. Anamali

The problem of the Illyrians and of the early Albanians is not something that is being touched upon only now or that has just begun to be treated. Scientists have long begun to deal with this problem and have arrived at some conclusions. But the studies made by thinkers about the Illyrian question and their age-long settlement in the Balkans have been characterized by a one-sided view as they were based on insufficient data. As for the problem of the genesis of the Albanians, of their early settlement and of the source of their language the studies belong mainly to the sphere of linguistics and until a few years ago no use had been made of the archaeological means.

The merit lies with the Albanian albanological science which in these post-liberation years has been able to approach the problem from all sides finding out the ways and means of getting near the scientific solution of it. The archaeological research work has been of a particularly great value in this respect. Our archaeology made the centre of its attention the question of the age of the Illyrians in the Balkans and of the genesis of the Albanians, the continuation of the Illyrian culture up to the early medieval Albanian culture. In connection with these two problems—the study of the genesis of the Illyrians and the clarification of the problem of the continuation of the Illyrian culture up to the early Albanian culture—it was needed to trace back and learn the features of the economic, social and cultural development of the Illyrians during the Iron Age which must have been the age of their prosperity.

It is a long time now that the hypothesis of prehistorians and linguists prevails that the Illyrians were carriers of the Iron Age culture who had come to the western part of the Balkans from the Central or North-Eastern Europe at comparatively late times—in the second half of the second millennium B.C. but the new archaeological findings contradicted this hypothesis. What did they show.

When our archaeologists began to study the archaeological findings unearthed in some tumulus, in Vajzë of Vlora, in Pazhok of Elbasan etc. They found that they had to do with relevations of special scientific interest. In these tumulus they discovered not only the existence of the Illyrians and their culture but also found out that the archaeological findings which belonged to the end of second millennium B.C. (in Vajza) and to the middle of this millennium (in Pazhok) revealed a population that had also witnessed the Bronze Age culture. The later excavations made in the prehistoric settlements of Maliqi and Treni (Korça District) and of late the research carried out in the prehistoric settlements of Kamniku (Kolonja) and Cakrani (Fieri) gave further and fuller proof to this so they greatly helped to better approach this problem. So the new hypothesis of the authenticity of the Illyrians came into being opposing with new strong arguments the old hypothesis which held the Illyrians' origin from the North. Let us have a look at the prehistoric settlement of Maliqi. The

archaeologists managed to define in Maliqi the cultural strata in their chronological order, starting from the late Neolithic Age upto the late Bronze Age (i.e. from 2,700 to 1,200 B.C.). They were able to define that the Neolithic Age inhabitants of Maliqi which were part of the big movement of the primitive peasants must have come from the south-east. In the Neolithic Age (copper) too they found traces of a cultural movement whose carriers knew copper and belonged to the same cultural group of the late neolithic. Studying the discovered materials belonging to these epochs, in addition to the native elements they found similarities, in ceramics in particular, with the same age settlements of Macedonia, Thesaly, Crete and Aisa. Thus the Maliqi culture of these epochs was closely related to the culture of the known Egeo-anatolian complex. They brought to light a new phenomena about the Bronze Age culture. In this culture the native inner evolution prevails which means that this culture must have had as its backbone the preceding copper culture, and that the carriers of the Bronze Age culture had not come there from other places. As a culture which had adopted the physiognomy of the new epoch, the new culture was of great interest in as much as it discovered the ties with the Iron Age culture. Tracing back these phenomena in the other settlements the archaeologists came to some more conclusions. It has been pointed out that there appeared some forms of earthen ware since the Copper Age together with the earthen ware of the Bronze Age which grew in number they comprise the Illyrian ceramic fund. So it was beyond doubt that the Bronze Age ceramics is of Illyrian origin. They also concluded that the carriers of the copper culture in these settlements continued to live till later times and it was out of this population that the Illyrian ethnol was formed during the Bronze Age. Thus in Maliqi, Tren and other settlements the Illyrians appear ever since the Bronze Age and they make this appearance as authentic natives. There is no proof in these settlements of their coming at later times from the Central Europe as it was formerly thought.

Carrying out excavations in a number of other Illyrian centres archaeologists arrived at some other important conclusions. They discovered the stages of economic and social development of the Illyrians during the last millennium before our era and together with them the development of their material culture. In a number of tumulus which belong to the beginning of the last millennium before our era (in Dropulli of Gjirokastra, in the central part of the Mati River valley, in the Drini valley of the Kukës District, in Kuç i Zi of Korça) they found the Illyrians as the ancient inhabitants of these regions who were at the stage of disintegration of the primitive commune order, when social inequality and differentiation were under way. Many fortified settlements belong also to the beginning of this millennium.

Of special importance are the discoveries made in the South-western Albania—a region which in the ancient times was part of the settle-

ment inhabited by the Epirotes. The findings unearthed in the tumulus in Kakavia, Vodhina, Bodrishti, Cepuna, Mashkullora together with the findings made in the ruins of the ancient cities of Saraqinishti (former Antigonea) of Riperi, Foiniki etc (in the Gjirokastra and Saranda area) showed that there existed in them the same material culture as in the other Illyrian regions which fully coincides with what the Greek written sources say: that the Epirote tribes were "barbarians" which means Illyrians, that the name of Epirus had only a geographic but not ethnic meaning and that the Epirotes were not Helens as the Greek chauvinists pretend.

