



NEW ALBANIA

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On the Founding of the Academy of Sciences in the People's Republic of Albania

The Second Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania decided to found the Academy of Sciences in the People's Republic of Albania. The decision of the Plenum stresses that in our country today a broad scientific research work is being done in many branches of economy and culture. At present, in addition to the State University of Tirana, the Upper Institute of Agriculture, the Upper Institute of Arts and the Teacher Training Institutes which, parallel with their processes of teaching carry on wide-scale scientific research work, there are about 25 central institutes and stations which engage in research work in social, technological and natural sciences. In these important centers as well as in hundreds of nuclei, technological bureaux, circles and associations of scientific experiments in close collaboration with production and with the masses, a number of highly trained cadres, specialistes, technicians and vanguard workers engage in scientific work. So far, the results attained in the field of scientific studies and research are encouraging and in certain fields they are of special value.

The Plenum emphasized that the present stage of the economic and cultural development of our country calls for a further extension and deepening of scientific studies, so that the method of directing scientific work may be improved and raised to a higher level, so that all the scientific activity may be coordinated and directed on a national level, so that the scientific forces and technique may be applied to better advantage and in a more efficient and fruitful way and the training and qualification of scientific cadres may be set on sounder grounds.

Proceeding from the above considerations and in line with the instructions of the 6th Party Congress "to better coordinate and concentrate the organization and management of all scientific life and work conformable with the present availabilities and future tasks" the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania decreed the founding of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of Albania as the most important center of scientific research in our country.

The decree emphasizes that the basic task of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of Albania will be to promote the research work and studies, based on scientific criteria and on Marxist-Leninist methodology, in those fields of scientific work carried on in the institutes directly dependent on it, to help coordinate scientific research at the level of our Republic, to keep the state organs in touch with the important problems dealing with the development of the new branches of science and technology, with the introduction of new methods and technique in production and scientific research as well as with problems dealing with the rapid and sound increase of new scientific forces.



The State University of
Tirana

Higher Education Reaches New Records

The first new school of higher studies in the history of Albanian national education was opened twenty-six-years ago. Before liberation, those few specialists of higher school education Albania could boast of had been trained abroad. The establishment of People's State Power and the rapid development of socialist economy and culture placed the need of training our higher cadres in the country on the order of the day.

Now, Albania boasts of a University in Tirana and seven Upper Institutes of Learning spread to the Capital and to various other districts of the country. Over 28,600 students attend them. In Albania, higher studies are pursued by 130 persons for every 10,000 of its inhabitants.

60% of the total number of students is made up of workers who pursue their higher studies in part-time schools. Subsidiaries of our higher institutes of learning are opened even in relatively small centers. It is nothing unusual for a worker or medium technician employed in a machinshop, in a building construction yard or in a farm to pursue his or her higher studies while at work and, in the course of time, to receive his or her degree in engineering or in agronomy. This is the most effective way to raise the educational, cultural and scientific level of the working class and the cooperative peasantry.

During these years of People's State Power, our higher institutes of learning have turned out specialists for the most varied branches of economy and culture. Today, our higher institutes of learning train cadres majoring in more than 60 specializations. This means that the needs of the principal branches of our economy are met with cadres trained in the country. Postgraduate studies are organized for advanced cadres.

In recent years priority is given to the training of cadres specialized in agriculture and animal husbandry, in the extracting and processing industry of minerals and other primary materials as well as to increasing the contingent of students who are trained as specialists in the various branches of fine arts. The rate at which the higher cadres are trained today is very high. Suffice to point out that during one year alone Albania trains nearly seven times as many specialists of higher training than the total number of specialists Albania had in 1938 together with those trained during the 15 years of King Zogu regime.

The development of higher institutes of learning is accompanied by the continuous qualification of the pedagogical-scientific personnel employed by them, by the equipment of these institutes with rich laboratories and cabinets, with hundreds of textbooks, handbooks and reference books written by Albanian authors and with the creation of a cultural, artistic and sport environment for the student body.

In Search of New Ways

At a conference organized in the Korça District and attended by the representatives of the agricultural cooperatives discussions were held on the positive experience of the Vth Brigade of the "Teki Koloneci" Agricultural Cooperative. The essence of the experience of this brigade headed by Kahreman Merrolli lies in the efforts of every one of its members to reach the results of the best individual worker or brigade. All the members of the cooperative are following the example of the members of this brigade and this movement is spreading also outside its boundaries.

This agricultural cooperative just as many others of its kind has recently made good progress in agricultural and livestock production, in raising the material cultural level of the cooperative members, in improving the organization of work, in the wide use of agricultural machinery, of manure and chemical fertilizers and in applying the latest scientific and technological methods.

The cooperative extends over an area of 23,390 Ha. of which 2,206 Ha. are arable land. These lands are from 824 to 1,350 meters above sea-level. Nearly half the land is on a plain and the rest on hill and mountainsides. The eleven villages which make up the cooperative contain a population of nearly 7,000 persons.

Last year, in 1971, the cooperative received the following average yields in quintals per hectare: 31.4 in wheat, 30.2 in maize, 367 in sugar-beet and so on. On this basis a considerable increase was marked in the incomes of the cooperative members and of the funds earmarked for social and cultural purposes.

The basic unit of the cooperative is the brigade. Each brigade has about 60 workers. According to the profile of work, they are divided into brigades engaged in agricultural production, those engaged in animal husbandry, in building construction, in horticulture and so on. The brigades are made up of squads and all the cooperative members vie with one another in applying the experience of the advanced squads and individuals as well as the experience of the other brigades.

The brigade carries out the advanced experience coming from below as well as the directives, instructions and the scientific and technical know-how. Working out all of these under the specific conditions of its activity; the brigade looks for the most effective way to further increase the productivity of crops.

Nevertheless, the income of the cooperative is not distributed on the basis of brigades but on that of the cooperative. This, because the material values for a day's work in the different brigades vary dependent on the conditions of the terrain and on other factors. Thus, if the incomes were to be distributed on the basis of the brigade, those working on more difficult ground would be receiving less, whereas the distribution of income on the basis of the whole cooperative (in this case, of the 11 villages), the distribution according to work would be extended to all the collective.

On the way back to the village.

Photos by N.Pici





Neta Dune, one of the younger workers of the cooperative.

This Agricultural Cooperative boasts of 11 cultural centers with a new cultural home under construction. A wide range of cultural and artistic activities take place in these centers especially by the young.

In the picture: Members of the circle of amateur artists.



Distinguished breeder of calves, Vjolca Tahirilari.

Agricultural Cooperative Members Receive Pensions

Firdez Sinojmeri
Directress of the General Directorate of
State Social Insurances



"What this amounts to is that we, the aged members of the cooperative, are given a new lease on life"

Towards the end of June this year, the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania approved the law on pensions of the members of the agricultural cooperatives. The law went to power on July 1, 1972 and now the members of the agricultural cooperatives of advanced age as well as the invalids and families stipulated by law receive regular pensions guaranteed by the State.

The cooperative peasantry received the news with the greatest enthusiasm. In our daily press, in meetings and private conversations, the workers of our countryside have expressed, in simple but warm terms their deep gratitude to the Party of Labour and the People's State Power of Albania which made it possible to attain another great revolutionary achievement towards raising the standard of living of the working masses.

And not only the working people of the countryside but the people as a whole consider the establishment of the system of pensions for the cooperative members as

an event of historic importance towards completing the construction of socialist society." . . . the establishment of the system of pensions for all cooperative members", Comrade Enver Hoxha said at the 6th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, "constitutes a further step ahead towards improving the well-being of the cooperative workers towards bringing the living conditions of the countryside nearer to those of the city and will give a further impulse to the progress of agriculture and of our socialist countryside".

The law on pensions as well as the improvement of the whole system of social insurance for the cooperative peasantry are due to the great revolutionary transformations that have taken place in our countryside during the years of our People's State Power. The years under the 4th Five-Year Plan in particular have brought about rapid progress in the all-round development of our socialist countryside. The results attained in increasing agricultural and livestock production and in raising the incomes

of the peasantry, the economic and organizational consolidation of our agricultural cooperatives and of their material-technical base, the completion of the electric reticulation of the whole country before schedule, the increase and extension of social and cultural institutions, the extension of compulsory 8th-grade schooling and the extension of secondary school network, the setting up of public health institutions at every village, the connection of nearly all the villages by motor highways and telephone communications, the abolition of all direct taxation and imposts on the people — all these achievements have raised the well-being of our labouring peasantry beyond any comparison with the past. The establishment of the system of pensions for the cooperative members will raise much higher the index of the well-being of our peasants and, at the same time, will mark a further starting point for further successes in the days to come.

From the political standpoint, the establishment of the system of pensions, the extension of social insurance and aid to the countryside, will further strengthen the alliance of our peasantry with the working class. This new step taken by the Party and the People's State Power in favor of the labouring peasantry is due to their

appreciation of the major contribution rendered by them to the development of our economy and to the construction of socialist society in general.

The law on pensions for the cooperative peasantry did not come as a result of an objective desire but, mainly by an objective availability based on a number of factors the principal ones being: **the major contribution which the labouring peasantry have rendered**, in the past to the war for national liberation and, at present, to the construction of socialism of the country; **the correct policy which our Party has pursued in the collectivization of the countryside; the constant increase of agricultural and livestock production and, finally, the experience accumulated in establishing state social insurances for workers and employees as well as in the proficiency of certain agricultural cooperatives which have partially established the system of pensions and aids for their cooperative members out of their own resources.** On the basis of these factors, the



Happy old age!

possibility for establishing the system of pensions in the countryside became mature, became a reality. And from this moment onward it became an historical necessity to the further development of socialism in our country.

What is the main substance of the law on pensions for the agricultural cooperatives?

The system of pensions for the cooperative members which has just begun to be implemented includes pensions for the aged, pensions for invalids and pensions for families. For all these three categories pensions are paid in full or in part according to the conditions the pensioner fulfills. As a basic criterion for old age pension is taken the pensioner's age and his seniority at work. Men should be 65 years old and women 55. In addition, in order to receive full pension the male member of the cooperative must have 25 years of seniority under employment whereas the woman members 20 years of seniority under employment. For partial pension men must have 12½ years while women 10 years.

The amount of remuneration for old age pension is equal to 50% of the average pay the cooperative member has received during the last three years of service.

Pension for invalid is given to the cooperative members who become incapable for work due to accidents or illness. On the basis of the degree of their incapacity for work, the pensioners of this category are divided into 2 groups. For this category, too, the basic criterion for fixing the amount of pension to be paid is his age and seniority, except for those whose invalidity is due to accidents at work. In this case, pensions are paid regardless of seniority at work. The amount of remuneration for this category of pensions is 60% of the average pay during the last 3 years for those of the first group, and 50% for those of the second group.

On the basis of the law approved by the People's Assembly, family pensions are paid to those members of the family of the deceased who are incapable of work and had been dependent on them. Members of the family of the cooperative member entitled to pension are considered his children, his grandchildren, his adopted children and their children when they are under 15 years of age, his brothers and sisters under 15 years of age or those up to 25 years of age if they are continuing their studies without state scholarship.

The necessary funds for pensions will be met with by the state and the contribution which the agricultural cooperatives themselves will make.

These are in broad lines the principal directions of the measures taken in connection with the establishment of the system of pensions for the cooperative members and with the further extension of insurances and aids to the countryside. The implementation of these measures will make it possible for about 42,000 cooperative members to receive various pensions and about 160,000 persons to benefit from state social insurance and other aids by the year 1975.

All these measures will attach the cooperative members closer to work, production and common ownership. They will exert a direct influence on further strengthening family and social relations in our new socialist countryside.



It was in this house at the village of Peza in the Tirana District that the First National Liberation Conference was held on September 16,

The Birthplace of the National Liberation Front

Do you see this village house built of stone? It has no cyclopean stones for its foundation, nor battlements for its decoration. It is a humble Albanian house which, like thousands upon thousands of others of its kind, has borne the brunt of bombardments. It is a bastion of our days. On its walls the passer-by reads on a stone tablet: "Comrades who pass by, remember that on September 16, 1942 and upon the initiative of the Albanian Communist Party, there was held here, in heroic Peza, the First National Liberation Conference which laid the foundations of the union of the Albanian people against the fascists and the traitors to the country. Remember that it was here that our people embarked on the road to an organized war in defense of freedom, independence, and People's State Power in defense of the achievements we enjoy today!"

The First National Liberation Conference was called at a time when the political situation in Albania had undergone a deep and radical change. The political crisis was at its height. The masses of the people were giving vent to their resentment against the invaders through various political and military operations. The guerrilla and partisan units kept harassing the enemy night and day. The latter's round was burning under their feet. This situation called for the consolidation of the unity of the people into a single anti-fascist combative front. Therefore, the Party decided to call the conference at the Village of Peza in the Tirana District.

This conference was attended by the communists as well as the nationalists of the different currents of opinion. Some of the latter stood by the Communist Party, adopting its political line and took active part in the struggle against the invaders. The others expressed themselves in favor of the liberation of the country and of the unity of the people for the purpose of fighting against the foreign invaders but failed to take part in operations adopting a stand of wait and see. The Communist Party called on another category of nationalists who had not yet expressed their attitude openly, to take part at the conference, but they did not respond to the appeal and tried to boycott the conference.

What did this conference take up for discussion? What was its aim? What did it decide?

