

Preserving for heirs

In Belarus, Golshany and Krevo castles are being restored and unique book publications and archival documents will be purchased for the National Library

By Natalia Yemelyanova

On June 5th, President Aleksandr Lukashenko signed an order approving the decision of the Board of the Fund of the President of the Republic of Belarus for Support of Culture and Arts. According to the document, the Culture Ministry will receive more than \$1.26m (equivalent)

from the fund. The money will be used for various needs related to the preservation and return of the country's cultural heritage.

It is planned to restore the Estate and Park Ensemble in the village of Zakozel (in the Drogichin District), Golshany and Krevo castles, and the Roman Catholic Church in Mstislavl which is part of the former Jesuits' Collegium including a church, a monastic building with narrative paintings in the

interiors of the cells and a refectory (1745-1750).

The collections of the National Library will be supplemented by a complex of handwritten and printed book monuments. These are very expensive and especially valuable copies — such as one of Meletius Smotritsky's lifetime publications. Among the acquired rarities is also the most valuable manuscript of the Tatars of Belarus — *Khamail* — written in the Belaru-



Golshany Castle



Roman Catholic Church in Mstislavl



Krevo Castle

sian-Polish language in Arabic letters.

The library will also receive archival documents from different regions of Belarus. There are two unique charters of the kings of Poland and the grand dukes of Lithuania: Sigismund Vasa and Vladislav IV who ruled in the late 16th-early 17th century. One document is written on paper and the other on parchment. One is in Latin, the other — in Belarusian.