In the IV and III centuries before our era in the period which preceded the struggles for the defence against the Roman invasion, the southern Illyria (the territory of the present-day Albania) was covered with cities and towns surrounded by strong walls with monumental buildings of social character, with various artisan shops where there lived slave owners and worked slaves where coin had become the only means of trade. In the regions where these cities were situated the disintegration of the old order had already been completed, classes had come into being. Such centres were Amantia (Ploça of Vlora), Bylis (Hekali of Malakastro), Dimali (Krotina of Berati), Antipatreia (Berat), Skodra (Shkodra), Lisi (Lezha), Pelioni (Selca e Poshtme of Pogradeci), Foinike (Finiqi of Saranda), Antigonea (Jerma of Saraqinishti of Gjirokastra) etc.

In the end of the III century and in the first half of the II century before our era when the Romans fought with the Illyrians and after these wars Illyria was divided into provinces the invaders found in the territory of the Illyrian settlements an advanced economic, social and cultural development. This development had its repercussions in the later relations between the Illyrians and Romans.

Closely following the development of the Illyrians through the archaeological findings up to the later periods of ancient times the archaeologists always noticed the presence of the Illyrians as carriers of a material culture which had developed in line with the requirements of time and had been influenced by other cultures but had never lost its own features. They found this culture also in the beginning of the medieval ages when the Roman empire did not exist any longer, when with its extinction the danger of Romanization did not exist either, and the Illyrian regions were being invaded by other peoples. What happened with the Illyrians during the long period of the Roman invasion and later on with the invasions and the mass migrations of the peoples from the north?

Who are the Albanians about whom they begin to speak in the early Middle Ages? These two questions, seemingly one different from the other, were closely connected with each other. This time also the scientists with the means they had at their disposal delayed the answer. They said that the Illyrians were Romanized, that it was only somewhere in the mountains some small Illyrian groups survived. It was accepted that the Albanians' ancestors are the Illyrians of one of the old Illyrian dialects. But it was also said that the Albanians are not authentic natives but have come from other places. The Albanians were also called migrated Thracians and the Albanians language a Romanized Thracian dialect. Albania was depicted in the beginning of the Middle Ages as an abandoned territory later colonized by the Slavians and it was written that in the 10th and 11th centuries some Illyrian predecessors called Albanians came from the inner Balkans and "Albanianized" the Slavians.

Linguists have long ago given clear and convincing arguments that the Albanian language is an offshoot of the Illyrian language, that the Albanians are authentic natives. Mention has also been made of the fact that not a single source of information of the time speaks about any movement of the Albanians from other places to where they are. In these recent years archaeology too proved this.

Of importance for the explanation of the genesis of the Albanians have also been the findings unearthed in some tumulus of the Early Middle Ages in the Northern and Central Albania. The expanding of the excavations to the medieval castles produced the same picture as that of the tumulus excavations. The material culture of the Early Middle Ages with clear native features is a continuation of the Illyrian culture. This culture has been called the early Albanian culture by the archaeologists. The early Albanian culture was first brought to light in the tumulus of Kala Dalmace in the Koman Village in Puka (Northern Albania) that is why it was called the Koman culture. It was also discovered in the tumulus of Mirdita and Mati near the castles of the medieval cities of Kruja, Shurdhaku, Lezha. Traces of this culture have also been found across the borders of Albania, in Montenegro and Macedonia (Yugoslavia). That the Albanians are natives and not comers, that the Illyrian population (which was later called Arberore, Arbereshe from the Illyrian tribe of albans) did never abandon its land has been proved also by the excavations made in some Illyrian settlements where life developed ceaselessly from ancient times till Middle Ages. This excavations have given us a clear vision of the development of their culture in the course of centuries and its relations with and influence by foreign cultures. They have once more shown that that the authentic native population was never replaced by another population until their settlement was utterly destroyed. The new archaeological findings showed that there could be no point in talking about the Albanians having escaped the Romanization in hidden place that they had no contacts with the regions and countries around them. As descendants of the Illyrians the Albanians preserved and developed their language, culture and traditions keeping constant contacts either with Rome or with Byzantium. The culture unearthed in the early medieval tumulus or discovered in the Albanian medieval towns and castles is a continuation of the Illyrian culture, but at the same time it is a new culture which has been influenced by the neighbouring cultures but has preserved its own features. We find it as such in the regions inhabited by the Albanians.



