

Rich traditions of national book culture presented in Frankfurt

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Belarus has taken part in the 71st Frankfurt International Book Fair: the world's major book fair gathered book lovers, writers and publishing professionals in October

A large team of Belarusians went to Frankfurt — including representatives of various publishing houses and bookselling organisations — to represent over 500 innovations in domestic book publishing, on different themes, with special attention paid to the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from Nazi occupation and the Year of the Small Homeland. In addition, the stand featured books by German authors in Belarusian — published by Zmitser Kolas.

“A facsimile reproduction of the 1563 Brest Bible published in Belarus to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of Brest was a very unusual and, there-



fore, extremely attractive exhibit at the 71st Frankfurt International Book Fair,” said the Deputy Director of the National Library, Ales Susha. The initiator and co-ordinator of the facsimile edition of the Brest Bible continued, “The publication

immediately attracted the attention of not only thousands of visitors but also famous experts from around the world who study the most unusual, rare and valuable books and negotiate the possibility of buying or obtaining rights to use them.”

“In order to demonstrate the rich traditions of the book culture of Belarus and the modern possibilities of domestic book publishing, two copies of the facsimile edition were delivered to Frankfurt and exhibited in different pavilions designed for different target audiences,” Mr. Susha added. “One of them is presented by Belkniga at the national stand and convincingly testifies to the level of domestic book publishing. Another is demonstrated in the pavilion of rare and artistic books at the stand of the Segment Publishing House. The latter realised the National Library’s order to produce binding for the facsimile edition.”

The Frankfurt forum is viewed as the most prestigious and large-scale international event not only in the literary and publishing sphere but also in the field of culture in general. It annually welcomes around 300,000 guests and presents about 400,000 books.