



Written word prevails

27th Minsk International Book Fair has many surprises — such as augmented reality, culinary secrets and those of elite troops



By Oksana Nevmerzhtskaya

Avid readers who like to flip through pages and admire the typographic smell of the printed sheet, are interested in the history of creating books, follow the appearance and creative evolution of writers and the novelties of world literature, may enjoy the current event. A few days ago, the 27th Minsk International Book Fair opened its doors, representing over 300 participants from 30 countries who have put their literary achievements on show. The organisers have scheduled many events — such as meetings with writers, publishers, artists, presentations of new books, round table discussions, autograph sessions and much more.

The meeting place cannot be changed

The main venue of the largest book forum is at the administrative complex in 14 Pobeditel' Avenue. In addition, interesting events related to the world of books are planned in corresponding stores, libraries and museums.

For the convenience of visitors, a free 'Poetry' bus is running from Nemiga metro station to the exhibition complex during all five days of the exhibition. The Union of Writers of Belarus and the Belarusian Republican Youth Union have organised recitations of poems during the trip along the route.

Open book

This year, the fair is held under the *Belarus is an Open Book* motto, symbolising the constant hospitality of our country, its readiness for dialogue, openness to new opportunities and achievements.



Not a single day without a line

The *Writer and Time* international symposium of literary people will traditionally become a landmark event of the book exhibition. Representatives of **25** countries, including Austria, the United Kingdom, India, Iran, the United States, Palestine and Mongolia have confirmed their participation.

The main themes of the exhibition are: the Year of the Small Homeland, the 75th anniversary of the Great Victory and Vladimir Korotkevich's jubilee.

Representatives of 30 countries take part in the book forum. All have brought many new products and promised interesting meetings with top writers. The Russian Federation is an honorary guest. A 225-square-metre platform has been provided for its exposition. The United States is the central exhibitor, with 100 square metres

provided for their new books.

The National Library, the Presidential Library, and the National Book Chamber of Belarus have their expositions on the improvised pages of the stand. A large-scale platform for meetings with authors has been provided by the Union of Writers of Belarus. The book keeps up with the times: a site is open for interactive communication and an important place here is occupied by audiobooks and augmented reality in books.

Creative movement schedule

● **Day 1:** opening of working stands, presentation of exhibitors, meetings with top writers and stars from the socio-political circle. The exhibition is visited by officials, heads of state administration bodies and representatives of diplomatic missions.

Highlight: Presentation of military stories about heroes grouped by military branches, 'Constellation of Heroes of the Belarusian Land'.

● 'Thoughts Aloud' author's day:

Writers Vyacheslav Bondarenko, Ivan Antonovich, Igor Marzalyuk, Andrey Korol, Aleksandr Radkov and others will present their books to visitors.

Highlight: Igor Marzalyuk — a historian, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education, Culture and Science of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus — will present his '100 Years of the BSSR. Realities and Myths' book.

On a competitive basis

The winners of the *Art of the Book* contest will receive diplomas. This year, more than **200** books have been submitted to the jury. The competition is held in **17** categories, also featuring the 'Triumph' Grand Prix.

● 'Belarus is an Open Book' day:

presentations of creative projects dedicated to the Year of the Small Homeland and 75th anniversary of the Great Victory.

Highlight: The project by cook Yelena Mikulchik which reveals the long-standing traditions and secrets of our national cuisine.

The 'Autographs' project — a collection of signatures of the most famous writers of Belarus and other countries prepared in the Borisov District — will continue: autographs of all the writers who have come to the exhibition this year and will attend in the following years are planned to be collected.

● 'Tip-Top' children's day

is dedicated to book projects for children and parents, as well as for the social network Tiktok. Interactive performances will be held at one of the exhibition centre's venues.

● On the closing day,

the exhibition is not slowing down: meetings and presentations are planned. The Presidential Library will present books dedicated to the special forces of the country's Armed Forces, while the field kitchen complete with soldiers' porridge will help enhance the visitors' impressions.

Highlight: 'The Last of the 'Jack' Group' book of memoirs — by a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, former military intelligence officer Gennady Yushkevich — will be presented.