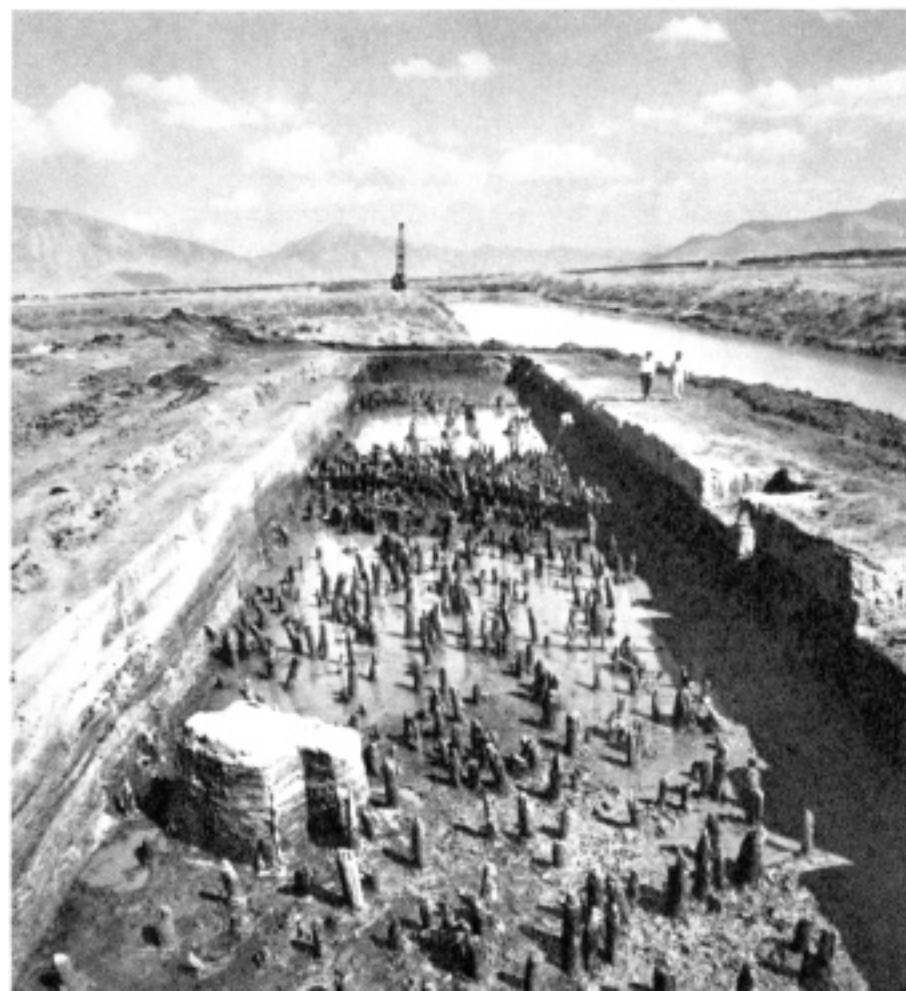
① Illyrian tomb-stone of the IVth century B.C., unearthed in Koplík, District of Shkodra.

② Illyrian tomb of the first Iron Age, discovered after the excavation in Kënetë — the District of Kukës.

③ Illyrian Palafit dwelling center in Maliqi — Korça.



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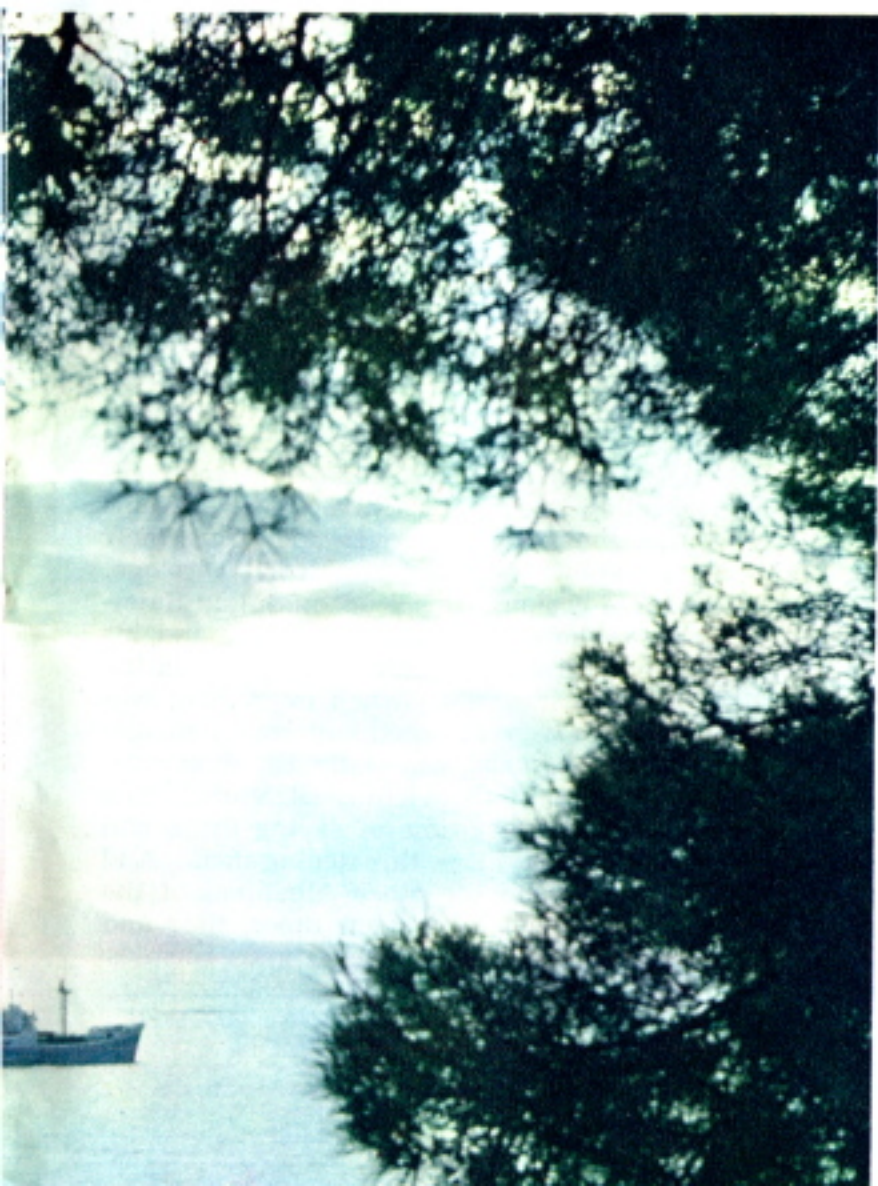
# **“ALBANIAN LANDSCAPE”**



Our youth have turned the hills of the southern coast line once, full of bushes into beautiful plantations with citrus and olive trees.



Saranda — A beautiful town of our riviera.



The Agricultural State Enterprise in Delvinë.