At the Peza Conference there were raised and debated the problem of the unification and organization of the Albanian people in their struggle against the fascist invaders, and that of the organization of the National Liberation Councils. The participants, the overwhelming majority of the nationalists included, stressed the active participation and the major organizational role played by the Communist Party in the National Liberation War and unanimously adopted the platform of this war, that is, an uncompromising war against the fascist invaders and traitors, for a free, independent and democ-

cratic Albania. It is only in the struggle against the invaders, the conference emphasized, that there have been laid and consolidated the real foundations for the unification of the people in a common National Liberation Front without distinction of class, political conviction, religion or local relationship.

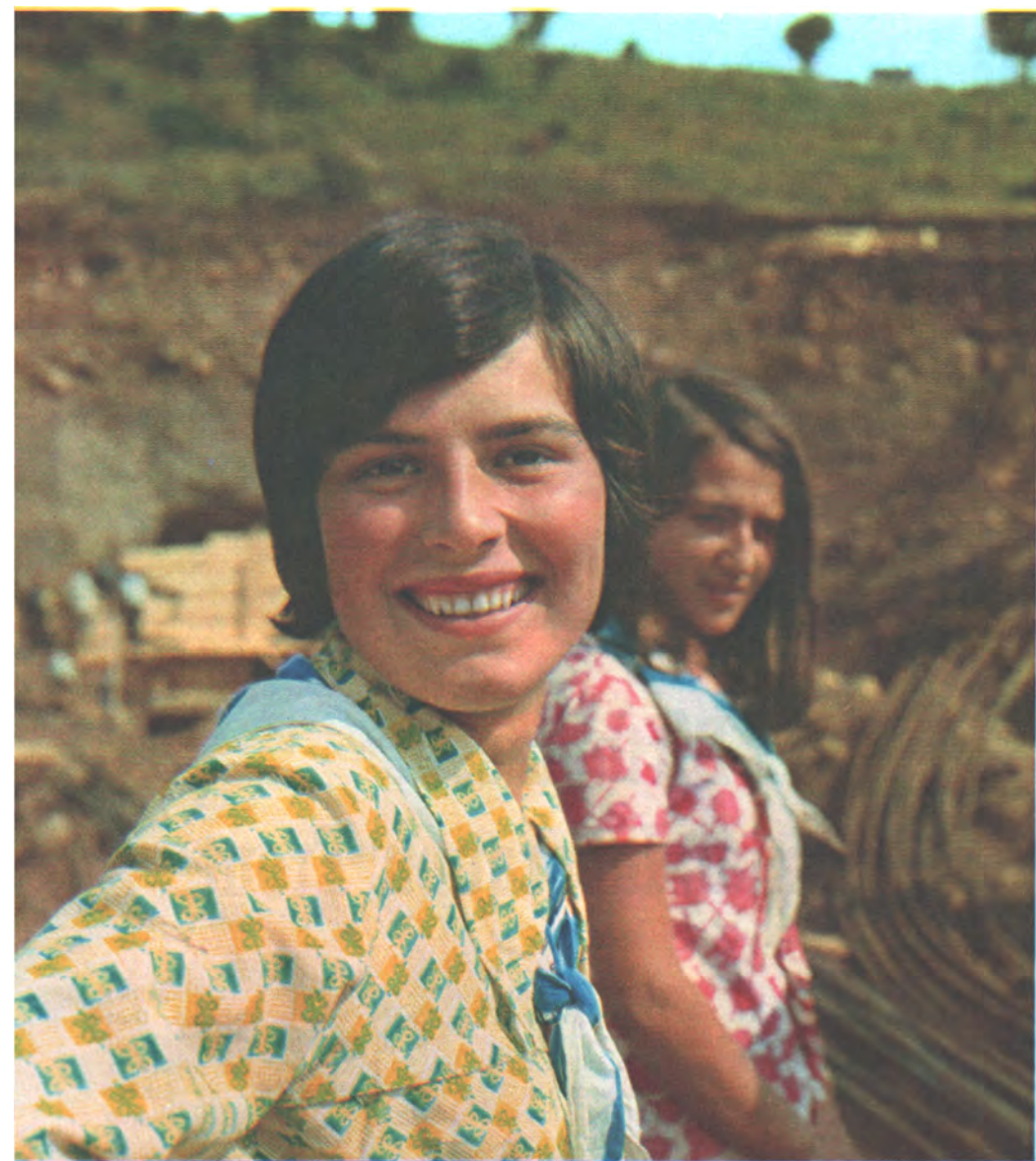
The conference elected the Provisional General National Liberation Council and recommended the establishment of National Liberation Councils all over the country to serve as organs for the mobilization of the people for war and as organs of People's State Power. It called for preparations to be made for a general armed uprising of the people as a final stage and logical outcome of the partisan warfare.

The decisions of the historic Conference at Peza imparted a further impulse to the intensification and extension of the National Liberation War. The Anti-Fascist National Liberation Front became the principal agent in accomplishing the task of uniting all the patriotic and democratic forces of the country, of creating our People's Army. At the time when the conference was in session, National Liberation Councils had been established on the initiative of the organizations of the Party only in a few villages whereas after September 16, their number grew by leaps and bounds throughout the country. By March 1943 these had been established in nearly all the rural areas of Albania.

These Councils were the organs of the armed uprising of the people and the nuclei of the new revolutionary State Power. In the non-liberated districts, they helped mobilizing the broad masses of the people in waging the political war against the enemy and preparing the masses for the general armed uprising, in organizing the economic war against privileged companies, in sabotaging the economic measures taken by the enemy, in securing weapons and ammunition for the partisans, etc.

In the liberated areas, the National Liberation Councils filled the functions of the state organs, looked after the needs of the people, organized schools, the finances, trade etc.

Thus, the Peza Conference founded the National Liberation Front and the People's State Power. This Front was not established as a coalition of political parties, for the historic Peza Conference was not a meeting of parties. The only political party, its organizer, was the Communist Party; This was its first major political victory, its second great step after its formation, the second great event of the glorious epoch which we, Albanians, consider the epoch of the Party which began on November 8, 1941. This epoch dawned in the territory of Albania at the time when cannons roared for freedom and was crowned with the complete liberation of the country on November 29, 1944 and continued and continues through the echo of gigantic efforts for socialist construction.

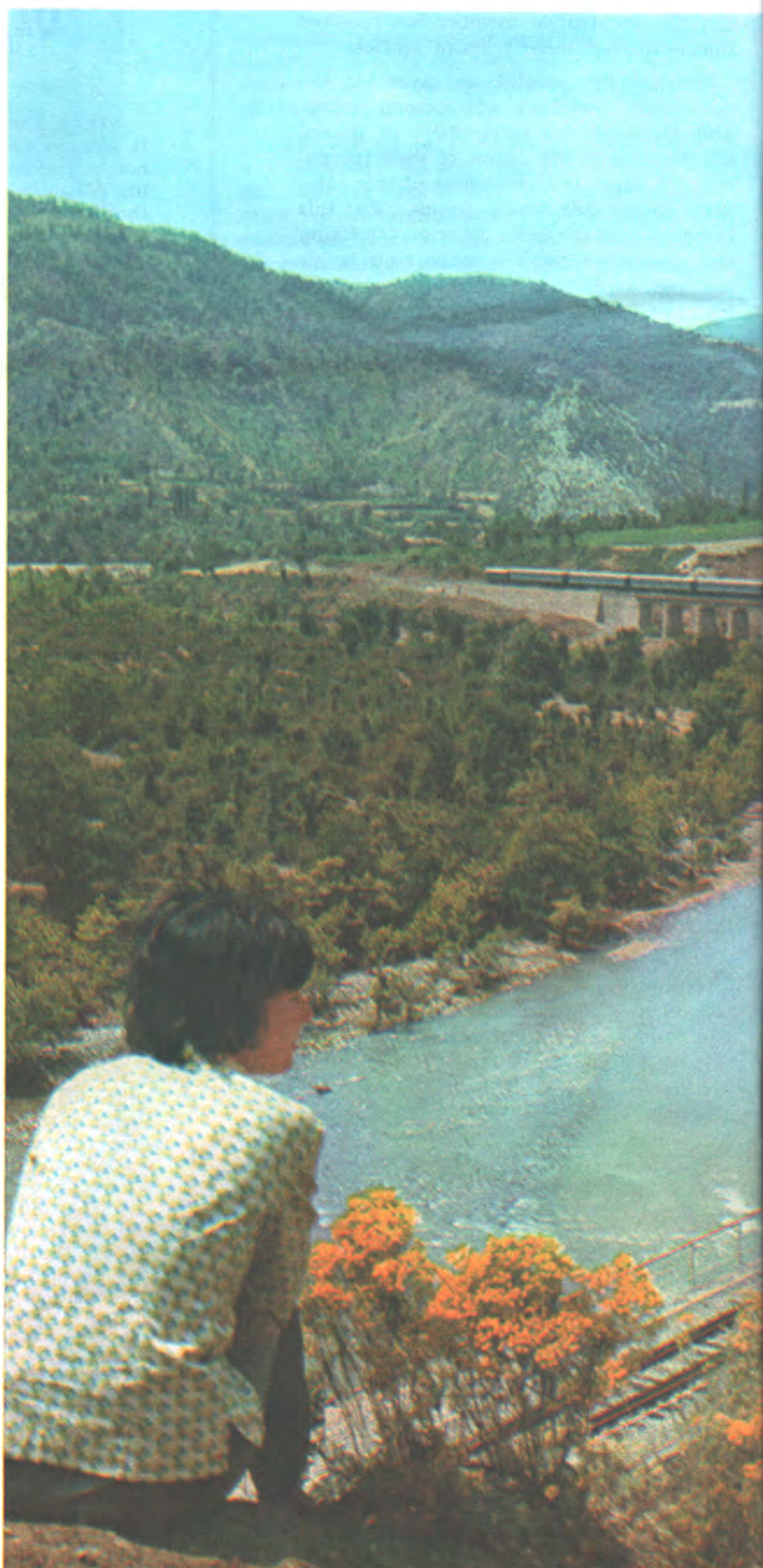


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MASS ACTIONS OF YOUTH

During the summer season, many of the student youths take part in mass actions to build various industrial, agricultural and cultural projects. These work sites are usually called "mass actions of youth". At these work sites youth do not only render their contribution but, what is more . . . important, they learn there, get directly acquainted with the life and work of the builders, are tempered and feel like active builders of socialism.

These snapshots have been taken at the work site of the new railroad in Central Albanian which will link the City of Elbasan with the mining center of Prenjas. This railroad is one of the projects built by the "mass action of youth".

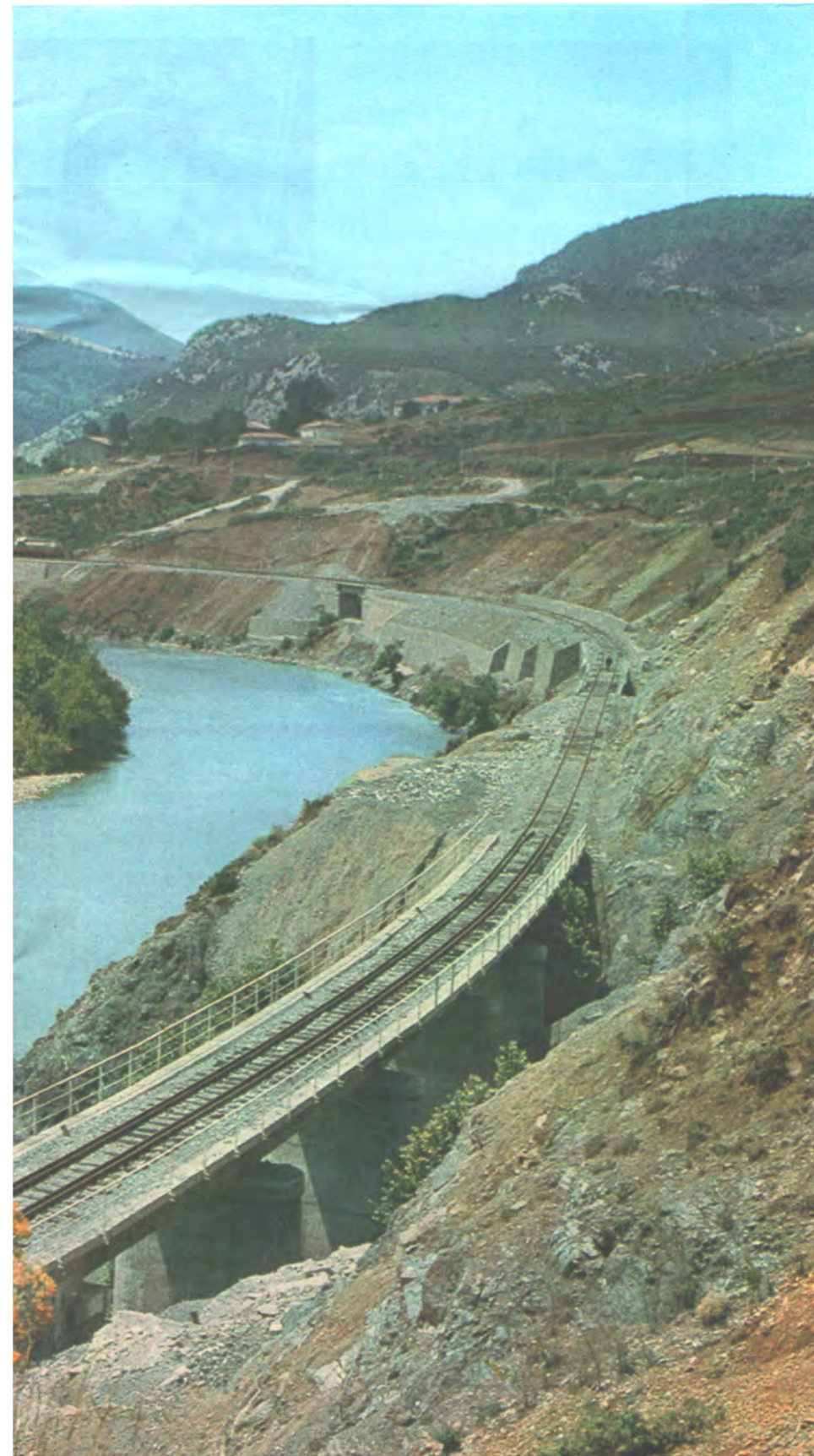




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① Secondary school student of Elbasan, Elida Tilla, one of the thousands of builders of the railroad.