(Photos: by N. Kodheli)



# Reading a Document

della Boiana, si era fatto prima Perugia, intesa la Coma, all'incontro di Puglia et di capo di Oranto che dalla orca in la terra leuante ha per tutto popolo soggiori alle infedeli. **E** questo popolo di Albanesi et questi molto più sono andati et dolorosi, che quelli; habitano per le Dittas, castelli et nei boschi et nelle montagne, et non si lasciano tiranniquo così impudente da i Turchi come le altre nazioni loro soggior, et sparsi ualor con l'armi combattono et combattono insieme et per l'uniuersale abbasincaua al nome la fede et l'imperio porocione macomattano ormai uolentieri non quando altrimenti non possono più che. **Et** appreso le Turchi la meglio et più stimati guerrieri sono quelle di essi che di questa nazione nascono et si fanno macomattani et le sei discendenti, et il primo, ha agresso tutto del più impetuoso oromano autumani na boy, l'albanesi alle guerra, et per questo leuandoni non li uenno mai parato mettere il uogo a sua uoluntà, recue ne dasarmare del tutto, che la maggior parte di questo popolo uenno l'armi di offesa et di difesa, le spade et le mezz'opole mezza picca et la arca et le fruste

che le soleno uolentieri, le ferite le quali sono periculosissime et mortale et peggiore delle archibuscate et uengono le calce et mezza retta, uaghe et delle maglie di ferro et da piedi poca et rimano et mena imano li Turchi, si bene siano Giametiani, tanto famosi alle Cavalleria malemenet possono resistere ne i boschi piani et aperti, et per fuggire il pericolo di essa, taluolta con loro famiglie uenno con li uasi et la suppellettile et con il bestime et ritirano, tra le boschi et nelle montagne. Costoro Giamet uenno bene darsi et fatto grandi danni uoggeza et ruina a i Turchi et ha continua guerra in quei paesi et diuono insieme con l'odio couelito inestinguibile reciproca, costoro fossero sollevati et aiutati da qualche potentia cristiana, distanzia i di Spagna per via di mare in dieci o uero in quindici giorni si radunariano facilmente da uenno in guerra famiglie cristiane da piedi Valenciani et qualche numero di Cavalle uenno dalle sopraddette comode, a rimporre di capo d'Oranto et di Puglia, et parrebbero dare il malanno et la mala uentura a li comuni Giameti, et per questa ragione si dice si potria assicurarsi l'Italia et Roma che li Turchi non possono passare il mare et portare le loro armi et la guerra

After the death of the national hero of Albania, George Castrioti-Scanderbeg, and after the Turks had occupied Kruja, Shkodra and the fortifications of the Albanian coast, the way for a landing of the Ottoman troops in Italy, and consequently the road for an invasion of the western countries was now open.

Indeed, just after the occupation of these cities and fortifications, in which the last organized resistance of the Albanians was concentrated took place in Puglia in 1480 the first landing. From that time on, always whenever the Ottoman armies moved towards the Adriatic, all the western countries were alarmed, because they wanted to prevent any possible landing on the coast opposite Albania.

Always, as in 1481, when the armed struggle of the Albanians was the cause of the liberation of the occupied Othrantos, as later on in 1492, when Sultan Bayazit the IInd himself came to Albania with all the military forces and as in 1537, when the Sultan Sulejman the Magnificent, came to Vlora at the head of the army and the fleet of the empire (we keep here silent about many other occasions and we speak only about those main stages) the struggle of the Albanian populations against the Ottoman troops and caravans caused the defeat of the attempts of the Ottoman Sultans and pashas to carry the war to the west. About this contribution of the armed struggle of the Albanians were conscious the most distinguished men of the time as well as the princes and kings of that time, and history is conscious too.

But one has to say that the princes, the kings, the popes and emperors had never any desire to properly and sufficiently appraise this valuable and real contribution of the armed movements of the Albanians.

In the sixties of the XVI century, when by then Europe and the whole of the west were preparing to put up a firm resistance to the Ottoman threat of invasion, which was hanging over their heads, the attention of princes, kings and popes was once more attracted by the armed struggle of the Albanians, a struggle always active.

A draft report of 1567, written by the slav from Kotorri, Bukja, emphatically stressed the power and the armed struggle of the Albanians against the Turks.

This draft report had not been published in the various documentary collections. Recently, our scholars, came into possession of this document, they read and integrally transcribed it. We are reproducing here some extracts, in which, through the author's hand, who was a neighbour and admirer of the struggles of the Albanians, a man who seems to be well informed about the historical and strategical knowledge of the time, are written the words of admiration, he and his world had about the value and the contribution of the armed movements of the Albanians of those times.

The report from which the following extracts are taken is: *Biblioteca Marciana-Venezia, Mas. Italiani Cl.B No. 6.*

## THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR OF THE ALBANIANS AGAINST THE OTTOMAN ATTACKS IN THE XV CENTURY

... almost, everywhere were the houses, the possessions and the

language of the Albanians. . . and after the mohammedan Turks, entered Europe, this nation. . . for almost more than 100 years waged a determined war, in infantry and cavalry detachments against them.

And first after the fall of Adrianople, the metropolis of the Bulgarians later on followed by Constantinople the metropolis of the Greeks, and after their brave and valiant and greatly admired prince and leader, George Castriot, surnamed Scanderbeg, and after the death of many distinguished and heroic captains and chieftains and after the men of the people remained without their leaders so well trained in arms and in warfare, and without the help of any of the christian nations, they could no longer resist the innumerable Ottoman enemy armies of Europe and Asia, who for a long time by now, had occupied by means of violence all the men-inhabited sites, fortifications and castles, which are within the above described frontiers, and hold them by their garrisons.

### 2.—THE ALBANIANS DON'T TOLERATE TO BE BRUTALLY OPPRESSED AS OTHER NATIONS DO

... On the contrary the Albanians and especially those living in the regions from Buna to Preveza including here Himara opposite Pulja and the cape of Othranto. . . don't tolerate to be brutally oppressed by the Turks, as the other nations subjugated by them, do, and often, arms in hand, oppose them and fight against them.

### 3.—THE ALBANIANS RESIST THE OCCUPATIONISTS WITH WAR

In the Ottoman empire of today there exists a proverb which says: *arnaut na boj* (which means. The Albanian is for war.) And that is the reason why the Ottomans could never put their yoke according to their vicious desires or disarm them completely, because the majority of them do keep the offensive and defensive arms of theirs.

They often have caused the Turks great damages, shames and destructions, and in those regions they live together in a reciprocal unextinguishable and cruel wrath. If to those (to the Albanians) would have been given any help by any power. . . they could defeat and completely destroy the common enemies, and in that way Italy and Rome would be secured and the Turks could not pass over and bring their arms and war to Pulja. . . It is a known fact that almost 30 years ago, coming from Constantinople a large ground army lead by Sultan Sulejman himself. . . came to Vlora, to the said coasts of Albania, and his military fleet with many powerful warships entered by way of sea the bay of Vanice (Adriatic). Just at the moments, when everything was ready to ship over to Pulja, his armies were attacked and great damages were caused to them, by the said Albanians, especially by Himariots, who live in the mountains of Himara in the vicinity of Vlora. The attacks of Himariots were the cause of that time of saving Pulja and the kingdom (of Naples) from the ruin and fire, threatening them. And from that time on the said Himariots and the other Albanians of the Adriatic, Illyrians and Macedonians, seamen of olden times, time and again have caused by means of violence damages to the common enemies.



"Landscape" (linoengraving): by S. Garuli:

"Children's World" (linoprint): by S. Garuli:



## "THE PAINTER'S ALBUM"



"Gjirokastra" (painting): by Q. Moniko:



## The Mosaics of Lini

On the western bank of the Ohri Lake (in the South-East of Albania), a small headland stands out in the lake, called the cape of Lini, named after the picturesque village which lies at its rocky side. The cape has been inhabited since ancient times. On the western plateau of the cape, which is 750 m. above sea-level, the ruins of a paleo-christian basilica have been unearthed. Nothing of its architecture is left but for the 7 floors with mosaics which to some degree have been well preserved. The mosaic of each of the floor, in accordance with the place it occupied in the basilica, have their own characteristic compositions.

The masters who have made the mosaics of the Lini Basilica have produced cubes out of one-coloured line-stones; marble cubes, cubes cut from bricks and glass cubes have also been used. The prevailing colours are white, black and red; other colours like, green, brown, yellow, blue have also been used. The mosaic painters have proceeded from general and known schemes in composing the mosaics of various surroundings. In some cases, especially in cornices they repeat some old and dull elements inherited from the past centuries of our era. But the stylistic elements, the motives of vine and eucharist, various figures singled on the artistic plane and which constitute an independent whole, the analogies with the eastern regions determine quite clearly the time when the Lini Basilica and its mosaics were made. It has been the beginning of the VIth century, a period when the subjects taken from nature were introduced and accepted in the religious buildings and when scenes with different motives were regarded in a framework of general geometrical motives. All these elements which we find in the mosaics of the Lini Basilica, just as the contrast between the medallions and the static background, are a characteristic feature of the mosaics of the beginning of VIth century.

We find it more difficult to give an opinion about the masters of mosaics who worked in Lini. We may say that they were natives more than wanderers, because in this south-east region of ancient Illyria many other mosaics especially around the Lake of Oher belonging to this period, have been discovered.

In the mosaics of the Lini Basilica the spirit of the Mediterranean art is seen and mainly the art of some important urban centres such as Dyrrahu, Thesaleniku, Amfipoli etc. This is natural, for the cape of Lini was situated near an important route which linked the East with the West.







(Photos: M. Kallfa)





Sequences from the film "The Fitter". In this film two young artists play the main characters: Fatbardha Cani, girl worker in "Stalin" Textile Mill, and Vangjush Furxhi.