② On the new tracks.

③ The daily press is here!

④ At the 27 km milepost.

⑤ At recess time.

Photos by P. Kumi

②

FROM ONE DAY TO ANOTHER



Some time ago, the troupe of the Tirana Opera and Ballet Theater paid a visit to the People's Republic of China. During their stay there, the troupe visited many towns and people's communes where they met with a warm, friendly reception. The many performances they gave there were welcomed by the spectators.



The workers of the sector of the production of silver work at the "Migjeni" Enterprise of Arts and Crafts in Tirana have recently turned out a number of new articles of high quality. Flutura Kujëxh-iu (in the picture) is one of the outstanding workers of this sector.

Our marksmen are undergoing intensive training so that they may represent Albania well at the Olympic Games in Munich. Some of them have already attained promising results of an international standard.

In the picture: M.Kraja, one of the outstanding marksmen.



Good work is done in our country to fight erosion.

In this picture you see the anti-erosion measures that have taken and the terraces that have been built for reforestation in the uplands of the District of Tirana.



← During the month of July our country was visited by an Agricultural Delegation from the People's Republic of China, headed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forests Sha Feng. During their stay in Albania the Chinese friends visited work centers and agricultural cooperatives. The members of the Delegation were received by the First Secretary of CC of the Party of Labour of Albania Enver Hoxha.



→ Upon the invitation of the President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Haxhi Lleshi and of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, Mehmet Shehu, the Head of State and Chairman of the United National Front of Cambodia, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, paid a state visit to our country. As a result of talks conducted, a joint statement was published between the People's Republic of Albania and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

In the picture: From the departure of the Cambodian friends at the Rinas Airport.



Now and then our writers meet their readers. At these meetings they learn of the impressions their books have made on the reading masses. Remarks and suggestions are advanced by the readers. At the same time the writers inform the readers about what they are working at.

In the picture: President of the League of Writers and Artists of Albania, Dhimiter S.Shuteriqi in colloquy with the young pioneers at the "Qemal Stafa" Summer Camp in Durrës.

Summer camps are opened in every town for the children of workers and cooperative members. These camps are run by the various enterprises and agricultural cooperatives. Their families pay nothing for the time their children frequent these camps of recreation and rest.

The camps are equipped with various facilities for the children to play and amuse themselves. In this picture you see young amateurs of chess-playing in the "Josif Pashko" Summer Camp in Tirana.



The great park of the City of Tirana attracts many visitors, young and old. They are attracted by the artificial lake, the dense woods and the zoological garden.

In the picture: A group of children at the pond of water birds.



At Scanderbeg's Monument on Tirana Square.

OUR CITIES





Korça



Berat

Lushnja.
Photos by P. Kumi, J. Manoli,
R. Veseli



Durrës, the citadel and the
Palace of Culture of Youth.

City Planning and Civic Beauty

Plans have already been designed by our architects for every city, town and village of our country which systematize all building construction and do not allow them to develop in a spontaneous way and at variance with social interests.

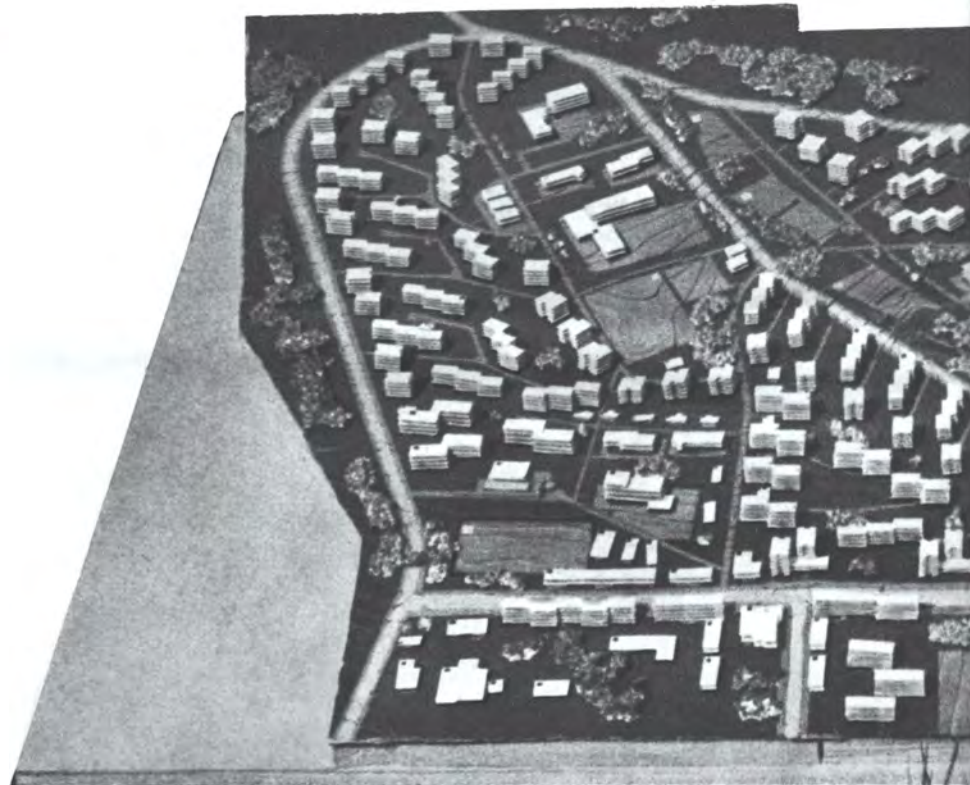
Three plans, those of Vlora, Ballshi and the Bajram Curri City have recently been designed conformably to their future development, to the requirements of urbanistics and the architecture of the time.

The City of Vlora

Vlora is one of the big and picturesque coastal cities of our country. The newly-designed plan of the city of Vlora and of its center is based principally on its development during the coming 20-25 years in the coastal region. This will enable its inhabitants to enjoy the civic beauty which mother nature has lavished on it. During this period, the population of this city will nearly double reaching the 120,00 mark.

The center of the city is being built from the very foundations along the seacoast and will be connected by main streets with the rest of the city. It will contain the city hall, the palace of culture, the theater, the tourist hotel, the market-place and others centers. Enough free space is left before these structures to allow room for pools, fountains and verdure.

The dwellings quarters along and near the seaside containing gardens, schools, kindergartens, nurseries, a network of shops playgrounds will create commodities and favourable living conditions for the inhabitants.

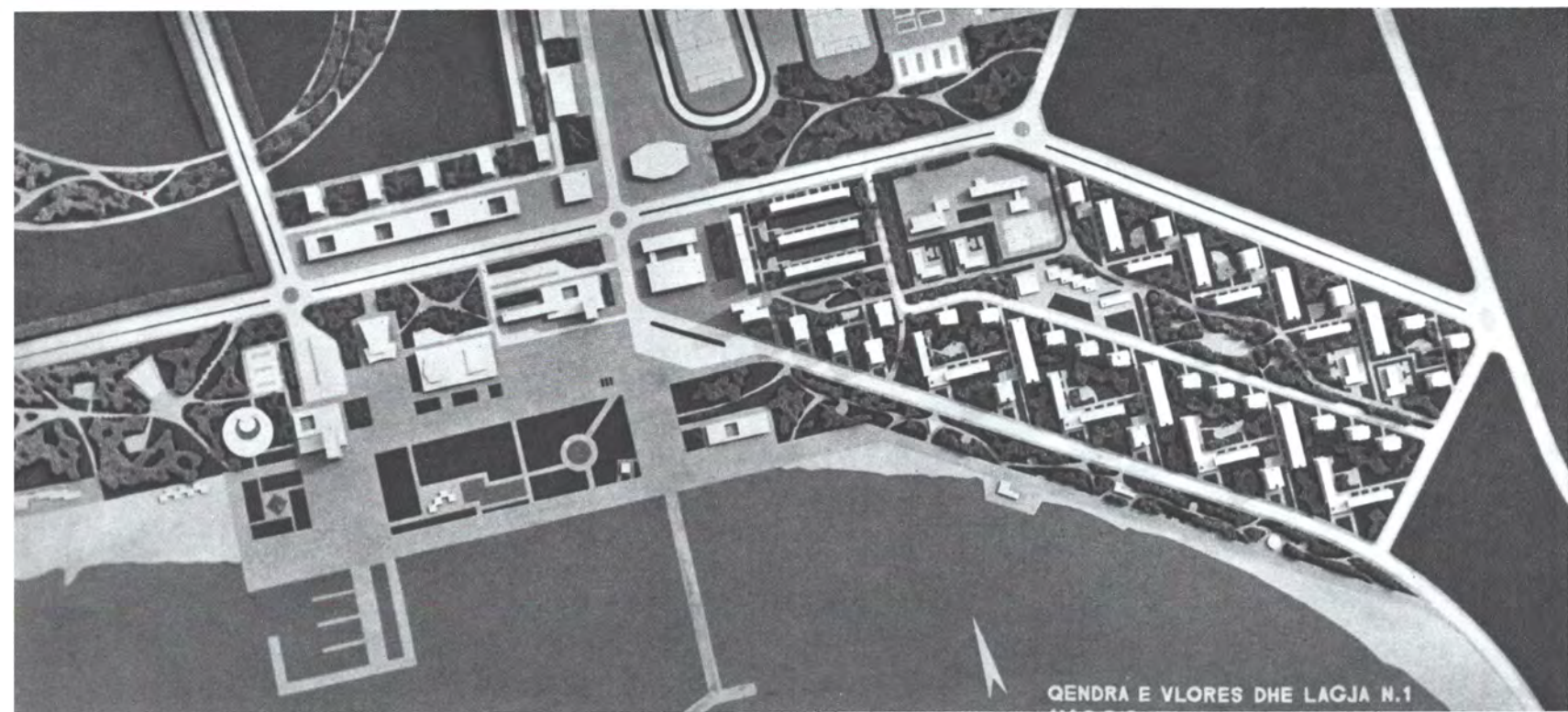


The "Bajram Curri" City

The plan of this city envisages a more picturesque city covered with verdure, extending in the form of an amphitheatre, a city standing on the beautiful background of our Alps.

The newly-designed plan based on the great prospects which are opened to the economic and cultural development of the region envisages that during the coming 15 or 20 years, the "Bajram Curri" will have a population nearly 3 times as much as at present.

From the standpoint of composition, in the dwelling house quarters free urbanistic ensembles have been created with buildings which will fit in better with the beautiful environment and the landscape of the Alps which surrounds the city like a crown. Within the city quarters there will be set up kindergartens, nurseries, shops, playgrounds and so on.



QENDRA E VLORES DHE LAGJA N.1



The City of Ballshë

Ballshë is a newly-built urban center.

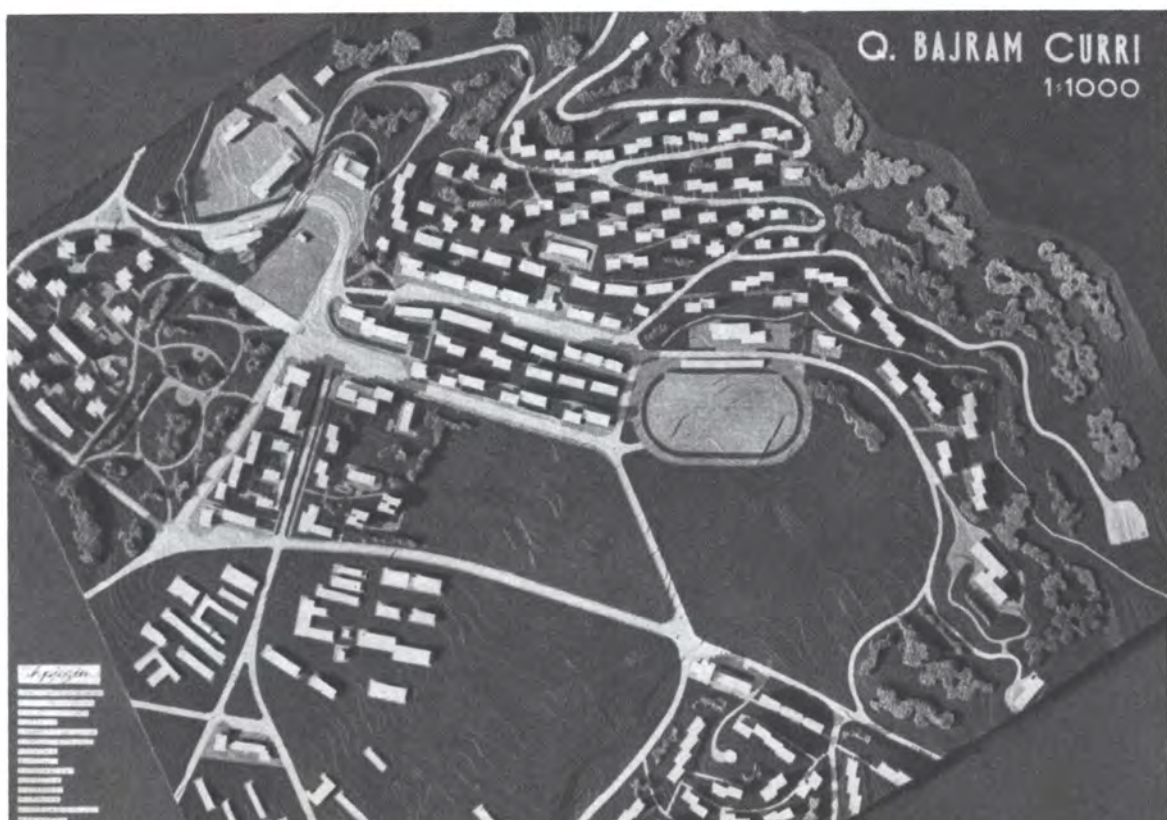
One of the major projects of this Five-Year Plan is now under construction there: the Deep Oil Processing Plant. By 1985, the population of this city will increase 10-fold in comparison with that of 1970.