## **"THE FITTER"**

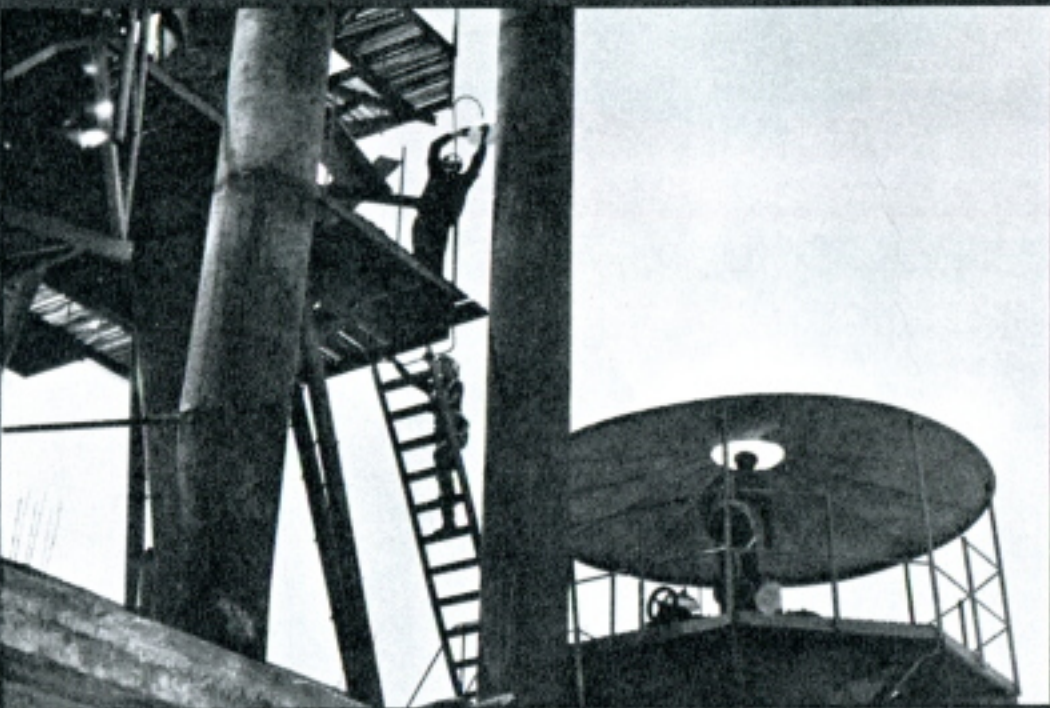
Vangjush Furxhi

"New Albania" Film Studio completed a new short feature film "The fitter". The film is produced by the young producer Muharrem Fejzo according to the screenplay of "The wind and the moon" by writer Dhimiter Xhuvani. The film is devoted to the working class, especially to the working youth. It is an epic of the constructive work in our country, of the pure and sincere love of two young people — Hena and Agim. The love between the two young people was born out of their friendship and acquaintance in the course of work of their efforts to raise their technical professional level.

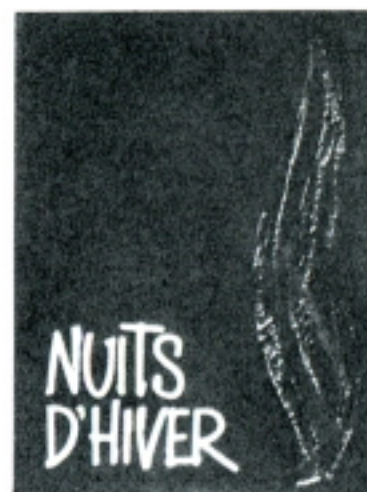
Two young people work, think and love each other in the big construction site. The modest girl worker Hena is not satisfied with the work she does. She dreams of becoming a fitter, in order to climb the heights as she put it, so that "he" (Agim) has beside himself a

true comrade in life. On the screen the spectators see young people of sacrifice who are ready to work wherever the motherland needs them. In picking up of the leading actors of the film, the film workers tried to find two common workers that do not differ from the rest of the workers. And they achieved what they were looking for. The girl worker of "Station" Textile Mill Fatbardha Cani (she appears on the screen for the first time) becomes more and more natural in her role in the film as the actions develop, presenting us a quiet and attractive girl.

Generally speaking this film is the first serious try for both film actors and the producer. We can now say that theirs turned out a successful try.



## NEW BOOKS



**"Winter Nights":** This book consists of stories by 15 Albanian authors. These stories deal with the heroism of Albanian people during the period of National Liberation War and with different social issues of our days.

The book has 210 pages and is available in French.

**"Stories":** In this book writer Dhimiter Shuteriqi has collected stories he has written devoted to the work and life of the miners as well as some other stories that depict the theme of the complete electrification of the country and the heroism of our youth.

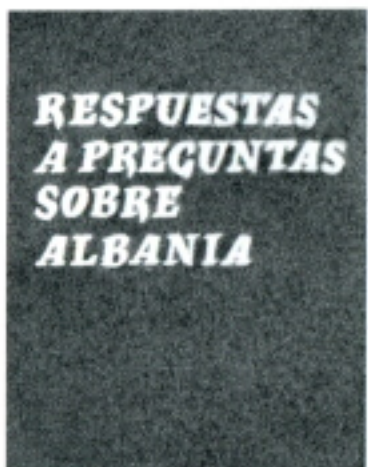
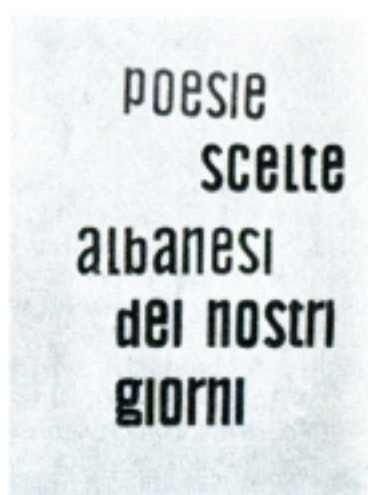
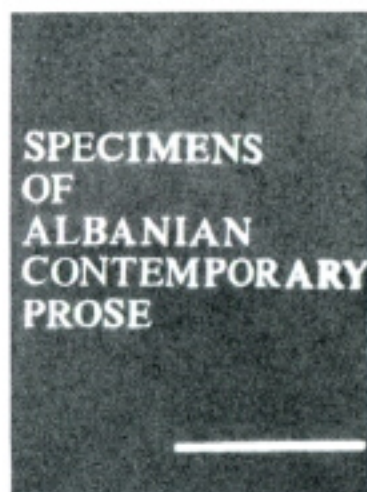
The book has 279 pages; it has been translated into French.

**"Specimens of Albanian Contemporary Prose":** The greater part of the writings in this volume speaks about true episodes of life: tractors climb waste land that youth have turned into fertile land; telephone cables that stretch deep into remote mountain areas; frontier-guards standing on guard on alert on the sacred border of our motherland... It has 102 pages and is available in English.

**"Selected Poems of the Present Days":** This volume of 264 pages, translated into Italian, contains various poems by 26 authors of our time. These poems sing praises to the heroism displayed by the masses of the people.

Apart from the variety of themes and individual styles, all these poems are based on the same principle, on socialist realism.

The book, **"Answers to Questions About Albania"** came off press recently. It has been translated also into Spanish.





The handicraft master Dh. Buneci.



## Coppersmiths with Golden Hands

by Ramadan Sokoli

Copper is one of the first metals that attracted the attention of man for its qualities. This is the first metal that was struck by the hammer of the Stone Age.

This metal brought with it great changes in the primitive life. With the use of this metal, some thousands of years ago, began the Neolithic Epoch which replaced the Stone Age just as the stone implements and weapons were replaced by the copper ones. This metal which sometimes was found in natural state on the earth and which was forged even when it was cold, being to some extent flexible, prompted people to mix it with tin in order to harden it. Thus bronze was attained, giving rise to a sharp turn in the pre-history of humanity, in improving the implements and the living conditions. The Age of Bronze covers the whole of the second millennium before our era in our country.

Remainings of metallurgy which are very often found in Illyrian dwelling centres like in Mirdita, Pukë, Mat or in the District of Elbasan and elsewhere show that our predecessors made use of mines since ancient times. Distinguished and skilful masters of metals were especially the Pirusts (Illyrian tribe that inhabited in Mirdita). The writings of some classical authors and a range of things (arms, wares and various ornaments) found in Illyrian dwelling places testify to the art of our forerunners. It is not for nothing that the hammer of the miner and the metal stick were the emblem of the Illyrian coins of the city of Damastion (somewhere in the vicinity of Dibra). The art and the technique of the Illyrian coppersmiths at working on this metal (by striking, moulding etc) is clearly seen in archaeological finds. Dealing with the chisel and the hammer in the inner side of the metal, the Illyrian artists produced artistic reliefs and beautiful

pictures of men and animals on the opposite surface. Suffice it to mention among the many works of this toreutic art, the famous bucket (this "situla" of the VI-V centuries before our era is considered as one of the masterpieces of the prehistoric art of Europe) which is found in Vae.

Archaeological finds prove that the Illyrian coppersmiths had been perfecting the technique of this art with each passing day; they continued to develop this tradition even during the Roman and barbarian invasions. Historical data tell us that just like the majority of the main handicrafts of medieval Arbëria, the coppersmiths too had been organized in associations, which continued to exist even during the Turkish occupation.

In spite of the ruins our cities sustained during the century-long struggles waged by our people against the Ottoman armies, in spite of the damages caused to our handicraft by the emigration of many masters, this ancient tradition gave rise to other new masters who, with their works not only met the demands of their country but also the demands of their country but also the demands of foreign markets.

During the period of the foundation of the Albanian feudal states (XVIII century), our coppersmiths together with silversmiths and various metalsmiths in general had perfected their professions. Their works enjoyed great reputation and were demanded by many countries of the Balkan and Mediterranean. Among the handicraftsman of the time were distinguished some masters like Tusha of Tirana whose name as engraver of the metal is mentioned even today, two centuries after, in folk songs.

Many copper objects as for example, jugs, basins, coffee pots, cups and other kitchen wares inherited from the past century have beautiful shapes with colourful and harmonious designs and decorations chiseled skilfully by the hands of our masters. Besides geometrical motives our coppersmiths have also chiseled figures of men and animals together with plants and flowers. Some of these decorative

① Dh. Buneci. "Scanderbeg" (bust in copper)

② ③ Products of "Migjeni" Artistic Handicraft Enterprise — Tirana.

④ Products of Kavaja Artistic Enterprise.



②



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motives have been looked upon as symbols, as is the case with the rounds which represent the sun, or the serpent, birds and other figures of the pagan mythology.

Tracing the descendance of some shapes and motifs, the links of the chain lead us to the Illyrian ancestry. If we compare the most characteristic works of our copper smiths with some medieval copper objects and some archaeological findings which are displayed in the show windows of museums, we will follow the process of development beginning with ancient times and ending with the present. Such a comparison is sufficient to convince us of the similarity of Illyrian or medieval findings and copper objects used even today by the people of some regions.