According to the newly-designed city contains a complex of industrial zones, living house quarters, a network of social and cultural centers, communications and so on.

The idea of the newly-designed plan envisages important changes of the existing town both as regards the construction of taller buildings as well as their way of construction of streets, gardens, etc.

Large plantations of trees are planned to be built on the surrounding hillsides and along the banks of the Gjalica River.

All this verdure will add to the beauty of the city and will improve the micro-climate of this new industrial city.



Q. BAJRAM CURRI
1:1000



At the "29 November" State-Run Farm in Lushnja. The use of insecticides.

Today and in 1975

Our industry as a whole has been newly established while its chemical branch is of the latest origin. During the recent Five-Year Plan periods it has gained momentum and has taken the place it deserved among the most important branches of our industry. The construction of the up-to-date nitrate and phosphate fertilizer plants, that of caustic soda and the extension and modernization of the existing chemical establishments imparted a fresh impulse to the development of chemical products. In 1970, our chemical industry turned out 17 times as many products as in 1960. During the last decade it turned out about 50 new articles. Ammonium, nitric acid, sulphuric acid, calcined and caustic soda, chemical fertilizers, chemical substances to fight plant diseases are only a few of these new articles.

During the current Five-Year Plan period, our chemical industry is taking a great leap forward. Extensive work is being done on the construction of a number of new industrial projects like the deep processing petroleum plant, those for producing urea, polyvinylchloride, substances to fight plant diseases, for extracting magnesium and aluminium oxides, the factory to enrich phosphorites, the extension and reconstruction of the superphosphate plant and so on. Our country will thus be able to produce PV, urea, hydrochloric acid, etc. The construction of the deep processing petroleum plant will pave the way to the construction of a new branch of our industry, namely, that of petrochemistry. The production of synthetic fibers and plastic substances will provide the home industry with raw materials for the textile industry and for the production of many articles for broad consumption.

The new petroleum deep processing plant began turning out its products as far back as last autumn. Making extensive use of powerful machines and equipment, the workers of this project, up to the early days of June had dug and removed over 1,250,000 cubic meters of earth. The contour of the walls and columns of the buildings of this plant are already in sight.

1975 is not very far away. In their struggle to accomplish the tasks set by this Five-Year Plan, the workers of Albania are already thinking of the coming Five-Year Plan periods when new horizons are being opened also for our chemical industry.



Writer Llazar Siliqi

Motherly Surveillance

Llazar Siliqi - writer

More than once the occasion has arisen for me to talk to colleagues from other countries about the working conditions of writers and artists. This is a spontaneous conversation because creative work is for each of us the main objective of life, our very life. Right at the start I want to point out that our organization — I refer to the League of Writers and Artists of Albania which includes in its ranks the writers, painters, sculptors, composers, artists and architects — enjoying always the support and guidance of our Party and the continuous aid of our People's State Power, has found and made use of many forms of work compatible with the conditions of the environment. By writing, this time in the columns of the "New Albania" Magazine, on the working conditions of the writers and artists of the People's Republic of Albania, I wish this to be considered, as it actually is, an exchange of experience as well as to inform the readers of the magazine who have written to its editorial board asking about the working conditions of our writers and artists.

Right at the dawn of the century Lenin had laid down the historical task of "offsetting the literature feigning to be free but which is actually connected with the bourgeoisie, with the really free literature openly linked with the proletariat". "This", Lenin predicted, "will be a free literature, for it will not be greed or careerism but the idea of socialism and sympathy for the working people which will always draw fresh forces to its ranks". Therefore, if we speak about the working conditions of the writer or artist, we should first speak of the fundamental condition which is the freedom of the writer, not false freedom but openly bound to the people, to the revolution. We have been provided with this freedom by our young socialist homeland. We preserve this freedom as something sacred and, imbued with the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, we try to allow no traits of greed or careerism to penetrate into our ranks, for we know very well that the revolutionary art can be created only by genuine revolutionaries.

When the Communist Party, now the Party of Labour, launched the war cry to rally the people for the National Liberation Struggle in 1941, our writers and artists could be counted by the fingers of one's hand. With the development of the war for freedom they became a handful of young enthusiasts, a band of freedom fighters. Eleven years ago, in a decision of the Party Central Committee on the further development of letters and art, we read: "Today we no longer have a handful of writers and artists but a whole brigade which will soon become a real army of them". Now we can say with no fear of contradiction that we have become a real phalanx of productive writers and artists. Productivity in all genres of art and letters has increased as never before accompanied by an unprecedented drive in popular productions and amateur movements. Now "our socialist art is marching on both its legs". To this end, the school doors have been flung open for the sons and daughters of the people, palaces of culture have been set up in cities, and cultural centers have been opened in even the formerly neglected remote mountain regions, professional theaters, publishing houses and public libraries have been opened and the law on the rights of authors has been approved.

All the achievements in the domain of letters and art have been attained by the untiring and persistent efforts of the producers but they would not have been attained without the creation of special conditions. For the gifted sons and daughters of the people our Party and Government have created a series of favourable conditions. And this does not imply

any alienation of the artists and writers from the life of the people. We know what depends on the money bag of the bourgeois in capitalist countries, just as we are well aware of the intentions of the revisionist countries to create a privileged class of writers and artists who covet riches and careers, who run after personal glorification. Our Marxist-Leninist Party's objective has always been the contrary, namely, to create the new man — and the new man is its greatest achievement — to create a phalanx of writers and artists to be in close contact with the people, to share their preoccupations, problems and desires.

Our writers and artists are granted a leave of absence ranging from one month to a year in order to give them an opportunity to live in close contact with the people, to get a close view of all the aspects of the people, to delve into the knowledge of the culture of our country and of the world and, at the same time to devote the necessary time to turning out as many and as better works as possible. During the period of their leave of absence, freed from state obligations, they are able to devote all their time to their productions, receiving their pay for this period from the funds of literature and art of the League of Writers and Artists. It is worth pointing out as a positive phenomenon, the fact that many young writers and artists have volunteered to betake themselves to the great work sites, to the projects of the Five-Year Plan, to live and carry on their artistic activity among the working class. In this desire of our young authors, we see the guarantee of an ever broader treatment of the theme of the working class which is of principled importance for our country which, in the past, has been a backward agricultural country now is well on the way of becoming an advanced industrial-agricultural one.

Among these conditions we should point to the right of authors and artists to work on a reduced timetable up to have a day so that not only during their leave of absence but every day they may be able to devote their time to systematic work on their literary and artistic productions. But the fullest condition to serve this end is what we call exercising a free profession, having all the time at one's disposal and being paid each month from our fund earmarked for letters and art. This, of course, doesn't mean living on a pension. A writer and an artist exercise his free profession for as long a period of time as he feels it essential for his creative work, for as long a period of time as he feels in complete efficiency, for as long a period of time as his work is of real productivity and of real artistic quality. The publication of the works of our writers is guaranteed regardless of commercial considerations provided they are of educational value. We, the Albanian writers and artists, are always guided by Comrade Enver Hoxha's instructions that; "Our intellectuals should be plain and unpretentious just as the people, just as the working class are unpretentious. They should follow the example set by the working class and be as loyal as they to the great cause of the people, prepared for sacrifice". Therefore, the working conditions of the writers and artists of socialist Albania are, in fact, the creation of the greatest possibilities for them to get in closer contact with the people, to write, paint and compose for the people.

Comrade Enver Hoxha has emphasized that the Party "should exercise a motherly surveillance" over the workers who create. And at every step of our life we have felt this motherly surveillance, this genuine revolutionary love deprived of sentimental fondling, a love that inspires, that strengthens our will power to overcome all obstacles, to take wing.

Letters to the Editor

PETER KRISSTAY - West Germany

I am writing to express first and foremost my high esteem towards you, brothers, and to your glorious people who march with firm step towards socialism and communism.

The age-long struggles waged by your people and the achievements they have attained from the day of liberation onward are a source of admiration for the people who fight against capitalist oppression and exploitation.

Your "New Albania" illustrated magazine portrays Albanian life in vivid colours. When I read it in English I was filled with enthusiasm. It portrays the achievements attained by the Albanian people helping me to add to my knowledge about Albania and its Party of Labour.

The numerous reproductions of painting and sculptures in your magazine have created a more accurate idea of the revolutionary art of socialist realism, the only art which complies with the interests of the working class.

LOSCINTO GIUSEPPE - Italy

I am a Marxist-Leninist hailing from Castelvetrano, a student of the Department of Natural Sciences at the University of Palermo. It would be worth-while for your magazine to publish an article of a scientific nature in general, always for the purpose of broadening the circle of friends of Albania.

HAFED HAKIMI - The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

As a citizen of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen I continue to read and hear about the development and successes attained by the People's Republic of Albania under the leadership of the Party of the working class, the Party of Labour of Albania. I have been continually attracted by the heroism of your people and their triumph over imperialism. My objective is to learn more about your friendly country especially in the domain of agriculture.

I wish you further success under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism.

UNA HENRICKSSON - Sweden

At few days ago I read your "New Albania" Magazine which I liked very much and decided to subscribe to it.

I am interested in folklore and appreciate a great deal your articles on folk dresses, folk art, folk dances and so on.

F. MEYROUNE - France

I acknowledge the receipt of your magazine for which I thank you.

I am delighted in reading your magazine and other publications for they are of major importance to us. It gives me pleasure to read about the triumph of your people in building socialism under the guidance of your Party of Labour.

EMMEN RIEDEL - Netherland

I have long been interested in your country and now for the first time, I can learn a lot about Albania through your "New Albania" Magazine which I receive through the newly founded "Netherland-Albania" Association.

GABRIELA POLI - "La Stampa" - Italy

Your publication "New Albania" is highly appreciated and is of great value to our work, mainly, in the sector under my management.

Grateful and certain of collaboration, accept my wholehearted congratulation.

ARMANDO YZQUIERDO - Cuba

Please let me know how I can subscribe to your magazine for I want to know as much as possible about your beautiful country. I have read a lot about your country through this magazine. Please let me know whether you can mail some of its issues to me.

ARMANDO PORTELA - Colombia

I have a great desire to learn more about the life of the Albanian people under the correct leadership of your great Party headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha.

We would wish to subscribe to the magazine of your country to distribute to the masses of our country in order to help them raise the level of their consciousness. At the same time we wish to have books and pamphlets of an ideological character to help us in the revolutionary process.

CICATELLI CRESCENZO - Italy

I am an elementary school teacher and have had the opportunity to read some issues of your beautiful magazine in Italian and French.

I would appreciate it a lot if you could list me among your free subscribers.

In anticipation of a favourable reply I express my highest felt thanks.

I take advantage of this occasion to express my highest consideration and feeling of solidarity to you.

I. CABELL - England

I have read many issues of the magazine "New Albania" which I received from the socialist library in Scotland. I am the father of two children and I am interested in your system of educating them. I would be very grateful if you could send me some materials on your method of education.

I am greatly interested in Albania and try to read as much as possible about it especially about the National Liberation War in Albania.

B.B. MONCHEV - Syria

I have had the opportunity to read an English version of your magazine. I thank you very much. I delight reading it and through it I learn a lot about your country and the life of your people.

DAHMANI ACHOUR - Algeria

I wish to inform you that for me the magazine "New Albania" gives a clear picture of present-day Albania. From this magazine and Radio Tirana, which I never miss listening to, I have learned a lot about Albania.

I send my warmest congratulations to the editors of your magazine and ask you to kindly send it to me regularly for I am very eager to receive it.

FOREIGNERS ON ALBANIA



A Good Start

Andrea Niseau
President of the Danish-Albanian Association

The Danish-Albanian Association is still young. It was founded in spring, 1970, by a group of friends of Albania in Denmark. The aim of the association is to impart knowledge about Albania, to stimulate solidarity with the struggle of the Albanian people and, in general, to establish friendly relations between the Danish and the Albanian peoples. The number of members of the association has been quadrupled. The association carries on its activity in three directions. Firstly, we publish a magazine in Danish which, for the time being appears twice a year. In this magazine we try to portray the construction of socialism in

Albania in all its aspects, publishing also important articles and documents on its internal and external policy.

Secondly, we have begun to publish pamphlets on certain aspects of the internal life of Albanian society, to translate the History of the Party of Labour of Albania and are planning to publish some pamphlets on the emancipation of woman and industrialization in Albania.

Thirdly, we organize meetings and discussions with the members of the association on various topics connected with the construction of Albanian society giving the audience an opportunity to delve deep into them and to get better acquainted with Albania.

In addition to the above, our association used its influence in spreading the literature published by the Albanian comrades trying at the same time, to refute and contradict the trumped up charges and white lies about Albania which appear at times in the Danish press. Although our association is young, an ever greater interest is being felt about Albania in Denmark. We are convinced that in the future we will have more possibilities for further strengthening our friendship with the Albanian people.



A Visit Never to Be Forgotten

Olli Kokinnen, Yrije Tahtella
(Finland)

We stayed two weeks in Albania. But even this short period of time helped us get better acquainted with your country so as to be able to say with full conviction that what we had known about Albania and its people so far had been quite insufficient and often inaccurate.

The Albanian people are extremely hospitable and affectionate. The big projects these people are building add to the beauty of the environment. From what we have seen we became convinced that their future is brilliant.

We will never forget this visit, for it was filled with pleasant impressions. We wish to thank our many Albanian friends who helped us receive such sweet impressions.



Emancipation Women

Fanta Traora - Mali

I was offered all the opportunities to see many things in this country. And I noticed that you have created all the conditions to lighten the work of the workers and cooperative farmers. Everywhere people work with enthusiasm. Everywhere they manifest the joy of living a free life.

I was impressed by the attitude maintained towards women: All the possibilities have been created for the women and girls to become a great force in building the new society. They enjoy all the rights emancipated women should enjoy. They enjoy equal rights with men both in factories and in farming work as well as in the family and in political and social life.

After this pleasant visit in Albania, there is nothing left for me but to wish success to the Albanian people, to the Albanian women in building the new society.

The Best of Memories

Maxhed Naser

Head of the Delegation of the National Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabic Gulf.

We are leaving Albania taking with us the best of memories.

Our visit to your country gave us the opportunity to get acquainted with the great development achieved by the Albanian people in the domain of

industry, agriculture and culture. All these transformations have been brought about in record time.

During our stay in Albania, we visited the textile mills, the chemical fertilizer plants, the state-run farms and a number of agricultural cooperatives. In addition, we visited the work sites where brigades of young volunteers were hard at work in building houses were being set and others.

Everywhere we came to, we witnessed the enthusiasm and unshaken determination of the working class, the cooperative peasantry and the younger generation to achieve further and greater success in all the fields of activity.

We will never forget the militant revolutionary spirit and the high sense of duty of the Albanians as well as their unbounded love for their country which they protect like the ball of their eye, as well as for all the peoples who fight against the imperialists and their stooges.

A people like this endowed with a magnanimous heart cannot but have a great future.

Our Painters— To Be Touring the Country

Th.Thomai



①



②

Every morning in spring one can see in Lukova, one of the most picturesque villages covered with orange and lemon groves along the southern Riviera of our country, groups of young volunteers busily engaged in building terraces and, in their midst, student painters with their easels and canvas. This is a familiar scene wherever youth are engaged in mass actions, at construction sites, in agricultural cooperatives and so on. They tour the whole country in order to complete their practical assignment, to get in close contact with the workers and young volunteers who have come from all parts of the country to take part in setting up the projects of the Five-Year Plan and with the cooperative farmers and the changing landscapes, accumulating impressions which will serve them in their practical work and in their studies. At the beginning of this school year, an exhibition was opened at the Upper Institute of Fine Arts with the

productions of the undergraduates which, different from the earlier exhibitions of this kind, attracted one's attention for the good quality of the exhibits for their artistic form and the Albanian and socialist spirit which ran through most of them. These works, in spite of their small dimensions, are very expressive, bringing to the school environment the enthusiasm and drive of the people and the sunshine of our Riviera. By discovering many phenomena of our days in direct contact with life, the students are not hampered by certain old forms of expression especially as regards landscape painting. In their landscape painting we find important motifs from our daily life expressed in artistic form.

Some of these students are working on their thesis for their degree and, we are certain, we will find inspirations from their practical assignments in their productions.



③

- ① B. Ahmeti: "The Town of Volunteers."
- ② S. Lako: "Pogradec."
- ③ R. Guci: "The Electric Power-Plant at Fieri."
- ④ J. Rrota: "Portrait."
- ⑤ D. Dervishi: "The Village of Lukova."



④



⑤

Horse hoofs cracked on the dry pebbles of the river emitting a harsh clangour.

In the dim blue haze of the break of day, Leksi could see before him a mingled image: a horse and a rider. For lack of light, the details were fused into a single silhouette in motion which resembled a queer being emerging from the fairy tales. In its profile this creature seemed to be double-headed, with one of its heads in the fore and the other above it. Leksi wondered what it was and liked to think that the image before him was some kind of an ogre, half horse and half human being which had come out of the mountain caves and had made a captive of him. The ogre would lead him to its palace in the heart of the mountain where nobody had ever entered because it was in need of a boy.

It seemed to him that he was walking along a large hall on a red fluffy carpet. A gold-colored light issued from the mosaic covered walls of the hall. Everything seemed to be nothing, brittle and glossy and all of them were self-luminous. He wondered how the light resembling that of the twinkling stars could be accompanied by musical tunes resembling the gurgle of running waters! He felt like walking though his feet were not in motion. The hall was long and he continued to walk fascinated by the music.

"Ho, Leksi! Are you awake? Spur on the horse, don't sleep!"

The voice seemed to come from the depth of darkness and Leksi rubbed his eyes. The image of the palace, the gold-colored light the music and the wavering brilliancy disappeared and before him stood his cousin, John, who was accompanying him to the forest to fetch firewood.

The awestricken mountains soared upwards casting their dense and silent shadows on the valley down below. The horses plodded along the ledge linking the mountains with the valley, round about the numerous creeks and from above the zigzag path resembled at day light a yellow line drawn with a pencil linking the valley with the lofty mountains.

The spring waters streaming down for thousands upon thousands of years had burrowed on the mountainside narrow paths and streamlets and rushed down with a gurgling sound over pebbles or the numerous waterfalls. That's why the whole valley resounded with the uninterrupted rush of precipitating waters.

Leksi listened to the sound of gurgling waters and delighted in hearing this ancient music of nature, which their fathers, forefathers and distant generations had heard when beating this path to go fetch firewood. The mountain spring waters can sing just as the whizzing winds in woodlands and the waters of the billows of the seas splashing on sandy beaches can. This music existed even before man appeared on this earth; it was the first lullaby which mankind heard in its early childhood days. Perhaps, man's ears have been adapted to these melodies and that's the secret why when hearing them, we are carried away by distant and inexplicable echoes. And that melody will always be soothing, dear and sweet like mother's fondling to our ears.

Leksi tried to picture the waterfalls where the waters dropped in the form of sprays. It was rather dark and they could not be seen but he knew where they were.

"What have you done with the axe"? John asked.

"I am holding it in my hand".

"See that you don't lose it. You had better tie it to the saddle. Have you ever seen how to do it?"

"I have!"

"It dawns rather late these days. What time can it be?"

"About five o'clock".

"Spur on the horse! Where is your whip?"

"I haven't got it!" Leksi replied rather timidly.

"Fie, fie! What a negligent fellow you are!" John reprimanded him. His voice was harsh and he pronounced his words in a clumsy way, unable to command his lips when speaking.

In the dim blue of the Mediterranean sky, the stars shine calm and soft like petals of flowers. Leksi raised his head and strained his eyes to see where the Pleiades had moved to and when he spotted them at the zenith of the horizon, he felt beyond himself with joy. The stars of the Pleiades looked to him like little chicks clustering together lest they lose themselves in the immeasurable space of the sky.

"The brood, we call them" Leksi thought to himself and looked at the stars again. They twinkled in the sky and seemed to him like young chicks opening and closing their eyes. The unknown world of the stars fascinated him. Leksi and John walked on firm earth while above them moved a velvety sky filled with stars. The stars moved from the east westward

The mountain tops began to be delineated on the background of the ivory colored sky. The stately pine trees on the tops looked like shepherds with their great coats on.

At this point they left the path along the ridge bordering the valley and took course up the mountainside. Leksi's heart throbbed with joy every time he took this road, for it seemed to him that he, too, was taking to the mountains to join the partisans as his kith and kin and the village school teacher had done. Now the school building had been abandoned, the German soldiers had built their fires on the floor and had covered it with holes while the window panes has been broken by the frequent bombardments.

John kept spurring the horse and whistling one tune after another, while Leksi followed behind silent and obedient.

They arrived at a plateau planted to beech trees. They were young trees which had already taken root in rows apart from one another. If the peasants would refrain from grazing their goats there, in thirty or forty years the plateau would have been covered with tall and stately beech trees. They took a path deeper and deeper into the forest, bowing their heads now and then to protect their faces from being scratched by the branches of the trees.

SHORT STORY

AUTUMN AT DAYBREAK

Naum Prifti

along a course which had neither a beginning nor an end. When the sky began to bathe and its blue color kept opening up and melting away, the stars remained on the spot, drooped their heads, closed their eyes in slumber and disappeared. Did they really fall asleep?

Out of the mountain top appeared a big star, bigger than all the others, brilliant and cheerful as if to proclaim and herald some thing beautiful for all the world. "Venus!" the boy murmured to himself, or "The Morning Star"! What beautiful names! and cracked his brain to find out why men had given names to the distant stars.

He had seen this star on other occasions but it had never seemed to him so big and so brilliant. He turned his eyes down to the valley and he noticed that it had taken on a color defying description dark violet with a milky mixture. Falling on the moist ground, the light of this star cast a hazy hue. As he slid away on this moist ground he delineated the shadow cast by him and the horse and his heart throbbed as if he had made a discovery. He had the impression that no one else in the world had noticed that even the light of a star can cast light shadows on the earth. He sat on the saddle turning his head up to the star and down to the shadow on the ground with a rhythmic cadence.

"We will stop here!" he said jumping off the saddle at a little open space. "Look, what an abundance of firewood is here! Apparently, not many wood choppers have passed this way!"

Leksi alighted from the horse and began rubbing his freezing legs.

"I will chop two horse loads of firewood, for I will bring two horses here tomorrow" John said, "You stay here! You can easily chop one horse load of wood here. But, mind the horses! Don't let them run away!"

He pointed to a grove nearby and he himself entered deep into the forest. A little while afterwards, Leksi heard the sound of the wood-chopper's ax and the crack of falling trees echoing far down the forest.

Leksi pulled off his jacket and went down the steep. The path was moist and cold on which he left some zigzag tracks. He cleared the path of some brambles that lay in his way. Now he could wield his ax freely. He looked up the trees and, for a moment, was stunned by their beauty. The bark of the beech trees was white with grey and black spots and lines as if someone had begun to draw figures on it but, for some unknown reason, had stopped halfway. Above, the leaves had taken on a golden autumn color and resembled birds with yellow feathers. Leksi started the job of a wood chopper. He was rather slim with attentive and deep penetrating looks, timid and quiet.



Illustration by Çlirim Ceka

Last year, he had gone for firewood with his uncle, a wise and easy-going old man. His uncle had not assigned hard jobs to him for he thought his nephew was still too young, his bones yet unhardened. But this year he had been ill and his mother was afraid to let him go to the forest all by himself for he had just completed twelve years of age. Mother had pleaded with John to take him along and take care of him and John had agreed rather reluctantly saying:

"Well, let him come along. I won't carry him on my shoulders" By his uncle, Leksi felt more free and now he regretted having left him.

Every time he wielded his ax a shower of leaves dropped down from above and came down whirling in the transparent autumnal wind, landing on his head, shoulders and sleeves and sliding down his face and the whole landscape looked fantastic after that shower of leaves. Yellow leaves on the ground and yellow leaves on the tree tops. When the last tree was felled and crashed on the ground a wide horizon was opened up.

For the trees that had been felled this was their last dawn. In the spring all the other trees would sprout except those which he and other woodcutters had felled. Leksi bent down and examined the leaves. Under the armpit of each leaf there was a tiny bud carefully wrapped in a dark membrane. It was hibernating and only when spring would come, the new fluid which would force its way up from the soil, it would bulge out and the membrane would split by the rays of the sun and thence would sprout a tiny twig with purplish orange leaves covered with a thin layer of down. While growing the leaves would turn to green.

From deep down the valley a rumbling sound came up which, in the serenity of early morning bode some thing evil and alien detached from the natural. German tanks rooled along on the highway raising a cloud of white dust behind them. Leksi watched them for a while. It looked to him as if the tread wheels of these foreign heavily armored tanks were plunging deep into the soil, seeking to scratch it and open up wounds on it.

How long would they be doing this? No, those tanks would not be moving for long. Somewhere, probably at those zigzags by the river, the partisans were laying in ambush for them or would have laid explosives on the ground to blow them up. The fighting would

begin almost at once. A partisan may also be killed in the turmoil. A bullet may pierce his heart and lay him prostrate on the ground where he would get the last glimpse of the sun and mountains of the homeland. He turned his eyes towards the trees he had felled. For them, too, this was their last dawn. In the spring all the trees would blossom while those felled by the ax, . . .

The ax tried hard to exterminate them but the trees were many and the forest large and strong. They had their roots deep in the earth and in the spring young trees would grow to make their number greater. They would grow and fill the open space for the forest has a marvellous power of reproduction and will stand there, on its ground, strong and everlasting.

He wondered what the age was of the trees he had felled. He began counting the circles on their cross-section, just as he had been taught at school. One tree had eighteen of them, another fifteen he couldn't finish counting those of the third for above his head he suddenly heard a harsh voice that frightened him.

"What in hell are you doing, you good for nothing, you?"

Leksi sprang to his feet not knowing what answer to give. Before him stood John with the ax in his hand. His short had bulged out of his girdle hanging loose like a short Scottish kilt and a tuft of dislevelled hair on his forehead.