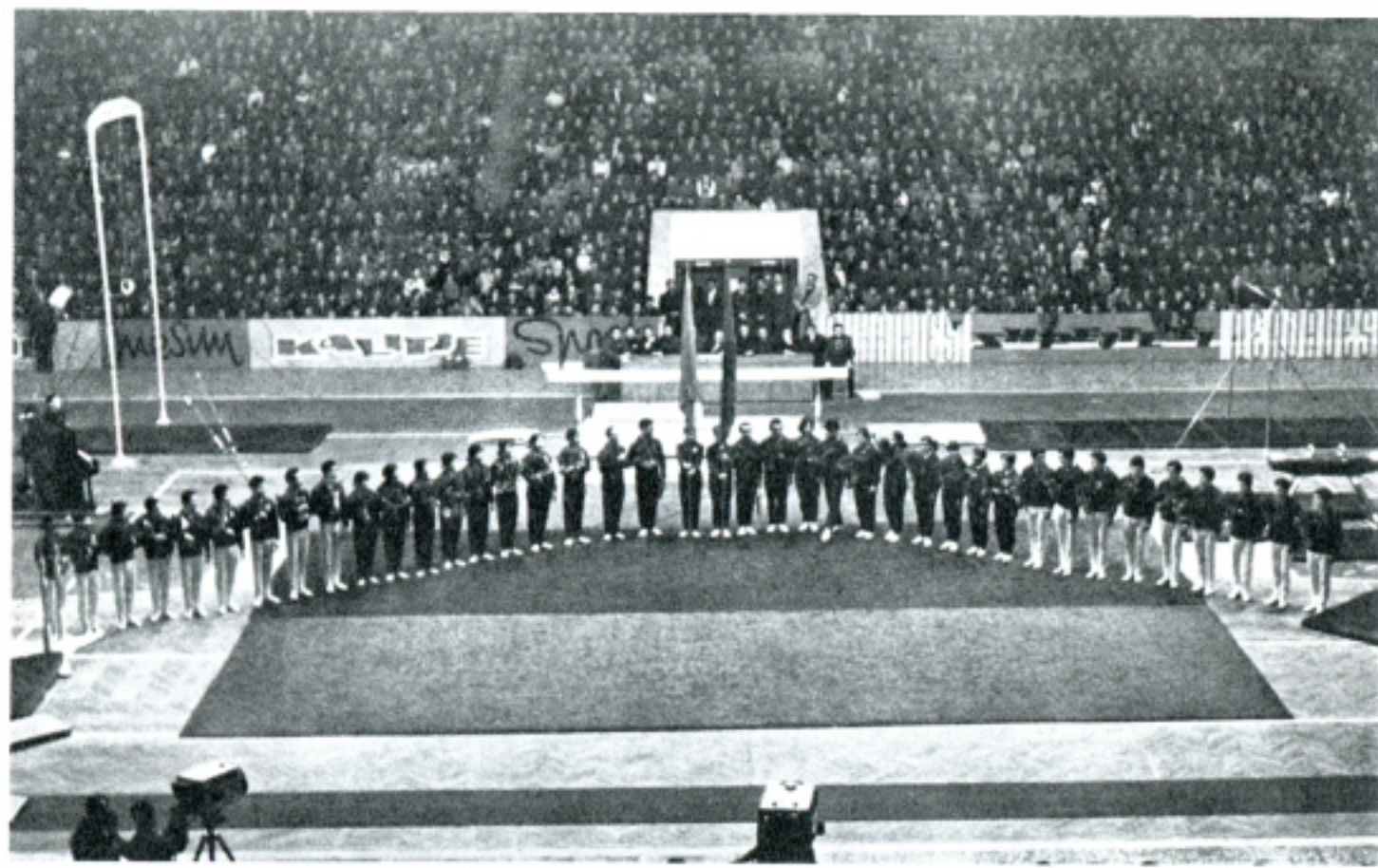
This tradition of the coppersmiths is handed down to our century not only in the cities but also in the villages and even in the households; this is explained by the very social and historical conditions and circumstances of our country. Handicraft was that which met the demands of the people replacing industry which was undeveloped.

But when the competition of foreign industry began in our markets, the wide use of copper in our economy reduced, bringing with it harmful consequences to the diminishing handicraft of our coppersmiths and to the economy of the country. After the liberation of the country, with the establishment of the people's power the first attempts began to pass from private craftsmanship to the cooperated one. The organization of the artisan cooperatives which were set up in the main cities of our country, contributed to the development of some branches of our handicraft thus vitalizing the productive activity of the coppersmiths.

The creative fantasy of our coppersmiths responding to the demands of the time has given shape to new assortments boasting a sweet taste and sentiments of beauty.

You are filled with pleasure when you look at the beautiful shapes and the characteristic motives which ornament these assortments. These works have attracted the visitors in international fairs; they have been and are being welcomed in foreign markets. Foreigners who visit Albania take with them such products made by our coppersmiths famous not only for their characteristics but also for their high quality. We are right to say that some artisan objects serve not only as souvenirs or as decorations but are a presentation of a tradition in fact.

In the copper department of the "Migjeni" Artistic Enterprise (in Tirana) we find many talented masters among the handicraftsmen. Master Buneci is one of them. He inherited this art from his father, grandfather and the great grand father. This sort of art is exercised in his house generation after generation. His products are distinguished for the technique he uses and its beauty, for the shape and its function. He has introduced new innovations in the technique of copper-processing, keeping close links with the tradition. The sculptural figures or better to say the micro-plastics worked in copper by Buneci have greatly attracted visitors' attention in the national exhibitions of figurative arts. Thus is our millenary old tradition continuing its road of development thanks to our coppersmiths with golden hands.



"HUMOUR"

The force of habit  
(drawing: by B. Fico)

Ornamenting of the tree.



# "SPORTS"

A group of Chinese gymnasts gave perform in many cities of our country. The performances were an ardent manifestation of the friendship between the Chinese and Albanian peoples. In photos: Aspects of the first performance in the capital.



In the framework of the volleyball matches for the European cup, among champion clubs for men, the return matches between Albanian volleyball team "Dinamo" and "Panathinaikos" team of Athens, Greece, took place in Tirana. The score was 3:0 for the Albanian team. Because the first match held in Athens ended with the score 3:2 for the Dinamo volleyball team. Our volleyball team will take part in the matches of the next tour for the European cup.

## READ IN THIS ISSUE

**Front cover:** Views from life in our country

This map of Albania has been devoted to the complete electrification of the countryside, which was completed on October 25, 1970.

- At the musical school.
- R. Shabani: "Under repair" (acuarel).
- In the nuclear radiation laboratory that has been set up recently.

Photos by S. Xhillari.

**Back cover:**

Rest houses for workers in Llogara (south).

Photo: by M. Kallfa.

Snow in Tirana is a rare and joyful event.

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without words.



Where are the children?