"I had expected you to wield the ax, while you count the trees".

He nodded his head in disapproval with wrinkles forming on his forehead and round his lips.

"Pick up your ax and cut wood. Don't stand there like a dummy staring at mee. . ."

Leksi swallowed his spittle and began cutting wood.

He felt hungry and turned his eyes towards the horses. From the hook on the saddle of his horse there hung a little bag with red tassels in which his mother had put his lunch, a chunk of bread and cheese.

"I had better look for some drinking water first" he said to himself as he took the bag and went in search of a spring which was bound to be around the place where the horses were grazing.

He set out for there through a zigzag path-

way stepping on and scenting the acrid odour of fallen leaves.

He had not yet reached the spring when he made an abrupt halt. By the spring there sat two strangers with rifles within their reach. "They must surely be partisans" he thought to himself and as he approached he greeted them:

"Death to fascism!"

"Freedom to the people!" came the immediate reply while one of them called him by name: "Why, if that is not Leksi! What has brought you here, young man?"

Leksi looked at him with astonishment but recognizing his teacher who had joined the ranks of the partisans one year before, replied:

"I have come for firewood!"

"All by yourself?"

"No, with Guri Telos' John".

"What news from the village?"

"None!" he was about to address him by his old title of "Mister school master" but as he had already graduated from school he thought it was not proper to do so.

"He has been a student of mine" he explained to his comrade who was puffing at his cigaret on the other side of the spring.

"And a good student, at that. He is endowed with a sensitive poetic and inquisitive spirit. When we liberate Albania we will most certainly send him to continue his studies".

Leksi did not follow all the words the teacher had said but he felt they were meant to compliment him and he blushed just as he used to do when he was called to the blackboard before the entire class. He wanted to remember those words he was hearing for the first time in his life.

"Do you like the partisans"? the other with whiskers asked him.

"I do!" Leksi answered and taking up courage added: "I have even written a poem about the partisans".

"Let us hear it" the teacher urged him.

And he began to recite it. It was a simple, unpretentious poem with some lines longer than the others and all this for the sake of rhyme. It was a kind of satyr on a group of Balli adherents who had come to the village one day

and had demanded lambs. The peasants had

gone to their homes but instead of bringing back lambs had brought with them their rifles and gave battle. When the shooting began, the Balli adherents took to their heels heading for the town and throwing away their rifles.

Leksi was bewildered. At school, only one of his classmates boasted that he would be attending school at the Korça Lyceum after graduating from the village school and he was the son of the secretary of the municipality; the others never hoped to have this privilege. At the Lyceum, he had heard, they were taught algebra, French and the sciences. For him, that was a palace of the fairy tales which he would never enter, beautiful and fascinating but as far away as the stars at night. But here, the partisan teacher said that he would be sent to school. Some way or other he believed the teacher's words and before him stood the image of the city and of a big school with iron rails surrounding it.

Leksi's thoughts resembled the waters of a stream which rushed down precipitously. He stuck his hand into the little rucksack pulled out the chunk of bread and cheese, divided them in two and handed each half to the partisan with the whiskers and the school teacher.

"What about you?" the teacher asked.

"I have eaten already" Leksi replied lowering his eyes lest they might detect his lie and refuse to take the bread. Then added: "After all I'll be going home any way".

He drank from the spring and took his leave of them. His thoughts had taken wings as a result of his meeting with the partisan teacher and before him appeared the image full of colour and light of the future. Happiness smiled on him and could be read in his eyes and on his face. Albania was being liberated and the partisans would soon enter the city where they would open new schools which Leksi will also attend.

Just as these beautiful thoughts hovered over his head, wishing to express this joy also in motion, he waved his little rucksack with red tassels over his head like a colored propeller.

But since, as it often happens, something comes up which frustrates one's happiness, nature made no exception for Leksi.

At the spot where the firewood lay, he came face to face with John.

"What are you about, you blockhead?" — John bawled him out.

Leksi startled. He lowered the rucksack and as one in guilt hid it behind his back.

"You are a nurskull. . . an idiot, that's what you are! What wander about for? Have you finished cutting wood?"

"All but a few faggots!"

John kept scolding him saying that he was a good-for-nothing fellow and Leksi listened and gave no reply. Could he explain to him all that had passed that day? Could he open up his heart to him and reveal his real feelings that day?

When they left the forest, John said to him in a disparaging tone:

"You won't come with me for firewood again. Hang that in your ear!"

Leksi looked at him straight in the eye as if to plead with him feeling so low and helpless. Was he really good for nothing? But then he thought that if not with John he would go to the forest with some one else.

He was fond of the forest, of autumn at dawn and of that narrow path that led to the mountain.



Illustration by Zaimir Matij

The "Rozafa" Legend

Historical circumstances have compelled our ancestors to build castles and fortresses at the different periods and in every district of the country. Almost each of them has a legend attached to it.

One of these strongholds is that of Rozafa in the vicinity of the northern city of Shkodra. This is one of the biggest and oldest strongholds in our country.

All sorts of legends were told and songs were sung about the building of this stronghold. In all of them appear three married brothers, fathers of children, as its master builders. They do their uttermost to build a strong and enduring fortress, but all the walls they build during the day crumble to pieces during the night. On the advice of an old man, they decided to encase within the walls of the fortress the wife who comes first to bring luncheon to her husband. They pledge their word to one another not to inform their wives about this. But the two elder brothers break in the secret to their wives and advise them not to come to the fortress next day. Only the younger brother keeps his word and tells nothing to his wife.

The next day the wives of the elder brothers refused to take luncheon to their husbands. The wife of the younger brother took up the basket with victuals and betook herself to the fortress. Once there, she was told what was coming to her and she thought of nothing else but to ask them to leave one of her eyes, one of her arms and one of the nipples of her breast outside the wall so she could see and caress her crying child and suckle him.

The youngest bride is the loveliest personage of the legend. Irreproachable, a busy housewife and although with a suckling child in her hands, she offers no resistance when it is a question of building the stronghold.



View of the layer of the rock.



Anthropomorphic features (details)

The Latest Discovery of Prehistoric Art in Our Country

Muzafer Kerkuti-archaeologist

The extension of archaeological research and study and the intensive work done during the recent years in our country have led to new discoveries of cultures and centers of habitation, to the enrichment of material documents which throw more light on the problems of the history of Albania. Among these discoveries we may list the painting on the Lepenica rock which ranks in value with the works of prehistoric art.

The Lepenica painting is on the cupola of the cave dwelling (fig.1). The local inhabitants call it "The Painted Cave" and it is situated on the north-eastern side of the Brataj-Lepenica Mountain in the Vlora District.

The Lepenica picture is made up of 15 human figures and 8 geometric figures 4 of which are rectangular and the other 4 of irregular shape.

The center is occupied by the human figures presented in a schematic form. The body and head of each figure is made of a thick vertical line while the arms and legs are made of open or closed curves; the size of the anthropomorphic figures varies from 12 to 18 cm.

The other group of drawings is made up of geometrical figures of parallel lines in rectangular form or in other irregular forms.

The whole Lepenica composition extends over an area 2.40 meters long and 1.40 meters wide covering almost the whole space available for designing on the ceiling of the cave. In general, the figures are not placed in due order; they are not at the same level and have no common direction. However, we can distinguish some groups (3 or 4 human figures together) which possess uniformity both as regards the arrangement of figures as well as their graphic presentation. Standing out among them is that of the 4 human figures which has been arranged at the same level and on a horizontal row and which reflect a better arrangement than that of the others (fig.2).

The picture is in brown colour made of lines the thickness of one's finger. The figures are well preserved and the paint is fast on the surface of the rock.

The Lepenica picture ranks with the monumental pictures of the prehistoric times. Although its subject matter is not worked out well and its figures present no clear action, nevertheless, it reflects the abstract and religious concepts of its makers. And as such it is connected with a given stage of the development of primitive society. It is precisely in this that lies its value as a specimen of primitive art.

Next to that of Treni in the Korça District, the Lepenica picture is the second discovered in our territory. Fewer works of primitive art have been discovered in the Balkans. As a result, it is hard to

fix the date when this picture was drawn. For the time being, we can only approximate it.

It is quite different from the picture of Treni which dates back to the beginning of the first millennium before our era. Nor do we observe any affinity of ideas and style with that of Lipci in Montenegro which belongs to the latter half of the 2nd millennium before our era. Consequently, the Lepenica picture must differ in time both from that of Treni as well as from that of Lipci. In the other Balkan pictures we do not observe any elements of affinity, either but it is a fact that such schematic presentations of human figures are met with in other parts of the world. These works of art are connected with a given stage of development of the primitive community.

In connection with the problem of fixing the date of the Lepenica picture, we cannot fail to take into account that, precisely, in the valley of the Shushica River nearly 10 km away from the Lepenica picture there stands the Velça cave dwelling which dates back to the latter neolithic age (the first half of the 3rd millennium before our era). As long as we have no other data and proceeding from the above facts, we are of the opinion that the Velça dwellers of the neolithic culture must have been the makers of this prehistoric specimen of primitive art which for its simplicity and originality, fixes one of the stages of development of primitive art.



A general sketch from the painting of the Lepenica cave.

OUR SCIENTIFIC PAGE

The Rich Flora of Our Country

In the rich flora of our country one's attention is attracted by the great variety of medicinal herbs. Their detection and use has begun only during the recent decades. 330 kinds of medicinal herbs have been discovered so far. In the District of Lushnja alone there are gathered 40 varieties of these herbs. Parallel with these wild herbs work has recently begun in cultivating them. The area devoted to these plants at present is 4 times what it was 3 years ago when it first started and by 1975 it will be 8 times what it was at the start.

The volume of medicinal herbs gathered in 1960 was 8.5 times that gathered at the start and in 1971 it rose to 17.6 times while in 1972 it will be from 23 to 24 times as large. Their exports have

likewise increased from one year to another. In 1971, it was 3.5 times what it was in 1960. In 1972, this figure will rise to a higher level.

Over 40 varieties of the products of our pharmaceutical industry are made of our medicinal herbs. In our country these herbs are also used in our industry of distilling essences, in the industry of alcoholic beverages and in those of extracting tannin and tanneries.

The trade of our medicinal herbs has also increased from year to year as regards its foreign destination. Whereas before they were exported to 2 or 3 foreign countries, now they go to tens of foreign countries. Orders for them keep increasing and their quality keeps improving.

At the "Profarma" State-Run Industrial Enterprise: one of the departments where medicaments are prepared.



Albanian Pharmaceutic Products

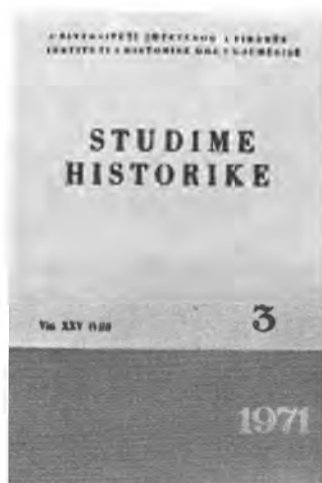
From the past our country inherited no industry of any kind for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products. The first steps in this direction were taken only during the years following the liberation of the country. 1948 marked the establishment of the first laboratory for pharmaceutical products. Its first products were, of course, very simple ones: distilled water, camphor and caffeine solutions and the like. Later on this small unit was turned into a specialized sector of a wider range of products. In 1955, the state industrial establishment for pharmaceutical products was set up on this basis.

From that time onward, a big step has been taken. About 500 different pharmaceutical products are now being prepared in our country including sulfonamides, vitamins, antibiotics given through the mouth, hormones, cortisones and many others.

In recent times importance has been attached to the experimentation and preparation of the simple pharmaceutical forms of medicaments utilizing the medicinal herbs grown in the country.

The production of medicaments has a broad perspective in Albania. The further development of the chemical industry will strengthen also that of pharmaceuticals. Suffice it to mention that, during this Five-Year Plan period, there will be set up an up-to-date project to produce antibiotics. For a start, this factory will turn out such antibiotics as penicillin, streptomycin and tetracycline. Eventually, these products will include also other antibiotics.

During the current Five-Year Plan period, the number of cadres in pharmaceuticals will also be doubled in comparison with 1970.



The title page of the periodical "Historical Studies."



The title page of the periodical "Philological Studies."

The Albanian Diaspora

In our country there are published a number of organs which treat scientific problems. Today, we are mentioning two of them, namely, the periodicals "Historical Studies" and "Philological Studies". Both of them appear once in three months and are the property of the Institute of History and the Institute of Linguistics and Literature respectively.

In one of its issues (Nr. 3/1971) we read an essay on the problem of the Albanian diaspora. This problem has attracted the attention of our scholars. This issue publishes an essay by Zia Shkodra. After many years of research work, the author gives a synthesized historical picture of Albanian migrations from the earliest days of the Middle Ages to the XIXth century.

Within the context of this scientific historical essay, the author treats three fundamental problems: a) the time when these major Albanian migrations took place, b) the nature of this negative social phenomenon which the author calls the great social hemorrhage which for centuries at a stretch damaged the fresh physical and mental energies of our country and c) the causes that compelled the Albanians to abandon their homeland and spread to foreign lands in search of earning their means of subsistence.

The general consensus of opinion is that the most important, the earliest migrations are those towards some districts of Greece. Although the historical documents take us to the IVth century of our era, the author of this essay is of the opinion that the first massive migrations of the Arbëreshi (i.e. Albanian settlers abroad) to Greece should be considered to have continued down to the first half of the XIVth century.

Then comes the second period of major migrations caused by the occupation of our country by the Turks during the XVth century. In order to escape from Ottoman domination, hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants of the Albanian districts settled in Dalmatia and in Italy, mainly in Sicily, Calabria and Venice.

The author speaks also of the later migrations (XVI-XIX century) considering them as migrations prompted not so much by military as by social and economic causes. During this period, the Albanian emigrants settled in various Balkan regions, in Hungary, Asia Minor, Egypt, America and other countries.

Whereas in the periodical "Philological Studies" (Nr. 3/1971) one of the essays that attracts one's attention is that under the title "Distinctive Characteristics of the Dances of Women and Men in the Raica and Bërzeshta Districts" written by Nexhat Agolli. The author studies the dances of the Librash District as one of the richest and most interesting manifestation of folk dances.

The author makes a separate study of *the dances of women, of the choral dances of men, of the duet and group dances.*

Of all these kinds and types of dances included in this essay, the author presents the wide choreographic material of their content, form, and of their ideo-aesthetic substance.

The author views these dances not only from the standpoint of their geographic context, their connection with their musical accompaniment or of their use as elements of recreation but as historical and social phenomena closely linked with life and social relations in which they have played and continue to play an important role.

"The Climate of Albania"

A collective of authors, specialists of the Institute of Hydro-meteorology, have just completed their work on "The Climate of Albania".

This book fills a perceptible gap in the field of the all-round cognizance of the climatic factors of our country. Through this study they give our people's economy the necessary material to be widely used in the field of agriculture, industry, public health, communication and so on.

In a special way, the book will be a good basis for wide scale scientific experiments in agriculture and in the field of the various projects designed in our country.

This study of our specialists is of a higher scientific level than those conducted by foreign authors because it is based on more data, on a longer series of climatic observations throughout our territory and on the application of more recent methods of working out and interpreting these data.

In recent years, the Institute of Hydro-meteorology has turned out a series of studies of scientific value in the field of meteorology and hydrology. The most important of them are the monograph on the climatic conditions of the low lands and coastal regions of Albania, the monograph on the legitimate of the penetration of the Ionian waters into the Adriatic, the special studies on the various climatic elements and in the field of hydrology.

SEARCHERS OF THE SUBSOIL

Halil Osmani



Geologists are the precursors of the heavy industry. They are the discoverers of the "food" of the metallurgists and the vanguard of the major industrial projects.

The 5th Five-Year Plan period (we are now half way) is marking high rates of development of the heavy industry and of that of processing the minerals in the country. Our geologists have discovered and are continually discovering the spots where these minerals are to be extracted from. It is foreseen that the mines under construction at Prenjas and Guri Kuq will have a yearly extracting capacity of 500 to 700 thousand tons of iron-nickel ore. They will be accompanied by the construction of the Metallurgical Works in Elbasan which will turn out for the first time in Albania steels of the Albanian trade mark, tubes, rails and nickel. Other important projects will be set up to extract phosphorites and process them, to increase the production of superphosphate fertilizers for use in agriculture. Large mines will be opened to extract coal, chromium, copper and a number of factories will be set up to enrich them.

From these data alone, it turns out that the Albanian geologists are very busy and stupendous tasks lie before them. The present Five-Year Plan calls upon us to improve the balance of the primary mineral materials both in quantity and quality so as to guarantee for long time the normal work of the existing branches of our processing industry and of the new branches which will be set up in the future.

In their daily work, our geological workers have assigned to themselves the task of discovering as many useful mineral beds in as short a period of time and of as high efficiency as possible.

The compilation and publication of the geological map of Albania to the scale of 1:200,000 and of its accompanying text "The geology of Albania" as a tectonic map of Albania to the scale of 1:500,000, mark an important step ahead in the development of geological science in Albania. They emerged as an indispensability for working out and summing up the geological data gathered through geological work done during the years of People's State Power in looking for and discovering useful minerals as well as in studying the geology of the country.

The vast geological materials that had been accumulated as well as their scientific interpretation on entirely new grounds brought about a radical change to the previous hypothesis and knowledge on the geological structure of our country. The geological map of Albania is of major scientific importance reflecting the untiring work of our specialists and substantiates best the scientific interpretation of facts and the geological phenomena in our country.

At the 20th anniversary of geological service which will be commemorated this year, the workers of Albanian geology will present a rich balance sheet of discoveries of copper, pyrite, chromium coal, ferro-nickel, phosphorite, rock salt, marble, asbestos and other beds which have been turned over for exploitation as well as their great theoretical and practical knowledge they have gained which will go a long way to speeding up their progress in the days to come.



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- ① Father and son geologists.
- ② Summer is the season of most intensive work for the geologists. These are not tents pitched up for tourists but for research workers.
- ③ The geologists' camp at Gdshesh in Kukës.
- ④ This simple gallery opened up for purposes of research may be the forerunner of a big mine in the days to come. This can be easily read in the face of each one of these "prospectors in depths."
photos by S. Xhillari and I. Frashëri



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MEET: ROZA XHUXHA!



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In this picture you see of our heroes of the screen and stage interpreted by our young artist Roza Xhuxha. They are only a few, for the roles played by her in our theaters and cinemas constitute a whole gallery.

In order to acquaint our readers with Roza's career we had a short conversation with her.

She stepped up the stage when she was still on the elementary school benches and in the home of the young pioneers in Shkodra. She sang, she danced. . . But what was nearest her heart was the dramatic art. Even today we hear her childlike voice in "The tale of the Woods" which Radio Tirana broadcasts. Roza Xhuxha was then ten years of age.

But Roza became famous when she interpreted the role of Norma, a theatrical piece of the same name. She played the principal role, full of emotion. Although she image of our woman with all the contradictions and her was still a secondary school student, she gave us the rich spiritual world outlook. At the national festival of the dramatic art in 1961, she was awarded the first prize for this role.

Roza Xhuxha has played over thirty roles on the stage. Responding to our second question, she said that she preserved "Norma" as one of the happiest memories in her life.

"What role have you liked most on the screen?"

"The role of the village school teacher in the film 'On special duty'".

Our cinematographic art is quite new. The first Albanian standard films have been reeled during the last decade. And, of course, they are not many. But in most of them we see Roza Xhuxha this gifted artist, who has given us the most different of type ranging from doctor, tractor driver and so on.

Finally, we wanted to know what her future desires were. She said that the life of an artist is one of trials. Work, study, a deep knowledge of the life and psychology of types are fellow travelers of an artist who is never satisfied with what she has achieved. And she has a long way to go—she is not yet thirty years of age.



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① Actress R. Xhuxha in the drama "The Girl from the Mountain."

② In the drama "The Downfall."

③ In the drama "Two Years Later."

④ In the film: "The Commissar of Light."

⑤ In the film "Old Wounds."

⑥ In the film "Our Earth."

On the Tracks
of the Early Albanian Artists

An Architect from Elbasan



Partial view of the portico of the Blue Mosque.

"Sayahatname" writes with admiration about the talent of these masters who seem to have monopolized the hydraulic works of Istanbul. After describing how these masters prospected for drinking water in mountain regions and then brought it to the city through gorgeous aqueducts, he adds: "It is only the Albanian masters who exercise this queer profession which human genius can achieve with difficulty".

Sadefqar Mehmed built many fountains (some of them of high artistic value) which embellish public squares, flower gardens, courtyards and so on.

From the administration of the Water Supply Engineering this master crossed over to the domain of architecture. In this field, too, the Albanian masters of that time, heirs to an ancient architectonic tradition, claimed distinction and were to be met with throughout Turkey undertaking important jobs of work and construction.

Towards the early days of the XVIIIth century, we find Sadefqar Mehmed at the head of a guild which, at that time, filled the functions of a Ministry of Building Construction where plans were drawn up, designs of private and state buildings (houses, shops, bath-houses etc.) were approved. The architects of the guild supervised the work of building, repairs and calculations as well as the sources of building materials at the quarries, lime kilns, shops and so on. The chief architect of the guild used to be elected according to the established rules. In addition to the twenty or more architects, he had charge over a number of masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, mine layers, hydraulic workers and others.

What were the earliest buildings set up by Sadefqar Mehmed? Historically, these remain unclear since we have lost all traces of his early activities. Anyway, he must have given many proofs of his ability in building construction otherwise he would not have been elected as chief architect. The designing and supervision of the work of building the 'Blue Mosque' would not have been entrusted to an ordinary architect. It goes without saying that Sultan Ahmed I would not have entrusted to him such an important job if he had not picked him out as the ablest of all the architects of the empire.

Sadefqar Mehmed was 45 years old when he began building the "Blue Mosque". His fame had spread beyond Istanbul, as far away as Mecca in Arabia.

The history of the building of the "Blue Mosque" was common knowledge for all.



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He was an interesting personality of all-round artistic inclinations and a checkered career. His contemporary, Xhafer Celebi, gives us some information on the life and activity of this master architect in his manuscript under the title of a "Booklet on Architecture" (kept in the Library of the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul). According to the notes in this booklet Sadefqar Mehmed was born in Elbasan in 1562. From Elbasan he was sent to Turkey as a "devshirne" and joined the elite corps of Turkish troops known as Janissaries. Thanks to his manysided talents he was charged with various services and tasks. Once discharged from military service, he was appointed the chief gardener of the Capital. Meanwhile, he exercised his talents in music, broadened his knowledge of mathematics and other sciences and engaged in handicraft works set with mother-of-pearl. Then he passed over to the administration of

the Water Supply Engineering and finally he joined the guild of architects. He worked in many regions of the Ottoman Empire building mosques, fountains and various structures as well as repairing the Great Kaaba Mosque at Mecca in Arabia. One of his masterpieces is "The Blue Mosque" in Istanbul, one of the most beautiful and magnificent buildings ranking with the masterpieces of art of world architecture.

Obviously, Sadefqar Mehmed could not stay for long in one single sphere of activity but, eager as he was for knowledge, passed from one job to another, widening his horizon. From flowers and mother-of-pearls, his attention turned to another element so beautiful and essential to life, to water. During the XVII century, Albanian masters were in charge of the enterprises engaged in building the fountains and aqueducts of Istanbul. The Turkish geographer Evlia Celebi in his

After a long search for the proper site on which to build it, it was finally decided to build it on the southern part of the hypodrome facing the inner side of Saint Sophia. Work began in January, 1609 following the approval of the design mapping out all the details based on accurate mathematical calculations. From the start to its final completion in 1616, the work was done by shifts and at record speed. The military detachments of the Janissaries took part also in its construction. The whole process of work was under the supervision of the chief architect. According to an inscription on the portal of this mosque, it turns out that this project was completed on October 12, 1616. The name of the chief architect and the date are inscribed on the wall of the gate facing the hypodrome.

This project concluded the series of magnificent mosques which had begun in Istanbul by another famous Albanian architect, Architect Sinan.

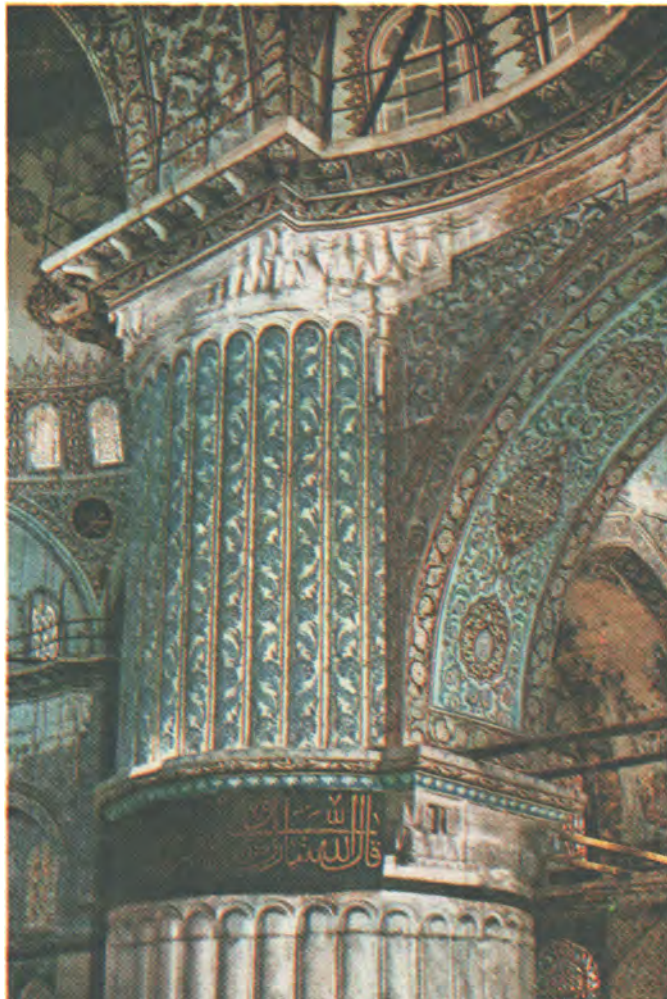
For the time being, we are unable to trace the hyperbola of Sadefqar Mehmed's artistic personality. We do not know whether he returned or, at least, whether he had seen his homeland again before his death. The Turkish traveler Evlia Celebi who visited Albania in the summer of 1670, referring to the fountains of Elbasan (in the 8th volume of his "Sayhatname") writes: "Forty of these fountains are philanthropic works built by the chief architect who built the new Sultan Ahmed Mosque on the hypodrome in Istanbul". These fountains built by Sadefqar Mehmed for the benefit of his fellow countrymen go to show that this Albanian never forgot his homeland, that together with the memories of his childhood he preserved in his heart also the love of his country.

Although we do not know all the projects, all the mosques and seminaries, hospitals and public bath houses, shrines and dwelling houses, fountains and aqueducts, bridges and flower gardens which our Sadefqar Mehmed built throughout the Ottoman Empire including the Mecca of Arabia, the magnificence of his career is amply manifested in the construction of the "Blue Mosque" alone. Many works of art are, so to speak, the spiritual portrait of their authors since they embody the features of their personality. This mosque should be viewed also from this angle. One who understands the specific "language" of architecture, sees in plain light in this masterpiece the ideal image of this chief engineer, it is the eloquent expression of the most inspired sentiments and thoughts of this artist of many-sided inclinations. The internal decor and the ornamental value of certain structural elements of the project itself, reflect "Sadefqar's" pleasant finesse and feelings. In it, in the candid poetic spirit which runs through the environment of the mosque, is perpetuated in light and shades and with clear colours the fantastic visions of this gardener; in it are petrified his musical inclinations through the rhythms of harmonious lines and forms. Goethe is right in saying that architecture is "petrified music" — music which is not expressed in sound but in rhythms of lines, in accords of volumes, surfaces, decorative motifs and so on. The fundamental intonation of Sadefqar Mehmed's architectonic "music" lies in the spacious area of the interior of the mosque. The division of this space, or better, the distribution of volumes and open parts has a rhythmic fall both in the strong pillars which bear the weight of those huge vaults as well as in its windows which rise in rhythmic cadence from one plane to another up to the vault: — there is rhythm everywhere, plain at some spots and vivid and pronounced at others. But above all, this "petrified music" reflects the humane world outlook of a humanist of a clear logic and full of dignity, of a humanist closely linked with the people and with life. The environment of this mosque filled with clear light and colour, is quite different from that of the temples plunged into gloomy dimness seeking to blot out human knowledge itself. Herein lies the most tangible and stable expression of Sadefqar Mehmed's artistic personality. This masterpiece suffices to sing eternal praise to this Albanian genius.

Regardless of the fact that the circumstances of their lives have compelled them to work in foreign countries, artists like Sadefqar Mehmed enhance the good name of their native country and of their nation as a significant example of the contribution rendered by the Albanians to the history of art and culture of the world.



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- ① General view of the shrine.
- ② The central cupola of the Blue Mosque.
- ③ One of the inner columns of the shrine
- ④ View of the "Blue Mosque"

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Embroidered Land

The old Town of Kukës which is going to be flooded by the artificial lake formed by the dam of the power station to be built on the Drini River.

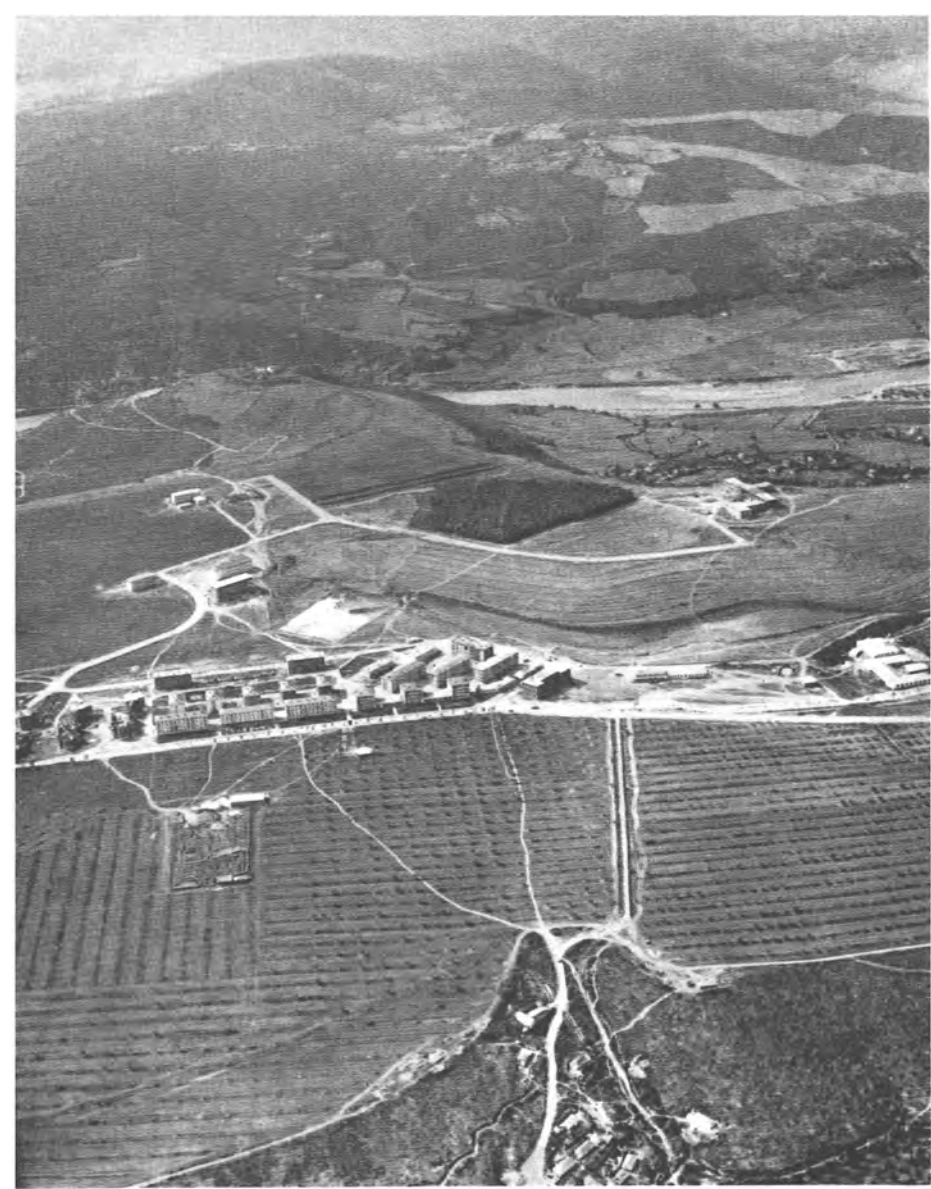


These photos have been taken in one of the mountainous districts of our country, in Kukës (Northeastern Albania). This district had been once one of the most backward districts regarding the industrial and agricultural development. It has changed completely now, in our days.

In these pictures you see that not only the low but also the hilly and mountainous lands have now been planted. They seem like an embroidered carpet.

The centre of the district now is being built anew, for the old one is going to be flooded by the waters of the artificial lake formed by the dam of the future power-station, one of the biggest in the Balkans.

The District of Kukës gives a considerable amount of copper which is also processed there, in the plant built in the recent years.



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① The new Town of Kukës, being erected a few kilometres away from the old one, is being beautified day by day.

② The Copper Processing Plant in Gjegjan of Kukës District.

③ (A) Embroidered land — Kukës.

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THE CHERRIES

This is the name of the illustrated Children's Anthology by young artist Vlash Drobonik. The following illustrations have been reproduced from the above:

"The fireworks."



PHILATELY



The Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Albania has recently issued a series of 7 postage stamps bearing the effigy of the wild flowers and fruits of the forest of our country. The series costs 3.45 leks and is printed on a lithographic offset. The stamp has 12 indentations.

The polychrome colours on each denomination make them look beautiful. Their composition is pleasing.

The series begins with the effigy of the strawberry (0.05 leks) while that with the blackberry (0.10 leks) combines the violet with the ochre background. 0.15 leks is the value of the stamp bearing the effigy of the hazelnut while that bearing the walnut on a rose background costs 0.20 leks.

The most beautiful stamps of the series is that bearing the fruit of 'Arbus Unedo' (0.25 leks). The orange and yellow spots harmonize with the green of the background and leaves.

And the series continues with the denominations of 0.30 leks (cornel) and of 2.40 leks (sorb).

"The steamboats."



"Springtime."



"The hedgehog and the hare"





Age-long olive groves.

A Perennial Plant— the Albanian Olive Tree

Agronomist Nevruz Kafazi

Ours is one of the oldest countries to cultivate the olive tree in the Mediterranean Basin.

The high food value of olive drupes and oil, the very old tradition of cultivating and the favourable climatic and soil conditions for growth are to account for the fact that its cultivation and production have assumed a high degree of development in our country.

As an oil-yielding plant, the olive tree represents a great source of wealth for our country. The oil derived from its drupes is widely used in the Albanian kitchen and, today, it constitutes the most important source of fats for the food of our people. The olive oil and pickled olive drupes are a favorite dish not only for their good taste but also for their caloric, biological and hygienic properties lacking in other fats. Because of its chemical substance, this oil is a real medicament widely used to cure the diseases of the stomach, liver, rheumatism, lumbago, etc. In addition, it is widely used also in the canning and textile industries, in perfumery and in the preparations of pharmaceutical products and so on.

In Albania, olives have been cultivated from the earliest of times. The effigy of the drupes of this plant on the old coins of the first century of our era, recently discovered in the excavations at Petrela in the Tirana District, are a convincing proof of the importance attached to and the spread of olive culture on Albanian soil.

The large number and extensive plantations of olive trees which we have inherited from the very distant past go to show that great care has been devoted to the growth of this plant.

In many districts of our country like Elbasan, Vlorë, Tirana, Kruja, Berat, Saranda and others we have olives dating back to the time of Scanderbeg and even earlier. Thus, in Tirana, Vlorë and Berat we find olive trees of over a thousand years of age.

In spite of the spread and importance of this plant, no special concern has been devoted to it under the former antipopular regimes. The olive oil used to be extracted by primitive methods while the industrialization of the olive drupes was totally ignored.

After the liberation of our country, our agriculture advanced. Olive culture developed by leaps and bounds.

In the new and old olive groves one observes a higher level of agricultural technique, an improvement and enrichment of the structure of varieties. The number of olive trees planted has been quadrupled in comparison with pre-liberation period. During a not very distant future Albania will rank with the countries where olive culture has advanced.



The Albanian Riviera.

Our Seacoast

Mother nature has bestowed to our small Albania a 472 kilometer-long seacoast. We have a kilometer-long coast for every 13 square kilometers of the surface of our territory. In this respect in the Balkans it is only Greece that excels while we are far ahead of the other European sea bound states like France and Spain.

According to historical data, during the new era (from the first century onwards) the Adriatic Sea, from Lezha to Vlorë, has receded some 8 to 9 kilometers. Even during our days our seacoast keeps being filled with alluvial deposits brought down by our very precipitating rivers.

Our seacoast is rich in types, in landscape, in sand and in sunrises. We have both the classical types of seacoasts, the Adriatic part typifying the lower seacoast and the Ionian part typifying the higher seacoast. The former is rich in sand and its beaches are the most picturesque ones while the latter is rich in natural beauty and evergreens. The Adriatic coast which represents the lower type is punctuated in places by hills which bulge out like advanced guards as, for instance, the Cape of Radom the Bishti Pallës promontory, the Cape of Durrës, the Cape of Tropoti, the Cape of Gjuhëza sticking out and pointing to the Island of Sazani. Between these promontories the seacoast takes the form of a scythe in which there are picturesque beaches. During the hot summer days the beaches of Velipoja, Patogu, Durrës, Colem, Divjaka, Seman and others are filled with vacationists. Divjaka is a pearl, famous for its fine white sand and its fishing facilities.

Time was when geographers described the Adriatic coastal regions as swamps and marshes. They do not longer speak in these terms. The plains along the Adriatic seacoast have all been turned into fertile fields. A whole network of canals and pumping stations are there to drain every bit of ground of even the heaviest of rain. The Ionian seacoast is of the higher type with mountains soaring up behind it and in places the waves splash against the rocks with roaring sounds. Precisely along these coastal regions protected to a distance of 50 kilometers from the Logora Pass to Saranda.

Our Riviera is the warmest part of our country, the place where orange and lemon, olive and cypress trees thrive the place of deep waters and evergreens. It is here that mother nature has created some very interesting beaches. One of them is at Dhërmi. The beach season is here the longest. These who come to these beaches have an opportunity to see a great contrast. While basking in the sun by the seaside they can admire the Çika mountain alpine pasture lands and the residual snow streaks. In winter, this contrast is more attractive; the Çika peak is under snow while oranges and olives are picked down below on the Albanian Riviera.

In Lighter Vein

Aphorisms

- Life can be lengthened by not shortening it.
- Some suffer from sleeplessness, others from those who awaken them.
- There was an ocean of love but a drop of jealousy that fell on it dried it up.
- The book reviewer on the new novel: "Excellent, charming and read long before".
- If your book hasn't reached the reader, write to another address!
- Acrobats also meet with serious death.
- You can cast your words into the wind if it blows in the right direction.
- Keep learning and you will realize how little you know.

A man was painting the wall of his house in a hurry. His companion asked him:

"Why are you painting at such speed?"

"I want to finish painting the wall before the paint runs out".

The physician smiled as the patient stepped in:

"You seem to feel much better today".

"Yes, I followed the instructions you had written on the phial of medicine you gave me".

"I don't recall what I had written on it".

"Keep the phial closed".

"What do you know about the great chemists of the 18 century?" "That they have all died".

"Where are the two kilograms of meat?"

"I don't know. . . The cat may have eaten it. . ."

I put the cat on the scales and it weighed exactly two kilos.

"I found the meat, but where is the cat?"

"When is the office wastepaper-basket filled with words?"

"After a formal meeting".

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1972

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YEAR XXVI

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NEW ALBANIA

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"NEW ALBANIA", Rr. "Labinoti" Nr. 7, Tirana-ALBANIA

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